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Emilia strikes GOLD for GB

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

AN ARCHER who honed her craft in Droitwich has struck gold for Great Britain in her very first senior appearance at an international archery tournament.

Emilia Hughes, aged 19, won gold in the recurve mixed team archery event at 2025 Veronica's Cup in Slovenia.

She scooped gold alongside her team mate Johnny Smart. It was Emilia's senior debut for Team GB after a distinguished junior career which began in 2022 at the European Youth Cup in Romania.

Emilia is an engineering apprentice at Yamazaki Mazak in Worcester. Having first picked up a bow and arrow at Warwick Castle while recovering from a knee operation in her early teens, she quickly developed a passion for archery.

This led to her joining a local club in Droitwich before entering the GB Archery Pathway Scheme in 2021 and making regular appearances for Team GB on both the European and World youth circuits.

She said: "I am absolutely delighted to have performed so well in my first senior competition and never thought I'd be coming away with a gold medal.

"I had great support from my coaches, my family, and of course my teammate Johnny.



Emilia Hughes competing for Team GB at the 2025 Veronica's Cup in Slovenia.

"However, I've also been given plenty of encouragement and flexibility from Mazak to pursue my passion, for which I'm very grateful."

Her success on the archery range emulates a burgeoning career in manufacturing, which also saw Emilia crowned Advanced Level Apprentice of the Year at the 2024 Worcestershire Apprenticeship Awards in December.

Looking to the future, Emilia's ambitions show no sign of abating, both on and off the range.

She is due to complete her apprenticeship

in September and move onto a further vocational degree. She has hopes of continuing to represent Team GB's senior archery squad, with dreams to make it to the Los Angeles Olympics in 2028.

Karen Buckley, outreach and future talent manager at Yamazaki Mazak, said: "Everyone at Mazak is so proud of what Emilia has achieved.

"We very much look forward to watching her continue to succeed, both on the international archery stage and closer to home in her professional qualifications."



Almost Synchro, a swimming group from Bristol.

SYNCHRONISED swimming dazzled Droitwich as the Lido celebrated its 90th birthday.

Nearly 100 people flocked to the pool, where The Friends of Droitwich Spa Lido (FODSL) had organised an evening of nostalgic entertainment and published a memory book to tell the story of swimming across the decades.

The crowds were entertained by 'Almost Synchro' a Bristol synchronised swimming group which performed a sparkling watery display, capturing the Lido's yesteryear spirit.

Keen swimmers could then have a go at formation swimming.

The memory book, which documents the story of the Lido since it opened in 1935, went on sale on Saturday.

Copies are available from The Lido kiosk for £5

The event was opened by FODSL's Chair Suzi Wood and the group's original chair, Sheila Preston, the Mayor of Droitwich, Coun Christine Bowman, Mayor's Consort, Coun Eric Bowman, Coun Richard Morris and Coun Dan Birch attended.

The next FODSL event will be an open air cinema screening of Pirates of the Caribbean: Curse of The Black Pearl on Saturday, August 16.

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RIGHT: The volunteers and others with Mike Field. Pictures by Hannah Taylor. s

LEFT: The windmill was sailing again after six years of inactivity. s

FAR RIGHT: Jo Slade, from the Bromsgrove Court Leet, with district council chairman, Coun Sam Evans, with Zoe Willems, Avoncroft Museum director, at the ribbon-cutting. s



Old mill has wind in its sails again

AVONCROFT Museum's Danzey Green windmill was sailing again on Saturday after six years of inactivity.

by **Hannah Taylor**

The much-loved attraction was given an official relaunch, complete with ribbon-cutting, following tireless work by a team of volunteers.

The ceremony began with some words from members of the team, including lead volunteer Graham Macro, museum director Zoe Williams, and collections and interpretations manager Steven Hearn.

Mr Hearn said: "Restored once again as a working exhibit, the

windmill embodies the museum's ethos of bringing history to life, delivering informative and engaging experiences for audiences of all ages.

"And as the sails turn once again, they do more than reconnect people with the past.

"They also encourage reflection and debate on the challenges we face today, including in relation to climate change and sustainability, helping to ensure our collections remain deeply relevant to our audiences."

Volunteers and supporters were thanked with gifts of wine and

flowers, acknowledging their invaluable effort and dedication.

Original restorer Mike Field, who is also a millwright and miller, was in attendance, marking a full-circle moment in the mill's history.

Following the ceremonial ribbon cutting, the team prepared to complete the sailing.

Despite the stubborn wind, the sailing was remarkable to watch.

It was a commemoration of the constant journey to restore and maintain the oldest working post mill in Britain.

Then, guests were offered a chance to go inside and explore the mill, learning about its histo-

ry and mechanics. While the mill has been restored to a condition where it can safely operate, work is not yet finished on this incredible structure.

Ms Williams said: "It's a continuous process but you have to keep rescuing it."

The repairs to the windmill were made possible thanks to the generous financial support from Bromsgrove Court Leet, Bromsgrove Rotary Club, Droitwich Preservation Trust and the Midlands Mills Group plus, donations from the public.

To ensure the windmill continues to operate long into the future, the milling team has reformed

and together with new volunteers is being trained to safely sail the mill, preserving the centuries-old skills required to harness wind power and grind grain.

Under Mike Field's expert supervision, these volunteers will soon be demonstrating the windmill in action to the public, continuing the living heritage approach that makes Avoncroft Museum so distinctive.

Danzey Green Windmill will be sailing every Saturday until the end of August at Avoncroft Museum.

Visit avoncroft.org.uk for more information on the museum and its events.

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See page **30**

David reunited with Austin 10

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

TEARS of joy were shed by a resident at Cofton Park Manor care home when he was reunited with his first car - a 1935 Austin 10 which has been restored to its former glory.

The team at the home arranged the wonderful surprise for 86-year-old David Harrison when they invited the current owner of 'Peggotty' to its annual Classic Car Show for the touching moment.

Thrilled David was overcome with emotion as Brian Artus, who has lovingly restored the car over the past few years, drove her into the car park.

David said: "It's really good to see Peggotty again. She looks good."

Peggotty was a present to David from his father Dennis, a motoring enthusiast who bought his son the car in 1956 when he was just 17.

The vintage vehicle was among those on display at the car show, a tribute to Birmingham's automobile heritage.

After being David's pride and joy in his

youth, 'Peggotty' - named after Dickens' character Clara Peggotty in David Copperfield - was a part of many happy family memories for him and his children.

He sold her to Brian, an engineer who has restored other classic cars, over a decade ago and this was the first time he had seen her since.

Brian said: "It's wonderful to be able to reunite Peggotty with David."

The happy scenes were the highlight of the day as classic car owners from far and wide brought their vehicles to display.

Crowds came to the care home to enjoy the show and take a step back in motoring history.

Cofton Park Manor's customer relations manager, Wendy Sibley, said: "It's been a terrific day and seeing David's face when 'Peggotty' pulled up was the icing on the cake."

"We all got emotional to see how much it meant to him, having heard all about her from David and his wife, Netta."

"We were delighted to have another epic turnout for our show, but there's no doubt that this moment made the whole event very special."



David with the 1935 Austin 10 in 1956. s



David reunited with his first car decades later, at Cofton Park Manor's Classic Car Show. s

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Talk & Walk sessions will include free gym classes

FREE women-only fitness sessions are being offered across Redditch.

Redditch Borough Council has partnered with the Redditch Community Runners to deliver the sustainable sessions which are suitable for women of all ages who want to have a laugh and a chat whilst improving their fitness.

The council is also working with Rubicon Leisure which has provided four free gym classes for attendees of the new This Girl Can 'Talk and Walk' sessions.

The four-week course starts at 11am on August 4, meeting in the Visitor Centre at Arrow Valley Country Park.

Classes will be held at the Abbey Stadium.

Attendees of these 'Talk and Walk' sessions have free access to four weekly classes – Body Combat at 7.10pm on Mondays or 6.15pm on Wednesdays or Sh'Bam at 9.15am on Wednesdays or 10.15am on Thursdays.

by Jeanna Karcz

Body Combat is a high-energy martial arts-inspired workout that is totally non-contact.

The Sh'Bam class is a fresh and fun dance workout which builds fitness and encourages expressive movement.

Coun Juliet Barker Smith, Redditch Borough Council's Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Recreation, said: "It is a great way to get moving and take care of our health and wellbeing whilst also being good fun too."

"We are using our partnership to the best of our ability in order to get every benefit possible for our communities and residents."

Visit Redditchdc.gov.uk and search for 'This Girl Can' for more information on the course and the sessions and to sign up.

Attendees will receive a code from their session leader which they will need to quote when emailing samantha.bevan@rubiconleisure.co.uk to book the classes.



The Record Fair returns to Redditch on Saturday at the Rocklands Club. Picture by David Sidaway. s

Record fair to hit right note as fundraiser

THE POPULAR Redditch Record Fair returns to the Rocklands Club between 10am and 3pm tomorrow (Saturday, July 26).

Music lovers will have the chance to add to their physical music collections.

Organiser Ros Sidaway said: "There will be over 20 tables of quality pre-loved records and CDs and music memorabilia and merchandise brought to you by our regular sellers. "The event brings great

prices, great offers and great value."

Admission to the public is £1 per person, with under-16s - who must be accompanied by an adult - going free. It is cash payment only on the door.

Proceeds from the door income will be donated to the GoFundMe campaign for Redditch three-year-old Leo who suffers with lissencephaly, a rare genetic disorder.

His mum, Suzanne

Houghton, set up the page in November 2024 in a bid to fund a wet room and a downstairs bedroom for Leo as he is non-mobile and is currently being carried around the house, including up and downstairs.

The family is lucky to have £50,000 funding towards the cost, but have been left a short fall of £28,218 – they need £78,218 in total to fund these adaptations for Leo.



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Final farewell to much-loved Pete

FAMILY and friends gathered on Tuesday to celebrate the life of Peter Nind who founded popular Bromsgrove transport firm Kev's Cars and Coaches.

During a service led by civil celebrant Lisa Rutter at Waseley Hills Crematorium, 'Pete', as he was affectionately known, was described as a 'steady and supportive' father with 'good old-fashioned values'.

He was a 'determined and extremely disciplined' man and was 'always there when you needed him'. He lived 'a full, active and very happy life' and died peacefully at a care home in Droitwich on June 21, aged 85, following a battle with dementia.

He was one of six siblings and leaves behind two children, three grandchildren, six great-grandchildren and one great-great grandchild.

Those in attendance also

heard how Pete and his wife Pat were a 'loving and caring couple', cemented by the fact they were one of the first couples to foster children from the Commonwealth.

His son, Kevin, whom the transport company was named after, led a heartfelt tribute to his father. He described Pete's love of football and fond memories of the family's social circle centering around Stoke Works Football Club, where Pete played before entering management.

He also spoke of his pride in watching his father form Kev's Cars in 1974 and transform it into a 'reliable and successful' business, which Kevin now runs after purchasing the company in 1987.

He added: "I'm so extremely proud to still be running the company today over 50 years later."

Pete was taken on a final drive around the company's yard today which was described as 'extremely hard' for Kevin.

Following the tributes to Pete, ahead of a committal and the Lord's Prayer, 'You'll Never Walk Alone' by Gerry and the Pacemakers was played in the chapel in honour of Pete's love of football.

As the service drew to a close, Heaven's Now My Home by Libby Allen played in the chapel as family and friends made their way to the crematorium's memorial gardens for reflection.

The poem You Can Shed Tears was printed within the order of service and Pete's family shared a 'sincere thanks' for the 'kindness and support' shown to them following his passing.

Light refreshments were served at Fairfield Football Club in Bromsgrove and a donation box encouraged contributions to Dementia UK in memory of Pete.

Visit bromsgrovestandard.co.uk/news/peter-nind-obituary/ to read our obituary to Peter Nind.



Peter Nind, founder of Kev's Cars and Coaches, was remembered at a service at Waseley Hills Crematorium. s

Ryder Rejects on right course

A TRIO of opticians have raised huge funds for Prostate Cancer UK by taking part in a golf challenge for the eighth year in a row.

Alan Richards from Specsavers Worcester, Dean Taylor from Specsavers Malvern and Mike Walker from Specsavers, Bromsgrove, called themselves 'The Ryder Rejects' as they participated in the golf challenge for roughly 15 hours to raise money for Prostate Cancer UK.

The team began at dawn at Ravensmeadow Golf Club in Hindlip and finished at 7.30pm that evening, having raised £1,600.

Mr Richards said: "We'd like to thank you for all the donations which helped



Alan Richards, Dean Taylor and Mike Walker. s

taking part in the Big Golf Race over the years, but this was our swansong.

"Having raised around £10,000 across all eight times taking part, it feels like a good time to hang up our clubs".

Visit biggolfrace.prostatecanceruk.org/teams/ryder-cup-rejects-to-donate-or-visit-prostatecanceruk.org for more information on Prostate Cancer UK.

Go to any of the Specsavers stores to find out more about what they offer.

us raise such an amazing amount for Prostate Cancer UK and to Ravensmeadow Golf Club for kindly covering the green fees for the day. "As a team, we have loved

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ARROW VALLEY VISITOR CENTRE

Park's fun day will remember tragic Joshua

by **Asleigh Osborne**
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@bullivantmedia.com

A FOUNDATION set up by the family of a boy who died in the River Arrow in Alcester is inviting the community to a free Family Fun Day at Wythall Park tomorrow (Saturday July 26) to promote water safety education for children.

Joshua Hillstead drowned after falling into the River Arrow on July 22 last year.

Despite being cared for by emergency services at the scene he died the following evening surrounded by loved ones at Birmingham Children's Hospital.

The eight-year-old from Maypole, Birmingham, attended The Coppice Primary school in Hollywood, and the family is holding the fun day at the local park.

The fun day aims not only to raise vital funds but also



Joshua Hillstead tragically died last year. s

to spread crucial awareness about water safety, a cause at the very heart of the foundation's mission.

An oak tree alongside the River Arrow on Jubilee Fields – near to where the tragedy happened – has become a poignant place to remember the youngster.

Bunches of flowers, bal-

loons and notes have been left by members of the public at a point where the water runs particularly deep.

The spot is alongside a footpath in a recreation ground popular with families and dog walkers.

Carl Hillstead, Joshua's father, said he appreciates the overwhelming support the family received.

He said: "The encouragement and generosity from my colleagues at Oakland International, friends, and the wider community means so much to our family."

"We are truly grateful to everyone helping us carry forward Joshua's legacy through the foundation."

Everyone is welcome to join the fun day, which starts at 12pm.

The foundation is currently fundraising to help educate children on water safety and support families dealing with loss.

Visit justgiving.com/crowdfunding/becky-hinde to donate.

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Northfield man gets 25 years for child rape

A NORTHFIELD man has been jailed for 25 years for raping a child and being in possession of child sexual abuse material.

Andrew Speers from Bell Court was sentenced after being found guilty of multiple offences.

The 53-year-old will remain on the sex offender register for the rest of his life.

Speers (pictured) was arrested in July last year after a warrant was carried out at his home address. His digital devices were seized and were found to contain a substantial amount of child sexual abuse material.

Following further investigation from West Midlands Police's OCSET (Online Child Sexual Exploitation Team), the 53-year-old man was also arrested for raping a child.

Speers pleaded guilty to making indecent images of children, but not guilty to multiple offences of raping a child.

However, following a trial at Birmingham Crown Court, the 53-year-old was found guilty in March this year.

The force said it was a truly horrendous case but, thankfully, due to the bravery of the victim coming forward, it was able to ensure Speers has now been jailed.

West Midlands Police has encouraged anyone who has suffered sex offences to come forward and tell their story.

It added reporting rape, sexual assault or another sexual crime like indecent exposure or upskirting can be daunting.

"We're here to support you whether you're ready to report it to us or if you'd prefer to talk



to someone else."

If they do not want to go to the police, people can go to a Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC), an Independent Sexual Violence Advisor service (ISVA) or another support service.

Visit: westmidlands.police.uk for more on how to report a rape or sexual assault to West Midlands Police.

Important issues that continue to divide us

PARLIAMENT continues to debate a wide range of important national issues, from the state of the economy to deeply personal matters that affect many across our communities.

June's Spending Review set out the Government's economic priorities, including ongoing investment in infrastructure projects such as the Midlands Rail Hub and prison expansion.

However, concerns remain about reductions in some departmental budgets, including transport and the environment, which could have a particular impact on rural areas like Worcestershire.

With the cost of living still affecting households and small businesses, I will continue to press for fair and balanced support for communities across our area.

The reversal of changes to the Winter Fuel Payment is a welcome step, but it followed months of uncertainty for many older residents.

Over 22,000 pensioners in Droitwich, Evesham and the surrounding villages were affected by the initial decision, and many faced real hardship during the winter months. While it is right the payment has been restored, I will continue to work to ensure pensioners receive consistent, reliable support without last-minute changes.

Parliament recently debated two of the most sensitive issues we are ever asked to consider as MPs - assisted dying and abortion.



Westminster Diary

Nigel Huddleston MP writes for The Standard

On assisted dying, I listened carefully to the debate and to many heartfelt messages from constituents. I did not support the Bill, as I remain concerned that the current safeguards do not yet provide sufficient protection.

However, I will continue to engage with this important debate as the legislation progresses through the House of Lords.

On abortion, I voted against a proposal to decriminalise abortion up to birth, as I believe such a significant change requires greater legal and ethical scrutiny.

I did support an amendment requiring in-person medical appointments before abortion pills can be prescribed, to ensure proper medical oversight and protect vulnerable women.

July marked 20 years since the 7/7 London bombings. Parliament paid tribute to the 52 people who lost their lives, the hundreds injured, and the many more affected by this horrific attack.

It was a powerful reminder of our shared values and the resilience of our society in the face of terror.

We will never forget them.

Nigel Huddleston MP for Droitwich and Evesham

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Something for summer

A CHARITY has shared its delight in relaunching summer holiday clubs for young people in Redditch, Bromsgrove and Tenbury.

YMCA Worcestershire is returning with its youth programme filled with fun, enrichment and opportunity for youngsters aged between five and 16.

The events will be action-packed programmes with something for everyone - from Zorb balls and gaming to climbing walls, creative arts, wellbeing sessions and daily multisports.

There are activity events in Redditch, Bromsgrove and Tenbury.

In Redditch, youngsters (aged between five and 16) can join in at Redditch United FC's Valley Stadium across three sessions held from July 28 to July 31 and August 4 to 7. Sessions take place between 9am and 3pm.

In Bromsgrove, youngsters aged between five and 16 can get involved at St John's Middle School across two sessions held from August 11 to 14 and August 18 to 21.

This summer the charity has joined forces with Redditch United Football Club to offer more experiences for youngsters aged between five and 16 at sessions in Bromsgrove and Redditch.

Hot lunch will be provided daily at all sessions. Free places are available for children and young people eligible for Free School Meals (HAF funded). Paid places are £15 per day. Bookings are now open.

Contact YMCA's youth engagement team via email: youthengagement@ymcaworcestershire.org.uk or call 01527 61643 (option 5) for more information.

A chance to discover the town through young eyes

PEOPLE are being urged to 'discover the Redditch on their doorstep' with a unique series of interactive walks created by the talented pupils of Woodrow First School and Worcester-based Collar and Tie theatre company.

The group specialises in fusing creativity and technology and saw Woodrow as the perfect partner for its latest project due to the school's internationally recognised approach to education.

The result is a trio of fun walks for all the family narrated by the children themselves and all you need to enjoy them is a smart phone and the link to the walk - no app is needed.

The first walk takes in a stroll through the sites and sounds of Wirehill Woods, while the second features some of the magical places in Woodrow itself.

For the third walk, road tested with the help of local Redditch councillors, takes you to Arrow Valley Lake and the 'Harry Diggins Needle Makers Walk, which tells the history of the needle making industry in the town.

Woodrow headteacher Richard Kieran said: "Collar and Tie had got some funding and, together with Prospero Digital, asked themselves which school was



Year four Woodrow pupils follow the trail with the help of Max Dean (Creative Producer) and Paul Sutton (Artistic Director). Picture by Marcus Mingsins 2925011MMR2

creative, which school was imaginative and they came to Woodrow because they know what the children here are like.

"So, we have been to Wirehill Woods, we have been in and

around Woodrow and we have been to the lake where we met lots of interesting people and where we have told the story of the needle industry.

"The children have loved it and

for me it shows the depth and breadth of an already stimulating curriculum here at Woodrow."

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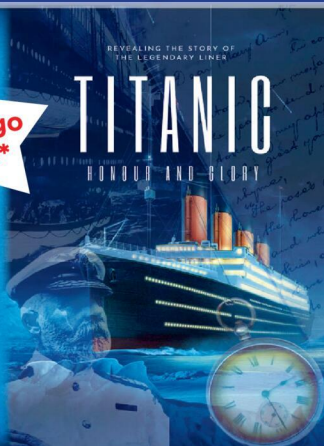
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Man held after crash

A MAN was arrested after a car crashed in Alvechurch on Saturday night and ended up on its side.

The 49-year-old was held by officers from West Mercia Police following the incident at 7pm in Hill Lane.

The road was closed in both directions while the incident was being dealt with.

One person was taken to hospital with injuries not believed to be serious.

20 bales of hay burnt

A BLAZE which had engulfed 20 bales of hay and a five-metre tall hedge-row on land in Linehold, Ombersley, was extinguished by firefighters.

The incident happened just before midnight on Friday.

The bales were left to burn and the surrounding area was dampened down using two water jets.

There were no casualties and no other emergency services were required.

The incident was dealt with by 6.41am on Saturday and there were no casualties. A reinspection of the area to check it would not reignite took place at 9.30am.

Unwanted Shed tools find a new home in Africa

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

A LINK-UP between Bromsgrove Men in Sheds and Redditch Rotary will mean unwanted tools being sent to Africa to help create livelihoods for people living there.

It has been 12 months since the Bromsgrove Shedders received the news that the Stoke Prior unit – where Bromsgrove Shed had been located since 2016 – was being put up for sale.

Over the years, the Bromsgrove Shedders have benefited from the incredible generosity of the community, including donations of a variety of tools, and when packing up to relocate the Shed to its new premises, it became evident just how generous this support had been.

With a collection of tools and equipment that were not being used, and limited storage at the new Shed, the Bromsgrove Shedders were keen to find a solution which would enable the support they had received to benefit others.

One of the Shedders then heard of an appeal by Redditch Rotary who were collecting tools on behalf of Tools With A Mission (TWAM).

TWAM's aim as a charity is to give people in Africa a means to generate a sustainable income by collecting unwanted tools, which are refurbished and packed into trade kits and



Redditch Rotary TWAM coordinator Mike Luck (left) and Redditch Rotary President Steve Robson (second from right) with some of the Bromsgrove Shedders. s

then sent to dedicated skills training centres in Africa. The centres provide training in trades, such as carpentry and mechanics.

Having contacted Mike Luck, who coordinates Redditch Rotary's involvement with TWAM, and after a couple of car-load deliveries to Redditch Rotary's collection centre, the club's president Steve Robson and Mike visited the Shed to collect the last of the Bromsgrove group's current surplus tools.

Men in Sheds is run by Age UK Worcestershire. Speaking on behalf of the Bromsgrove Shedders, Age UK North Worcestershire's Jo Hughes said: "We are really glad to be able

to link up with Redditch Rotary on this initiative. The Shed is such an important part of our local work, but we know we could not do what we do without the incredible support that we receive from the community.

"We also know, first-hand, how tools can help to transform lives, but not whilst they are stored away, unused in boxes or when they are sent to landfill, which is why we are so glad the Shed's surplus tools can help to make a difference for others."

The collection of tools for TWAM by Redditch Rotary is an ongoing project so anyone with unused tools who would like to help the scheme

should email the club at redditchrotary@twam.uk.

Following its relocation from Stoke Prior to a shared unit with H2O Restoration Ltd in Finstall, Bromsgrove Men In Sheds is now back to operating six sessions a week, including a 'mixed' session on a Thursday afternoon which is open to anybody aged 50 or over.

Anyone who is interested in joining Bromsgrove Men in Sheds, or supporting the scheme, should call Jo at Age UK North Worcestershire on 01527 570490 or visit ageuk.org.uk/northwoces/activities-and-events/men-in-sheds/ to find out more information on the scheme.

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CUP OF GOOD CHEER: A TEA party held at the Primrose Hospice and Family Support Centre has raised \$1,855 for the charity after 120 guests were welcomed to the event.

Staff at the hospice would love to thank everyone who was involved with the day, including those who donated cakes for visitors to enjoy.

The event brought together the local community and the cash raised will now go directly towards providing essential care and support to people and families across north east Worcestershire.

There was a variety of activities and attractions at the tea party which took place at Tardebigge Community Hall. Among them were a delightful array of homemade cakes, a pop-up Primrose charity shop, art and craft stalls and a raffle garden games.

The Primrose Hospice would like to thank to thank GT Access, whose generous sponsorship made

the event possible.

And the charity said a special thank you also went out to the incredible team of volunteers who gave their time, energy and enthusiasm to make the day run smoothly.

Gabrielle Grubb, The Primrose Hospice's fundraising manager, said: "The atmosphere of our first Primrose Tea Party was truly lovely, and it was wonderful to see our community come together for a local event to raise funds and awareness for Primrose."

"A big thank you to everyone who was part of it, whether you volunteered on the day, baked cakes, donated handmade items, or attended - we're very grateful for the overwhelming support."

"We hope to see you there next year."

Visit primrosehospice.org/support-us/events-calendar/ for more information about upcoming events and how to support the charity.

Yellow challenge brings in the cash



Staff from the Primrose Hospice were among those taking part in this year's GO YELLOW campaign.

THE PRIMROSE Hospice's annual GO YELLOW campaign raised an impressive \$9,230 for the cause.

The charity wants to say a big thank you to everyone across Bromsgrove and Redditch who raised funds as part of the event with activities including tea parties, yellow-themed dress-up days and even a pedal-powered bike ride.

Gabrielle Grubb, the Primrose Hospice's fundraising manager, said: "We want to say a huge thank

you to the local schools, community groups, businesses, and service users for getting behind our Go Yellow campaign."

"This year, we extended the time to get involved and what a great success it was."

"Over two weeks you dressed in yellow, held events, hosted tea parties and cycled countless miles."

"Thank you for your energy, generosity, and continued support."

the NHS so has to rely heavily on the generosity of local people and businesses to raise the \$1.95million needed each year to keep their services free for those who need them most.

The cash raised from the GO YELLOW campaign will go towards the funding needed to pay for those services.

Visit primrosehospice.org or call 01527 871051 for more on the Primrose Hospice and its fundraising events.



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China will be life-changing trip for duo

TWO STUDENTS from Worcestershire have received a fully-funded, two-year boarding school scholarship to study their A-levels in China.

Awarded through the Engage with China (EwC) Scholarship, this marks the third cohort of a pioneering programme launched in 2023 to foster China literacy and cross-cultural understanding among British youth.

Laurence Lengthorn, who lives in Worcester and has just completed his GCSE exams, including Mandarin, at Pate's Grammar School in Cheltenham, joins Hector Martin, who studies at South Bromsgrove High School on the scholarship.

Both Worcestershire boys will be going to AISL Harrow Haikou. Located just a kilometre from the beach on China's tropical island of Hainan, it offers scholars the chance to sail and complete their Duke of Edinburgh expeditions in a tropical rainforest.

Laurence said: "I am honoured and absolutely delighted to receive the scholarship and am excited for this life-changing opportunity

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

ahead. I have spoken to my parents and my friends, and they are all in support."

Run by UK-registered educational charity Engage with China, the programme currently supports 34 scholars across three campuses in the cities of Changzhou, Nanjing and Hangzhou – each less than an hour from Shanghai via high-speed rail.

EwC co-founder and director, H-J Colston-Inge said: "The UK curriculum contains virtually no content on China, despite its global importance."

"This creates a critical gap in our young people's education."

"Our fully immersive scholarship offers a rare and transformative experience."

"No one typically sends their 16-year-old to study in China - so these students are bold, curious and globally minded."

"In an era of geopolitical tension, initiatives like this can help shift perspectives and build better international relationships."



Worcestershire County Council countryside staff with the Green Flag award. s

Much-loved parks are flying Green Flag

THREE Worcestershire country parks have once again received the prestigious Green Flag Award, the international mark of excellence for parks and green spaces.

This marks more than a decade of consecutive wins for Worcester Woods Country Park, Waseley Hills Country Park and St Wulstan's Local Nature Reserve.

Worcestershire County Council, which runs the parks, says the success of these nationally recognised green spaces would not be possible without the dedication of staff and vol-

unteers. It added their hard work to oversee and maintain the parks year-round ensured people were able to enjoy these much-loved sites.

Coun Ian Cresswell, cabinet member for environment and communities at Worcestershire County Council, said: "These parks play a vital role in the health, wellbeing and happiness of our communities - providing stunning, accessible green spaces for everyone to enjoy."

"This achievement is down to the exceptional efforts of our staff and volunteers, who work tirelessly to look after our land-

scapes. Their passion, commitment and care are the real success story behind these awards and I want to thank them for everything they do to make Worcestershire's countryside so special."

Managed by environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy, the Green Flag award is given to the most well-kept parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark for high standards and quality.

The criteria for the award include excellent visitor services, maintenance and cleanliness, and a beautiful, biodiverse landscape.

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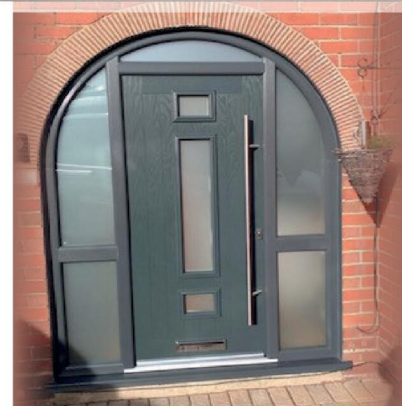
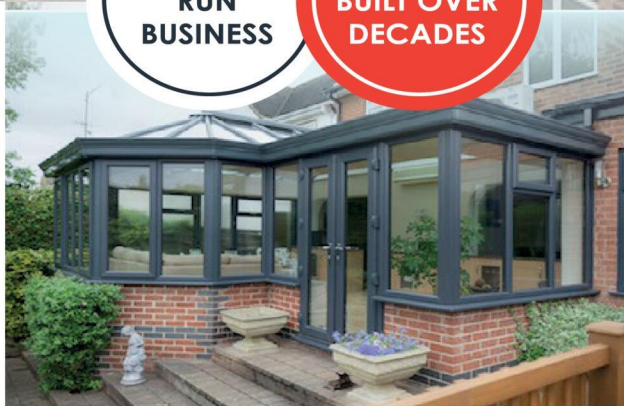


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Foodbank efforts land Isaac award

REDDITCH youngster Isaac Winfield has won the Young Person Award at Platform Housing Group's Community Heroes Awards.

Isaac, aged 13, has already made a remarkable impact in his local community, dedicating his time and energy to tackling food insecurity in the town.

He started Friends of Isaac's Food Bank in November 2020 in a pop-up greenhouse on his driveway to help people struggling over Christmas.

Since then, the charity has grown and now has sheds across six locations dedicated to helping combat food insecurity in the borough.

The foodbank also has a team of 10 volunteers who help run the day-to-day activities while Isaac attends school.

For his 13th birthday, Isaac decided, instead of presents, he wanted enough donations to fill his van for the foodbank.

The charity also have a seventh site planned, distributing around 5,000 to 6,000 food parcels each year.

With the help of ten volunteers, two vans and a warehouse, he's built a 365-day-a-year service that makes food available to all - no referrals needed.

Isaac's compassion doesn't stop there. He has also sent solar-powered phone chargers and medical supplies to Ukraine and distributed serious bleed kits in his community following



Isaac Winfield, winner of the Young Person Award. s

the tragic loss of his brother's friend to knife crime.

Chris Colley, community engagement officer at Platform Housing Group, said: "Isaac is an incredibly inspiring young man. His determination to make a difference at such a young age is extraordinary."

"He has already created a lasting impact in his community and it's clear that his efforts will continue to benefit many for years to come."

"His work with the food banks and his other charitable initiatives is truly exceptional."

Isaac said: "I just want to help peo-

ple who are struggling. I've seen the difference a small act of kindness can make and I want to make sure no one has to go without food. I'm so grateful to all my volunteers and supporters for helping make this happen."

Claire Simmons, Isaac's Mum and nominator for the award, said: "Isaac is passionate about helping others and I'm so proud of everything he's achieved."

"He's been doing this for so many years now and to see how much he's grown as a person and as a leader is incredible. His dedication to helping those in need is inspiring."



The first Droitwich Critical Mass bike ride was a great success and the next one will take place on August 9. s

Cyclists say they will be back for more...

AN EVENT to raise awareness of cycling in Droitwich Spa has been hailed a great success.

The first Droitwich Critical Mass Ride took place on July 12 and was supported by 25 local community cyclists, accompanied by music and flags.

Everyone was welcome to join the one-hour ride which began at the Lido Park.

Critical Mass is a monthly bike

ride which happens in towns and cities around the world.

Cyclists gather to highlight a presence on the streets and advocate for safer cycling conditions and infrastructure.

The next Droitwich Critical Mass Ride will take place on Saturday, August 9.

It will start at 10.15am from the Lido Cafe in the Lido Park.



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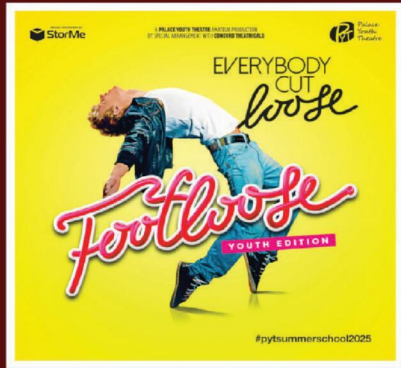
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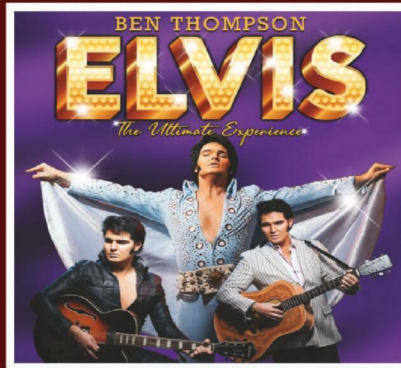


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Full steam ahead

by Neil Gordon

THESE PICTURES of a steam locomotive hauling a charter train up the Lickey Incline have been captured by a video drone and shared on social media.

Jubilee Class locomotive number 45596, named Bahamas, was returning to Barnt Green from Swansea when Redditch rail enthusiast Matt Wilson used his drone to record the steam engine hauling Vintage Train's Cathedrals Express at Vigo earlier this month.

Mr Wilson has since shared the stunning footage via his YouTube channel with around 400 people already viewing the clip.

The drone was at a height of about 75ft when it captured the 90-year old former LMS locomotive heading towards Blackwell summit.

Mr Wilson said: "I have owned my drone since February as I wanted to supplement my hobbies of being a railway enthusiast and a photographer to offer different and new perspectives.

"I'm really pleased with the footage as generally I usually do more stills photography."

The Cathedrals Express called at Barnt Green on July 5 before it headed to Wales during celebrations to mark the 175th anniversary of the opening of the line between Chepstow and Swansea.

Matt, who is employed as a depot driver for Chiltern Railways, added: "I'm delighted to share this



A stunning image of steam locomotive 45596 Bahamas.



The Cathedrals Express approaches Blackwell on the Lickey Incline. Pictures by Matt Wilson. s

recording with people through my YouTube channel and hope they enjoy watching it as much as I do."

Visit this story to watch the stunning drone footage on YouTube of steam engine 45596 climbing the Lickey Incline.



Redditch heavyweight boxer Simon Ibekwe with his team after beating previously undefeated Will Howe in Sheffield on Saturday. s

Unbeaten Ibekwe impresses

A REDDITCH pro heavyweight boxer made a statement win over a previously undefeated opponent on Saturday.

Simon Ibekwe took to the ring to fight Will Howe in Sheffield at just one week's notice.

Ibekwe set out his stall in the first round landing sharp jabs that rocked back the head of his durable opponent.

The remainder of the six-round fight involved back and forth action with both heavyweights displaying a high output of entertaining toe-to-toe work.

The bout was scored 69-65 in Ibekwe's favour, with the Redditch fighter having out-

worked his heavier opponent to land the cleaner shots.

Ibekwe, who had been out of the ring for 10 months, now looks on to bigger challenges in the near future.

He has five wins and no defeats in his professional career so far.

He would like to thank his corner on the night (Scott Welch, Anthony Brown and Benny Pringle), sponsor Tim Piper, boxing coach Todd Roberts and strength and conditioning coach Richard Bennett from Athena Performance Redditch for helping him prepare for this performance.

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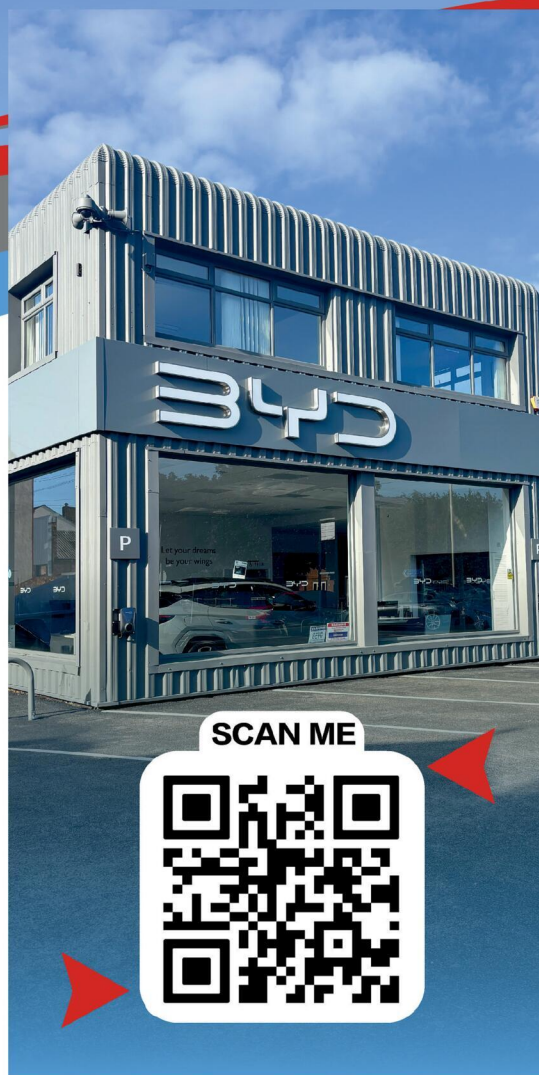
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The guests from Bromsgrove's twin town of Saint-Sauveur-Lendelin in Normandy arrive.

Twinning visit proves success

MEMBERS of Bromsgrove International Link welcomed a group of visitors from the twin town of Saint-Sauveur-Lendelin in France.

Events involving the groups aim to build friendships and cultural links.

This year it was Bromsgrove's turn to host the French guests and the party from Normandy arrived by coach on the Friday, eager to experience some traditional British culture.

They were welcomed by Bromsgrove District Council chairman, Coun Sam Evans, and the chairman of Bromsgrove International Link, Roger Westwood. The rest of that Friday was spent with their hosts in their own homes.

This year's visit coincided with the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War and in recognition of this commemoration, a visit to popular wartime city Coventry was arranged.

The trip to the former City of Culture took place on the Saturday and included a guided tour around both the new and old cathedrals, focusing on recognising the contribution made by so many people 80 years ago.

The evening was spent dining at Barnt Green Social Club with a buffet boasting a mixture of cultural foods.

Due to the French having less holiday time than in the UK, they departed on the Sunday morning for the cross-Channel ferry from Portsmouth so they could be prepared for the morning commute the next day.



The time of this visit was spent making comparisons of life between the two countries and it was hardly surprising there were more similarities than differences.

Bromsgrove's group are planning to visit Saint-Sauveur-Lendelin in 2026.

New members are always welcome to join BIL which also organises a number of social events throughout the town's action-filled and jam-packed year.

Visit bromstwin.org.uk for more.

The guests were taken to Coventry to see the sights, including the Godiva

CHANCE TO HEAR SONG: INDIE-POP star Euan Blackman has released his new single 'forgive' which tells the uplifting yet vulnerable story of self-compassion.

Euan said the single was produced in a nostalgic way and he hoped his lyrics would be inspiring.

He added the single was initially written as a personal mantra to help him get through life's toughest moments.

Today, Euan's vulnerable storytelling serves as a reminder to others of self-belief and courage.

From playing guitar in school and writing songs in his bedroom to headlining a sold-out show at Liverpool's Cavern Club for the BBC, Euan has grown exponen-

tially through the years.

Euan's dedication to his craft is apparent to everyone, and he was even praised by some of his music heroes, including 'Linkin Park' singer Mike Shinoda and Radio 1's Jack Saunders.

Euan said: "I have a tendency to be quite self-critical of myself when friendships and relationships don't work out and I guess this track is about trying to be kinder to yourself."

"It has helped me a lot over the years as a way of grounding me, so I'm super excited to share it with you and I hope it can help you even a fraction of the amount that writing it has helped me."

Visit ffm.to/euanblackman to listen to 'forgive'.



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Droitwich Heritage Centre manager Catherine Finn moves some of the exhibits. Picture by Marcus Mingins 2825005MMR

'Racism must stop' says MP

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

A LETTER has been written by 90 MPs, including Redditch's Chris Bloore, calling on residents to get behind England's Lionesses in the Women's Euros Final on Sunday, whilst also demanding urgent action from social media companies to stop racist and misogynistic abuse aimed at the players.

Reports over the weekend stated defender Jess Carter had suffered racist abuse on social media.

The incidents led to the Lionesses stopping the anti-racism 'take the knee' gesture in their semi-final against Italy as it 'was clear the team and football needed to find another way to tackle racism'.

Mr Bloore, a passionate supporter of the Lionesses, joined fans celebrating England's 2-1 extra time victory over Italy.

He posted online, praising standout performances including a crucial save by goalkeeper Hannah Hampton, who is from Studley.

But alongside his celebrations, Mr Bloore has also joined more than 90 MPs from across Parliament in co-signing an open letter. It demanded tech companies Meta and X take tougher action to combat the online hate targeted at Carter, who was forced to

withdraw from social media to protect her wellbeing.

Mr Bloore said: "The Lionesses represent the best of our country - their talent, resilience and team spirit inspire a generation.

"It's disgraceful that any player wearing the England shirt should be hounded offline by vile racism and misogyny.

"We cannot keep having the same conversation at every tournament.

"Social media companies must act — no more excuses.

"We need action, not apologies."

The open letter, initiated by Matt Western MP (Warwick and Leamington) and cosigned by Mr Bloore, condemns the abuse directed at Carter and calls for the immediate removal of hateful content, stronger protections for players and greater accountability for users and platforms.

"Young people across Redditch look up to these players.

"They deserve to see them celebrated, not abused.

"If tech companies won't clean up their platforms, Parliament must step in and hold them accountable."

Mr Bloore also wants Redditch to join the rest of the country, cheering on the Lionesses when they face Spain at 5pm in Sunday's showpiece final.

"Whether you're watching at home, in the pub or in a local community centre - raise your voice for the Lionesses. Let's show them Redditch is right behind them."

FUN THIS SUMMER: WHILE work is underway to transform the heritage and information centre in Droitwich Spa, organisers are still hosting activities for visitors this summer with exciting new exhibitions also in the works.

Droitwich Spa Heritage and Information Centre has been temporarily relocated to the town's council chambers - in St Richard's House - until the renovation works are completed in early 2026.

And although the centre is running a reduced offering with no museum open for now, visitors can still take a trip to the centre for local information or for guided town walks and day coach trips.

A behind the scenes tour is scheduled at the centre for September 13 (10.30am to midday) to give visitors a glimpse into the archives. The tour is aimed at adults an will point out remnants of the buildings past and its links to the Brine Baths.

Visitors will see parts of the museum's collection not normally accessible to the public.

It is also organising its regularly scheduled guided walks and Bands in the Park events over the summer and into September and guided walks are scheduled across August, September, October and November.

The centre's dedicated staff and volunteers

are working hard behind the scenes. All of the centre's artifacts, which were in the Salt Museum, have been safely stored away or returned to the institution they were loaned from. Some will be displayed in the centre's new exhibition, following some conservation work, alongside other exciting new artefacts.

The team is also 'excited' to be working closely with local experts to create new interactive displays. The new-look Salt Museum aims to tell a fascinating story - from the geological formation of Droitwich Spa and how/why it has attracted people, to stories of the area from prehistoric times, through to the present day.

As part of the redevelopment, the centre is also making its 'Radio Room' more accessible by making it easier to get to as part of the museum journey and is confident this will help to shine a brighter light on the 'Droitwich on the dial' narrative.

Access is now via door 22 of St Richard's House, at the far end of the building. Visitor need to walk down the corridor and into the council chambers.

Visit <https://www.droitwichheritagecentre.org.uk/> for more and an artist's impression showing what the Heritage Centre will look like.

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Departing Mon 13 Oct '25

On this fantastic break we enjoy the island's natural beauty as well as a nostalgic journey on the Isle of Wight Steam Railway and a visit to fascinating Osborne House. The Isle of Wight is the perfect place to enjoy a relaxing few days away.

SO MUCH INCLUDED...

- ✓ Return coach travel & ferry crossings **from Bromsgrove**
- ✓ 4 nights at the Shanklin Beach Hotel, Shanklin (JG2+ rating) with dinner & breakfast
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- ✓ Heritage train journey on the Isle of Wight Steam Railway
- ✓ Excursions to Osborne House, Cowes & Ryde

Optional Island Highlights Tour (£15pp)



NORTHUMBERLAND, HADRIAN'S WALL, HOLY ISLAND & ALNWICK CASTLE

Departing Mon 1 Sep '25

Explore the very best Northumberland has to offer on this captivating break! Enjoy excursions to the famous Roman site, Hadrian's Wall and the unique Holy Island of Lindisfarne, two of the most significant and unspoilt sights in the UK.

SO MUCH INCLUDED...

- ✓ Return coach travel **from Bromsgrove**
- ✓ 4 nights at the Leonardo Hotel, Newcastle (JG3 rating) with dinner & breakfast
- ✓ Guided tour of Hadrian's Wall
- ✓ Excursions to the Holy Island of Lindisfarne, Alnwick Castle, Hadrian's Wall & Chesters Fort

Optional excursion to Durham (£15pp)

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SCARBOROUGH & WHITBY TURKEY & TINSEL

Departing Mon 17 Nov '25, Mon 8 Dec '25

Situated on Yorkshire's coast between two large bays, Scarborough has been welcoming visitors for nearly 400 years and provides a lovely setting for some pre-Christmas celebrations. We also discover the seaside town of Whitby and the market town of Beverley.

SO MUCH INCLUDED...

- ✓ Return coach travel **from Bromsgrove**
- ✓ 4 nights at a selected hotel, Scarborough (JG2 or JG3 rating) with dinner & full English breakfast (includes traditional "Christmas" dinner)
- ✓ **2 for 1 bar** (6pm-9pm) on selected drinks
- ✓ After-dinner tea & coffee
- ✓ Light entertainment every evening
- ✓ Excursions to Whitby & Beverley

Optional excursion to York (£14pp)



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SUDOKU

Complete the grid so that every row, every column and every 3 x 3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

EASY

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

HARD

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

PATHFINDER

Beginning with the top highlighted letter, follow a continuous path of words associated with the given subject. The trail goes through each letter once, twisting up, down and sideways, but never diagonally.

Actors who appeared in 'Extras'

R I L L T O R N D O W D A L I
 I T S E N A L A O B I E N C F
 C K N R R H C L B D I E I D F
 G Y E B O S R O D A V L R A E
 E R V S K S E O M R A M R H C
 W E A I E M M N E T I S I E N
 I T S E N P V P H I N E L L J
 N A K J O N I E T A C K A N O
 S T L E I N O N S N M H T H L
 L E E S A M S W N S O A A S E
 L E U D I L L I U S R N N J Y
 L J M E N T S H A C L T O E N
 C A A S N R A W E V I G K L S
 K N P S I C K E O N K N I E
 S O A T R I S T W E A R L P N

Solutions opposite

CROSSWORD

1		2		3		4	5		6		7	
8												
					9							
10												
							11					
12					13							
									14		15	
	16		17		18			19				
20												
						21						
22												
						23						
24												

ACROSS

- 4. Allure (7)
- 8. Required (6)
- 9. Projectile (7)
- 10. Look at (6)
- 11. Really (6)
- 12. Stimulating (8)
- 18. Left to choice (8)
- 20. Drive forward (6)
- 21. Wrench (6)
- 22. Broadcast (7)
- 23. Accent (6)
- 24. Relies (7)

DOWN

- 1. Disrobe (7)
- 2. Marine bird (7)
- 3. Dread (6)
- 5. Dusk (8)
- 6. Dwell (6)
- 7. Visitor (6)
- 13. Solitary (8)
- 14. Increase (7)
- 15. Slim (7)
- 16. Decorated (6)
- 17. Elf (6)
- 19. Communicate (6)

Scribble pad

LADDER

Using the clues provided, fill in each step of the ladder with a new word, changing one letter at a time.

- Ripped
- Tender
- Organise
- Smoke residue
- Opening



NINER

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

- 4386 gives a fruit;
- 837162576 gives a second fruit;
- 679686 gives an Ethiopian root vegetable.

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

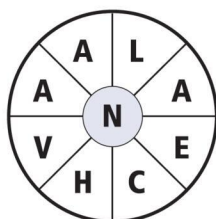
CODEWORD

This puzzle has no clues. Instead, every number printed in the grid represents a letter, with the same number always representing the same letter. For example, if 8 turns out to be a V, you can write in V wherever a square contains 8. Using your knowledge of words, complete the puzzle.

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

WORDWHEEL

You have 10 mins to find as many words as possible using the letters in the wheel. Each must use the hub letter and at least 3 others. Letters may be used only once. You cannot use plurals, foreign words or proper nouns. There is at least one 9-letter word to be found.

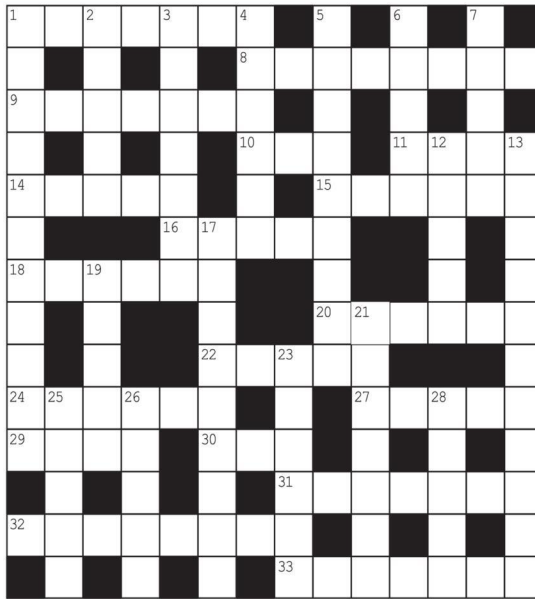


How you rate
 6 words: average
 9 words: good
 12 words: very good
 15 or more: excellent.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 See 11 Across
- 8 Citizen of the West African republic with capital Accra (8)
- 9 Mounted bullfighter with a lance (7)
- 10 Historical period (3)
- 11 & 1 Across Author whose books include Smiley's People (4,2,5)
- 14 Philosopher of a school founded by Zeno (5)
- 15 A heathcock or moorfowl (6)
- 16 "...both...are subdued, And neither party ---" (Henry IV, Pt. 2) (5)
- 18 & 7 Down Fawltly Towers actor (6,5)
- 20 Surname of the dramatist famous for Trelawny of the Wells (6)
- 22 From sunset to sunrise (5)
- 24 Migratory winged insect (6)
- 27 Prefix meaning English (5)
- 29 Widely used metal (4)
- 30 Miss Thurman, actress who starred in the film Pulp Fiction (3)
- 31 Red or white wine of Tuscany (7)
- 32 One of the nine Muses (8)
- 33 Mack ---, producer and director associated with the Keystone Pictures Studio (7)



DOWN

- 1 Beautiful stone of calcite and other minerals (5,6)
- 2 Cocoa and chocolate are made from this tree's seeds (5)
- 3 A little root (7)
- 4 Herons of several species (6)
- 5 Short separate item of news or comment in a newspaper (9)
- 6 Musical instrument (5)
- 7 See 18 Across
- 12 The snow leopard (5)
- 13 A student of the nervous system (11)
- 17 Second husband of Catherine of France, widow of Henry V (4,5)
- 19 Athenian archon, establisher of a severe code of laws (5)
- 21 Name of a symphony by Mendelssohn (7)
- 23 In Greek myth, the three goddesses of beauty and charm (6)
- 25 Mountain nymph in Greek legend (5)
- 26 Colloquially, a pawnbroker (5)
- 28 Sprite or goblin of Arabian tales (5)

SOLUTIONS

ACROSS: 1 Le Carre; 8 Ghanaian; 9 Fiedor; 10 Era; 11 John; 14 Storc; 15 Grouse; 16 Loser; 18 Andrew; 20 Pinaro; 22 Night; 24 Locust; 27 Anglo; 29 Iron; 30 Uma; 31 Chiant; 32 Calliope; 33 Senett. DOWN: 1 Lapis lazuli; 2 Cacao; 3 Radicle; 4 Egrets; 5 Paragraph; 6 Banjo; 7 Sachs; 8 Graces; 9 Oread; 10 Owen Tudor; 11 Owen Tudor; 19 Draco; 21 Italian; 23 Graces; 25 Oread; 26 Under; 28 Genie.

General Knowledge Crossword

ACROSS: 4 Atract; 8 Needed; 9 Missile; 10 Regard; 11 Indeed; 12 String; 18 Optional; 20 Propel; 21 Sprain; 22 Radiate; 23 Brogue; 24 Depends. DOWN: 1 Undress; 2 Penguin; 3 Terror; 5 Twilight; 6 Reside; 7 Caller; 13 Isolated; 14 Enlarge; 15 Slender; 16 Ornate; 17 Sprite; 19 Impact.

Crossword

AVALANCHE: Les Dennis, Samuel L Jackson, Patrick Stewart, Shaun Williamson, Stephen Merchant, Orlando Bloom, David Bowie, Daniel Radcliffe, Ricky Gervais, Ben Stiller, Ross Kemp, Vinnie Jones, Kate Winslet. NINE: Stephen Merchant, Orlando Bloom, David Bowie, Daniel Radcliffe, Stephen Merchant, Orlando Bloom, David Bowie, Daniel Radcliffe, Ricky Gervais, Ben Stiller, Ross Kemp, Vinnie Jones, Kate Winslet. GRADIENTS: Pilkington, Ashley Jensen.

Wordwheel Pathfinder

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

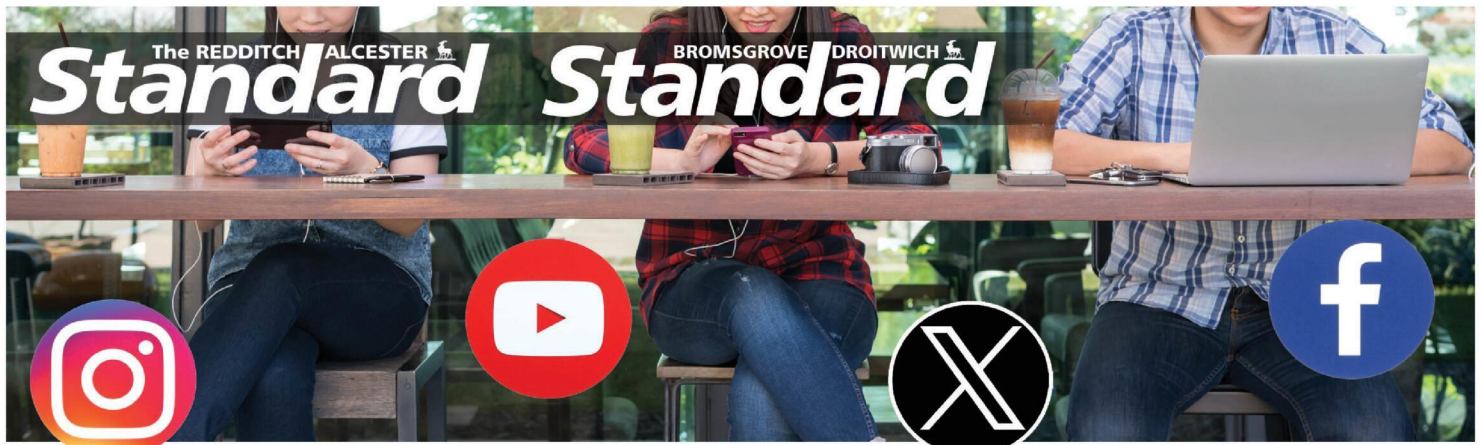
Codeword

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

Hard

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

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Jaecoo readies for launch

JAECOO UK has confirmed pricing and specifications for the all-new Jaecoo 5, which will be on sale later this summer.

The Jaecoo 5 will be priced from £24,505 OTR. The smaller Jaecoo 5 builds on the success of the Jaecoo 7, bringing the same design language and outdoor-focused approach to a new corner of the SUV segment.

While its appearance is rugged, its intent is refined: this is a compact SUV designed to support busy, style-conscious drivers looking for versatility, capability, and everyday comfort.

Inside, the cabin focuses on space, function, and calm. Five adults can travel comfortably, with two rear ISOFIX points, while a portrait-format touchscreen and double layered silent glass reinforce the premium feel.

As standard in Pure trim, it features Automatic Halogen headlights, a six-speaker SONY audio system, level 2 ADAS, six-way manually adjustable front seats, and wireless Apple CarPlay® and Android Auto™.

The Luxury trim further elevates the experience, adding an eight-speaker SONY audio system, cooled wireless phone charging, six-way power-adjustable heated and ventilated front seats, and enhanced interior finishes. Additional premium features in the Luxury trim model include ambient lighting, a tilt and slide sunroof measuring 1.45m², a cooled front storage box, dual-zone climate control. With over 35 storage spaces and up to 1,180 litres of boot space (with the rear seats down) in both variants, the Jaecoo 5

is ready for everything – from the school run to weekend escapes and everyday commuting needs.

Power comes from the Chery International-manufactured 1.6-litre turbocharged direct injection engine and 147 PS and 275 Nm of torque, paired with a responsive 7-speed dual-clutch automatic transmission. Designed to offer a dynamic yet composed drive, the Jaecoo 5 is equally suited to urban commuting and longer-distance travel, with Eco, Normal and Sport driving modes to adapt to different driving styles. The front-wheel drive platform delivers reassuring performance, supported by chassis geometry specifically tuned for UK roads by Chery International's European R&D centre.

Victor Zhang, UK Country Director Jaecoo UK commented: "Following on from the success of the Jaecoo 7, of which we've now sold more than 8,000 cars since its launch in January [2025], the Jaecoo 5 is a key addition to our growing UK range – a compact SUV that's spacious, capable and ready for real life. As we recently demonstrated at the Goodwood Festival of Speed, this is a model that stands out in any setting. Debuting in the First Glance paddock and confidently making its way up the Hill, the Jaecoo 5 proved it's a car for all occasions.

"Whether you're travelling solo, with family, or four-legged passengers in tow, it really has been engineered with thoughtful features for every journey, alongside the best in safety

and driver-assistance technologies. It delivers the premium SUV experience, without the bulk."

With Jaecoo's 'Enjoy Each Moment Outdoors' ethos, the Jaecoo 5 provides customers with peace of mind and reassurance thanks to a global five-star safety rating, Level 2 autonomous driving and 19 ADAS safety functions. The safety suite available is designed to reduce driver fatigue and enhance focus on the road, using the latest technologies available to support drivers when needed. From its adventure-ready practicality to its refined finish and distinctive styling, the Jaecoo 5 reflects the brand's growing momentum in the UK and commitment to premium design, technology and safety.

The Jaecoo 5 is available to order now at £24,505 OTR in Pure specification, and £28,000 OTR for the Luxury option, through OMODA&Jaecoo UK's expansive nationwide dealer network, which currently sits at 75+ dealers. Additional Jaecoo-approved pet accessories for the Jaecoo 5 are also available to purchase directly from these retailers, too. Deliveries are expected from October 2025. All models come with a 7-year/100,000-mile warranty, whichever comes first, with no mileage limit for the first 3 years alongside RAC Home Start as standard.

Jaecoo UK will also offer a pure EV powertrain for the Jaecoo 5. Further details on the Jaecoo 5 EV will be announced in the coming weeks.

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BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL & REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Advertisement Key: LBS = Listed Building Setting, ADVSTD = Wider Publicity, HOUAPP = Householder Application, CA = Conservation Area, LB = Listed Building

25/00378/FUL LBS

Site: The Priests House Stables, Grafton Lane, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire B61 7HA.

Proposal: Garden shed

25/00789/FUL CA

Site: Malvern Cottage, Holy Cross Green, Holy Cross, Worcestershire DY9 0HG

Proposal: Single-storey rear extension

25/00699/FUL ADVSTD LB HOUAPP

Site: Sugarbrook Manor, Fish House Lane, Stoke Prior Worcestershire B60 3AT

Proposal: Demolition of Outbuilding A and erection of garage/workshop. Erection of summer house and shed. Proposed alterations, enlargement of vehicular access off Sugarbrook Lane and installation of gates. Installation of privacy fence to part of boundary. (part-retrospective)

This is a Householder application, in the event of an appeal against refusal of planning permission, which is to be dealt with on the basis of representations in writing, any representations made about this application will be sent to the Secretary of State and there will be no further opportunity to comment at appeal stage.

25/00700/LBC LB

Site: Sugarbrook Manor, Fish House Lane, Stoke Prior, Worcestershire B60 3AT

Proposal: Part demolition of boundary wall. Installation of privacy fence to part of boundary. (part-retrospective).

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

Warwickshire County Council

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

Warwickshire County Council has made the following Temporary Traffic Orders:

A435 ALCESTER BYPASS, ARROW AND ALCESTER BYPASS, ALCESTER

Order Effect: A 30-mph speed restriction will be imposed on A435 Alcester Bypass, Arrow and Alcester Bypass, Alcester from its junction with Arrow Roundabout to the existing speed limit change 250 metres south of Roebuck Roundabout. Reason for Order: For the safety of all road users.

Order Commences: 24 July 2025 for up to 18 months. Anticipated Completion: 28 July 2025. Contractor: Tracsis Events, Tel:07469 354 023.

BURFORD LANE, SHELFIELD

Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic. Reason for Order: Works to install new boundary box.

Order Commences: 31 July 2025 for up to 18 months. Anticipated Completion: 1 August 2025

Access & Diversion: Burford Lane, Alcester Road, Henley Road, Village Road, Aine End, Spenal Lane, Spenal Lane and vice versa. Contractor: Chevron Traffic Management Ltd, Tel: 0330 008 0820

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 25 July 2025

PUBLIC NOTICES

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Independent Reworks Limited of Zenith House, Suite 03 Highlands Road, Solihull, Birmingham, B90 4PD is applying to change an existing licence as follows. To add an operating centre to keep 5 goods vehicles and 5 trailers at Amazon Site BHX8 Unit A Gateway Coventry Hwy, Redditch B98 9AY

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(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.

Representors 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

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL & REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Advertisement Key: ADVSTD = Wider Publicity, LBS = Listed Building Setting

25/00745/FUL ADVSTD LBS

Site: Heart Of Worcestershire College, Osprey House, Albert Street, Redditch, Worcestershire B97 4DE

Proposal: Demolition of existing building in education use (Use Class F1) and erection of a three storey care home (Use Class C2) with ancillary facilities; and associated parking, landscaping and ancillary works.

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

JUNE IRIS GREENFIELD Deceased

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 anyone having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the deceased, late of 2 Sycamore Avenue, Redditch, B98 7EF, who died on 02/05/2025, must send written particulars to the address below by 26/09/2025, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests notified.

Sarah Morgan c/o Hugh James, Two Central Square, Cardiff, CF10 1FS. Ref: GRE1581

PUBLIC NOTICES

Keeping you up to date with all the latest information on Planning Proposals, Traffic Notices, Goods Vehicle Operator Licences, Licences To Sell Alcohol, Probate Notices....

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Gymnast 'proud' to represent Great Britain at World Cup

by Aaron Sutcliffe
aaron.sutcliffe@bullivantmedia.com

GYMNASTICS: A GYMNAST from Droitwich spoke of her pride after representing Great Britain at the Masters Adult Gymnastics World Cup in Germany.

Felicity Harper competed in the adult open individual competition and also on bars in the team event in Leipzig.

She placed sixth in the individual competition while Britain finished fourth in the team event overall.

Harper also led out the Great Britain team at the World Cup.

And the 60-year-old felt a sense of pride after representing her country on the international stage.

Harper said: "It was quite nerve-wracking. The individual competition was fine because you're just doing it for yourself. Doing the team event was quite nerve-wracking and a bit stressful because your score counts towards the overall result.

"I got to come on with the Great Britain banner, which was great. They did it in height order and I was the smallest so I got to carry it which was the icing on the cake. It was a proud moment.

"I thought my bars routine went really well - I didn't fall off. When I was practising, I was doing a slightly more difficult move than what I actually did.

"I'm glad I didn't try the other move because I might have fallen off. My routine in the individual com-

petition didn't go so well though. "I couldn't get up on the bottom bar for a start. The bars I trained on are just slightly lower. But the team event went fine which was a real relief.

"I haven't really done anything where I've represented a team before in this way. It was a new experience and I felt very proud once I had done it all."

Harper also praised the friendly nature of the competition and the organisation of the event.

She also took inspiration from routines completed by athletes from other countries including some by gymnasts over the age of 70 years old.

Harper added: "The individual events took place in a massive trade fair venue, I've never been anywhere so big. There were loads of arenas set up as gyms. There were loads of gymnasts.

"We got a shoutout from the BBC commentator Craig Heap because he was covering the European Championships in Leipzig which was nice.

"Travel on the trams was free if you were participating. It was all very much geared up to it. I was massively impressed by the size of the whole thing.

"The other teams were all really friendly - people were sharing gifts at the end.

"I was really impressed by some of the older ladies who were over 70 years old from Japan and Germany. It was unbelievable and inspiring. They were doing better stuff than I could do. There's still hope."

Felicity Harper carried the Great Britain banner in Leipzig.



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