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Going the extra miles in support of Daniel

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

A DROITWICH man is currently embarking on a 100-mile cycle in aid of Cancer Research UK in support of a relative who received a shock diagnosis.

Tim Kirkham, aged 62, is cycling 100-miles around Worcestershire today (Friday, July 4) alongside his friend Stewart Willis.

The pair will start and end their challenge at Droitwich Spa Lido to coincide with the outdoor pool's 90th anniversary. They have been training since September 2024, with Stewart - a 'strong' cyclist - helping Tim get up to speed.

Tim, former Droitwich Spa Leisure Centre manager, is raising funds in support of his wife's first cousin, once removed, Daniel Money, a junior doctor from Bristol who was diagnosed with bowel cancer aged 24 in November 2022.

Tim's efforts will boost Daniel's already monumental sum of over £70,000 raised for Cancer Research UK thanks to the help of his fam-



Josh Robinson, Stewart Willis, Jane Kirkham, Stacey Evers, Tim Kirkham and Dan Wilde get set for the charity events. Picture by Marcus Mingins 2725005MMR

ily and friends' fundraising efforts in recent years.

When launching his fundraising mission, Daniel sadly knew the money was 'not likely' to change his treatment or outcomes, but believed it could change the lives of people in his position in the future.

Tim told the Standard: "Daniel's diagnosis and suffering really brings it home for us.

"I get emotional just thinking about it and I don't think there's anybody who hasn't been affected by cancer in some way.

"To raise as much money as we can and do it among friends and the community is brilliant."

Tim wanted to involve the Lido in his fundraiser because of his everlasting love for the community asset. He learnt to swim there as a child and

has many fond memories spending time with his family there.

He was a stalwart at the Lido, retiring from his role at Wychavon Leisure in November 2022 after 30 years before joining Wychavon District Council as leisure facilities manager.

In this current role, he works on projects to enhance Wychavon's leisure facilities and make them fit for the future.

Since Daniel's diagnosis, Tim's partner Jane has been hosting annual Splash for Cash fundraising events at the Lido for Cancer Research UK.

So far, the event has raised over £4,000 across three annual events.

Jane will host the latest bash for 90 participants at 7.15pm at the Lido after Tim completes his cycle today.

He added: "It's brilliant to have everyone together as a community, supporting a good cause."

Tim set himself the modest target of raising £500 for charity.

As the Standard went to press, he had smashed his target and raised £600.

Visit: fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/tims-100-mile-cycle-challenge and <https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/unite/daniels-fundraising-to-donate>.

PEOPLE have been warned to take care in the hot and dry conditions after several fires have broken out in Droitwich and the surrounding areas.

At 4.15pm on Sunday two Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service crews - one each from Droitwich and Worcester Fire Stations - plus the water carrier from Evesham to extinguish a 30m by 20m standing corn/crops fire in Holt Heath. Water jets were used to put out the flames.

Then at 4.25pm on Sunday, a crew from Worcester Fire Station used a water jet and beaters to extinguish a 100m by 30m fire in the open in Hawford Wood, Ombersley.

And at 4.50pm another crew from Worcester Fire Station put out a 2m by 2m shed fire in Ombersley Way, Droitwich using a water jet. Flames engulfed tyres and general waste.

The heatwave this week and lack of rain has led to many more fires in the open across the town and county.

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Tsunami survivor marks anniversary

TSUNAMI survivor Michelle Mills-Porter will speak about the devastating Boxing Day disaster that she and a group of other fellow Bromsgrove residents experienced in a keynote speech.

The presentation will take place at Bromsgrove Golf Centre at 6.30pm on July 31 to mark the 20th anniversary of the incident which killed more than 250,000 people in south Asia.

Mrs Mills-Porter FFSA, ADHD is the National President of the Professional Speaking Association (PSA). She was raised in Bromsgrove

by **Lola Griffin**

and now lives in Cofton Hackett with her husband Stuart. The pair were part of a group that set off for a Christmas holiday in Sri Lanka in 2005 with a group of divers and they found themselves caught in the tsunami.

Sri Lanka suffered with 30,000 lives taken, and this catastrophic natural disaster occurred just miles from where the group were staying - remarkably, every member of the dive team survived.

On their return to the UK, driven by appreciation and purpose, the group formed the Hikkaduwa

Village Fund which, with the help of friends, family, and the Bromsgrove community, raised a remarkable £100,000 in just six months to help rebuild lives in the region that had taken care of them.

At the event with Mrs Mills-Porter, a TEDx speaker and human behaviour expert, there will also be a Graze Board Buffet Station.

She says this talk is a heartfelt thank you to the community that helped turn her devastation into hope and gives a rare and moving insight into the power of humanity, unity and transformation.

This story is not just Mrs Mills-Porter's - it is the story of the team,



the town and a lesson to society of how light that can come from tragedy.

A donation will be made to from the proceeds, after all the costs are covered.

To book tickets, people can call the Bromsgrove Golf Centre on 01527 575886 or Michelle directly on 07748 755360. Or, use the QR code on the advert for the event at the bottom of this page.

College sets up advice cafes to help GCSE results students

A COLLEGE group is organising a host of workshops to help Worcestershire's GCSE students with next steps in their personal development.

Heart of Worcestershire (HoW) College has announced a series of GCSE advice cafes this August for students to access support

for their next steps following receiving their results.

Open to all local students receiving their results, the Advice Cafes will offer one-to-one guidance on future options including full-time courses, apprenticeships, and higher education pathways.

Sessions will run at the college group's Worcester, Redditch, and Bromsgrove campuses. The first sessions will be held from 10am to 8pm on Thursday, August 21. These will be followed by sessions from 10am to 1pm on Friday, August 22, and Tuesday, August 26.

The sessions provide a great opportunity to find out about the courses on offer including Performing Arts, Hair and Beauty, Computing and IT, Games Design, Healthcare Science, Hospitality and Catering and Engineering.

Prospective students can

also find out about the dedicated centres for Plumbing, Automotive, Travel and Tourism, and Construction if this is a route they would like to take.

Michelle Dowse, CEO and principal at HoW College, said: "At our GCSE Advice Cafes, we want students to

feel confident about taking the next step in their education and moving closer to their career goals. These sessions are a great opportunity to explore the full range of courses and opportunities available at HoW College."

Visit howcollege.ac.uk for more information.

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New dates to bring disruption

MORE disruption is expected along Bromsgrove's A38 as a set of key dates in the town's BREP project have been announced.

Worcestershire County Council, responsible for the project's delivery, has shared details of upcoming works set to take place along the route - some will begin soon and not conclude until late 2025.

The \$50million programme aims to improve traffic flow on the A38 via road widening and junction improvements with the M5 and others. Cycling and pedestrian provision is also included in the plans.

As part of this new announcement, deferred works at Hanbury Turn (originally planned for June 12 to 13) were expected to restart at the end of last week.

There will also be full weekend closures between Bant Mill Road and the A38 between this weekend (July 4 to 7) for investigation work, July 11 to 14 for pipe laying and July 18 to 21 for contingency.

Stratford Road on The Oakalls will see two-way traffic lights between Monday and next Friday, July 7 and 11. Regents Park Road will see a one-way closure from July 14 to October 19, with the exit from the roundabout onto



Picture by Neil Gordon Media.
Regents Park Road closed while access to the roundabout will remain open. Diversion details will be shared online.

Stoke Road at the junction with Charford Road will see changes to its one-way closure on July 18. The closure will run until November 27.

The project has come under extensive scrutiny with campaign groups and local politicians raising considerable concerns as the A38 BREP scheme has increased traffic congestion along the route with road closures impacting journey times.

The felling of hundreds of trees is also a major sticking point for the Revise BREP campaign group which says the loss of foliage will only compound the affects of vehicle carbon emissions.

Other issues include a lack of progress at previous stages of the project and fears there is no definitive 'visual plan' of the final outcome of the works.

Coun Karl Perks, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, said: "We fully understand the inconvenience that major works, like these important works in Bromsgrove, can cause to local residents, businesses and those who regularly use the route.

"We aim to co-ordinate all works, including those by utility companies, that could otherwise lead to future roadworks, to reduce impact and

minimise disruption!

"The programme is a vital investment in the town's future - without it, congestion will only continue to increase as traffic levels grow."

He added having some activities happening at the same time helped complete the scheme more efficiently and limit overall disruption length.

"Our teams are working hard to keep inconvenience to a minimum while delivering long term improvements that will benefit everyone."

Visit: worcestershire.gov.uk/BREP for more information.

Illegal off-roaders filmed only yards from young boy

ILLEGAL off-road bike riders in Rubery are endangering lives.

Police have released this picture of two riders on the skate park in St Chad's Park last Thursday.

The pair passed close to a young child and mounted pavements as they caused havoc in the area.

Police are urging the public to take the matter seriously as it risks both the riders and the local community.

Sgt Katie Ward, from Rubery Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT), said: "We understand the concerns of the local community regarding the use of off-road bikes in public areas.

"These activities not only disrupt the peace but also pose a danger to pedestrians and other road users."

She added the SNT was working diligently with the force's Motorcycle Support Team to identify and take action against those responsible.



Witnesses or anyone with information on the illegal off-road bike riders is urged to email the Rubery Safer Neighbourhood Team at: hr.snt@westmercia.police.uk or call police on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

The illegal off-road bike riders on the skate park at Rubery's St Chad's Park.

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Infected trees to be cut down to fight disease

MAJOR works will be carried out in Webheath in Redditch to remove trees infected with ash dieback disease.

by Tayla O'Hara

The fungal infection is severe and weakens ash species, causing leaf loss, branch dieback and ultimately tree death.

The trees which need addressing are along Birchfield Road, from the top of Bromsgrove Road to the slip road for Bromsgrove Highway.

The works, which will remove infected trees, will

be carried out in the coming months, although a start date is yet to be confirmed.

Redditch Borough Council's Portfolio Holder for Climate Change and Biodiversity, Coun Jen Snape, said: "It's imperative that we look after our local environment and remove any trees with diseases, as if left they can become structurally weaker and therefore

become a safety risk to residents."

Despite ash dieback not being detrimental to humans, it is essential to treat and recognise the safety hazards to avoid harm to the environment and maintain structural integrity to neighbouring ash trees.

These infected trees are characterised by having orange marks placed on them.

By removing them, other trees are able to remain strong and allow for natural regeneration. For that reason, replacements for the removed ash trees will not need to be planted.

The council said the loss of these native trees would have incomprehensible implications on biodiversity if the problem was not addressed, so this work is essential and aims to minimise the spread of the infection.

Anyone who has questions about the works can email Redditch Borough Council at: tree-enquiries@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk for more information.



Debbie Roberts with Mark Williams, Oakland Foundation's newly appointed grant application co-ordinator.

Charity bids farewell to retiring Debbie

REDDITCH-BASED children's charity Oakland Foundation marked the retirement of grant application co-ordinator Debbie Roberts by hosting a celebratory lunch in her honour.

Presenting Debbie with an engraved lead crystal vase, gift voucher and flowers, charity founders and Oakland International co-founders Dean and Sallie Attwell thanked her for her support and dedication to the work of the charity since its inception.

Debbie initially served as a trustee on the charity's board, later returning to undertake the newly-created role of grant application co-

ordinator, supporting grant applicants through to programme delivery.

Dean said: "Debbie's unwavering dedication and passion have been instrumental in helping Oakland Foundation make a meaningful difference in the lives of children and families.

"Her commitment has inspired us all, and we are deeply grateful for her help, support, and friendship over the years. While Debbie is retiring from her official role, she remains a valued friend as the charity continues to move forward."

As Debbie retires Mark Williams will step into her role.

Mark said: "Debbie has played a pivotal role within the foundation, supporting countless children and their families through her commitment and expertise in grant management and community engagement.

"All foundation trustees extend our heartfelt thanks to Debbie for her outstanding contributions and we wish her all the best in her retirement."

Oakland Foundation's primary focus is to support children under the age of 16 and their families through a range of educational and youth projects centred on education, health and nutrition and sport.

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Abigail Garvey introduces the children to the new 'celebrity' slugs. Picture by Marcus Mingsins 2625013MMR1 © Bullivant Media

Showpiece slugs find school home

YOUNGSTERS at Chads-grove School were delighted to welcome some renowned giant wooden slugs which found fame on the 2025 BBC Gardeners' World Live.

It came about when Abi Garvey, a teaching assistant at the school, undertook some volunteering at the show at Birmingham's NEC. Abi was lucky enough to spend the week helping to build a show garden.

Deborah Suzanne, from Leaf it to Us landscaping designs, designed her show-case called 'Slugs and Snails: Making friends with our garden foes' and had the two slug sculptures crafted. Abi said: "To say these

by **Tristan Harris**
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@bullivantmedia.com

slugs stole the show would be an understatement – so much so that celebrity gardeners Monty Don, Nick Bailey and Adam Frost, to name a few, had taken a keen interest. "Monty Don was even interviewed with them for the TV."

She added, throughout the week, Deborah was made unbelievable offers from people wanting to buy them.

"Hundreds of people wanted to be considered to own them."

Abi said: "Me and Deborah chatted about our 'day jobs' and I shared details about the incredible school that

I'm very proud and honoured to work at and our amazing pupils and as an ex-teacher. "Deborah then had an understanding of what a special school Chads-grove really must be and her offer was without question.

"She said it felt totally right that they should live in the garden of Chads-grove's 2LS classroom."

Abi said the garden was currently undergoing a makeover to create a sensory garden.

"The snails have become somewhat 'celebrities' at school and have taken on the names of Herbie and Marylou from our favourite book 'Slugs in Love,'" she added. "We can't thank Deborah enough for her kind generosity."

Orchestra promises a Masterpiece

THE ORCHESTRA of St John will perform its summer concert at 7pm on Sunday, July 20.

'Musical Masterpiece' will showcase the group's orchestral talent, conducted by Dr Richard Jenkinson, at St John's Church in Bromsgrove.

The wonderful Claire Prewer has been chosen to be the soloist for the event, which will see Strauss' 'Four Last Songs' - a collection of orchestral songs - performed. Also on

the programme is Anton Bruckner's Symphony No 7.

Claire studied at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama where her impressive talents helped her achieve a scholarship to study on the AGSM Performers Course, a specific qualification for professional music performance training.

She subsequently undertook the Opera Course where she studied with professionals, including

Johanna Peters and Dr Elizabeth Vaughan.

Musical Masterpiece is the concluding act of Bromsgrove Festival 2025.

It is recommended tickets be booked in advance although some may be available on the door. Visit priorbooking.com/e/the-orchestra-of-st-john-musical-masterpieces-3 for tickets or they can be bought from Decanter Spirit, 49 High Street, Bromsgrove.

Tickets are £12 for adults and £5 for under-18s.

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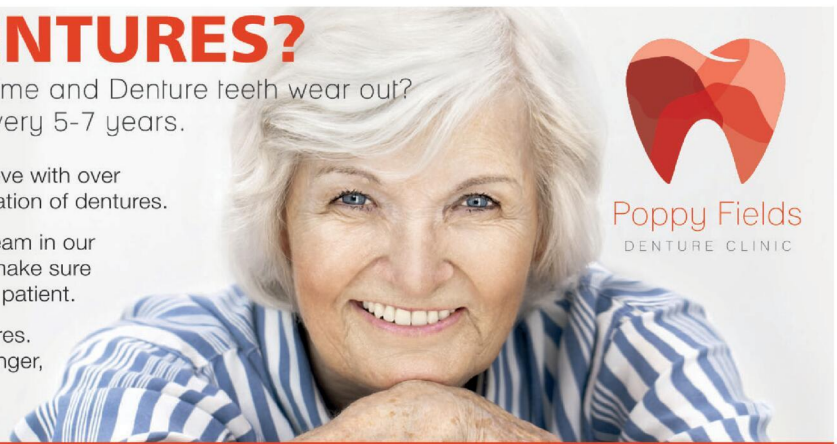
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Step out to join Memory Walk for a loved one

by **Tristan Harris**
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@bullivantmedia.com

**THE ANNUAL
Primrose Hospice
Memory Walk takes
place at Hanbury
Hall this Sunday,
July 6.**

The event gives participants the opportunity to celebrate and remember their lost loved ones and raise much-needed funds for the cause.

One person who has been supported by the Primrose and participated last year was Sam Lawley.

She said: "Myself and my family signed up for the Memory Walk last year to come together with others who had lost loved ones.

"We had recently lost my lovely mum and being all together at Hanbury Hall was so touching and brought a sense of comfort within us all.

"This year we are signed



Sam Lawley with her family at last year's Primrose Hospice Memory Walk. s

up again to not only remember my mum but also my amazing dad who we have sadly lost recently.

up again to not only remember my mum but also my amazing dad who we have sadly lost recently.

"The support from Primrose is something my family will be forever grateful for and being able to come together at events like this means so much."

Those who sign up will receive their very own yellow

Primrose Memory Walk T-shirt and dedication sign to personalise with details of their loved ones.

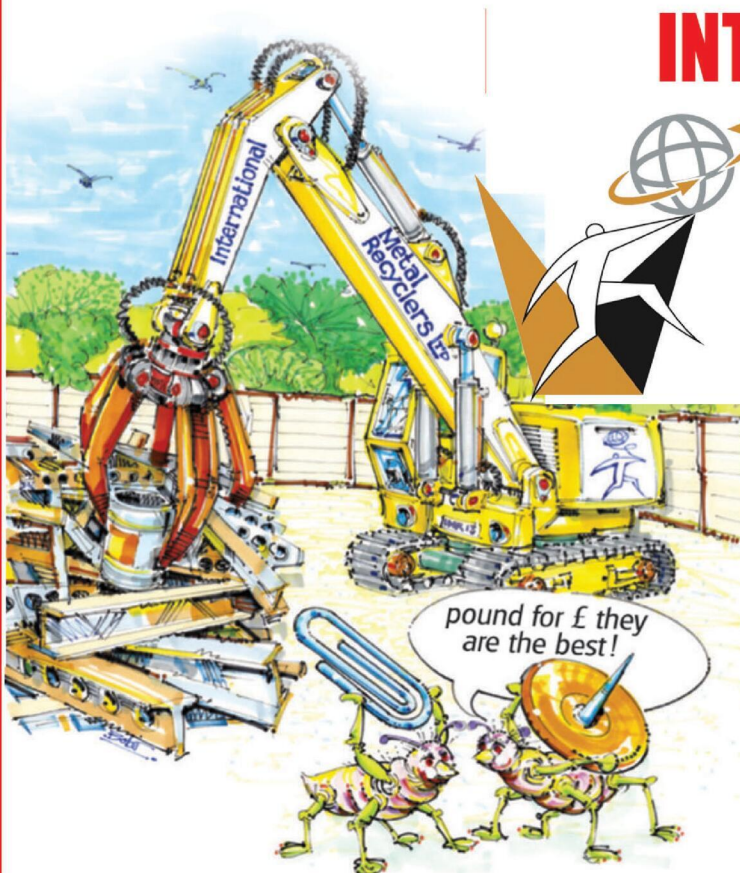
Although online registrations have now closed, people can still sign up on the day, but there is no guarantee that they will receive a T-Shirt, dedication sign or seed medal.

The walk is suitable for all the family, including dogs, with two routes available, a short accessible stroll or a longer route, of approximately three miles.

The event costs £15 per adult, £10 per child or £60 for a group booking for six people.

Visit primrosehospice.org/events/memory-walk/ or call 01527 889796 for more information.

The 2025 Primrose Memory Walk is sponsored by Thomas Brothers Funeral Directors.



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Drivers told to watch out for parking scams

by **Sonny Rackham**
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@bullivantmedia.com

DROITWICH drivers are being warned to be on their guard against fraudsters targeting motorists in the area with parking scams.

Several residents across Wychavon have been tricked by a scam, which involves sending text messages informing the person they have been caught parking illegally before requesting them to pay a fine.

The message also makes it seem as though payment is urgent, using phrases such as 'final notice' coupled with threats of court action if payment is not made promptly.

This is a common tactic used by scammers to panic people into paying.

The council's civil enforcement officers have also discovered fake QR codes stuck on official parking signage for the RingGo pay-by-mobile app in various car parks across Wychavon. The codes



The QR codes have been stuck onto parking signage in Wychavon.

direct people to a fake payment website, allowing fraudsters to steal personal information and bank details.

This scam is becoming increasingly common and is known as 'quishing' with car park signage commonly targeted by criminals.

Wychavon District Council has emphasised they do not issue parking fines by text message or by any other digital means.

Official fines are placed on vehicles, handed to the driver by authorised staff or sent via post. They have details of

people can pay and challenge the decision.

Coun Emma Stokes, Wychavon's Executive Board Member for Resources, Investment and Innovation, said: "If you receive a message like this, please report it. If you're unsure, then please check with our parking team first."

"We don't want any more of our residents to be caught out by these despicable fraudsters who are unfairly targeting law-abiding motorists and undermining confidence in legitimate parking enforcement."

Wychavon stated its RingGo signage did not include QR codes so people are being warned not to scan QR codes stuck over official signage. People can visit wychavon.gov.uk/parking to find out more.

Suspicious emails can be reported to report@phishing.gov.uk for investigation by the National Cyber Security Centre. Suspicious texts can be reported to mobile operators for free by forwarding them to 7726.



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LEFT: Josh's parents Paul and Lisa (back row, middle) stand with the Worcestershire XI team at Astwood Bank. Picture by Errol Johnson. RIGHT: Astwood Bank Cricket Club's home ground is now officially known as 'The Josh Baker Oval'. Picture by Aaron Sutcliffe.

Club's lasting tribute to player

A CRICKET club in Redditch has honoured former Worcestershire CCC player Josh Baker by officially renaming their home ground in his memory.

Astwood Bank Cricket Club have renamed their Sambourne Lane home ground the 'Josh Baker Oval' in a permanent tribute to the 20-year-old.

Redditch-born Josh died suddenly in May last year.

He first joined Astwood Bank as a seven-year-old and quickly progressed through the club's senior teams.

His talent earned him a contract with Worcestershire

where he took 70 wickets in 47 appearances for the Pears.

To mark the occasion of the ground renaming, a JB33 Foundation XI took on a Worcestershire XI in a T20 match at Astwood Bank.

Josh's parents, Paul and Lisa, set-up the JB33 Foundation charity in his memory to support local cricket clubs.

Hundreds of people attended the event to pay their respects in a celebration of cricket.

After the first innings took place, Josh's dad Paul delivered an emotional speech, celebrating his son's life and achievements.

Paul said: "A massive thanks to Astwood Bank Cricket Club for offering the chance to



A mural of Josh painted next to the clubhouse at Astwood Bank. Picture by Errol Johnson.

rename the ground in Josh's memory.

"To have this lovely, picturesque, ground named in his memory is very touching.

"The love and support that me and Lisa have received has been overwhelming and we appreciate it more than anyone will ever know."

Astwood Bank chairman, Matthew Cockbill added: "It's a hugely meaningful event for the whole club.

"It seemed like a fitting and momentous act to make, given the amount of time that Josh, Lisa and Paul spent at the club throughout Josh's playing career. "For us, Josh remains an inspiration to

players of every age group at the club.

"Renaming the ground in his memory just makes our club that little bit more special than it already is."

Paul and Lisa unveiled a sign at the ground's entrance which reads: 'Astwood Bank Cricket Club welcomes you to the Josh Baker Oval'.

The second innings of the match followed as the JB33 Foundation XI successfully chased down a target of 247 with one over to spare.

Paul and Lisa also selected the players for the JB33 Foundation side which included some of Josh's former teammates.



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Royan Lipczyk and Winter Ziegler enjoy icecream. 2725004MMR7



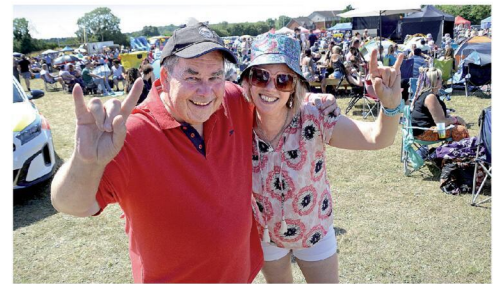
LEFT: Fans enjoy the music. Pictures by Marcus Mingins 2725004MMR6. MIDDLE: Jimmy Eff and the Sundogs. 2725004MMR9. RIGHT: Revellers have fun. 2725004MMR2



Making music and having fun

GLASTONBEOLEY charity music festival proved to be a roaring success, as crowds flocked to Redditch Cricket, Hockey, Rugby and Squash Club over the weekend. All profits from the community festival go directly to charities and groups which have had a positive impact on people's lives in the local community. There was more than 40 live music acts over three stages, along with signed BSL performances for all to enjoy. There was also children's rides, street food, beer tents, and a Prosecco and gin trailer. Organiser Debbie Joynes said: "So many families turned up to

enjoy and celebrate a wide variety of music, everything from rock to reggae, and folk to funk to punk was catered for. "The level of talent from our musicians was absolutely off the scale - both local people and slightly further afield, and was thoroughly enjoyed by a diverse crowd of music lovers." Since 2018, GlastonBeoley has raised more than £5,000 for charities such as Deafblind UK, Redditch NightStop and The Mental Health Foundation. The organisers are hoping to raise as much as possible this year, with the total raised yet to be announced.



Councillors Bill Hartnett and Sharon Harvey rock. Picture by Marcus Mingins 2725004MMR3



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Planning for future generations across Bromsgrove District



Bromsgrove District Local Plan - Draft Development Strategy Consultation 30th June - 5pm 22nd September

Bromsgrove District Council is in the process of reviewing and replacing the Bromsgrove District Plan (adopted January 2017), which will set out where new housing, employment and other development alongside its supporting infrastructure will take place over the next 15 years.



To respond to the consultation, view consultation documents, see upcoming consultation events, and view the privacy notice, please visit:

www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/BromsgrovePlan

Paper copies can be viewed at:

- **Alvechurch Library:** Birmingham Road, Alvechurch, Birmingham, B48 7TA
- **Bromsgrove Library:** Parkside, Market Street, Bromsgrove, B61 8DA
- **Catshill Community Library:** The Community Room Catshill, Middle School, Meadow Road Catshill, Bromsgrove, B61 0JW
- **Hagley Library:** Worcester Road, Hagley, Stourbridge, DY9 0NW
- **Rubery Library:** 7 Library Way, Rubery, Birmingham, B45 9JS
- **Wythall Library:** Woodrush Community Hub, Shawhurst Lane, Hollywood, Birmingham, B47 5JW



If you have any queries please contact **bromsgroveplan@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk** or call 01527 881211.

<https://bromsgroveplan.commonplace.is>



Bromsgrove District Council
www.bromsgrove.gov.uk

Chance to take a look around these gardens

A NUMBER of plots across Redditch, Bromsgrove and Droitwich will open their gates this weekend to raise funds for good causes as part of the National Garden Scheme.

Newhouse Farm in Cutnall Green, Droitwich, will be available to view from 10am to 4pm tomorrow (Saturday, July 5).

The one-acre country garden surrounds a Victorian farmhouse (not open) and offers many old features with new planting schemes and views over open countryside, giving this garden a wealth of interest.

The creativity is abundant due to the resident designer who runs an interior design/craft shop/workshops and a holiday let. Admission is £6 and free to children.

Another garden opening its gates will be at 2, Brookwood Drive, Barnt Green. Visitors can drop in between 10am and 4pm on Sunday, July 6.

This multi-themed mature garden boasts numerous water features and colourful borders, a formal white garden, wildlife pond and cutting garden surrounded by large rho-

dodendrons which give a colourful display in late spring.

Admission to the plot is £5 and free to children.

Holly Cottage in Beoley is open from 11.30am to 5pm on Sunday, July 6.

This half-acre garden contains a cottage garden border, jungle area, formal garden, rose borders, small orchard and a Mediterranean area with grapes, figs, olives and lavender.

This garden is continually evolving and also features a pond for wildlife, many seating areas and far-reaching views of the Malverns, Abberley, and Bredon hills.

The plot's miniature donkeys and chickens look forward to seeing as many visitors as possible.

Admission is £5 for adults and free to children. There is tea, coffee and cake available at all of the open gardens.

Visit: findagarden.ngs.org.uk for more information on each of these gardens and more.



The Elgar International Brass Band Summer School Final Concert will be on August 1. s

DOUBLE HELPING OF MUSIC: BROMSGROVE School will host two inspiring concerts in July and August at Routh Hall which will honour the EIBBSS teaching faculty and the art of brass music.

The Tutor Concert, at 7pm on July 31, will be led by artistic director Philip Harper and will spotlight the talents of the EIBBSS teaching faculty.

Composed of world-class soloists from acclaimed ensembles and brass bands, tutors will perform solo and ensemble pieces, highlighting their instrumental skill.

Delegates are encouraged to invite friends, family, and local brass supporters to experience inspiring performances and celebrate the talent of the tutor cohort.

The Grand Final Concert will take place at 7pm on August 1 (doors open at 6.30pm), offering a formal presentation with repertoire prepared during the week, including two brand new commissioned works.

This public event is a celebratory finale to a cathartic week of training and companionship. Both concerts will be open to the public.

Tickets are available at £5 through the Bromsgrove School events portal - bromsgrove-school.co.uk/boxoffice - or ticketing link.

Although booking is advised, visitors are also able to attend both events by paying at the door.

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2025

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Paul Richards, Soprano Cornet

Click the box office link!

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2025

Tutor Concert
Thursday, 31st July, 2025, 7pm
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Click the box office link!





(L-R)
Wychavon
Cllr Emma
Kearsey, and
Broadway
Parish Cllr
Gordon
Franks. s

Council funds neighbourhood plans shortfall

PARISHES and town councils across Wychavon will still be backed to produce neighbourhood plans despite recent Government funding cuts.

Following the Government's June 2025 Spending Review, previously available grants of £10,000 for parishes to produce neighbourhood plans were withdrawn.

In response to this funding shortfall, Wychavon District Council has committed to providing £10,000 in funding for neighbourhood planning to all its parish and town councils.

Under the funding, local authorities will be supported to produce new or revised plans for their area. Emma Kearsey, executive board member for planning, infrastructure and urban design, said: "I have long been an advocate of neighbourhood plans.

"Neighbourhood development plans are true democracy in action and are the vehicle for residents to decide what and where development happens in their villages and towns.

"It allows for the protection of any form of development in allocated areas of local green space and it enables policies to be made that meet the unique priorities of each village or town.

"That is why, at Wychavon, when we became aware of the Government's withdrawal of this essential funding, we acted fast and immediately decided to fund this for new and revised neighbourhood development plans.

"With the increasing number of housing units allocated to Wychavon by the Government, I strongly urge parish and town councils to embark on producing a neighbourhood development plan now, if they aren't already."

By continuing to fund neighbourhood planning in Wychavon, parish and town councils can help shape at the region's South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP).

With this funding, Wychavon hopes residents, businesses, and stakeholders can effectively collaborate to shape local land use, making sure community needs and aspirations are prioritised.

Parishes and Towns interested in discussing their neighbourhood planning efforts can contact the Planning Policy Team at Wychavon.

Email: policy.plans@wychavon.gov.uk or call 01386 565565 for more information.

Consultation is under way

RESIDENTS in Bromsgrove can now share their views on a new strategy to guide future growth and improve the area for generations to come.

A 12-week consultation on the district's draft Development Strategy opened on Monday.

It outlines how local plans could meet Government-set growth targets, including 9,000 new homes by 2043 and the infrastructure to support them.

Bromsgrove District Council voted to launch the consultation at a meeting on June 19, including explicitly confirming no proposed allocation sites would be finalised at this stage.

A new online consultation allows residents to provide feedback on all aspects of the strategy and its alternatives - from the vision and supporting evidence to housing locations and infrastructure needs.

Coun Kit Taylor, portfolio holder for planning, said: "This is set to be the council's most thorough planning consultation ever.

"We've doubled the consultation period to take account of any summer holidays, introduced a powerful new online platform and are scheduling in-person events across the district.

"The officers have identified what appear to be the most sustainable locations for growth. Now we need your input.

"This information is vital to shaping a strategy that will evolve as

new data comes in."

The consultation also invites input from infrastructure providers such as the NHS, education, utilities and transport services.

The draft identifies 21 potential housing sites, selected from 400 developer-suggested locations, based on sustainability and infrastructure.

Of the proposed sites, just under a third of the future homes are in Bromsgrove. Another third are spread across Bartn Green, Catshill, Wythall, Alvechurch, Hagley, and Stoke Prior, with each allocated 340 to 600 homes. And the final third is a single large site in Frankley, adjoining Birmingham.

Coun Taylor added: "We must allocate land for over 9,000 homes by 2043. That's a Government requirement.

"How we do that, within planning policy, is up to us. So we're asking: 'what do you think?'"

The consultation runs until September 22.

Visit: bromsgrove.gov.uk/BromsgrovePlan or Alvechurch, Bromsgrove, Catshill, Hagley, Rubery, and Wythall libraries for materials.

Contact bromsgroveplan@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk or call 01527 881211.

Details of information events will follow.



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The 2025 Phoenix Challenge team at the top of Pen Y Fan. s



Event with a view to raising funds

RESIDENTS across Worcestershire and Herefordshire are encouraged to get involved in an upcoming challenge in honour of a local firefighter who died of cancer in 2021.

Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service's Phoenix Challenge has 60 places available for an adrenaline-pumping experience at St Peter's Church in Hereford.

Residents can conquer their fears and descend the side of the church while supporting the Fire Fighters Charity.

Organiser, Firefighter Spencer Jones, said: "Whether you're an experienced abseiler or a first-timer, this event is perfect for everyone.

"Don't miss out on this thrilling opportunity to make a difference and have a blast at the same time. See you there."

Abseilers will pay a non-refundable £25 registration fee to secure their place which covers the cost of the abseil with a promise to raise a minimum of £100 each via a Team JustGiving page.

A range of ages are welcome to take part, however the minimum age for participants is 12, and anyone under the age of 18 must have parental or guardian consent at point of registration.

There will be a range of slots to choose from on the day, starting at 9.30am and finishing at 4.30pm.



The abseil - at St Peter's Church, Hereford, on August 23 - will be held in memory of Stu Crebbin and raise funds for the Fire Fighters Charity. s

Rising to the challenge

AN ANNUAL fundraising event held in tribute to late Bromsgrove firefighter Stu Crebbin has raised even more funds for charity.

Stu's Phoenix Challenge saw his former colleagues complete the Brecon Beacons 10 Peaks Traverse (East to West) which Stu took on himself in 2020.

The event, which must be completed in 24 hours, remembers Stu who was based in Bromsgrove with Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service. He died in March 2021, aged 46, after a 12-month battle with cancer.

Despite having intense chemotherapy and immunotherapy sessions in the lead-up, Stu completed most of the challenge with his Phoenix Challenge Team.

This year the team retraced the

steps of the original route walked by Stu. Despite rain and fog adding to the complexity of the challenge, spirits remained high and the group completed the 38-mile route in 19 hours.

But now there is a new challenge ahead. Spencer Jones, who heads up the fundraising activity, said: "In line with Stu's vision of fundraising inclusivity, the Phoenix Challenge continually adapts.

"The next event this year is a Church Tower Abseil.

"To date we've raised £25,700 - our target is to reach £30,000 following the tower abseil in August."

The most recent Phoenix Challenge has raised over £650 for the Fire Fighters Charity.

Visit: [justgiving.com/page/spencer-jones-11](https://www.justgiving.com/page/spencer-jones-11) to donate.

Guests not taking part in the abseil are encouraged to come along and support.

The abseil will take place outside St Peter's Church, St Peter's Square, Hereford, on Saturday, August 23.

The Phoenix Challenge has raised £25,700 for the Fire Fighters Charity since 2020 and is aiming to take that total beyond £30,000 with the St Peter's Church abseil.

It was set up in honour of the late

Bromsgrove based firefighter, Stu Crebbin, who took on the momentous Brecon Beacons 10 Peaks Traverse (East to West) himself in 2020, prior to his death.

Now teams of firefighters take on the challenge annually in Stu's memory with the service organising other events all-year-round to raise more funds.

Email Spencer Jones at: sjones@hwfire.org.uk to sign up.



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Packed festival enters third week

AS THIS year's Bromsgrove Festival enters its third week, there are still plenty of events and activities for a variety of tastes to enjoy.

Music

On Sunday, July 6, Blackwell Concert Band will be the latest to take to centre stage in the district council's Bands in the Park series. The free concert takes place between 2.30pm and 3.30pm at the Jubilee Bandstand in Sanders Park. People are urged to bring along a picnic, a blanket or chairs, and enjoy the programme which boasts marches, jazz, calypso, blues, pop, rock, film scores and more.

The next in the series of Festive Classics comes to Avoncroft Museum's New Geusten Hall on Wednesday, July 9. Michael Lunts' Home Service presents a humorous view of life on the Home Front to mark the 80th VE Day. The performance, which brings the 1940s to life, starts at midday with lunch at 1pm. 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 John Richards Band will be at Bromsgrove Folk Club at 8pm on Thursday, July 10. Billed as one of the UK's best songwriters, he will be accompanied by a group of excellent musicians.

Tickets are available in advance at bromsgrovetheatre.co.uk or on the door.

Next Saturday, July 12, there will be the latest Cake and Coffee Concert at St John's Church. Starting at 10.30am, the free short concert will feature the Singing Villains and the Thompson-Cox Family Jazz Quartet - offering light a capella vocal music and a jazz selection. Email: Steve.cowperthwaite@gmail.com for more information. The event will be followed by coffee and cake and the Spire Project Open Day (see 'Other events' below).



A day of music with food and craft stalls will take place in the garden of The Hop Pole pub in Bromsgrove from 1pm to late next Saturday, July 12, to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Live Aid. Bands will perform all day, including Hot Space, a Queen tribute act, which will close the event. The performance is free, people can just turn up.

From 3.30pm to 5pm, next Saturday, July 12, there will be the Reto School Assembly Singalong for grown-ups. During this event



The outdoor cinema returns as part of the Bromsgrove Carnival weekend and this year, Moana 2 and Wicked will be screened. s

01527 361324 for more information and tickets.

Cinema

There will be free outdoor cinema in Sanders Park next Friday, July 11, to kick off the Bromsgrove Carnival weekend. The children's film at 5pm will be Moana 2 and the main event, at 8pm, will be Wicked. Although the event is free, people need to book tickets and donations per vehicle are requested. People are urged to bring their chairs and blankets and drinks (no alcoholic drinks to be brought). There will be drinks served from an on-site licensed bar and popcorn and sweets available. Visit this story on our website to click through to the ticket link and go to bromsgrovecarnival.org or the Bromsgrove Carnival Facebook page for more details.

Other events

The Spire Project Open Day - from 12pm to 3pm - will enable visitors to the historic St John's Church to find out how and why Worcestershire's tallest spire is being rebuilt. There will be experts on hand to chat about the restoration and interactive 'Side by Side' activities. The event is free and people can visit: stjohnsfriends.co.uk or email: stjohns.church@gmail.com for more information. Alternatively, visit: facebook.com/FriendsStJohnsBromsgrove for more.

Visit bromsgrovecarnival.co.uk for more.

at Fairfield Village Hall, pianist Christa Hugo will take viewers back to their primary school days via a host of well-known anthems, including 'Give Me Oil in My Lamp', 'Lord of the Dance', 'He's Got the Whole World in His Hands' and more. Visit christahugopianist.co.uk for tickets and more information.

Theatre

The renowned popular theatre group Oddsocks Productions bring Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream to Bromsgrove's Avoncroft Museum on Sunday. The doors open for this outdoor

performance of one of the Bard's most favourite plays at 5.30pm and the show starts at 6.30pm. The evening promises magical, fast-paced, hilarious comedy. Visit: ticketsource.co.uk for tickets and oddssocks.co.uk or avoncroft.org.uk/whats-on for more information.

The Sound of Music is being brought to Artrix by the Queensbridge Musical Theatre Society from Tuesday to Saturday, July 8 to 12. Performances of this classic start at 7.30pm each weekday evening and at 12pm and 6pm on the Saturday. Visit artrixbromsgrove.co.uk or call

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LEFT TO RIGHT: Classic vehicles, including this steam engine, were on show throughout the day; crowds flocked to watch traditional Morris Dancing; Merlin the dog basks in the sun in his BMW and Morris dancers added a lot of colour to the event. s Pictures by Julian Bull.

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A fun day for all

THE FECKENHAM Wake provided annual outdoor fun for all on The Square and Recreation Ground.

This year's event on June 21 and offered a wide array of entertainment and activities for around 1,500 people who attended the popular event.

The activities included a Trial of Strength for those with a competitive streak, along with a life-sized table football arena and a sumo wrestling showdown.

Car and train enthusiasts were able to indulge in the

by **Lola Griffin**

Classic Car Show which showed off 130 timeless automobiles, along with the display of five spectacular steam engines. The mayor of Redditch Joanna Kane and her husband and consort John gave out prizes to the most impressive of these displays.

Entertainment took centre stage with comedy from Prof Chandler's Punch and Judy, tunes from the Arrow Valley Brass Band, harmonies from the All Round Voices Choir and the Massed Morris Dancers.

For refreshments, a splendid pig roast was on offer to all, along with artisan pizzas, homemade samosas, street food and bars selling real ale and Prosecco.

Julian Bull, the chair of the Feckenham Wake Committee, said: "It was incredibly successful.

"The weather was challenging, it was hot and sticky."

Despite the weather and the unfortunate cancellation of the Fun Dog Show, Julian added those who attended still had an amazing time at the event.



Thomas Trilby entertains the crowds. s

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(any choice)
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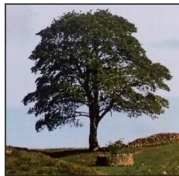
***weather dependent**



*for details dates and to book www.avoncroft.org.uk

Avoncroft Museum, Stoke Heath, Bromsgrove Worcestershire,
B60 4JR - 01527 8931363 - Reg. Charity no. 2411644

Encouraging nature is the best way to benefit everyone



Eco Action



THERE feels a disconnection from nature in people I meet and it is extremely worrying. Can we halt the trend or is it too late?

How do we get the point across to people who are quite happy to continue buying proprietary brands of weed killer containing glyphosate which is indiscriminate in what it destroys and is carcinogenic.

Many people will then plant F1 hybrids in their gardens which are usually non fertile and they think they are doing that to help the bees.

Yes, it is that time of year when the spray bottles come out and are used indiscriminately.

Even Bromsgrove District Council's grounds maintenance has said it would start to phase out use of glyphosate products.

These products not only kill weeds but the insects which feed on them, the birds that may ingest some of those dead insects in the sprayed area but they can also kill the family cat or puppy. There is loads of information on the Internet about this.

At a time when nature is really struggling, not only due to changing weather patterns, hotter summers, reduced numbers of birds, bees, butterflies etc,

we should be doing whatever we can to encourage biodiversity instead of destroying it.

The amount of trees lost to both the BREP A38 scheme and Perryfields/Whitford Road estates is catastrophic.

The proposed new developments in Bromsgrove District Council's future plan will be even more so.

Trees provide habitats for birds, insects, and other wildlife. Trees alleviate flooding in areas due to their uptake of ground water.

Most importantly they convert carbon dioxide into oxygen - the very air that we breath.

Let us all have a serious think on how we can encourage nature and make things thrive instead of destroying or poisoning it and leave Bromsgrove a better place for future generations.

Come and meet members of Bromsgrove Climate Action - affiliated to Friends Of the Earth - at our stall at the carnival in Sanders Park on Saturday, July 12.

Search for 'Bromsgrove Climate Action' on Facebook.

This article is brought by Bromsgrove Climate Action.

'Grow to Eat' is the way forward

AN ALTERNATIVE education support scheme for children and young people is celebrating its 'Grow to Eat' project.

The programme is supported by Redditch based business Oakland Foundation.

Mark Williams, trustee and grant application co-ordinator of the Oakland Foundation visited Bonterre, a Community Interest Company (CIC), to witness the results of the Foundation's £3,600 investment.

During his visit, Mark was welcomed by Bonterre's Mike Stringer and given a tour of the vibrant outdoor learning site.

He said: "It was wonderful to see the children and their progress.

"They proudly showed me the potatoes and small pots of basil they were growing.

"Later, they enjoyed strawberry picking.

"It's such a positive educational programme for them to see where fruit and vegetables come from."

The 'Grow to Eat' project, developed as a pilot with the Country Land and Business Association, provides hands-on, nature-based learning experiences for young people experiencing disadvantage, aged eight to 18, across



Worcestershire.

Bonterre's projects focus on educational enrichment and positive experiences for and more than 1,000 vulnerable young people who struggle in school classroom environments, including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), mental health conditions, and challenging home situations, have been helped.

The Oakland Foundation's recent grant enabled Bonterre to run three blocks of six-week sessions, each offering two hours of expert-led activities per week for groups of up to ten children.

Activities include seed sowing, planting, harvesting, animal care, carpentry, cookery, campfires, and sports and all designed to boost confidence,

teamwork, and life skills.

Mike added: "We are incredibly grateful to the Oakland Foundation for their continued support.

"Their funding allows us to welcome children who benefit from a different kind of learning environment.

"The Grow to Eat programme provides children with a unique learning experience that encourages them and helps to broaden their horizons.

The farm provides a safe, inspiring space for children to develop resilience, emotional awareness and practical skills.

Bonterre's Mike Stringer and Oakland Foundation Trustee and Grant Application Coordinator Mark Williams. s

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SO MUCH INCLUDED...

- ✓ Return coach travel from Redditch, Bromsgrove
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- ✓ Cruise on the River Exe
- ✓ Free time in Exmouth
- ✓ Excursion to Buckfast Abbey & Buckfast Butterfly Farm & Dartmoor Otter Sanctuary

Optional excursion to Teignmouth (£11pp)

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5 Days by Coach only £389

Single Supplement £75



HARRY POTTER STUDIO TOUR & LONDON

Departing Sat 16 Aug '25

Join us as we enter the spectacular world of Harry Potter and look behind the scenes of this worldwide phenomenon at the Warner Bros. Studio Tour London. With time to enjoy the attractions of London and hotel accommodation included, a magical break is assured!

SO MUCH INCLUDED...

- ✓ Return coach travel from Bromsgrove
- ✓ Overnight stay at the Hilton London Watford (JG3 rating) with breakfast
- ✓ Admission to the Warner Bros. Studio Tour London - The Making of Harry Potter
- ✓ Free time in London for shopping & sightseeing

▶ SAVE £10 - Quote OSG - Book by 18 Jul 2025

2 Days by Coach only £229

Single Supplement £60



BORDERS COUNTRY VERA'S NORTHUMBRIA & BARNARD CASTLE

Departing Mon 1 Sep '25

On this five-day break, we journey to some of the filming locations for the TV series Vera along the Tyneside Coast to discover the dramatic beauty and heritage of the North East, from Barnard Castle to the Durham Dales and the rugged Scottish Borders.

SO MUCH INCLUDED...

- ✓ Return coach travel from Redditch
- ✓ 4 nights at the Leonardo Hotel, Newcastle Quayside (JG3 rating) with dinner & breakfast
- ✓ Blue Badge guided tour of Vera's Northumbria (Amble, Newbiggin, Blyth, Seaton Sluice, St Mary's Island, Tynemouth, Whitley Bay & Newcastle-upon-Tyne)
- ✓ Blue Badge guided Borders Country tour (Ford, Etal, Coldstream, Kelso & Jedburgh)
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For more information, or to book, please call

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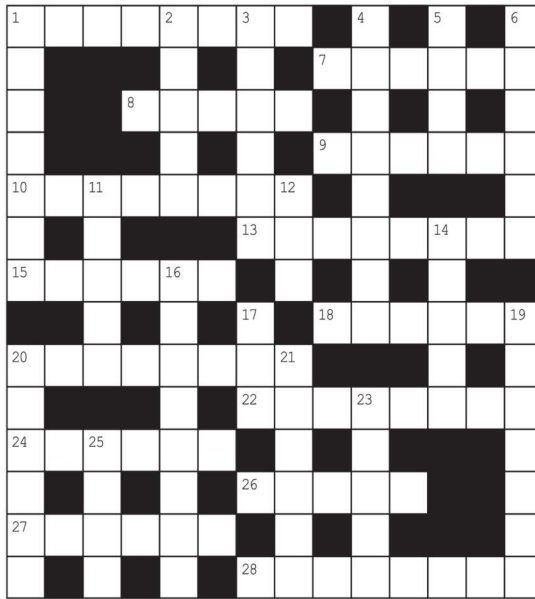
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GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 See 12 Down
- 7 The coupy or its fur (6)
- 8 Score of one over par for a hole in golf (5)
- 9 Zodiac sign 'The Fishes' (6)
- 10 French Protestant (8)
- 13 Country of south-east Asia, capital Bangkok (8)
- 15 Large prawns (6)
- 18 See 5 Down
- 20 Orchestral composition illustrating a poetic idea (4,4)
- 22 Richmond is the capital of this state of the USA (8)
- 24 One who governs during the illness, etc., of a sovereign (6)
- 26 & 14 Down Morasses east of the Shannon, Republic of Ireland (3,2,5)
- 27 Fibrous pod used as a sponge (6)
- 28 A former British coin (8)



DOWN

- 1 God of wine (7)
- 2 Electrode at which positive current enters a device (5)
- 3 The dwarf leopard (6)
- 4 Art of boxing (8)
- 5 & 18 Across Novelist famous for The Mask of Dimitrios, Journey Into Fear, etc (4,6)
- 6 Small active plant pest (6)
- 11 Corn in general (5)
- 12, 1 Across, 19 Down & 25 Down Poem by Oscar Wilde (3,6,2,7,4)
- 14 See 26 Across
- 16 A fop or coxcomb (8)
- 17 Monetary unit of Bulgaria (3)
- 19 See 12 Down
- 20 Marine reptile (6)
- 21 Shrubby plant or tree with 'flowers' of small, fluffy, yellow balls (6)
- 23 Thin, fluid mortar for filling joints (5)
- 25 See 12 Down

SOLUTIONS

ACROSS: 1 Ballad of 7 Nurtia; 8 Bogy; 9 Pices; 10 Huguenot; 13 Thailand; 15 Scamp; 18 Ambler; 20 Tone Poem; 22 Virginia; 24 Regent; 26 Bog of; 27 Loofah; 28 Farthing.
 DOWN: 1 Bacchus; 2 Anode; 3 Ocelot; 4 Pugilism; 5 Eric; 6 Capsid; 11 Grain; 12 The; 14 Allen; 16 Popinjay; 17 Lev; 19 Reading; 20 Turtle; 21 Mimosa; 23 Grot; 25 Gaol.

General Knowledge Crossword

ACROSS: 6 Decorum; 7 Sally; 9 Claim; 10 Elegant; 12 Intermingle; 14 Information; 18 Blatant; 19 Ideal; 21 Agree; 22 Capable; Down: 1 Reply; 2 Notion; 3 Buy; 4 Jargon; 5 Blanky; 8 Climate; 11 Teeming; 13 Analogy; 15 Outlet; 16 Ordeal; 17 Tally; 20 Wan.

Crossword

UPHOLSTER Poppin; Hairpray; Sweet Charity.
 Niner Doltie; Mamma Mia!; Calamity Jane; An American in Paris; Doctor La Land; Les Misérables; Cabaret; Singin' in the Rain; Moulouin Rouge; Sound of Music; Paint Your Wagon; Buggy Malone; Moulouin Rouge; Oklahoma!; Seven Brides for Seven Brothers; West Side Story; The Benchmark

Wordwheel Pathfinder

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

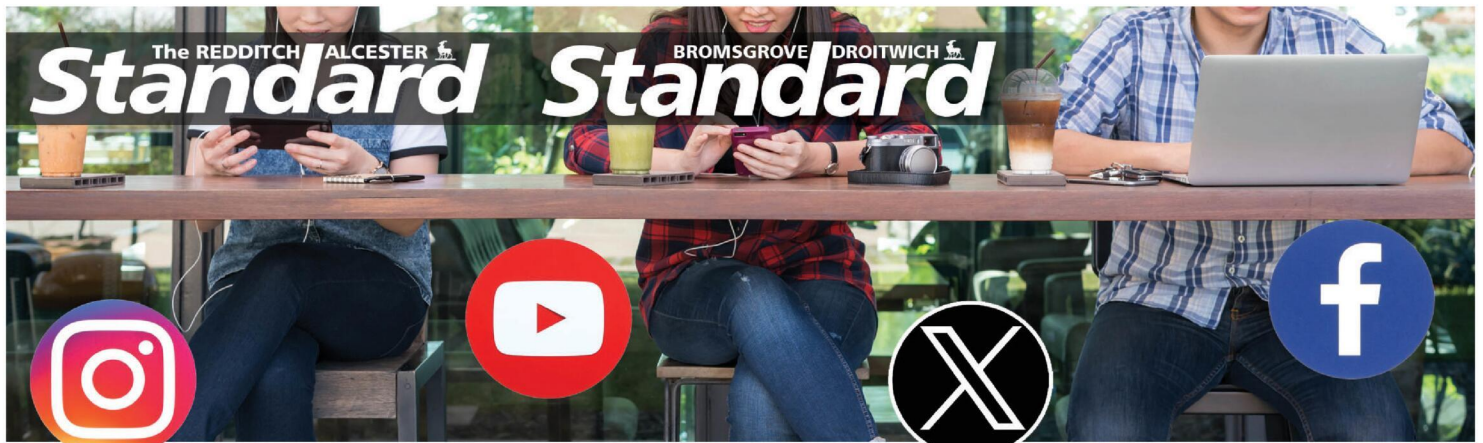
Codeword

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

Hard

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

Easy
Sudoku



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God Bless Angel.
Your forever heartbroken Mum and Dad
 xxxx

WHITE
Barrie Charles
 Formerly from Astwood Bank Redditch.
 Aged 90 years.
 Peacefully passed away in Warwick Hospital.
 Beloved Husband to Carolyn.
 A loving Father to Alison and his late Son
 Adrian, and a very special Grandad.
 The service to celebrate Barrie's life will
 take place at Redditch Crematorium on
 Thursday 17th July 2025 at 12.30 pm.
 Family flowers only, donations if so desired to
 Alzheimer's Society may be given on the day
 or sent to
 Thomas Brothers, The Funeral Directors,
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 01789 330939.
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**CHINKIE
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 JOHN**
 Aged 79 years.
 A much-loved Son, Uncle, Great Uncle,
 Nephew, Cousin and friend to many.
 Sadly passed away peacefully
 on Friday 6th June 2025.
 John will be greatly missed by all of his
 family and friends.
 A service to celebrate John's life will take
 place at Redditch Crematorium
 on Friday 11th July 2025 at 12.30pm.
 No flowers, donations if so desired to
 St. Richards Hospice to:
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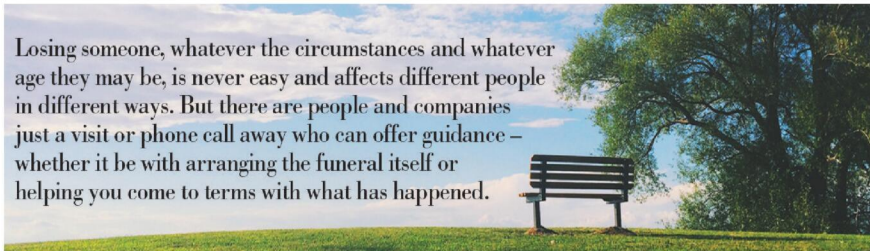
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Losing someone, whatever the circumstances and whatever age they may be, is never easy and affects different people in different ways. But there are people and companies just a visit or phone call away who can offer guidance – whether it be with arranging the funeral itself or helping you come to terms with what has happened.




Whatever the occasion, why not send your loved ones a message.... *Call our team on* **01527 588688**



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PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICES

Warwickshire County Council

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

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

A422 ARROW LANE, ARROW

Order Effect: A 30mph Speed Limit will be imposed as indicated by signage.

Reason for Order: For the safety of all road users while the Game Fair is in progress.

Order Commences: 24 July 2025 for up to 18 months.

Anticipated Completion: 28 July 2025.

Contractor: Tracsis Events, Tel: 07469 354 023.

B40920 JILL LANE, SAMBOURNE

Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic from junction of Oak Tree Lane to A448.

Reason for Order: Carriageway patching and associated works, 09.30hrs-15.00hrs.

Order Commences: 22 July 2025 for up to 18 months.

Anticipated Completion: 22 July 2025

Access & Diversion: A448, A441, Sambourne Lane, Jill Lane and vice versa.

Contractor: Balfour Beatty, Tel: 03452 415 302.

D53700 GUNNINGS ROAD SERVICE ROAD (GROVE PLACE), ALCESTER

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

Reason for Order: Carriageway patching and associated works, 09.30hrs-15.30hrs.

Order Commences: 21 July 2025 for up to 18 months.

Anticipated Completion: 21 July 2025.

Access & Diversion: There is no diversion.

Contractor: Balfour Beatty, Tel: 03452 415 302.

STRATFORD ROAD, ALCESTER

Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.

Reason for Order: To enable sluice valve works.

Order Commences: 22 July 2025 for up to 18 months.

Anticipated Completion: 24 July 2025.

Access & Diversion: Swan Street, Swan Street Roundabout, Evesham Street, Alcester Bypass, Norton Lenchwick Bypass, A46, Trench Lane, Stratford Road and vice versa.

Contractor: Chevron TM Ltd, Tel: 03300 080 820.

For all of the above temporary orders, pedestrian access to and egress from properties and land situated adjacent to the length of road to be closed will be maintained at all times. Vehicular access will be maintained where possible.

To report any problems with these works or for further details of our current & planned roadworks visit our website warwickshire.gov.uk/roadworksmap or call us 01926 412515.

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL & REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Advertisement Key: FPS = Footpath Setting
25/00652/FUL FPS

Site: Astwood Business Park, Astwood Lane, Astwood Bank Worcestershire.

Proposal: Extension to building F to form a unit for use classes B8, (E) and E(1)(iii) and associated car parking.

Application forms and plans may be inspected online <https://publicaccess.bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk/online-applications>

Comments can be submitted online, via email to newplan@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk or in writing Planning Services, Redditch Town Hall, Walter Stranz Square, Redditch B98 8AH.

Comments should be made within 17 days of the date of this publication. The Council does not acknowledge comments but will make these available for inspection online.

PUBLIC NOTICES

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL & REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Advertisement Key: LB = Listed Building,
25/00725/LBC LB

Site: Ruins of The Old Hewell Grange, HM Prison Hewell, Hewell Lane, Tardebigge Worcestershire.

Proposal: Alternative foundation solution to structural intervention to the south east elevation

Application forms and plans may be inspected online <https://publicaccess.bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk/online-applications>

Comments can be submitted online, via email to newplan@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk or in writing Planning Services, Redditch Town Hall, Walter Stranz Square, Redditch B98 8AH.

Comments should be made within 17 days of the date of this publication. The Council does not acknowledge comments but will make these available for inspection online.

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CROWN Denby Set, 4 pieces,

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VGC. £200. Tel: 07579 764027

WOLSELEY 6 / 90 Factory Issue Manual, Ring Binder Type. £25.

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THREE piece dining table, French polished. Seats 6

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REVELATION durable travel suit / garment bag, with shoulder strap & handle. Two hangers, multiple pockets, zip closure, colour black. £10.00. Tel: 07934132759

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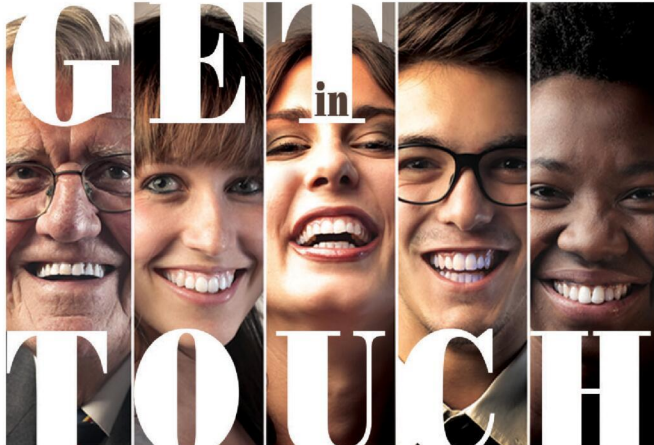
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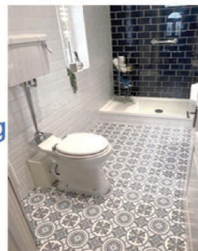
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SKODA has dominated the 2025 Auto Express New Car Awards by claiming four category wins along with the coveted Car of the Year award.

The new Elroq took top honours by winning both its sector and the overall title.

The brand's latest all-electric SUV was joined on the winner's podium by the Octavia, Superb and Kodiaq.

The Elroq's win marks the fifth time that a Skoda model has been named Auto Express Car of the Year.

Leading the charge was the new Elroq, which was named Best Mid-size SUV of the Year. The second Skoda to be built on the Volkswagen Group MEB platform, the Elroq, impressed the judges with its broad skill set and intelligent design.

The Auto Express test team said: "It offers impressive performance and all of the practical touches that Skoda is now famous for to make it a front-runner in the family electric car class.

"An SUV-sized car for hatchback money, the Elroq is impressively spacious compared with similarly priced alternatives."

The Octavia took top honours in the competitive Family Car category.

Summarising the Octavia's appeal, Auto Express's road test team said: "In some ways, the Skoda Octavia has transformed significantly over the years, but in the key areas where it excels – comfort, practicality and value for money – it hasn't.

"Few family cars offer this much space, let alone combined with such a comfortable driving experience."

The Octavia's latest win makes it one of the most successful models in Auto Express awards history.

It was crowned Auto Express Car of the Year and Family Car of the Year in 2021, while the estate model took the honours in the Estate Car of the Year category in 2021 and 2022.

Another Skoda adding to its already sizeable award collection was the new Superb, which again proved unbeatable in the Best Estate Car category. Repeating its victory from 2024, the Superb wowed the judges with its practicality and unbeatable value.

The Auto Express road test panel said: "The Superb Estate delivers on space, quality and cleverness just as strongly as the previous model. There have been thoughtful improvements to the interior design and to the hybrid powertrains to boost efficiency and lower running costs.

"It roundly covers all the bases a family car buyer looking for something with additional practicality could want. For those not taken with an SUV, the Superb Estate makes for a brilliant package."

The new Kodiaq took a comfortable victory in the Large SUV sector. The SUV impressed the judges with its practicality, driving experience and attention to detail.

The judging team said: "We're fans of

the second-generation Skoda Kodiaq because it builds on the proven formula of the original model. It's spacious, efficient and features plenty of clever touches, while the cabin has taken a step upmarket when compared with the original. A cargo volume of 2,035 litres is among the best of any seven-seat SUV on sale."

Auto Express Editor Paul Barker said: "It was another fabulous year for Skoda."

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Ingram enters BTCC record books with Oulton Park win

by Aaron Sutcliffe
aaron.sutcliffe@bullivantmedia.com

BTCC: TEAM Vertu driver Tom Ingram entered the British Touring Car Championship (BTCC) record books following victory at Oulton Park.

Ingram tasted victory in race one at the Cheshire circuit for Droitwich-based Team Vertu, his 35th in the BTCC, to enter the all-time top-10 winners' list.

He finished the weekend with successive fourth-place finishes to sit 10 points behind drivers' standings leader Ash Sutton.

Ingram said: "Oulton Park is a circuit I love, and I felt in a really good place going into the weekend.

"The Hyundai was absolutely amazing in qualifying, and I was over-the-moon to take pole – it was simply the most hooked-up car I've ever driven, around a circuit where it really isn't easy to link the whole lap together.

"Race one was similarly fantastic. You always want a bit of a buffer, and I knew once we had that and had settled into a rhythm, we were in the pound seats because then you can just control the gap as you see fit.

"I knew Ash [Sutton] was going to come through on the softs in race two – that was inevitable.

"My aim on the hard tyres was to try to stay somewhere



inside the top-10 and fourth far exceeded my expectations – although Jake [Hill] didn't make my life easy and I was conscious I couldn't afford to make so much as a single mistake or he would have been past.

"Race three was then very much a story of two halves, and it was a shame the weather played its part. We went very intermediate on the set-up, but it turned out that wasn't the way to go.

"The track didn't dry as quickly as we'd been anticipating, which left us vulnerable early on; when it did begin drying we came back through, but we narrowly ran out of laps to challenge for another podium.

"That was a bit frustrating, but ultimately, the biggest takeaway from the weekend is that this car is honestly unreal – such a joy to drive – and that is full credit to Team Vertu for doing such a cracking job.

"We're in a really nice window with the Hyundai at the moment, which is a lovely place to be.

"Now, we will use the summer break wisely to continue honing and refining it, to ensure we come out all guns blazing and ready to fight tooth-and-nail for the title over the season's second half."

Ingram made the perfect start to the weekend as he converted a pole position into a race victory.

And he set a new BTCC-record lap time at the circuit on his way to securing pole.

The Coventry racer led from start to finish in a stellar drive which saw him cross the line more than five seconds clear of Dan Cammish in second while Chris Smiley completed the podium.

And the victory saw Ingram climb to joint 10th in the BTCC's all-time winners' list.

He had to settle for a pair of fourth-place finishes in the following two races as Sutton won race two while Gordon Shedden won the final race of the weekend.

Tom Ingram celebrates his 35th BTCC race win. Picture by Mark Cowdrill.

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