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Boys in blue drop by to make Jean's special day

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

A DROITWICH resident's birthday wish has come true this week after the retired former West Mercia Police officer got the chance to return to her role again for the day.

Jean Mulcaster, who lives at Droitwich Mews Care Home, had a magical trip down memory lane on Monday morning to celebrate her 83rd birthday, thanks to officers from Droitwich SNT.

Jean, who started her career with Worcester Police in 1962, before it became part of West Mercia Constabulary, served for around ten years before she retired in the 1970s to take care of her young children.

She met her husband Bob while serving and policing truly runs in the family, with their son Alistair also following in their footsteps.

The special treat came about after Jean placed a wish on the 'wish tree' at Droitwich Mews Care Home saying it was her dream to be a police officer again just for one day.

And thanks to PCSO Denise Bushell's community engagement work liaising with the care home, the force was made aware and was more than happy to make her wish come true.

PCSO Bushell collected Jean and brought her back to Droitwich Police Station where she was greeted by Sgt Cathy Atkinson and her team who sang happy birthday to her.

Jean reminisced about the old days of policing and some of the jobs she remembered going to before trying on some of the modern-day kit, getting her fingerprints done the old-fashioned way with a pretend set and firing up the 'blues and twos' in a patrol car.

PCSO Bushell said: "It was lovely to meet Jean and make her birthday wish come true so she could be a police officer again for the day.

"Engaging with our different communities is an important part of our jobs and we hope we gave Jean an experience she will remember forever.

"It was lovely hearing all the stories from her days in policing and seeing her reaction to trying on the uniform and sitting in a police car."



Jean Mulcaster, aged 83, living her dream of being a police officer again for the day with Droitwich Safer Neighbourhood Team.

Jean Mulcaster in her days as a police officer.

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Police find £1.3m in drugs in back of car

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

WEST Midlands Police uncovered more than £1million worth of drugs after a car being chased by officers near Alvechurch.

David Sherratt, in a black Peugeot 3008, hit speeds of up to 120mph as the chase took place along the M5 and onto the southbound stretch of the M42, a court heard.

The car was believed to be linked to drugs which prompted the pursuit by the Road Crime Team.

The police helicopter was also deployed to keep tabs on the vehicle.

Police deployed a stinger on the Peugeot which lost a tyre before it was boxed in. Sherratt was arrested on the M42 near Alvechurch.

In the boot of the car were



The drugs, worth £1.3 million, were found in bags in the back of the Peugeot. s

Sports Direct bags, each carrying 18kg of cocaine. The total wholesale value was up to £1.3million.

Sherratt, who told officers the seizure was 'not a bad day for them', smashed his mobile phone against the dashboard in a bid to destroy evidence.

When officers accessed the device, they found he had been involved in the collection of a further 135kg of drugs – worth up to \$5million in total.

He would deliver them to

customers around the country, earning up to £200 per kilo delivered – and was expecting to earn £20,000 in just six weeks for his work.

At Birmingham Crown Court, Sherratt, of no fixed address, was jailed for 12 years and nine months after admitting being concerned in the supply of cocaine, possessing the drug with intent to supply and dangerous driving.

Sherratt has 12 convictions for 19 offences dating

back to 1995. He was jailed for six years in 2016 for conspiracy to supply class A drugs and more than four years in 2020 for further drugs offences.

Det Ch Insp Peter Cooke, from the West Midlands Regional Organised Crime Unit, said: "This is a major recovery of drugs that would have ultimately been sold on the streets of the UK and caused untold misery."

"Sherratt's attempt to get away from our officers was



David Sherratt has been jailed for 12 years and nine months. Pictures by West Midlands Police. s

dangerous and put other road users at risk, but great work by the Road Crime Team meant the pursuit was brought to a safe conclusion.

"He played a significant role in the distribution of drugs around the country, but will now be spending years behind bars."

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See page **28**

Crops destroyed in mass wildfire

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

PEOPLE living in 50 homes in Bromsgrove had to be evacuated when a wildfire broke out and spiralled out of control.

The blaze started around 5.40pm on Saturday evening and tore across land off Staple Flat and Linehouse Lane, Marlbrook.

The flames engulfed 100hectares of standing crop, a tractor and a stable block, along with a container used to store 30 tonnes of hay bales.

A major incident was declared as 12 crews and engines were deployed by Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service from across the two counties. These were also supported by West Midlands Fire Service crews and West Midlands Ambulance Service.

Five tractors with ploughs were used to create fire breaks.

Due to the number of calls associated with this incident, Operation Willowbeck was initiated by HWFRS Fire Control, to enable other fire services to assist with taking 999 calls not relating to this incident.

Firefighters and HWFRS Fire Control worked tirelessly to deal with this incident, with crews working to tackle the blaze and bring it under control, with the support of local farmers who helped re-



This drone picture from Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service show the extent of the damage which was spread across 100hectares of land. s

ate the fire break.

As the blaze was being tackled, residents living in nearby properties were evacuated and moved to a rest centre.

People in the surrounding areas, including Marlbrook and Catshill, who were not evacuated were told to keep their doors and windows shut to prevent the smoke from entering their homes.

Staple Flat was also closed between Old Birmingham Road and Linehouse Lane.

After raging for several hours, the flames were brought under control.

There were no casualties and all the residents who had to be evacuated returned to

their properties later that evening.

Firefighters remained at the scene on Saturday night and into Sunday morning to make sure the area is safe and check for hotspots to ensure the blaze does not reignite.

The fire service does not believe the blaze had been started deliberately.

Bromsgrove Police thanked everyone in the area for their patience while the incident was being dealt with.

Visit bromsgrovestandard.co.uk to see more pictures and fire service drone footage showing the extent of the damage caused.



A total of 50 households were evacuated for their own safety. Pictures by Bernard McEldowney. s

THE POPULAR founder of a bus company who launched the firm using his redundancy cash 50 years ago has died.

Peter Nind set up the company, now known as Key's Cars and Coaches, in 1974 after being made redundant from

his job at Garringtons on Sherwood Road, Bromsgrove.

Mr Nind died last month aged 85 and his funeral service will be held at Waseley Hills Crematorium at 11am on Tuesday, July 22.

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Doubly chuffed with SW19 win

LLOYD Glasspool realised a 'childhood dream' after winning the men's doubles title at Wimbledon, creating history in the process.

The Redditch-born player, who grew up in Wythall, became Wimbledon champion on centre court alongside British playing partner Julian Cash.

The fifth seeds defeated unseeded pair, Australia's Rinky Hijikata and David Pel from the Netherlands, 6-2, 7-6 in the final.

Victory saw the duo become the first British pair to lift the men's doubles trophy at Wimbledon since Pat Hughes and Raymond Tuckey in 1936 some 89 years ago.

And they made history as the first all-British pairing to win the men's doubles title at Wimbledon in the Open Era.

The 31-year-old, who attended Coppice Primary School and Woodrush High School, admitted his victory at SW19 was finally starting to sink in.

Glasspool exclusively told the Standard: "It's definitely sinking in - the first few days were just hectic with celebrating and press non-stop.

"Now it's really starting



Lloyd Glasspool (right) with Julian Cash (left) on centre court at Wimbledon. Picture courtesy of Simon Bruty/All England Lawn Tennis Club.

to sink in. It's just super cool, achieving a childhood dream.

"Once the final point landed and went off the court it was amazing. It was just a massive sigh of relief.

"There was so much stress and pressure building over the course of the two weeks.

"It was just an amazing feeling with the crowd all on their feet and cheering."

Glasspool spent three years playing at Wythall Tennis Club before later advancing to Blossomfield Sports Club and Edgbaston Priory Tennis Club.

And the new British number one in men's doubles hopes his success can inspire

the next generation of tennis players in the area.

Glasspool added: "Hopefully it can inspire a couple of people.

"Hopefully it's a bit more relatable so people don't think these dreams are unachievable or out of reach.

"Always knowing or knowing of someone that's done something you want to do makes it much more believable.

"Hopefully I've reached out to some of the younger generation and kids in the area.

"Even if their goal is not to win Wimbledon, no matter what it is, hopefully that can inspire them to achieve whatever goals they have."



Auditions took place this week for All and Sundry's annual pantomime 'Cinderella'.

All and Sundry to have a ball at panto

THERE will be magic in the air when Bromsgrove and Redditch theatre group All and Sundry stages its annual pantomime which this year is 'Cinderella'.

The traditional Christmas show will bring fantastic fun for all the family to Bromsgrove School's Cobham Theatre.

This will include plenty of comedy - from corny one-liners to outrageous slapstick, toe-tapping singalong songs, dance routines and, of course, bucket-loads of audience participation.

All and Sundry has been staging its annual pantomimes for more than 20 years and, following this year's auditions, the special guest has been revealed - the Standard's editor Tristan Harris will take up the iconic role of Buttons, the servant and close friend of Cinderella.

The story centres on Cinderella who is mistreated by her cruel stepmother, the Baroness, and her two ugly sisters.

To find himself the perfect suitor, Prince Charming, assisted by his friend Dandini, is holding a royal ball that every eligible woman wants to attend.

Cinderella must go to the ball but evil forces have other ideas and will try to prevent her from doing so.

Help is at hand through the fairy god-mother who will try, willed on by the audience, to make sure Cinders does go to the ball.

Can good triumph over evil?

Performances take place between December 13 and 18 and from December 18 to 23.

Visit: bromsgrove-school-tickets.bromsgrove-school.co.uk/ticketbooth/ shows for times, tickets and more information.

And go to: allandsundry.uk for more on the theatre group.



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Family is left 'devastated' after teen dies in park pool

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

THE FAMILY of Daniel Drewitt who died after going missing in a pool in Sutton Park last Thursday have paid tribute to their 'handsome, funny and talented boy'.

Daniel, who was 16 and attended Colmers School and Sixth Form in Rednal, was a big Birmingham City FC fan and would go to games with his friends.

In a statement his family said: "Daniel was a handsome, funny and talented boy who really cared about his friends and family.

"Everyone wanted to be his friend and he was popular because of the beautiful spirit he had.

"He had so many dreams and aspirations, and he had his whole life ahead of him. He has been taken from us way too soon and we still can't process what is happening right now.

"His family and friends are all devastated from this awful tragedy, and this will forever leave an everlasting pain in all of our hearts. We cannot put into words how much we will miss him and his cheeky smile."

The family thanked the community for all of the kind messages, love and support it had given.

"It has given us all comfort knowing just how loved he was by so many people and



Daniel Drewitt died in the pool at Sutton Park. s

shows they all saw what we saw in him," they added.

"Sweet dreams our beautiful boy. We know we will still see you every night. You will be the brightest star in the sky."

West Midlands Police are continuing to support Daniel's family at this tragic time.

Daniel played for Bromsgrove Rovers AFC's Under-16s team last season (2024 to 2025).

The club paid tribute to Daniel on its Facebook page.

His manager said: "Daniel, cheeky lad from Birmingham who loved life to the max, always worked hard in train-

ing and games and a pleasure to work with.

"Such a sad loss for a lad with a bright future ahead of him and will be missed by all.

"Everyone at Bromsgrove Rovers AFC will be in support of Daniel's ex team mates, coaching staff and family through this tough time.

"We send our thoughts and heartfelt condolences to the family, friends and former team mates."

A fundraising page has been set up to raise \$11,000 towards Daniel's funeral.

Visit gofundme.com/f/nmrk2-daniel-drewitt for more or to donate.



Daniel loved football and was a keen Birmingham City fan. s

Trains will run as usual

A PLANNED week-long closure of parts of the cross city railway line later this month will not affect journeys between Birmingham and Bromsgrove and Redditch.

Network Rail has shared details of the closure which will stop all trains between Birmingham and Lichfield between Monday, July 28 and Sunday, August 3

inclusive. The rail operator has confirmed journeys on the southern section of the line between Redditch and Bromsgrove and the city centre will not be impacted.

A rail replacement bus service will run between Birmingham New Street and Lichfield Trent Valley and between the city centre station and Tame Bridge Parkway.



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Bravery awards for M5 heroes

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

PC Stacey Hegenbarth and Sgt Kully Singh were regional winners at the Police Federation of England and Wales (PFEW) event last Thursday.

The officers, based at Bromsgrove at the time of their brave ordeal, were nominated for their handling of the incident last July.

The pair were called to reports of a vehicle travelling at 80mph southbound in the wrong direction, near Junction 5 of the M5.

Sgt Singh manoeuvred their patrol vehicle and stopped the vehicle with a near head-on collision.

It left the officers with severe whiplash and PC Hegenbarth with a concussion and abdominal bruising, from which they have now fully recovered.

PC Hegenbarth paid tribute to the bravery of colleagues in West Mercia and across the country.

She said: "I'm humbled by the award, and I'm really proud to represent West Mercia.

"Everyone does things on a daily basis that are worthy of being here, so it's a privilege to be receiving the award."

Her comments were echoed by Sgt. Singh, who said the pair were 'doing their job'.

He said: "I'm massively humbled by it.

"The stories we have heard are so harrowing, heroic, and courageous.

"We came to do our job. I know it's been



said so many times, but we genuinely did. It's really nice to be recognised."

West Mercia Police representative, Sgt Rob 'Swoosh' Seewoosaha, accompanied the duo to the event.

He said: "Kully and Stacey's courageous actions brought an incredibly dangerous situation to an end.

"They displayed remarkable bravery and unbelievable selflessness, knowing they were putting themselves in danger to protect the public.

"It highlights the risks officers face every day, in facing up to dangerous situations."

Their incident was mentioned by Home Secretary Yvette Cooper during her speech at the awards ceremony.

She said: "I say this on behalf of people right across the country, we are hugely grateful for the bravery you show."

PC Stacey Hegenbarth and Sergeant Kully Singh, were presented with a regional Police Bravery Award for their 'heroic' efforts. s



Redditch Self Defence director, Pete Martin, with coaches Sarah Merrett and Jen Bool and PCSO Clive Rainbow. s

GETTING ACTIVE: OVER THE school summer holidays, Redditch Self Defence has organised a selection of free activities for families as part of efforts to keep people safe against anti-social behavior and crime.

In conjunction with Redditch Police Safer Neighbourhood Team, Redditch Borough Council and Public Health, Redditch Self Defence will offer a variety of free activities for families between July 21 and August 25

The drop-ins will take place every Monday and Wednesday at 1pm where people can chat, have a brew, and talk to someone who will listen. There will be ten sessions organised every week with activities including boxing and self defence, with the first being a bleedkit training session.

Pete Martin, Director of Redditch Self Defence, said: "Holiday time is a time when ASB (anti-social behavior) can spike.

"We aim to do all we can to keep people safe and keep ASB to a minimum.

"We have access to a wide range of partners that can deliver a wide range of support."

Sessions will be held at the Woodrow Community Centre and Redditch Self Defence Youth Centre in Britten Street, starting at 1pm on July 21.

Family self-defence sessions will run every Friday at 6pm.

Visit the Redditch Self-Defence and Youth Engagement Facebook page at: [facebook.com/redditchselfdefence.co.uk](https://facebook.com/redditchselfdefence) or redditchselfdefence.co.uk for more information.

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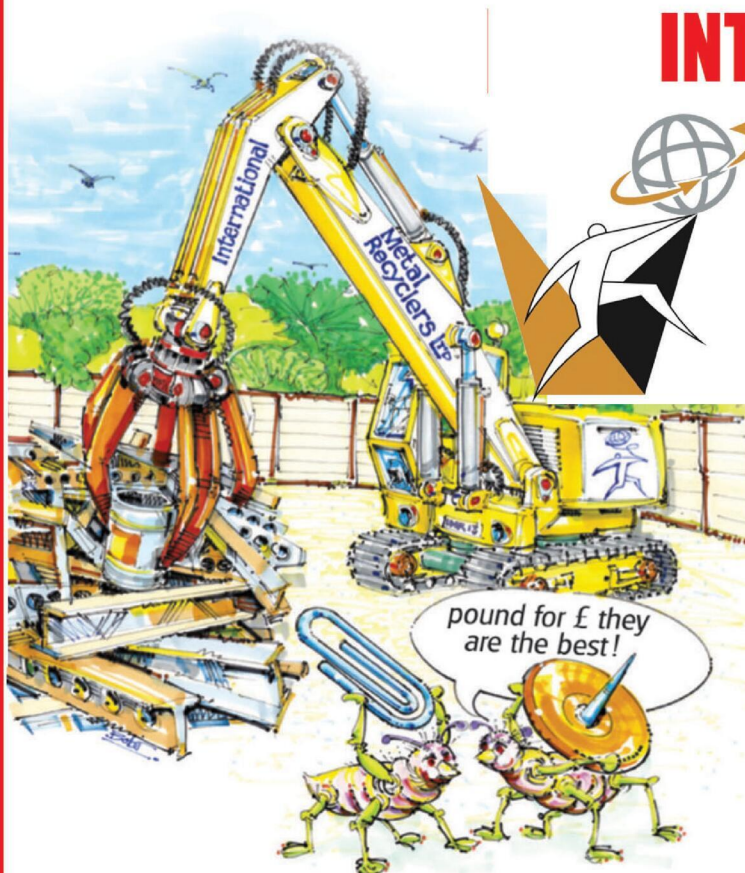
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Teen died days after fulfilling a dream



A NORTHFIELD teenager died following a fatal crash in Scotland after what was supposed to be 'one of the best days of his life'.

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

The crash, involving a Seat Leon and a bus, happened on the A82 near Glencoe around 11.15am on July 3.

The driver and passenger of the Seat were taken to the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital for treatment. The passenger, 18-year-old Jake Larmour, a former pupil at Turves Green Boys School, died in hospital on July 8.

Jake had been and climbed Ben Nevis – a dream of his – and he was on his way home to tell his family all about it.

His family said in a statement: "Our beautiful baby boy Jake was taken from us after what was supposed to be one of the best days of his life.

"He'd been to and climbed Ben Nevis which was a dream of his and was on his way home to tell us all about it.

"Words can't describe how we are feeling. We were only celebrating his 18th birthday just over a week ago and now we are arranging his funeral. Please let us grieve as a family. Fly high our darling Jakey."

Sgt Ewan Calder, from Police Scotland, said: "Our thoughts are

with the family and friends of Jake at this very difficult time."

Sgt Calder added investigations into the incident were ongoing and he urged anyone travelling on the A82 around that time or anyone who saw either vehicle prior to the collision and had information or dash cam footage which could help to call Police Scotland on 101.

A fundraising page has been set up to help the family pay for Jake's funeral.

Visit justgiving.com/crowdfunding/jake-larmour for more information and to donate.

Jake Larmour died in a crash in Scotland, the day after climbing Ben Nevis and fulfilling one of his dreams. s

Winslow Day celebrations extended to three days across town

PLANS have been unveiled for the second annual Edward Winslow Day in Droitwich following the success of last year's inaugural event.

Edward Winslow Day is a celebration of one of Droitwich's most prominent and historically significant residents from the 17th century.

The event celebrates the life and times of the Droitwich-born man who became one of

the first English natives to set sail for the shores of the United States, on the Mayflower ship from Plymouth in England, in 1620.

Held on Thanksgiving Day, the festivities give a nod to Winslow's involvement in the first-ever Thanksgiving dinner in Plymouth, Massachusetts.

This year the organisers are going further with the celebrations. The event will now take

place over three days from Thursday, November 27 to Saturday, November 29.

Among the celebrations will be a United States of America flag raising, exhibitions including interactive experiences, live music and entertainment, displays, Thanksgiving meals across the town, a statue dressing, a church service and more.

New to this year's event will be a Winslow Awards ceremony and

business initiatives as well as a street market.

Again, the event will encourage attendees to make donations to local foodbanks and community pantries across the town.

Councillor Richard Morris, chair of the organising committee, said: "We have looked at the Edward Winslow story and the words: friendship, thanks, giving, diplomacy and peace which are important in shaping our

activities. We have other ideas being worked on and hope to feature some key talks.

"I would like to thank all the individuals and groups involved and would like to hear from any others who believes they could contribute in anyway."

Anyone interested in supporting the event can contact Richard via richard.morris@wychavon.net for more information.

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LEFT: The High Sheriff of Worcestershire Ian Smith, complete with tartan throw, meets Sia Joseph of Tanzania. MIDDLE: Sue Yeng with Hamisi Namele and Ally Mtanda from the Tanzania High Commission with Redditch Councillor Juma Begum. RIGHT: Tewahedo Drummers not only delighted visitors to The Boat House during the day but also entertained the evening guests. s

Working to be better together

TWIN TOWN links forged with Mtwara in Tanzania could bring major benefits to Redditch, both culturally and for business.

That was the verdict of Paul Harrison of the Britain Tanzania Society as he joined representatives of the Tanzanian ambassador to Great Britain, the High Sheriff of Worcestershire and local dignitaries to mark the 40th anniversary of Redditch's link to the east African town at The Boat House on the shores of Arrow Valley Lake.

He said: "We have a longstanding connection with Tanzania."

"Formerly part of the British Empire, our relationship has been changing from one of development to

one of collaboration and trade.

"The Foreign Secretary David Lammy is keen to re-imagine our relationship with Tanzania and there will undoubtedly be business opportunities for Redditch in Mtwara across a range of services."

Redditch's link with Mtwara, a thriving sea port, was forged more than 40 years ago by a group headed by Ron and Betty Passingham who together served Redditch as councillors for more than 50 years.

John Cochrane, part of that first foundational group said: "We were discussing the way forward with town twinning."

"We looked at various options, what sort of country we were looking for, which included Tanzania."

"Then we heard from Mtwara, Ron and Betty went out to visit, and it all went from there."

Today the twinning flame is kept burning bright by Redditch One World Link, a group headed by former local teachers David and Jackie Morgan.

David said: "We had been teaching out in Dar es Salaam when we heard Redditch had twinned with Mtwara."

"We went out there in 1991, have visited several times since and made so many friends."

Joining the 40th anniversary celebrations were Mr Ally Mtanda, head of consular affairs and minister counsellor Hamisi Namele, both from the Tanzania High Commission, Ian Smith, High Sheriff of Worcestershire, Redditch MP Chris Bloore, Coun

Jo Monk, Worcestershire County Council leader, and borough Mayor Coun Joanna Kane.

Certificates of appreciation were also presented to key figures in the twinning story.

Sue Yeng, daughter of Ron and Betty Passingham said: "With what's going on in the world at the moment we really need to look at what unites us rather than what divides us."

"Through Redditch One World Link we have managed to forge connections which can be of benefit to us all."

Mr Bloore said: "This is a beautiful example of strength in unity, and this is critical for you have built a bridge between Redditch and Mtwara which is strong and enduring."



Mayor Councillor Joanna Kane with one of the awards. s



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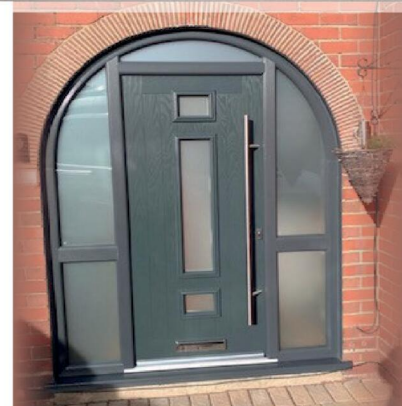
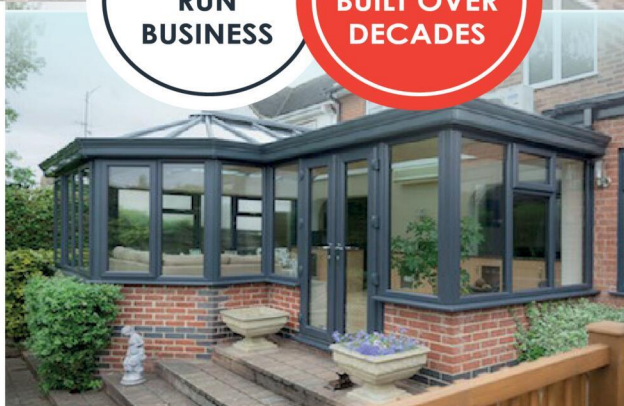


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Clergyman ready for new mission in area

A MUCH-LOVED and well-respected clergyman has swapped his role at Redditch's St Stephen's Church to take on area-wide duties.

Rev Paul Lawlor has now become the leader of the Redditch Mission Area (RMA).

Rev Lawlor said: "Many people have asked me what I'm doing now and 'have I retired?'. I'm working harder than ever."

While he continues to lead St John's Church in Greenlands, his focus is firmly set on the groundbreaking project that is the Redditch Mission Area. This ambitious scheme,

by Tristan Harris
tristan.harris@bullivantmedia.com

spearheaded by the Worcester Diocese, represents a significant evolution in how the church engages with its community.

Rev Lawlor added: "Following lots of consultation and lots of process work, we are now seeking to recruit people who will be working in specific parts of town (parishes) in areas such as youth work, children's and families work and community work."

He added: "The RMA is nearest thing we've got to

a startup business in our church life.

"It gives opportunity for creativity and seeking what new things God is doing.

"This is not simply a management exercise - what underlies all of this is our desire for more people to enter into what is a wonderful relationship with a living God."

Indeed, the search is currently on for a crucial member of this pioneering team - the operations manager.

"I'm looking for a colleague who will be a key leader in the work we are doing," said Rev Lawlor. "Someone who brings an entrepreneurial mindset to

the life of the RMA and the churches we serve."

The creation of the Redditch Mission Area, under the energetic leadership of Rev Lawlor, signifies an exciting new chapter for the church in Redditch, focusing on a forward-thinking engagement and a proactive approach to serving the needs of a diverse and evolving community.

Rev Lawlor said: "Working this through will mean we have healthy, sustaining and growing churches across the Greater Redditch area."

Anyone interested in the operations manager role can visit cofe-redditch.org.uk/jobs for more information.



Rev Paul Lawlor is the new leader of the Redditch Mission Area. s



Jon Turner and Bishop Martin after his ordination. s

Deacon Jon answers 'God's nudge' to join ministry

DROITWICH gained a new member of the clergy with the ordination of Jon Turner who will serve with the Saltway ministry.

He joined ten other candidates at Worcester Cathedral to be ordained by the Bishop of Dudley, the Right Reverend Martin Gorick, who is also currently the Acting Bishop of Worcester to serve in parishes across the diocese.

Seven candidates completed their first year and were ordained priests in the cathedral and are

now able to preside at holy communion.

Jon and a further three candidates were ordained deacon and are entering their first year of training as a curate.

Jon, a former Baptist minister who has served in the West Midlands and overseas, said: "So why am I joining the Church of England you might be wondering?"

"I think this is a natural progression of God's call on my life

to serve him in full time ministry.

"I found myself working for a Christian mission agency rather than pastoring a Baptist fellowship [and] out of the blue I felt God's nudge to explore priestly ministry - it was like an overwhelming thought that I just couldn't shake.

"To help test the call I started working for the Church of England in Birmingham as director of new congregations and

this gave me good exposure to the wide breadth of ministry that occurs across the CofE.

"After a few years in this role, I felt it was the right time to pursue the calling and so I attended a Bishops' Advisory Panel which, to my surprise, gave its approval.

"So, in response I started studying theology - again - at Queen's Foundation. I have enjoyed every minute of my formation training, and I am excited to get going in my training curacy role."



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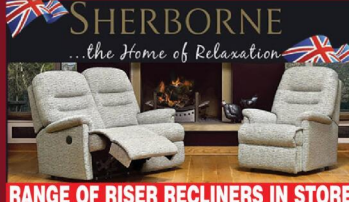
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LEFT: Girlguiding Bromsgrove brought Christmas to the summer party. Picture by Geoff Hawkesworth. MIDDLE: Libby Mae's Little Angels - pictured with Town Crier Kevin Ward and Wagner - won 'best lorry float' for its St Patrick's Day theme. Picture by Geoff Hawkesworth. RIGHT: Samba band Someone at the Door led the parade. Picture by Rebecca Loveridge Photography. s

Carnival fun while the sun shines

HUNDREDS of people turned out for this year's Bromsgrove Carnival on a very hot afternoon.

The mercury was in the 30°Cs - higher than Rio, Barcelona and California - as the parade journeyed from North Bromsgrove High School to Sanders Park.

The parade was led by Bromsgrove Town Crier, Kevin Ward, and samba band Someone at the Door.

Among the lorry floats were schools, including The Orchards, Milfield, Fairfield First and Rigby Hall, along with Libby Mae's Little

Angels, Kirsty's Little Treasures and others.

The walking session were the Stage Door Dance Academy and Girlguiding Bromsgrove.

This year's theme was 'Celebration Days' and everything was depicted - from Christmas and Easter to birthdays, World Book Day and Chinese New Year.

At the park were stalls from charities, community groups and businesses, Wilson's Funfair, food and drink, dance displays and a live music stage.

The awards for the best floats

went to Libby Mae's Little Angels for their St Patrick's Day lorry, while the walking one went to Girlguiding Bromsgrove for their Christmas theme.

The trophies were presented by former X Factor contestant Wagner who praised the Bromsgrove community for its welcome and for coming together to create such a wonderful day.

Charlotte Sharratt from Libby Mae's Little Angels said: "This is our first win in a long time - we certainly had the luck of the Irish on our side."

"All the hard work paid off and we'd like to say a massive thank you to Libby's aunty's Sarah, Riley's friends from Catshill Middle School and DJ Baxter who provided the live set."

Charlotte Howell, Girlguiding Bromsgrove's division commissioner, said: "As soon as we heard the theme we all said: 'we've got to do Christmas."

"We are so pleased to have won - we have rainbows, brownies, guides, rangers and leaders and everyone pulled together."

Assistant division commissioner,

Zoe Hadley-Blight, added: "We want to thank everyone involved."

"A lot of people went into a lot of lofts or on Vinted to get Christmas decorations and costumes - just a few months after putting them away."

Girlguiding is in desperate need of volunteers and helpers because of the demand. One of its units is in danger of closing.

Anyone who can give a few hours-a-week to be a leader or helpers should visit; girlguiding.org.uk or get in touch through the Girlguiding Bromsgrove Facebook page.



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Firm starts work on full fibre broadband

A BROADBAND firm has vowed to keep disruption to a minimum as construction of its new full fibre network has begun in Rubery.

Openreach is bringing the broadband upgrades, giving thousands of residents and local businesses gigabit-capable connection speeds.

The build is expected to reach the majority of properties and businesses in the area, providing more reliable, resilient and future-proof connectivity, with fewer faults and enough capacity to meet growing data demands.

Kasam Hussain, Openreach partnership director, said: "We're bringing full fibre broadband to Rubery and letting local people know what to expect.

"This is a major infrastructure upgrade, so there will be more engineering teams, equipment and vans around

town and we're working hard to keep disruption to a minimum.

"Wherever possible, we'll use our existing network of ducts and poles to avoid roadworks, new street furniture and disturbance.

"But there may be places where we need to install new poles, underground ducts and fibre cables because it's the only way to make sure households get included in the upgrade."

Openreach's full fibre network now reaches more than 18million properties and the company plans to extend this to 25million homes and businesses by the end of 2026.

Residents can receive updates on the works, including when the new connectivity will be available through their chosen provider.

Visit openreach.co.uk/ultrafastfibre for more information.

Why we have got to tackle the rise of the black market high street

EVERY time our brave policemen and women leave their homes and set off to work for their next shift, they're putting their lives on the line to keep us all safe.

For 24-hours-a-day, 365-days-a-year, they are out patrolling our streets and our roads. They are there when we need them and we owe them a debt we will never be able to repay.

I recently had the honour of joining PC David Gresswell on patrol in Bromsgrove town centre and in Sidemoor. It was a valuable insight into what a shift can look like for our local officers.

Whilst on patrol in the town centre we discussed a number of issues, but one of the most pressing issues I wanted to discuss was the rise of the black market high street.

The social identity of our communities is being impacted. The identity of many cities, towns and villages across the UK is changing.

We have all witnessed the rise of the cash-only vape shops, tanning salons, convenience stores, barbers and car washes that are littering our communities, with no social benefit to enrich our towns and villages.

Not only are such businesses widely considered to be a front for money laundering, but they are linked to illegal immigration and



MP Bradley Thomas out with officers from Bromsgrove Police. s

need this Government to be bold and brave enough to bring legislation forward.

The Government could start by ensuring our police have the resources they need.

As of March 2024, England and Wales had the highest number of police officers on record, with over 149,000 officers. More than 20,000 additional officers were recruited between 2019 and 2024, fulfilling the previous Government's manifesto commitment. This means there were more than 3,500 extra officers in England and Wales than at the previous peak in 2010.

I am aware the Government has pledged to hire 3,000 new officers.

However, I remain concerned the level of funding allocated for the recruitment and training of these staff will not be sufficient to retain headcount, which leaves me concerned there will be a reduction in numbers.

Rest assured that as your local MP I will continue to campaign for additional police patrols to ensure Bromsgrove and the villages remain a safe and secure place to live.

Bradley Thomas Bromsgrove MP



Westminster Diary

Bradley Thomas MP writes for The Standard

police to crackdown on the black market high street.

But the Government needs to

take more responsibility too. As soon as one black market business closes another one pops-up. This cannot continue.

We need the Government to set out a co-ordinated and detailed strategy into how it is going to crackdown on the black market high street. If a change a law is required then we

people smuggling. They are also a dangerous lure for young people who risk being drawn into county lines-style linked criminality. It's a phenomenon being felt across the country.

I was reassured during my time with the police that there is ongoing work between the local council, trading standards and the

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Maggs is appealing for a helping hand

A HOMELESSNESS charity is appealing for new volunteers to support its weekly drop-in service in Redditch.

Maggs Day Centre is particularly seeking Polish-speaking individuals to help break down language barriers and improve access for members of the Eastern European community.

The Redditch drop-in runs every Thursday from 11am to 2pm at Redditch Baptist Church, offering immediate, practical support for individuals experiencing homelessness or at risk of becoming homeless.

Visitors can access hot drinks, shower facilities, basic health and wellbeing support and receive information and guidance around housing, benefits and other essential services.

Lauren Ebeling, North Worcestershire and Harm Reduction Service lead at Maggs Day Centre, said: "We've created a welcoming, judgement-free space in Redditch where people can access meaningful support."

"But as the service grows, so does the need for volunteers - especially those who speak Polish."

"Language can be a significant barrier to accessing help, and having Polish-speaking volunteers would make a huge difference in helping us offer personalised, culturally sensitive support."



This year, Maggs has been commissioned to deliver homelessness support services across Redditch and Bromsgrove, as part of a wider effort to provide tailored, support across North Worcestershire.

Maggs' approach combines practical help, person-centred support and strong local partnerships to help individuals access the services they need - whether that's immediate help through Drop-In, longer-term engagement via Outreach and Navigation, or signposting to housing, health, and wellbeing services.

Steph Maton, volunteer co-ordinator at Maggs Day Centre, added: "Volunteers are absolutely central

to what we do.

"Whether it's offering someone a hot drink, a friendly chat, or helping them find the right support - every role matters."

"We're also really keen to hear from people who would be happy to run informal activities during the drop-in, as these can help build trust, connection and confidence."

"If you're compassionate, reliable, and want to give back to your community, we'd love to hear from you."

Visit: maggsdaycentre.co.uk/volunteer email volunteering@maggsdaycentre.co.uk or call 01905 25027 for more information on volunteering.



Rescued loco back on track

A FORMER LMS Steam locomotive (pictured) saved from being scrapped by a group of rail enthusiasts in the 1960s has worked a charter train through the area.

Jubilee Class locomotive 45596 Bahamas called at Barnt Green and Worcestershire Parkway on July 5 while hauling Vintage Trains 'Cathedrals Express' from Birmingham to Swansea and back during Railway 200 celebrations.

The 4-6-0 steam engine was built by the North British Locomotive Company in Glasgow in 1934 before entering service in January 1935 with the London, Midland and Scottish Railway (LMS).

The locomotive went on to cover around 1.4million miles during its working life before being withdrawn in mid-1966.

A group of rail enthusiasts then formed the Bahamas Locomotive Society to preserve the engine in 1967 with the assistance of a £3,000 donation from a businessman, despite British Rail already having agreed to sell the locomotive to a scrap merchant.

Around 120 passengers boarded the charter at Barnt Green and Worcestershire Parkway before travelling on the line between Chepstow and Swansea to mark the 175th anniversary of that route opening.



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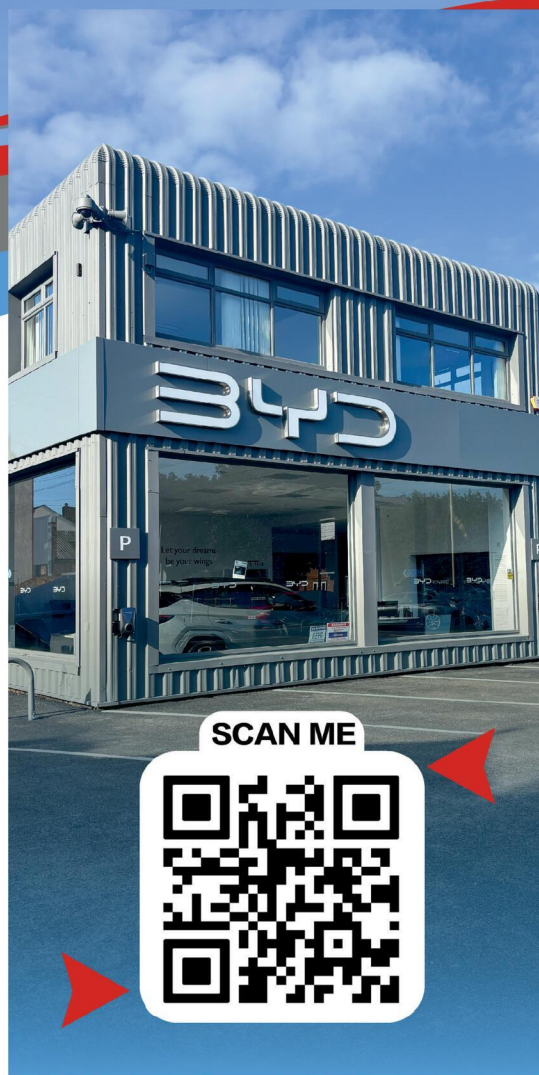
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LEFT: Carnival royalty taking a break from the sun. s



RIGHT: The procession walks through the streets. s

Pictures by Roy Edwards.

The carnival spirit



Full Force Wrestling group put on a show. s

CROWDS flocked to Astwood Bank Carnival on Saturday, with a fun day had by many.

The event had a 'Walk on the Wildside' theme, celebrating the summer in a jungle adventure style.

A fun dog show attracted a large number of entries from four-legged friends and 70 vintage vehicles, including seven steam

engines, were shown off in a classic car display.

The procession started at midday, headed up by carnival queen Kaitie, princesses Florence and Alice, aged nine and eight, and rosebuds Poppy and Teddy, aged six, and Molly, aged five.

All cash raised will be donated to good causes such as local schools and Scout groups alongside charities including Midlands Air Ambulance.



The streets were packed with people. s

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Summer-thing to suit all tastes

AN ANNUAL exhibition by members of two art groups in Alvechurch will take place from Thursday to Saturday, July 24 to 26.

The event, at Alvechurch Village Hall, will feature 100 paintings created over the past 12 months by artists which attend the groups. They meet at the village hall.

It comes after an art competition with the theme 'Summer Holidays' was run by Kamal Khan of Springview Care Ltd (Grosvenor House and Tutnall Hall nursing homes).

The winners of the contest were announced at Tutnall Hall's annual summer fete on Saturday with prizes handed out by Bromsgrove MP Bradley Thomas.

The groups are led by Droitwich based art teacher, Pam McGregor, who said: "As always, we are very grateful to Kamal for continuing to support the groups, sponsor the competitions and challenge the artists to produce something new, vibrant and exciting."

"His competition subjects encourage the artists to try a new style or subject and the results are always amaz-



Ali Collis, one of the competition winners, with her painting entitled 'Mindfulness Moment', after receiving her prize from MP Bradley Thomas, whilst Kamal shows the painting to the visitors.

ing, so much so I think visitors to the exhibition may be surprised but impressed with the results, even of those that didn't make the 'short list'."

This is the 10th year that Kamal has sponsored the competition and the winning paintings will be displayed in one of his nursing homes, where the residents will see them, which will hopefully remind them of holidays in the past and encourage them to talk about them to each other and to the staff.

The exhibition, which is free to attend and will also include paintings from previous years and art produced as part of exercises set by Pam during the year, will run from 10am to 6pm on Friday and Saturday and 10am to 5pm on Sunday.

There will be refreshments available each day and extra craft stands on Saturday.

Original works created by the artists will be available at reasonable prices.



Abigail Cutler, who plays Fairy Fabulous, and Scott Simpson as Long John Silver. Picture by Bromsgrove Panto

Setting sail for this year's panto

IT MAY be the height of summer but Artrix Bromsgrove has announced this year's Christmas pantomime.

Half Tail Productions will bring a new version of Treasure Island to Bromsgrove, with modern twists on Robert Louis Stevenson's traditional tale.

People are urged to grab their eye-patches, hoist the Jolly Roger, and prepare to embark on a rollicking, raucous and ridiculously fun adventure.

It centres on young Jim Hawkins as he discovers a mysterious treasure map and is swept away on a high-seas adventure packed with boisterous buccaneers, a daft Dame, glittering gold and a very cheeky parrot.

Dastardly Long John Silver is hot on the trail with more tricks up his sleeve than a magician at a birthday party.

The show promises hilarious hijinks, toot-tapping tunes, buckets of slapstick magical mayhem and plenty of audience participa-

tion. Executive producer/director Suzanne Lane said: "I am so excited to bring the magic of panto to the people of Bromsgrove this year."

"Treasure Island is a story I've loved since childhood, and to now get to re-enact it on stage is a dream come true."

"The script and songs have already been prepared, and we promise there is an abundance of twists and turns, hilarious characters, sing-a-long tunes, jaw-dropping special effects and non-stop laughs and not forgetting a sprinkling of panto magic."

The show will drop its anchor throughout the whole of December with a mixture of evening and weekend shows, plus daytime school shows.

The school shows are nearly all full, but any schools wanting to check availability are urged to get in touch.

Visit: artrixbromsgrove.co.uk/panto for times, tickets and more.

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 Departing **Thu 2 Oct '25**
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Your break includes
 ✓ Return coach travel **from Redditch**
 ✓ 4 nights at the Legacy Preston International Hotel, Preston (JG3+ rating) with dinner & breakfast
 ✓ Guided coach tour of Pendle Witch Country
 ✓ Lancaster Canal Cruise
 ✓ Excursions to Lancaster, Samesbury Hall, Bury Market & Oswaldtwistle Mills



TORQUAY WEEKEND
 Departing **Fri 5 Sep '25**
 Take in a weekend of picturesque south-west scenery in Torquay, where the gorgeous sea views and beaches make it the perfect place to escape for a few days of rest and relaxation. We include excursions to the inspiring destinations of Dawlish and Teignmouth.
Your break includes
 ✓ Return coach travel **from Bromsgrove**
 ✓ 3 nights at the Trecarn Hotel, Torquay (JG2 rating) with dinner & breakfast
 ✓ Entertainment every evening
 ✓ Excursion to Dawlish & Teignmouth
Optional excursion to Dartmouth (£11pp)

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BRONZE WINNING BRITISH TRAVEL AWARDS 2024



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Join us on the first Thursday of the month for 'Singing for Health' which takes place in our elegant conservatory overlooking the beautiful gardens. Enjoy uplifting songs, friendly company, and indulgent treats - from luxurious warming drinks to cakes, shortbread and sweet bites. Arrival from 3pm on Thursday 3rd July at the Grange.

MEET & GREET MONDAYS *for those living with dementia*



On the last Monday of every month, come and join us for an afternoon of singing, dancing and warming hot drinks, served with delicious butter shortbread and wonderful assortment of cakes and refreshments. Everyone is welcome - Arrival from 2pm at The Lodge.

Find out more about our amazing care home and what all-inclusive really looks like.

Telephone Kiran on 0121 445 5552 or visit www.burcotgrange.co.uk



Suit up for Superhero Summer at West Midlands Safari Park

THIS AUGUST, families are invited to suit up and celebrate wildlife conservation in heroic style, as West Midlands Safari Park launches Superhero Summer - a month-long adventure packed with action, education, and fun.



Running from 1 to 31 August 2025, this brand-new event is packed with competitions and entertainment, all focussed around the Park's five conservation partners and the animals they protect. Guests can follow the Superhero Shield Trail, answering clues and completing exciting challenges to build their own superhero shield. Those who complete the trail will be entered into a prize draw to win a bespoke VIP experience for four. Another brand-new feature is Eddie's Safari Superhero Show, a 20-minute interactive stage show full of games, dancing, and laughter.

Taking place daily at 2pm and 3pm, the show also gives families a chance to grab a "super selfie" with the characters, as well as learning about the Park's superhero animals. Throughout the month, visitors can also meet the Park's very own superhero explorers, Eddie and Eliza at daily meet and greets and those feeling extra adventurous can take part in the Superhero Photo Competition by striking a pose at the themed photo wall and sharing it on Facebook, with the chance to win an unforgettable overnight stay in a Hippo or White Lion Safari Lodge. For those inspired to make a real-world difference, the Conservation Station offers the opportunity to chat with the Park's own conservation superheroes, who will share more about the animals at the Park and the incredible work being done to protect wildlife around the world.

The event focusses on five incredible conservation organisations supported by the Park. These include the Lemur Conservation Association in Madagascar, WildCats Conservation Alliance in Sumatra, the Mali Elephant Project, Save the Rhino International, and the Global Penguin Society. Through fundraising and awareness campaigns, the Park helps support each partner's vital work protecting endangered species and their habitats. Children can earn a special sticker by learning how they too can



help, even from their own home. Superhero Summer activities are included in the standard admission price and guests can book in advance online for the best prices, which also includes a free return visit.

For your chance to win a WMSP Family Ticket, so you and your family can enjoy Family Fun at West Midlands Safari Park, just answer the following question:
In which month is Superhero Summer launched?
 Simply email your answer and your email contact details to:
Competitions@bullivantmedia.com
All entries must be in by noon on Thursday 24th July 2025

Inflatable Family Fun Days

REDDITCH - WE ARE BACK!

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Location - Redditch Cricket, Hockey, Rugby & Squash Club, B97 4SP

Dates - 21st, 22nd & 23rd of July 2025

Session times - 10:30am until 1:30pm & 2pm until 5pm

£10 per child, please bring cash where possible to speed up your entry time and to avoid signal issues.
PAY ON THE GATE ONLY!
 Accompanying adults are free of charge! Trampolines and Bumper Carz are an additional charge!
 Only children aged 2-12 can use the inflatables - strictly no adults.
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 Or visit www.thebarnsvillage.com for more info

Competition

New lion cubs venture out for the first time - ready for the summer holiday visitors

THREE lion cubs at West Midlands Safari Park have made their first public appearance, delighting visitors to the venue. The 12-week old cubs ventured out into their habitat. Nero, Nox and Nancy - all animals born at the park this year have names beginning with 'N' - were encouraged by their mum, 12-year-old Amber, as they met the rest of the pride for the first time.

Head keeper of carnivores, Kasha Carter, said Amber needed to check out the surroundings before her cubs came out.

"She then encouraged her cubs to follow her out and all three were fairly confident but kept close to mum."

Kasha noted that, after spending lots of time near the lion house, they soon started to play with sticks and in the bushes and

had their first encounters with butterflies and a passing gull for the first time.

Later on, they then met half-sister Hernatty and pride member Dakota who showed them new areas to explore and things to do in the habitat, such as watching the hooftstock on the other side of the fence line. The trio of cubs first arrived in April 2025, amidst a baby boom, following the birth of three



Sumatran tiger cubs, an Indian rhino calf, two blesbok calves and a barasingha fawn. Keepers said the birth of the cubs was extremely significant, as lions were currently classed as 'vulnerable' in the wild by the IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature). This is due to recent studies showing that lions now exist in only 6% of their historic range, demonstrating severe declines from habitat loss and prey depletion, as well as human-lion conflict. Now the cubs have had their

first day out, their next steps will be introducing them to the rest of the pride, starting with the females and then eventually the males, including dad, Tsavo. The cubs big brothers, Hodge, Havoc and Harabi, can be seen with their half brother Hercules on Lion ridge in the safari walk area of the park. West Midlands Safari Park is open daily for its summer season and guests can book in advance online for the best prices, which also includes a free return visit. **Visit: wmsp.co.uk for more information and to book.**

Story: Tilly Kellaway.
Pictures:
West Midlands Safari Park. s



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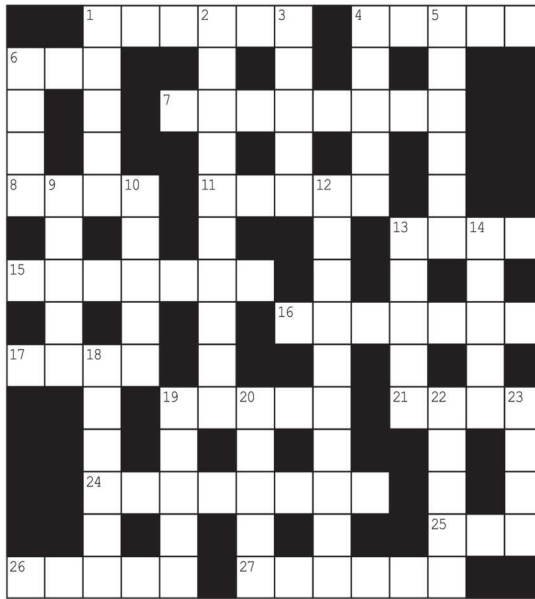
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GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 A constellation, 'the Crab' (6)
- 4 Measurement of distance at sea (5)
- 6 Surname of an American Civil War general (3)
- 7 & 11 Across Playwright famous for The Country Girl, etc. (8,5)
- 8 A fairy of Persian mythology (4)
- 11 See 7 Down
- 13 Horse race for 3-year-old fillies, founded 1779 (4)
- 15 Convert and colleague of St Paul (7)
- 16 A bridge of boats (7)
- 17, 13 Down and 6 Down Epithet given to Florence Nightingale (4,2,3,4)
- 19 Subway of Paris (5)
- 21 Greek love-god (4)
- 24 & 4 Down Decoration for conspicuous bravery on the field (8,5)
- 25 & 26 Across She was called 'Evita' (3,5)
- 26 See 25 Across
- 27 Fly that carries sleeping sickness (6)



DOWN

- 1 A tree of Lebanon (5)
- 2 Transparent wrapping material made from viscose (10)
- 3 Firearm with a spirally grooved barrel (5)
- 4 See 24 Across
- 5 Name applied to Sidhartha Gautama, 'The Enlightened One' (6)
- 6 See 17 Across
- 9 First name of the Cockney flower girl in Shaw's Pygmalion (5)
- 10 A piano key (5)
- 12 Surveying instrument (10)
- 13 See 17 Across
- 14 Japanese city of Honshu (5)
- 18 City of Colorado, USA (6)
- 19 Kind of French wine (5)
- 20 Freshwater fish esteemed as food (5)
- 22 Monetary unit of Pakistan, etc. (5)
- 23 Very aggressive seabird (4)

SOLUTIONS

ACROSS: 1 Cancer; 4 Cable; 6 Lee; 7 Clifford; 8 Pert; 11 Odes; 13 Oaks; 15 Timothy; 16 Pontoon; 17 Lady; 19 Metro; 21 Eros; 24 Victoria; 25 Eva; 26 Peron; 27 Tsetse.
 DOWN: 1 Cedar; 2 Celtophane; 3 Riffe; 4 Cross; 5 Buddha; 6 Lamp; 9 Eliza; 10 Ivory; 12 Theodolite; 13 Of the; 14 Kyoto; 18 Denver; 19 Macon; 20 Trout; 22 Rupee; 23 Skua.

General Knowledge Crossword

ACROSS: 1 Predecessor; 9 Nip; 10 Timpiece; 11 Offer; 13 Imitate; 14 Cynics; 16 Egoist; 18 Ringlet; 19 Tight; 20 Eliminate; 21 Ago; 22 Alternately; Down: 2 Rip; 3 Deter; 4 Commit; 5 Sapling; 6 Operating; 7 Unconcerned; 8 Detestation; 12 Financial; 15 Collide; 17 Attain; 19 Treat; 21 All.

Crossword

ACROSS: 1 Cancer; 4 Cable; 6 Lee; 7 Clifford; 8 Pert; 11 Odes; 13 Oaks; 15 Timothy; 16 Pontoon; 17 Lady; 19 Metro; 21 Eros; 24 Victoria; 25 Eva; 26 Peron; 27 Tsetse.
 DOWN: 1 Cedar; 2 Celtophane; 3 Riffe; 4 Cross; 5 Buddha; 6 Lamp; 9 Eliza; 10 Ivory; 12 Theodolite; 13 Of the; 14 Kyoto; 18 Denver; 19 Macon; 20 Trout; 22 Rupee; 23 Skua.

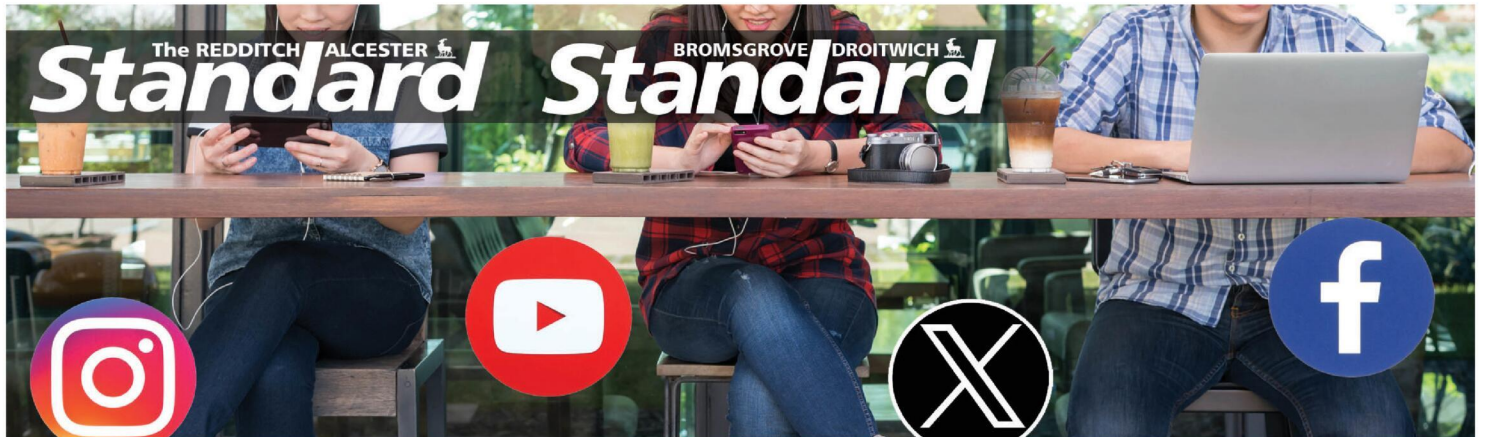
1=O, 2=B, 3=U, 4=R, 5=Q, 6=N, 7=Z, 8=E, 9=F, 10=L, 11=P, 12=A, 13=W, 14=X, 15=A, 16=L, 17=H, 18=S, 19=Y, 20=O, 21=L, 22=C, 23=M, 24=G, 25=K, 26=V

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

Hard

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

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DEATHS

MARRINER Malcolm
 Peacefully passed away on Tuesday 17th June 2025 at Housman Care, Bromsgrove.
 Beloved Husband of Norma (deceased), much loved Dad of Jenny and Chris (deceased), special Grandad of Charlie and Millie.
 A service will take place at Redditch Crematorium on Friday 25th July at 11.00 am.
 Live streaming will be available on the day. (Please contact Thomas Brothers for details.)
 If so desired flowers or donations to Alzheimer's Society
 Thomas Brothers Funeral Directors, Birchfield House, 494 Evesham Road, Crabb's Cross, Redditch, Worcestershire B97 5JF. 01527 547777
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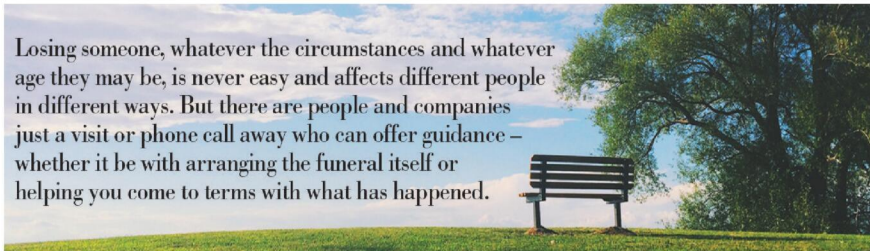
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PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICES

Warwickshire County Council

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
Warwickshire County Council has made 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.

Warwickshire County Council proposes to make the following Temporary Traffic Orders:
D53570 KINGS COUGHTON LANE, KINGS COUGHTON
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic from Alcester Heath to A435.
Reason for Order: Carriageway patching and associated works, 09.30hrs-15.00hrs.
Order Commences: 4 August 2025 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 4 August 2025.
Access & Diversion: A435, Roebuck Island, Alcester Heath and vice versa.
Contractor: Balfour Beatty, Tel: 03452 415 302.

MORTON BAGOT ROAD, MORTON BAGOT
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.
Reason for Order: To enable works for relay of interim surface to permanent reinstatement.
Order Commences: 4 August 2025 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 5 August 2025.
Access & Diversion: Morton Bagot Road, Wootton Wawen Road, Henley Road, Birmingham Road, Priory Square, Alcester Road, Spernal Lane, Fork Hill and vice versa.
Contractor: Chevron TM Ltd, Tel: 03300 080 820.

PUBLIC FOOTPATH FROM RIDSDALE CLOSE TO SCHOOL AVENUE, SALFORD PRIORS
Order Effect: Footpath closure to all traffic.
Reason for Order: Works to install underground cables.
Order Commences: 4 August 2025 for up to 6 months.
Anticipated Completion: 22 August 2025.
Access & Diversion: Perkins Close, St Matthews Close, School Road, Ridsdale Close and vice versa.
Contractor: Docey Civil Engineering Limited, Tel: 03331 230 439.

RIDSDALE CLOSE, SALFORD PRIORS
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.
Reason for Order: To safely enable works to install underground cables.
Order Commences: 4 August 2025 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 22 August 2025.
Access & Diversion: Perkins Close, St Matthews Close, School Road, Ridsdale Close and vice versa.
Contractor: Docey Civil Engineering Limited, Tel:03331 230 439.

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 9 July 2025

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PUBLIC NOTICES

APPLICATION FOR VARIATION OF A PREMISES LICENCE UNDER S.34 LICENSING ACT 2003
Brunning & Price Ltd has applied for a Variation of a Premises Licence for **Arrow Mill**, Arrow, Near Alcester B49 5NL to include a temporary bar within the outside area. The application may be viewed during normal office hours at Public Protection, Environmental Services Elizabeth House, Church Street, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 6HX or online www.stratford.gov.uk Representations must be made in writing by email licensing@stratford.gov.uk or by post to the above address by 7th August 2025 It is an offence, under section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003, to make a false statement in or in connection with this application. Those who make a false statement may be liable on summary conviction to a fine of any amount.
HARRISON CLARK RICKERBYS

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 88666, 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 SO 95893 68358, 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**.
This is a re-advertisement, as the original advertisement contained an error.
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/049892** 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 **15th August 2025**.
For advice about how to make a representation call **03708 506 506**.

PUBLIC NOTICES

LICENSING ACT 2003 APPLICATION FOR A PREMISES LICENCE TO BE GRANTED UNDER THE LICENSING ACT 2003
Name of applicant: S a t k u n a r a j a h
Thiruarajasingam Post office address of premises: Unicorn Hill Express, 8-10 Unicorn Hill, Redditch B97 4QR.
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 (off sales) Monday to Sunday - 00:00 to 23:59.
Representations by interested parties or responsible authorities should be made in writing to Worcestershire Regulatory Services, Wyre Forest House, Firepoint Way, Kidderminster, DY11 7WF or enquiries@worcesterservices.gov.uk by 07/08/2025. 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.

PUBLIC NOTICES

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL & REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL
Advertisement Key: FPS = Footpath Setting
25/00754/PIP
Site: Land Adj, Dingleside, Featherbed Lane, Hunt End, Worcestershire B97 5QL.
Proposal: Permission in principle for the erection of 1 new dwelling.
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: FPS = Footpath Setting, CAS = Conservation Area Setting
25/00724/FUL
Site: 14 Margerspen Drive, Barnet Green, Worcestershire B45 8LR.
Proposal: Front extension.
25/00769/PIP
Site: Redhouse Farm, Shaw Lane, Stoke Prior, Worcestershire B60 4BG
Proposal: Permission in Principle for the development of two new dwellings
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

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence
Hanbury Hauliers Ltd of 18 Hanbury Croft, Hanbury, Bromsgrove B60 4BF is applying to change an existing licence as follows. To add an operating centre to keep 9 goods vehicles and 9 trailers at Amazon BHX8, Unit A, Gateway, Coventry Highway, Redditch B98 9AY.
Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centres(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Quarry House, Quarry Hill, Leeds, LS2 7UE, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representatives must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

PUBLIC NOTICES

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BLACK ash filing cabinet £10 D39 x W45 x H62 cms Tel: 07831 488658
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FOR sale Hood deflector bonnet guard protector for Kangoo Van (2013to 2021)boxed unused cost £40 - £20 Tel 07967401319
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ROMAN crinkle blouses, cap sleeve. Polyester / cotton. One white, one pink-same design. Size medium 12 / 14. £4.00 each or both for £6.00. Tel: 07934132759
CARPET offcut - brand new, berber, hard wearing, felt backed, mid brown / cream mixture, no matching pattern so could cut & piece together. size 6 foot 8 inches long x 2 foot 1 inch wide. £4.00. Tel: 07934132759
LADIES M&S classic fully lined lightweight jacket with detachable hood. Light turquoise. Hardly worn. Size 12. £4.00 (I can forward photos if interested). Tel: 07934132759
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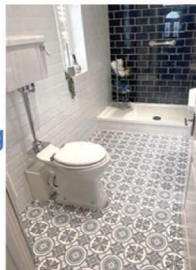
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www.bromsgrove-school.co.uk

Closing date for all applications is 1 August 2025.

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A MEMORABLE edition of the Goodwood Festival of Speed draws to a close, and Maserati bids farewell to the British public after four days celebrating Italian excellence.

Amidst the world-bests, the Trident captivated motorsport fans with a charismatic and high-adrenaline presence, track runs, world premieres, and a paddock showcasing the very best of luxury and performance.

Among the standout highlights was the debut of the new MCPURA Super Sports Car, the purest expression of Maserati's performance-driven philosophy, which was unveiled on Thursday, July 10.

The MCPURA takes the spirit of the MC20 and elevates it, bringing it to its most intense and refined form.

Available immediately in both coupé and convertible versions (the latter dubbed MCPURA Cielo) this new model features four defining elements: a carbon fiber

monocoque, the iconic Nettuno V6 engine with a patented pre-chamber combustion technology, the "Butterfly" doors, and the retractable electrochromic glass roof for the cabrio version.

In terms of dynamics, it was the Maserati GT2 Stradale that stole the show, lighting up the legendary Hillclimb with its deep, magnetic sound—delivered by a brand-new racing exhaust system.

Its mechanical symphony electrified the crowd, turning each run into a visceral experience.

Born directly from Maserati's expertise on international race-tracks, the GT2 Stradale is the road-legal version of the iconic GT2 race car that marked Maserati's return to victory in GT championships.

The extraordinary roar came from a new racing exhaust system developed by Maserati Corse in collaboration with TubiStyle, a benchmark in high-performance exhaust and supplier of the original system for the legendary MC12.

Built exclusively for track use and crafted from high quality titanium, the new system reduces weight by 7kilograms compared to the standard setup, enhancing the car's dynamic capabilities even further.

Every component is welded by hand

to the highest artisanal standards, reflecting Maserati's commitment to technical and stylistic excellence. Created to amplify the performance of the engine, the new system delivers a direct and authentic sound that mirrors the GT2 Stradale's sporty character and Maserati's deep roots in motorsport.

With this new system, Maserati Corse reaffirms its role in the development of high-performance solutions.

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Spa to start season this month as tricky away opener awaits

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

FOOTBALL: ANDY Crowther admits Droitwich Spa face a 'tough start' to the 2025/26 season but cannot wait to begin the new campaign.

Spa are busy preparing for their first season as a Step Five club and have already claimed pre-season wins against Alcester Town and Smethwick Rangers.

The release of the Hellenic League Premier Division fixtures will see Spa begin the competitive season later this month.

Droitwich's first match as a Step Five club will see the Saltmen travel to Hereford Pegasus.

And although Crowther feels Spa have been handed a tough start, he remains confident his players will embrace the challenge of Step Five football.

Crowther said: "It's always good to get started in the league even though it is quite early for us.

"It's a tough start, travelling to Pegasus on the Monday, then Racing Club Warwick in the FA Cup and then Westfields at home.

"But they are the games you want to play in and we're all looking forward to it, I can't wait for the season to get

started now.

"You do look at some fixtures to see when you're playing Pershore Town and Worcester Raiders [local rivals].

"We've not looked at it and thought 'we're going to struggle in so many games' it's about moving on and seeing what we can do this year.

"Hopefully, the blueprint is the same as last year. I'm not saying the same as in winning the league, we're just going to push as much as we can and who knows where that will take us."

Spa also face a stern test in the FA Cup with Droitwich to play in the competition for the first time in the club's history.

Droitwich will make the trip to Step Four side Racing Club Warwick in early August.

However, Crowther feels his players thrive when taking on opponents in a higher division with Spa out to cause an upset.

Crowther added: "We're looking forward to the FA Cup, we've got a tough draw away at Racing Club Warwick.

"We'll go there full of confidence, it's a one-off game and anything can happen in a one-off game.

"The lads normally thrive when playing against higher league opposition and that's shown in the past and hopefully we'll push them all the way."

FIXTURES RELEASED

Droitwich will start the 2025/26 Hellenic League Premier Division season with a trip to Hereford Pegasus.

Spa travel to Hereford on Monday, July 28 with kick-off at 7.45pm in their first game as Step Five club.

Droitwich then play Racing Club Warwick in the FA Cup before hosting Westfields on Tuesday, August 5 in their first home game of the season with kick-off at 7.45pm at the King George Playing Fields.

Spa will play eight games in a busy August which includes a trip to Worcestershire rivals Pershore (August 25).

And Droitwich host the Plums in their first home derby of the season in the return fixture (November 8).

Crowther's side travel to Royal Wootton Bassett Town in their final game before Christmas (December 20).

And Spa host local rivals Worcester Raiders in their final game of the year (December 27).

Droitwich's first game of 2026 sees the club travel to Mangotsfield United (January 10).

The club's first home game of the year sees Cinderford Town visit the King George Playing Fields (January 17).

Spa travel to Raiders in the reverse fixture in their penultimate game of the season (April 13).

And Droitwich finish the campaign with a home game against Mangotsfield (April 18).

A full list of the club's fixtures can be found online at: droitwichstandard.co.uk/sport

KIDDERMINSTER DEFEAT

Droitwich pushed Kidderminster Harriers all the way as the Saltmen suffered a narrow 1-0 home defeat against their higher division opponents.

Spa play three levels below Harriers who ply their trade in the National League North.

The game's only goal came on nine minutes as Dan Mooney rifled home in front of more

than 650 spectators at the King George Playing Fields.

And the friendly was Spa's first at home ahead of the upcoming 2025/26 campaign.

Spa began pre-season with a thrilling 3-3 draw against Studley.

Crowther's side then recorded victories against Alcester and Smethwick respectively.

Droitwich are next in action against Bewdley Town on Saturday, July 19 with kick-off at 3pm at Ribbesford Meadows.

Droitwich played Kidderminster Harriers in their first home pre-season friendly. Picture by Mathew Mason.



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All types of work undertaken, why not give us a call or just drop in



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