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Friday, August 22nd 2025 Week 34 www.droitwichstandard.co.uk @DroitStand Your **FREE** edition - just pick one up and keep up with the news

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No jail for man despite indecent shots of children

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

A DROITWICH man has avoided jail despite being convicted of possessing indecent images of children and extreme animal pornography.

Kirt Tabberer, 35, of Little Hill, Droitwich will be on electronic tag for three months and be subject to a three year community order after being sentenced at Worcester Crown Court.

Tabberer pleaded guilty and was sentenced to five separate three year community orders, to run concurrently, meaning they will not need to be served back-to-back.

He received one for making 62 category A images, one for making 25 category B images, and one for making three category C images.

The other two orders are for possession of two extreme pornographic images and for possession of prohibited pornographic images of children.

He will also have to register as a sex offender for five years and was handed a Sexual Harm Prevention Order for five years.

The judge also ordered him to pay £1,200 in costs, a victim surcharge of £85 and to forfeit his electronic devices.

Tabberer's activities first came to the attention of officers after reports he uploaded a category C indecent image of a child to a Snapchat user account in 2019.

Enquiries linked the account to him where he was arrested by police on suspicion of possession and distribution of indecent images.

Electronic devices were seized including a mobile phone which led to him been further arrested on suspicion of possessing extreme pornography.

Tabberer initially denied the allegations, claiming his device had been hacked, but digital forensics proved otherwise.

He was due to stand trial but changed his plea to guilty.

Det Con David Wood, who led the investigation, said: "This sentence has arisen from the excellent work by our Digital Forensic Team who counteracted Tabberer's lies and presented strong evidence that led to his change in plea.

"Whilst he tried to deny responsibility for his crimes, our digital investigators exposed to the horrific material as they deconstructed his claims made in two separate interviews.

"Their professionalism and dedication not only to this job but all the others like it are a testament to their focus in protecting our communities."

Stepping down after 11 years

A WELL-known and respected Droitwich campaigner is stepping down from her role as the head of the group responsible for supporting the town's Lido.

Suzi Wood has been the chair of the Friends of the Droitwich Spa Lido (FODSL) for 11 years.

Before that she was one of the original campaigning group which saved the pool when it looked like it could end up being closed down more than 25 years ago.

Her hard work and energy, first of all, contributed to saving the pool and in her years as chair she helped organise many successful fundraising campaigns and fostered community links across the town.

Wychavon District Council leader, Coun Richard Morris, praised Suzi for helping establish FODSL as a respected and important local community group and 'greatly enriched our terrific lido asset'.

To thank her for her hard work and dedication committee members and supporters presented Suzi with an original painting of The Lido by local artist Wendy Simmonds.

The pool is currently celebrating its 90th birthday and has been sold out many times during the



recent heatwaves.

Suzi Wood being presented with flowers by Lido Manager Seb Parker as she steps down as Chair of FODSL. s

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No sign yet of support flagging

THE FLYING of St George Crosses and Union Flags continued this week across south Birmingham and in Bromsgrove, Wythall and Redditch.

And campaigners also started painting St George Cross flags on mini roundabout across the city and towns.

The practice has received widespread coverage on local and national news and led to much debate on social media and on talk shows.

And the flag flying has been encouraged across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland by the 'Raise The Colours' group on Facebook.

On the Bromsgrove and Redditch Standards' Facebook pages, the flag-flying was widely supported, gaining hundreds of reactions and comments.

Among the views expressed were that it was a show of national pride, brightened up the areas where the flags were and some said it needed to extend to more areas.

The original campaign was started by Sean Doolan from south Birmingham where he and 14 others - a group known as the Weeley Warriors - bought the flags and raised funds for more via a GoFundMe page. Others criticised the move and said they were patriotic but did not need to fly flags while some have suggested the practice has racist undertones.

We contacted Birmingham City Council and Worcestershire County Council, the highways authorities for



LEFT: Flags near Bartley Green Reservoir in south Birmingham. Picture by Dave Gibbs. s

RIGHT: The roundabout by Tesco in Redditch is one of many which have been painted with a St George Cross. Picture by Lise Evans. Copyright Bullivant Media Group Ltd.



the areas. A Birmingham City Council spokesperson said: "We proudly fly the Union Flag outside the Council House every day and recognise the importance of the Union Flag and Flag of St George as symbols of national pride.

"Brummies are proud to be British and proud that this is a welcoming city celebrating many different cultures.

"When it comes to items attached to lamp posts, it is normal council procedure for these to be removed on a regular basis, in line with our health and safety obligations.

"Similarly, painting the Flag of St George on road islands, while expressing national pride, is unlawful and potentially dangerous for the person

painting the flag and for motorists.

"As has always been the case, people are free to fly or hang flags from their homes or gardens, but we ask that they are not attached or added to street furniture."

A Worcestershire County Council spokesperson said: "All road markings on the county's highway network are strictly regulated for safety, including those on roundabouts of any size.

"Changes to agreed road markings must not be made unless approved by the Highway Authority, in line with these regulations.

"Unofficial actions on the highway network could be distracting or cause confusion to some road users so will therefore be removed."

Richard Field, West Mercia Police Safer Neighbourhood Inspector, added: "Painting roundabouts is not only dangerous to drivers and pedestrians, but it also amounts to criminal damage.

"We are working closely with partners, including Worcestershire County Council, to tackle this issue and will investigate where appropriate."

WCC Coun Joanne Monk, said: "In Worcestershire, we are proud of our English and British identities.

"I of course support flying both flags proudly throughout the county.

"Our national flags are a symbol of our national pride, and I will champion efforts that celebrates our nation."

WCC's Cabinet Member for

Highways, Coun Karl Perks, added: "There are many ways people can show their pride by flying the St George's flag - in your own front and back gardens, on your cars, in your windows and on community buildings where agreed by the community.

"Climbing up lampposts and attaching flags to them may not be the best thing to do, mostly because it's dangerous and could cause damage.

"There are no specific plans to remove the flags."

■ What do you think? Do you like the emergence of the flags in your area or would you prefer not to see them? Email: editor@bromsgrovestandard.co.uk or editor@redditchstandard.co.uk with your views.

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See page **30**

'Golf Centre must be saved'

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

A COUNCILLOR in Bromsgrove has pledged his support towards a campaign against proposals to develop land at the town's golf course.

Proposals within the town's future development strategy include a 1,300 home development on land just east of the town centre and as a result, Bromsgrove Golf Centre could be lost forever.

Lib Dem Worcestershire County Councillor for Bromsgrove East met with golf club members to support their campaign against the plans.

Coun Evans has raised his concerns about the houses proposed on the corridor of the A38 around Burcot and the Oakalls.

He said he was grateful the club invited him and added: "The loss of the golf centre will be devastating, losing not only leisure and recreational opportunities to an increased population, but also social groups of all ages along with green belt land and its precious wildlife."

"The lack of infrastructure also shows the proposed sites on the A38 are not suitable for development."

Coun Evans will also raise concerns about other proposed sites within his division, including around Finstall and Aston Fields.

Following a similar meeting with Bromsgrove MP Bradley Thomas, the centre's club captain Lee Machin said: "The potential loss of Bromsgrove Golf Club would have a far-reaching impact on our community."

"This space isn't just a golf course, it's a vital hub

for social connection across all age groups and offers a strong sense of purpose, particularly for our senior members."

"It is also home to diverse wildlife, including deer, herons and birds of prey - all of which depend on this valuable green belt land."

Bromsgrove Golf Centre is open to the public and has more than 1,000 members. It is also thought to be home to the largest junior academy in England and the course boasts more than 25,000 trees - all under threat from potential housing developments.

Coun Evans urged all residents to have their say on the development strategy consultation which runs until September 22..

People can visit: Bromsgrove.gov.uk/BromsgrovePlan for more information.



Councillor Sam Evans golf club captain Lee Machin. s

News in brief

A MOTORCYCLIST - a man in his 60s - has died after a crash in Droitwich.

The collision, involving a Triumph Tiger motorbike and a BMW X3, happened around 3.20pm on Sunday on the roundabout on the A38 Ombersley Way.

When ambulance crews and the Midlands Air Ambulance from Strensham arrived, the motorcyclist was in a critical condition being given CPR by police officers.

A West Midlands Ambulance Service spokesperson said the team quickly took over and started advanced life support.

But, despite the emergency services' best efforts, the man could not be saved, and he was confirmed dead at the scene a short time later.

The spokesperson added: "Our thoughts are with the patient's family and friends at this very sad time."

Witnesses or anyone with information or dash cam footage of the crash or the vehicles beforehand should email PC Lauryn Elliott at lauryn.elliott@westmercia.police.uk or call police on 101.

ALMOST 50 new and upcoming businesses will be showcasing what they offer at the Droitwich Saltfest Town Fete in Vines Park between 10am and 5.30pm tomorrow (Saturday, August 23).

The Standard teamed up with the Saltfest organisers and offered local companies the chance to have stalls for free and 47 signed up.

Tables are provided and the organisers have paid for the public liability insurance.

Among the companies will be crafts, arts, sweets, cakes, 3D art, care homes,

children's theatre, crochet art, toys, village farm shops and more.

There will also be a real ale and cider bar and street food tomorrow and Sunday.

Live entertainment starts tonight with Kaylee Band at 8pm and Country Western at 8pm tomorrow (Saturday).

On Sunday, there will be aerial acrobatics from 10am to 5pm, a magic show at 1pm, Hot Shots DJ at 2pm and Skabucks at 8pm.

Visit: saltfestdroitwich.co.uk or: facebook.com/saltfest2 for more.

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All smiles on GCSE results day

THE WAIT was over for thousands of students across Bromsgrove, Redditch and Rubery yesterday (Thursday) when GCSE results day finally arrived.

Tudor Grange Academy

Among the many success stories at Tudor Grange were Scarlett Freeman who achieved one grade 9, two grade 8s two grade 7s, one grade 6 and a distinction and Eleanor Taylor who was awarded one grade 9, two grade 8s, one grade 7 and four grade 6s.

Tanaka Kamungeremu received one grade 9, two grade 8s, three grade 7s, one grade 6 and a distinction*, Zi Lin Xue got five grade 8s,

two grade 6s and one merit and Muhammad Hussain received two grade 8s, three grade 7s, two grade 6s and one grade 5.

Principal Marie McNamara shared her pride in the students' achievements and said 'it was a joy to see their efforts rewarded'.

Arrow Vale High

Among the high performers were James Claridge who achieved a grade 9 in maths and grade 8s in biology, chemistry, physics and English literature, plus a Distinction* in creative media. James also achieved a Distinction* in the school's brand new further maths course.

Ella Drinkhill achieved grade 8s in mathematics, English language and religious studies, plus a Distinction* in health and social care while Joshua Wilkins received a grade 9 in geography, a Distinction* in sport and grade 7s across the board. He also this year was awarded the prestigious honour of becoming His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant's Cadet for Worcestershire.

Priscilla Bustamante Gonzalez achieved three grade 9s in maths, French

and 3D design, plus grade 7s in all other subjects. Priscilla also participated in Arrow Vale's extra-curricular further maths course, achieving a Distinction.

St Augustine's Catholic High School

Students achieved grades which put them well above the national averages.

Stand out performers included Bella Vale who achieved four grade 9s six grade 8, one distinction and one grade 7 and Nishel Justin who was awarded four grade 9s, one distinction*, five grade 8s and one grade 6.

Amélie Seager got five grade 9s, two grade 8s and two grade 7s and Oliver Fisher received two grade 9s, six grade 8s and one grade 7.

Headteacher Luke Payton said he was proud of both students and staff for their immense hard which 'had paid off spectacularly'.

Waseley Hills High

School leaders hailed a 'year of strong results' and a year-on-year improvement.

Among the top performers were Louis Debus, who achieved grade 9 in biology, English language, food technology, geography, maths and Spanish, along with a grade 8 in chemistry and physics and Ami Grabolli, who earned a grade 9 in geography, grade 8 in biology, drama, English language, maths and psychology and grade 7 in chemistry, English literature and physics.



Students at South Bromsgrove High School with their results. s

Dylan Morgan secured grade 8 in science and history, grade 7 in English language, English literature, food technology and maths and Charlie Ashton was awarded grade 8 in geography and English literature, grade 7 in English language and music, alongside grade 6 in science and maths.

Principal Tom Preston said everyone at the school was 'incredibly proud of the students' and the results were testament to their hard work and dedication.

North Bromsgrove High

Students were celebrating their results yesterday and looking forward to pursuing their post-16 studies or work-based training.

Particular credit went to Erin W, Olivia W, Oliver L, Ellie C, Alfie S and Jacob B who across their grades accumulated 27 prestigious grade 9s between them.

Headteacher, Nick Gibson said: "Our staff are absolutely thrilled with the fantastic GCSE results our students have achieved."

"They have been an awesome year group, with a wealth of talent, who are celebrating some of our strongest results to date."

South Bromsgrove High

At South, an impressive 10 per cent of students achieved grades 8 or 9 in all of their subjects which the school labelled an 'incredible achievement'. And 70 per cent of students achieved a grade 4 in both English and maths.

Headteacher Chris Smith said: "We are immensely proud of all the work and achievements of our students, which would not be possible without the support of parents, carers and teaching staff."

He added the students were in a strong position to progress to further education and everyone was delighted they would be welcoming back a number of students to sixth form.

Visit the GCSE stories on our website for more pictures, results and reaction.



Students from Arrow Vale High School were all smiles after receiving top results for their GCSEs. s



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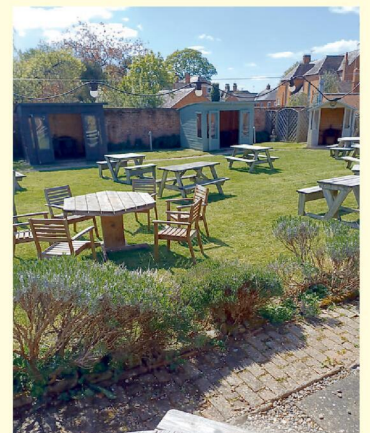
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Whatever the weather the beer will still be flowing!

Calls to stop the traveller camps

by **Sonny Rackham**
sonny.rackham@bullivantme-
dia.com

POLITICIANS for Cofton Hackett are continuing to put pressure on Birmingham City Council to secure the village's beloved park after it recently saw its fifth traveller incursion since January.

The latest illegal encampment appeared early last week, prompting residents to

voice fresh concerns.

An incursion is believed to have happened from last Sunday or Monday to Thursday. The city council did not confirm whether the travellers left of their own accord or were moved on.

Following engagement with residents, Bromsgrove MP Bradley Thomas and Bromsgrove District councillor for Cofton, Anita Dale, have called on city council chiefs to demand action to protect the park from future illegal encampments which cause distress to residents,

due to disruption, anti-social behaviour and waste often left behind. Just this year, there have been five incursions.

Mr Thomas said: "This is having a huge impact on the quality of life of residents."

"Birmingham City Council is aware of the problem, yet it is failing to put in place measures to stop these illegal incursions. I expect immediate action to be taken."

Coun Dale has been pushing for security improvements at the site since becoming a representative of the ward in

May 2023. She said, despite repeated efforts to contact Birmingham councillor Majid Mahmood, responsible for environment, she waited five months for a response.

Coun Dale said: "Fortunately, however, I have had a good working relationship with councillors Debbie Clancy and Ron Storer who have also been instrumental in fully supporting this project."

The Cofton councillor was told by Birmingham's parks team installation of bollards and a new gate could be expected at the entrance to the site's car park within

the next few weeks. "This should create a secure and safer Cofton Park for all the local residents to enjoy moving forward."

Birmingham City Council did not, however, make any reference to these expected works when contacted by the Standard.

A council spokesperson said the authority was 'committed to actively protecting its land and would take steps to recover the land where unauthorised encampments encroached upon it.'

The council also said it had usable transit sites for travellers - in line with Government

policy - referring to one in Nechells and another in Castle Vale.

A council's internal report concluded in 2019, however, these sites are 'inadequate' to cope with the larger encampments experienced in the city.

Both of the sites have seen repeated closures in recent times, with the Nechells site being subject to repeated damage and vandalism.

The Standard also contacted the city council for a response from Coun Mahmood which we are still awaiting.



Aki and his team at the Vasaanti are in the running for a Master Chef Promotions award. s

Town restaurant up for award

THE VASAANTI restaurant in Droitwich is in the running for a Master Chef Promotions Business Hospitality and Excellent Award.

The Indian eatery will find out if it has won at an awards ceremony at the Hilton Birmingham Metropole on Wednesday, August 27.

The Vasaanti, which is run by owner Akbar Miah, known as Aki, and his team, has become popular across Worcestershire and further afield.

The Master Chef Promotions Awards recognise excellence in hospitality businesses, enabling them to showcase their talent and dedication to the industry.

The restaurant has fought off competition from hundreds of entries and has

been shortlisted in the Restaurant of the Year Worcestershire category.

Aki told the Standard he was delighted to be nominated and it was testament to his hard-working team for consistently producing an array of delicious meals to a very high standard.

Industry veteran Prof Dr Rois Ali, chairman and CEO of Master Chef Promotions, said the event celebrated the remarkable achievements of those in the hospitality industry.

"Our mission is to elevate the food industry through innovation and recognition among chefs and professionals - especially during what is currently a challenging time."

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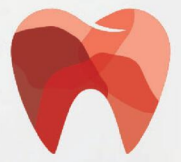
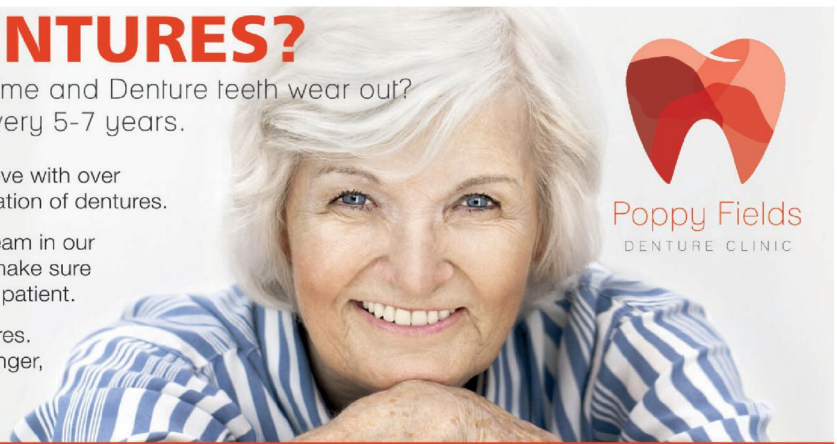
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Dr David Nicholl and Bromsgrove MP Bradley Thomas spoke out on the night.

Cross-party support to protect green belt

A TOTAL of 115 residents turned out to a public meeting at Stoke Prior Sports Club last Wednesday to plan the next steps on how to respond to Bromsgrove District Council's draft local strategy.

Coun David Nicholl and Bromsgrove MP Bradley Thomas both spoke against the threat to the green belt in the area which is one of the 400 sites earmarked by officers.

The government has told Bromsgrove it needs to build 9,000 homes in the district by 2043.

As part of the meeting, Keith Edwards had created a moving film which highlighted the risk to the village.

Local campaigners and Stoke Parish Council have collated the evidence to help support residents with their submissions.

Coun Nicholl claimed, having ran the sites through AI software, the Stoke Prior site came up as one of the least appropriate.

He said: "Whilst I do not suggest the whole decision is made by AI, the fact there are 400 sites make

it near impossible for human beings to assess the sites, which is why I decided to see what the Artificial Intelligence had come up with.

"The evidence pack we have collated will help residents to back up their submissions by referencing the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) using the evidence that planners understand to help defend our beautiful village.

"There are many many reasons to oppose this development, but top of my list would be the risk to heritage assets, such is the proximity to historic buildings such as St Michael and All Angels Church and this was the argument which won it for us back in 2023 with the Intall Fields development.

"We can win again but only if everyone submits to that consultation."

He issued a rallying call to people to have their say before the September 22 deadline.

People can visit: Bromsgrove.gov.uk/BromsgrovePlan for more on the plan and to have their say.

Councillor throws in the towel

by **Ashleigh Osborne**
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THE DEPUTY leader of Worcestershire County Council David Taylor has resigned from his position after just three months in the role.

David Taylor, from the county's ruling Reform UK party, will remain a member of the cabinet with Coun Rob Wharton filling in as deputy leader while the group decides on a permanent replacement.

Mr Taylor was elected as a county councillor in Redditch East for the first time in May.

Council response

Worcestershire County Council's leader, Coun Joanne Monk, said: "I can confirm Coun David Taylor has made the decision to step down as deputy leader.

"David will continue to be a part of the leadership team in his role as cabinet member for One Worcestershire which covers Local Government Reorganisation.

"A group meeting will be held to elect a new deputy leader. In the interim, Coun Rob Wharton will be fulfilling the role of deputy leader alongside his cabinet position."

Conservative Group leader Coun Adam Kent, who covers Wythall, has hit out at Mr Taylor's resignation, claiming the council is now in 'chaos'.

Coun Kent said: "Reform promised strong leadership - instead, residents are being subjected to civil war in their ranks, resignations and bitter infighting.

"At a time when Worcestershire faces the biggest decisions in a generation with Local Government Reorganisation, the county is being run by a group who are more interested in fighting among themselves than delivering for local people.

"This is a crisis of leadership. Reform are proving every day they are not capable of running the council.

"While they collapse in on themselves, vital debates about the future of our county are being undermined.

"The people of Worcestershire deserve better than this amateur hour."

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LEFT: Reverend Laura Handy, councillor Richard Morris, veterans Eric Davies and Vince Williams, MP Nigel Huddleston, mayor Chris Bowden and others were among the attendees at the VJ Day 80 commemorations. RIGHT: Wreaths placed at the war memorial.

Pictures by Paul Jones. s



Burma Star vet joins VJ Day 80 commemorations

DROITWICH came together last weekend to mark the 80th anniversary of VJ (Victory in Japan) Day.

A service of remembrance was led by Rev Laura Handy, from The Saltway Team Ministry, in Victoria Square on Saturday morning.

Members of the community gathered to pay their respects as dignitaries laid wreaths at the town's war memorial.

While VE Day (Victory in Europe)

by **Sonny Rackham**
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marked the end of the war in Europe in May 1945, many thousands of Armed Forces personnel were still engaged in fighting in the Far East.

The 14th Army, one of the main fighting forces, became known as the 'Forgotten Army'.

VJ Day marks the day Japan surrendered, on August 15, 1945, bring-

ing the Second World War to a final close.

Nigel Huddleston MP said the occasion was 'particularly poignant' because the service was attended by 100-year-old Burma Star veteran Eric Davis.

He said on social media: "What an incredible man he is."

Another veteran, 82-year-old Vince Williams, was also present.

He served in Borneo as an RAF helicopter crewman responsible for

transporting British Marines and Gurkhas into and out of the jungle battlefields during the Indonesia-Malaysia conflict in the early 1960s.

Thousands of British soldiers were held as Prisoners of War (POWs) in Japan during the Second World War. Around 30,000 British POWs perished in captivity and the death rate was much higher than those captured and held in Europe.

* Turn to page 14 for Bromsgrove's VJ Day commemorations.

Games & treats at free fete

A SUMMER fete is set to take place in Rubery next Wednesday, August 27.

The event, which will take place at Deelands Hall between 12pm and 4pm, is free to attend and is being funded by Clarion Futures.

The fete will feature numerous games and activities including a punching machine, face painting and prize draw.

There will also be various refreshments, such as pizza and ice cream vans and soft drinks.

Those in attendance will also get the chance to meet the Clarion team and support the local community.

Deelands Hall community centre is managed by Trident.

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Artist Sophie helps hospice shop cash in

A RENOWNED artist visited the newest Primrose Hospice charity shop on Bromsgrove High Street.

Sophie Tea's arrival was for the 44th episode of her 'Charity Shop Hunt'.

More than 200 members of the community turned up to meet Sophie and show their support for the Primrose, raising more than £700 in under two hours through the sale of items in the shop.

Sophie is best known for her 'Nude' era where she uses her work to convey a powerful message of inclusivity and to celebrate the unique beauty of the female form.

Sophie said: "I can't believe how

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

many people turned up this week. One of my lovely Nudies from my Waldorf show, Mandy, passed away a few years ago, and the Primrose Hospice did so much for her, so this one was very special.

"Her wonderful husband, daughter, and grandchildren came along, and that meant the world.

"I met so many amazing people and I'm so grateful every week."

She thanked everyone who turned out and the charity for all the work it did.

As well as supporting the charity at their shop, Sophie has helped in

other ways. In 2022, she auctioned an original painting after her show, raising an incredible \$4,700 for the Primrose Hospice.

Look out for the full episode on Sophie's Instagram and TikTok @sophieteaart

The Primrose Hospice would like to thank Sophie, her team and everyone who visited the shop and the Primrose volunteers.

Visit primrosehospice.org/support-us/shops/our-shops/ for more on the Primrose Hospice shops.

Artist Sophie Tea with one of the customers and Deborah, the manager of Primrose Hospice Bromsgrove Home Shop. s



Donna Johnston is celebrating winning the award.



Caring Donna collects top learner award

A CARER at a home in Alcester has been named divisional winner for Learner of the Year at the Barchester Care Awards.

Donna Johnston began at Cherry Trees care home in September 2023 when she embarked on her Advanced Care Practitioner course.

A spokesperson for the home said: "For the past 14 years, Donna has been an invaluable asset to us.

"She began her career as a Healthcare Assistant and, through her unwavering commitment and NVQ achievements, steadily progressed to become a Senior Carer, then a Team Leader, and now an Advanced Care Practitioner."

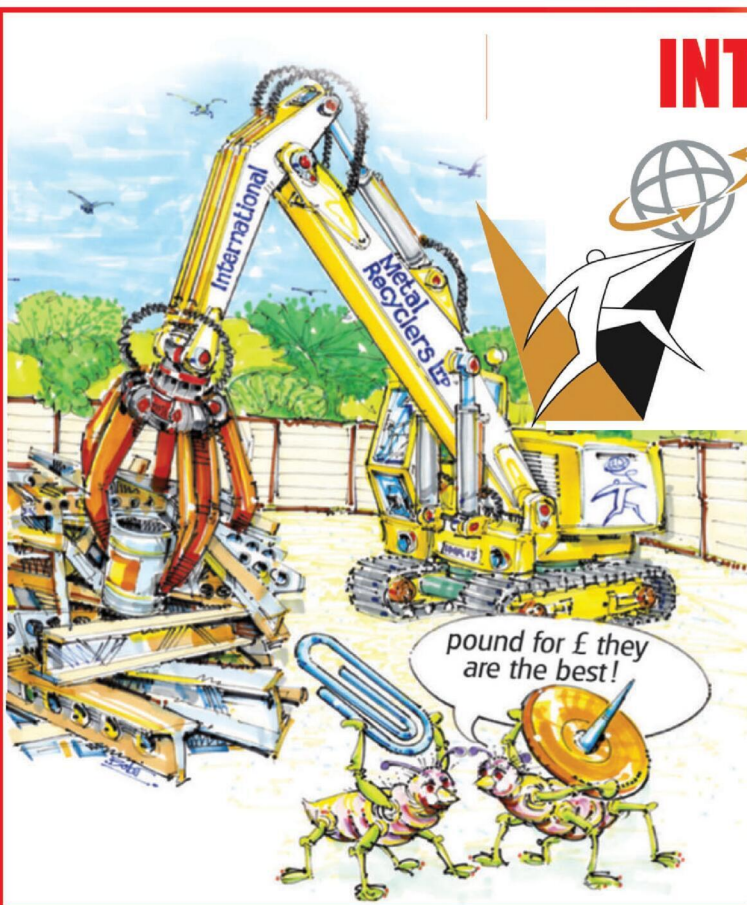
Donna said: "I am incredibly thankful for the training opportunities provided by Barchester.

"Winning this award is a true honour, and I am

excited for what the future holds."

General manager Debbie Osborne added "Donna's commitment to Cherry Trees and, most importantly, to her residents is truly unmatched.

"We are incredibly excited to support her as she continues her journey toward becoming a Registered Nurse. Her passion and dedication make her an invaluable member of our team."



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Hospitals to install car chargepoints



ELECTRIC chargepoints are set to be installed across hospitals in Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust, after more than £400,000 worth of funded allocated by the government.

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

ings of £130million for the NHS over the next 25 years, with an estimated average return on investment in just four years.

Martin Jones, associate director of estates and facilities at the trust, said: "We're pleased that this funding has been awarded.

"This represents notable progression in our commitments to achieving net zero.

"By expanding the network, we're providing more sustainable transport options and creating a cleaner, greener future for our local communities."

NHS chief sustainability officer Chris Gormley said: "The NHS has already implemented hundreds of projects that reduce emissions and drive significant cost savings, all while improving patient care.

"This new £8million investment, across 62 NHS Trusts and around 224 sites, supports the renewed commitment in the government's

Chargepoints are set to be installed across hospitals across the county. s

The trust will install 51 chargepoints across several of its sites, and aims to deliver reductions in fuel and maintenance costs that can be redirected into frontline care.

10 Year Health Plan to deliver a more sustainable NHS while also helping hospitals to save millions on fuel and maintenance costs and reducing air pollution.

"These savings can be reinvested directly into frontline care, ensuring the NHS continues to deliver for our patients and communities."

60 per cent rise in serious pollution incidents is a disgrace

IT WAS confirmed by the Environment Agency that serious pollution incidents by water companies have risen 60 per cent in a year.

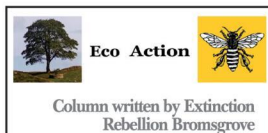
In 2024 there were a record 2,801 pollution incidents in England.

River Action CEO James Wallace said: "Serious pollution incidents are rising, sewage discharges remain rampant, and our rivers are spiralling toward ecological collapse.

"This is not just regulatory failure - it is a national disgrace."

Locally this latest ecological hit comes on top of the third drought of 2025, avian flu and botulism.

Why does it matter? Well, "The



Flashes', Upton Warren, managed by the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust, has almost completely dried out for the sixth time in its history.

It contains brackish water created by the flooding of brine boreholes in the 1950s.

The water is also fed by fresh water from the Hen Brook and topped up by rain water which

has been scarce in 2025. The water at The Flashes hosts lots of nutrients and shrimps that have attracted avocets to come hereto breed.

Upton was the first inland reserve in the UK where they successfully bred in 2003 and every year since.

Sadly, this is the fourth year in a row when only a handful fledged.

In 2022 botulism struck, in 2023 it was avian flu and the very dry conditions in 2024 and 2025 helped predators, mainly foxes, have a field day.

The World Organisation for animal health reported in June 2024: "The avian virus can survive for

long periods in fresh water and can be spread by farmland activity."

So there is a link to effective water management.

It is not just Upton avocets that have been severely affected - little ringed plovers, lapwings, redshank, oystercatchers and common terns also failed to fledge any chicks since 2021.

Lucky that nature is so resilient because the RSPB now has 1,300 breeding avocets on their reserves and the lapwings and cranes have also seen record breeding levels in 2024.

What can Bromsgrovians do to help?

- 1. Join the Worcestershire

Wildlife Trust and enjoy the reserve with 24/7 different species of bird.

2. Become a volunteer at Upton where work-parties are held every Tuesday.

3. Get a water meter.
4. Don't waste water: use washing-up water and share a bath (or at least the water) with your partner.

5. Raise planning objections to protect this irreplaceable Site of Special Scientific Interest if the council wants to build houses on its doorstep.

Find Extinction Rebellion Bromsgrove on Instagram or visit bromsgroveextinctionrebellion.uk for more information.



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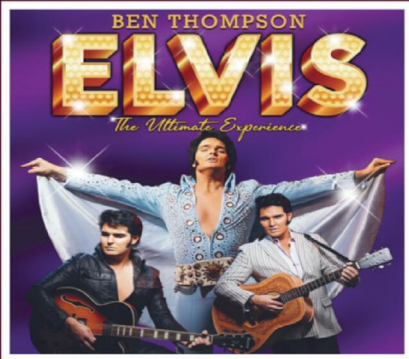
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Post Office open after a revamp

WINYATES Post Office has been officially re-opened after major improvements undertaken by new owners.

Saumya Naudville is the new postmistress and will run the store alongside her husband, Raj Singh.

The previous postmaster resigned and the branch temporarily closed at the end of May.

The branch then underwent major work to modernise the premises and to fully stock the convenience store including new refrigeration for fresh products.

Owners Saumya Naudville and Raj Singh said: "Customers are really pleased to have their Post Office back open. They are impressed with all of the changes we have made.

"We have new shelving and refrigeration and there is a wide retail range that we stock including meat, fresh vegetables, food,

drinks, snacks, cleaning products and toiletries. We have another shop in Bromsgrove, so we know what works well.

"This is our first Post Office and we are excited to have this new-look shop and Post Office. We are very community-minded. We had a fresh start with the retail range and we donated produce to the nearby food charity.

Post Office Network Area Change Manager, Kully Dosanjh, said: "We know how important a Post Office is to a community and we are delighted to have restored service at this new-look store and with very convenient opening hours."

Redditch MP Chris Bloore officially opened the new store.

He said: "It is crucial to have Post Offices in residential areas like Winyates Way so that constituents can easily visit to get the services they need.

"I want to thank Saumya and Raj for their big investment into their shop. It looks great – light, bright and modern and fully-stocked.

"The daily opening from early until late is very convenient for customers to visit. With bank branch closures it's very handy that people can do their everyday banking here."

The opening hours are Monday to Sunday from 7.30am until 10pm.

Redditch MP Chris Bloore has officially reopened the Post Office. s



Smash FM DJs 'Rufus Stone' and 'Willie Love' will take the audience on an unforgettable journey. s

FANS of the 1980s will be in their element at Bromsgrove's Artrix next month when Smash FM DJs 'Rufus Stone' and 'Willie Love' take the audience on an unforgettable journey.

At 7.30pm on September 21, they will lead those watching through the very best of 80s music, comedy and nostalgia.

They host the touring production show live and loud from the Smash FM radio studio and are ready to jump head first into a decade which gave so much.

A spokesperson for the show said: "Come and join them and our full cast of live musicians, singers, and dancers, for this 80s revival concert with a difference."

The production boasts state-of-the-art

visuals and is packed full of surprises. It guarantees to get everyone there up and dancing in the aisles.

"We invite you to relive the sights and sounds of an incredible decade."

The show will feature hits from Duran Duran, Madonna, Rick Astley, Bananarama, Billy Joel, Kim Wilde, The Pet Shop Boys, Queen, Wham, and many more.

Tickets for Smash 80s FM are available from the box office - online at: artrix-bromsgrove.co.uk or by calling 01527 361324.

Visit the show's official website: smash80sfm.com for more on what to expect on the night.

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LEFT TO RIGHT: Representatives at the 80th anniversary of VJ Day; A special VJ Day 80 wreath; Wreaths were laid at the memorial – the national one for the Burma campaign. Pictures by Tristan Harris. © Bullivant Media Group Ltd. s

VJ Day 80 was commemorated at the Victoria Ground before Bromsgrove Sporting's home match against Spalding United. Picture by Chris Jepson. s

Town salutes VJ Day 80 anniversary



Worcestershire Lord Lieutenant Beatrice Grant and the Lord Lieutenant Cadet Flitan Davies with 99-year-old veteran Albert Malin.

HUNDREDS turned out to mark the 80th anniversary of VJ (Victory in Japan) Day in Bromsgrove on Saturday.

A special parade and service was held at the Burma Star Memorial at Crown Close which is the national memorial for the Far East campaign. It was organised by the Burma Star Association, Bromsgrove Branch and the Birmingham Association of the Far East Prisoners of War (FEPOW).

The event was attended by the Lord Lieutenant of Worcestershire, Beatrice Grant, Bromsgrove MP Bradley Thomas, armed forces veterans and representatives from Burma associations, the Royal British Legion, the Bromsgrove Society, the Bromsgrove Court Leet and the district council.

Several standards were on parade, along with Army and Sea Cadets.

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

In his opening address, he thanked God for comradeship and paid tribute to those who gave their lives during the campaigns in Burma, South East Asia and the Far East, along with those who gave their lives elsewhere in the Second World War.

After readings and prayers there was The Last Post, an impeccably observed two-minute silence and the Reveille.

It was followed by The Kohima Epitaph, the hymn 'Oh God, Our Help in Ages Past, and the official FEPOW (Far

East Prisoners of War) prayer was read.

Then 15 wreaths were laid, starting with the Lord Lieutenant of Worcestershire and Bromsgrove MP Bradley Thomas and by representatives from the other organisations.

The service concluded with a commitment to peace and the National Anthem.

Because VJ Day happened months after VE (Victory in Europe) Day, those fighting in the Far East were known as the 'Forgotten Army'.

After the service, Rev Khan said: "They were known as the Forgotten Army but they are not forgotten today."

"This has been an amazing turn-out for the 80th anniversary."

Ms Grant added: "I thought the service was very well

attended and beautifully done. I think it is important for us all to remember those who gave their lives for our freedom."

And Mr Thomas said: "It was wonderful so many people from Bromsgrove came and remembered this conflict that was not fought on our continent."

"We must remember the Second World War was not exclusively in Europe and other battles were just as important to bringing about peace."

VJ Day 80 was also marked at the Victoria Ground before Bromsgrove Sporting's home match with Spalding. Two veterans, Rev Khan and the Burma Star standard attended and a minute's silence was observed.

* Visit this story at bromsgrovestandard.co.uk for more pictures and a video of the whole service.

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Botany Bay Celebrates 50 Years!

Redditch garden centre Botany Bay Nurseries has celebrated its 50th anniversary.



Customers and friends joined in the celebrations, tucking into cake and finding out the fascinating history of this independent family-run business.

In 1974 Sue & Peter Ratcliffe bought a plot of land in Astwood Bank, known locally as Botany Bay. They both had a background in horticulture and it was their ambition to start their own nursery, Peter had gained advanced qualifications and had worked as an adviser at the Ministry of Agriculture.

The couple lived in Redditch, they had a lively toddler and Sue was heavily pregnant. To keep money coming in while the business developed, Peter took on a milk round and also worked as a contract landscaper on Redditch New Town. He actually planted most of the trees along Alders Drive.

The land was drained and prepared and they set about planting Pick Your Own strawberries, raspberries, gooseberries & blackcurrants. Peter could tell some great stories about Pick Your Own

including the topless raspberry pickers! This was a relatively successful business, however the land itself wasn't good growing land. The only time it had ever been ploughed was in WW2 to grow potatoes.

A company based in Stratford asked if Botany Bay could grow geraniums for them. So a huge polytunnel was built with benching and heating and was soon full of geranium cuttings. In 1978 the couple also began building work for a house on site. The whole family moved into a tiny caravan, Sue and Peter, 2 young boys and 2 dogs. Using a bucket as a toilet and visiting family for showers once a week, it was an unforgettable experience.

With the business growing and a team of staff building up, a huge glasshouse was built, with many more added over the years up to the 12 houses that they have today.

The business continued to grow for about 5 years until disaster struck - the Stratford company pulled



out of their contract halfway through the season. So after many sleepless nights Peter and Sue decided to go it alone and set up their own wholesale business.

Around this time a chirpy 16-year old started working for Sue and Peter, a young man called Jeremy - he learned the business and is still here as a Director 39 years later!

The business at this time was purely a wholesale nursery, employing up to 40 staff in the main season. At its peak, they were growing one million geraniums, about 1.25 million fuchsias and about 3 million other hanging basket plants. They developed a reputation far and wide for selling the "Mother Stock". These were the plants that provided the cuttings for all of the stock. People still ask for these even now!

When he left school, their eldest son Jamie went to work at other nurseries to learn the trade from the bottom up and returned to Botany Bay when he was 24. In the early 2000s, there was a shift in the market. Dutch growers were producing vast numbers of plants in staggeringly large glasshouses in the Netherlands. They were keen on price and unlimited on supply - smaller growers like Botany Bay found it difficult to compete. So the business had to evolve.

Jamie became more involved in the business as it moved in new directions, opening a Plant Centre, which over the years has become the successful Garden Centre that they have now. As the garden centre built up, the wholesale business reduced in volume. Their biggest customer is now Botany Bay itself!

Botany Bay are proud to work every year with Astwood Bank in Bloom, Henley in Bloom and Studley in Bloom. They also supply the local authorities in Alcester, Redditch and Feckenham. Jamie and the management team have lots of exciting ideas for the future of the Botany Bay, so generations of gardeners to come can benefit from top quality and friendly service that Botany Bay prides itself on.



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Find us just off the A441 in Astwood Bank. Botany Bay Nurseries, Garden Centre and Café, Edgioake Lane, Astwood Bank, Redditch, B96 6BG

Planted some fifty years ago, garden centre is still blossoming

REDDITCH garden centre Botany Bay Nurseries has celebrated its 50th anniversary.

Customers and friends joined in the celebrations, tucking into cake and finding out the history of business.

In 1974 Sue and Peter Ratcliffe bought a plot of land in Astwood Bank, known locally as Botany Bay.

They both had a background in horticulture and it was their ambition to start their own nursery, Peter had gained advanced qualifications and had worked as an adviser at the Ministry of Agriculture.

The couple lived in the town and with a toddler and a baby on the way, they had to keep the money coming in while the business developed.

Peter took on a milk round and also worked as a contract landscaper on Redditch New Town. He actually planted most of the trees along Alders Drive.

The land was drained and prepared and they set about planting Pick Your Own strawberries, raspberries, gooseberries and blackcurrants.

A company based in Stratford asked if Botany Bay could grow geraniums for them. So a huge polytunnel was built with benching and heating and was soon full of geranium cuttings.

In 1978 the couple also began building work for a house on site. The whole family moved into a tiny caravan, Sue and Peter, two young boys and two dogs. Using a bucket as a toilet and visiting family for showers

once a week, the family said it was an unforgettable experience.

With the business growing and a team of staff building up, a huge glasshouse was built, with many more added over the years up to the 12 houses that they have today.

The business continued to grow for about five years until disaster struck - the Stratford company pulled out of their contract halfway through the season.

So after many sleepless nights Peter and Sue decided to go it alone and set up their own wholesale business.

Jamie, Pete and Sue's eldest became more involved in the business as it moved in new directions, opening a Plant Centre, which over the years has become the successful Garden Centre that they have now.

A spokesperson for the garden centre said: "Botany Bay are proud to work every year with Astwood Bank in Bloom, Henley in Bloom and Studley in Bloom.

"They also supply the local authorities in Alcester, Redditch and Feckenham.

"Jamie and the management team have lots of exciting ideas for the future of the Botany Bay, so generations of gardeners to come can benefit from top quality and friendly service that Botany Bay prides itself on."

Staff and visitors celebrated the 50th anniversary of Botany Bay. s



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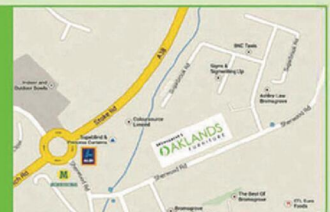
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A really fun way to boost funds

A FUN family afternoon in Fernhill Heath has raised \$2,700 which was handed over to St Richard's Hospice in Worcester this week.

North Claines Parish Council chairman, Megan Farmer, handed over the cash to Jodie Brandwood at St Richard's, confirming it was the highest amount the annual 'Fun on The Brum' event has ever achieved.

More than 300 bottles were donated for the tombola along with scores of raffle prizes and donations from stallholders offering goods ranging from fused glass to crocheted items and bhajis to brownies.

Donations to play on the variety of inflatables supplied by the parish council raised the lion's share of the cash during the four-hour event on the village playing field.

West Mercia Police Brass Band provided a musical backdrop while a novelty dog show provided entertainment – along with a stilt-walker, robotic dinosaur and much more.

Megan said: "Each year we organise this event to bring villagers together and raise funds for local causes."

"In the past we have donated to Air Ambulance, Night Stop and Droitwich Food Bank and, as the popularity of Fun on The Brum increases, so do the donations.



"We're very grateful to all the villagers and businesses who supported and all those who helped make it the best ever this year."

Jodie Brandwood accepts the proceeds of Fun on The Brum 2025 from NPC Chairman Megan Farmer. s



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Status Quo's Francis Rossi to perform at the Palace Theatre

AN EVENING of Francis Rossi playing Songs from the Status Quo Songbook and more is heading to Redditch's Palace Theatre.

The new show, at 7.30pm on September 25, will also feature songs he has never played before in this format and he will offer first-hand backstage tales.

With his renowned wit and humour, he will talk about appearing more than 100 times on Top Of The Pops, why the band went on first at Live Aid, life with Rick Parfitt, the hits, fellow stars and misadventures across the world.

Francis will perform many of his signature hits that made the Quo name, plus some personal favourites and deeper cuts and he will

be telling more stories about his incredible life in music.

The star promises a refreshing take on some of his most-loved and enduring material and indiscreet fresh tales from across the incredible career of one of rock's great performers and raconteurs.

The story starts with 'Pictures of Matchstick Men' but continues right up to the present day.

Francis will mostly be playing his Acoustasonic guitar which, he says is 'basically a Telecaster but is more compatible with a show of this nature - it still has the ring and sound of a Tele'.

Francis, who has extended his 2025 UK tour, adding extra dates, said: "This is a brand new show so I am looking forward to taking



it to new venues and new crowds, but also returning to some of my favourite places in the UK.

"The show lifts the lid on a lot of what went on in the world of Status Quo, and I build in plenty of songs along the way - lots of my classic hits, but there are also versions of songs that I haven't tried in the format before, and I have to say they sound fantastic.

"There's a lot to get through so don't be late."

Visit: aegpresents.co.uk/event/francis-rossi/ for more on the show and go to: redditchpalacetheatre.co.uk or call 01527 65203 to buy tickets.

Francis Rossi is heading to the Palace Theatre. s

Swinging 60s and 70s heading to Artrix with Hollies and Searchers tribute

FANS of The Searchers and The Hollies are in for a treat when a top tribute comes to Bromsgrove's Artrix for an unmissable 90 minutes from two of the most iconic music from bands of the 1960s and 70s.

At 7.30pm on Thursday, September 4, magic will be created of the golden ear of pop which captivated audiences on both sides of the Atlantic.

From the unmistakable jangle of 12-string guitars to lush harmonies and infectious melodies, this show is a must-see for fans of classic rock and vintage pop.

The show boasts a feel-good night which celebrates the soundtrack of a generation, hit after hit, live on stage.

Featuring a set list packed with timeless chart-toppers, including



'Needles And Pins', 'When You Walk In The Room', 'Just One Look', 'Here I Go Again', 'I'm Sorry' and many more, this high energy performance will transport listeners on a trip down memory lane.

The band has always loved the Merseybeat era and plans to put on a performance where people will sing along without realising and leave the theatre beaming.

Tickets cost £25 (plus booking fee) and can be purchased by visiting: artrixbromsgrove.co.uk or by calling the box office on 01527 361324.

The top tribute to The Searchers and The Hollies is heading to Bromsgrove's Artrix on September 4. Picture by Laurence Harvey. s



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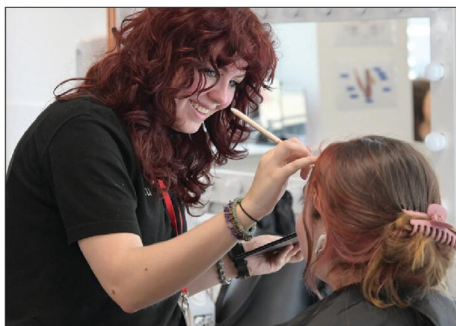
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If you don't quite get the GCSE results you were hoping for, or would just like to discuss your options, give them a call!



Not sure of your next step?

The College will be hosting School Leaver Advice Days - **Thursday 21st August, 10am-6pm** and **Friday 22nd August, 10am-2pm**, as well as late interview sessions throughout August and early September. Please call on **01789 266 245** for further details!



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Call **01789 266 245** to find out more!

Advice is to extend Child Benefit claim soon

PARENTS who know their teenager's plans in September are being urged to extend their claim now to continue to receive Child Benefit.

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has written to 1.5 million eligible parents reminding them to extend their Child Benefit claim for their 16 to 19-year-old.

Child Benefit is worth £26.05 per week - or £1,354.60 a year - for the eldest or only child and

£17.25 per week - or £897 a year - for each additional child.

Child Benefit can continue to be paid for young people who are studying full time in non-advanced education as well as unpaid approved training courses.

More than 509,000 parents of teenagers, who are staying in full-time education or approved training, have already extended their Child Benefit claim.

A record-breaking 67 per cent have done it online to guarantee their payments will continue in September. Parents need to extend their claim by 31 August or payments will automatically stop.

Myrtle Lloyd, HMRC's chief customer officer, said: "Teenagers can be expensive and Child Benefit is an important source of income for your household. As soon as you know what your teen is doing in

September, don't miss out. You can extend your claim in minutes through the HMRC app or online to ensure your payments continue."

If either the claimant or their partner has an individual income of between £60,000 and £80,000, the higher earner will be subject to the High Income Child Benefit Charge.

For families who fall into this category, the online Child Benefit tax

calculator provides an estimate of how much benefit they will receive and what the charge may be.

HMRC say the quickest and easiest way to ensure payments continue is to extend via the HMRC app or online through the digital service.

Parents can also scan the QR code in their reminder letter which will take them straight to the digital service.

Don't pile pressure on 999 crews

AS THE bank holiday weekend approaches, West Midlands Ambulance Service (WMAS) is urging the residents to take simple steps to protect their health and reduce pressure on emergency services.

With GP surgeries, pharmacies, and other services operating reduced hours, planning ahead is key.

WMAS is asking members of the public to:

- Order repeat prescriptions early - ensure you have enough medication to last through the long weekend.
- Restock your medicine cabinet - Be prepared for common health problems by keeping a well-stocked medicine cabinet at home. Keep essentials such as pain relief, antihistamines, plasters, antiseptic cream, and rehydration salts at home.
- Use NHS 111 online - for urgent but non-life-threatening medical concerns, visit 111.nhs.uk for



advice on the best care.

- Only call 999 in a genuine emergency - such as chest pain, difficulty breathing, serious bleeding, unconsciousness, or a suspected stroke.
- Check in on vulnerable and elderly loved ones and neighbours - a quick visit or call to ensure

they are ok and have everything they need could make a huge difference.

- If you're travelling, be prepared - make sure you take water for long journeys, have what3words downloaded so that we know exactly where to find you in an emergency and ensure you've

packed any medications.

Paramedic, Liam Guy said: "We know that accidents and illnesses can happen at any time, but over the bank holidays we're encouraging everyone to be proactive, don't let a lack of planning ruin your bank holiday."

"Bank holiday weekends can be

notoriously busy for the service, with high demand putting extra pressure on ambulance crews, call handlers, and on hospital teams. By taking small but important steps now, you can help us make sure ambulances are available for those in life-threatening situations who need them the most."

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Bromsgrove based Whiting Landscape Limited has just completed an energy review and are predicted to save in excess of £4,000 a year on their energy bills.



Firms enjoying free advice

SINCE launching in April, over 50 businesses across Worcestershire have benefitted from a free Business Energy Advice Service (BEAS) assessment, helping them to identify areas where they can save money and reduces their operational costs.

A BEAS assessment offers businesses an opportunity to evaluate their current energy use, understand where immediate savings can be made, and map out future investment to become more efficient and cut operational costs.

Bromsgrove based Whiting Landscape Limited has just completed an energy review and are predicted to save in excess of £4,000 a year on their energy bills.

Jon Murphy, director of Whiting Landscape Limited, said: "The energy assessment was an incredibly valuable service that has provided us with a really useful baseline measure.

"The fantastic initiative has not only helped us

better understand our energy usage but has also empowered us as a company to make more sustainable choices for the future.

"Findings have provided us with a much clearer understanding of how energy is used in our business and highlighted practical steps we can take to reduce our consumption and lower our bills."

Coun Alan Amos, cabinet member for business and skills at Worcestershire County Council, said: "We're all about helping SMEs like Whiting Landscape to work smarter and more efficiently.

"The BEAS assessment helps business owners to review and evaluate their operating costs and to identify areas for investment to boost their bottom line.

"I would encourage anyone to take advantage of this opportunity."

Visit businessgrowthwestmidlands.org.uk/beas for more information.

More police roles to go in war on costs

FURTHER police staff roles are set to be cut across West Mercia as the force continues to battle funding shortfalls.

Just months ago, in June, after the force announced redundancies in non-policing staff roles which have made 'significant savings', West Mercia says its \$8 million budget gap 'must be addressed'.

West Mercia's PCC, John Campion, and chief constable, Richard Cooper, broke the news to their workforce last Thursday (August 14) but have not confirmed how many roles will be affected.

The pair said Government funding is not keeping pace with inflation and a growing demand on its services.

An underestimation of its costs, alongside a recent pay deal for officers, an uplift in policing numbers and those reaching higher pay points, continues to put strain on the organisation's budgets.

Whilst the Police and Crime Commissioner, along with other PCCs and Chiefs around the country, has reached out to the Home Office to stress the financial strain in policing in general, they say this isn't a solution for this current situation. The Home Office has not responded publicly to calls from forces across the UK.

Chief Constable Richard Cooper said: "The difficult decision we have made, to make further police staff redundancies, is certainly not something we would choose to be doing.

"Protecting people from harm remains our absolute priority. We absolutely stand by our commitment to the neighbourhood policing guarantee."

Mr Campion said: "I want to reassure our communities that action is being taken to address these issues and ensure that the force is able to continue delivering an efficient and effective service and keep communities safe.

"The Chief Constable and I are making best use of all the resources and flexibilities we have at our disposal. But it is not enough.

"Let's be clear. There are wider, fundamental issues around how central funding is distributed to police forces that hasn't been fixed by the current, or previous, Governments.

"This unfairness, that I have raised on a number of occasions, has exacerbated the current challenges we face.

"In addition, there are growing mandates from the Government dictating how we should spend the grant we receive for our police force, communities and their needs."

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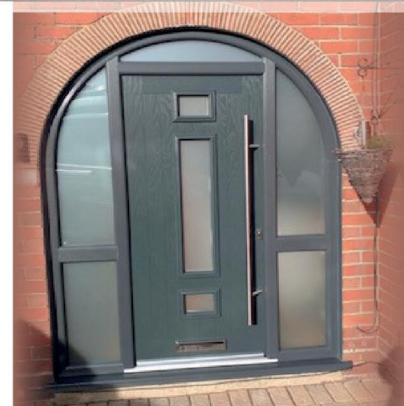
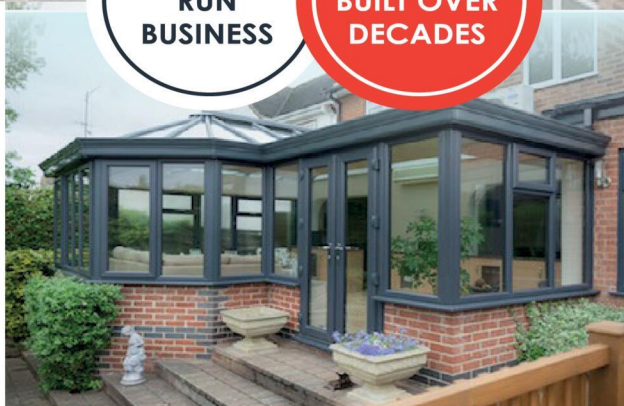


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- You do not already hold the same or similar qualifications.

Please visit our website: [Stratford-on-Avon District Council - Current Vacancies](http://Stratford-on-Avon-District-Council-Current-Vacancies) or email hr@stratford-dc.gov.uk to see the full recruitment information pack and to apply.

For an informal chat about the role, please contact Macer Nash, Democratic Services Manager at macer.nash@stratford-dc.gov.uk or Ann Banks, Senior Democratic Services Officer at ann.banks@stratford-dc.gov.uk

Applications will close at midnight on Sunday 14 September. Interviews will be held week beginning 29 September.

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Closing date for all applications is 25 August 2025

The School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. Applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening including checks with past employers.



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A message from Pat and Tony
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"No one is righteous, not one"
Romans 3 vs 11

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DEATHS

PHIPPS
Stanley Ernest Ronald
Aged 99 Years

Passed away on the 13th August 2025. Much loved husband to Mary, stepfather to John Paul and brother to John Phipps. A true gentleman who will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

Funeral Service, 18th September at St. Mary's RC Church, Studley at 10.15am followed by a Committal at the Redditch Crematorium at 11.30am. Stan loved jolly clothes, so please feel free to wear something colourful.

Family flowers only please, donations to the Warwickshire & Northamptonshire Air Ambulance can be sent to:
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Birchfield House
494 Evesham Road
Redditch, B97 5JF
01527 547777
Thank you

DEATHS

PRICE-WARD
Margaret
Aged 90 Years

Passed away peacefully at The Alexandra Hospital on Tuesday 5th August 2025. A Cherished Mum to Vanda, a devoted Grandma to Stephen. Margaret will be greatly missed by all her family and friends.

A service to celebrate Margaret's life will take place at Mount Carmel Church on Tuesday 16th September at 12.00pm. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to Alzheimer's Society to Thomas Brothers, Birchfield House, 494 Evesham Road, Redditch B97 5JF 01527 547777 Thank You

DEATHS

RAYSON
Patricia Irene (Pat)

Former infant Teacher at Shawhurst and The Coppice Schools, passed away peacefully on the 7th August 2025. She will be sadly missed by Husband Ted, Son Gregor, Daughter Nicola, Granddaughters Lily and Lucy, and all relatives and friends who knew her. The funeral service will be held at Redditch Crematorium on the 27th August 2025 at 10.15 a.m. Enquiries to: Thomas Brothers 494 Evesham Road Redditch B47 5JF 01527 547777 Thank You.

If you have a message for a loved one, call our team on **01527 588688**

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

COWBURN
George Henry

Passed away on Wednesday 6th August 2025, aged 79 years.

A much-loved Father and Grandfather. Now reunited with his beloved Wife Carol. A service to celebrate George's life will take place at Redditch Crematorium on Tuesday 9th September 2025 at 11.00 a.m. Donations if desired to The Cardiac Unit at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital may be sent to:
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IN MEMORIAM

ALICE AUBURY

Fell asleep for the last time on 28th August 1982. Time slips by and life goes on but from my heart you're never gone. Lots of love
Pat and Families
God Bless xxxxxxx
Birthday wishes September 4th
Love you Mom xxx

Mum Irene Griffiths
30.6.1929 - 11.8.2025

Sadly passed away whilst sleeping. Will be greatly missed by her children, Brian, Carol & Peggy five Grandchildren and nine Great Grandchildren. Love you Mum x

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IN MEMORIAM

TOMLINSON Daniel
22.08.92
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Love & miss you always
Auntie Jen, Uncle Les, John & Keve xxx

IN MEMORIAM

TOMLINSON Daniel
22.8.1992
Sending you Heavenly Birthday
Wishes for your 33rd Birthday
Love and miss you so much
Love Mum xx

SIMMONS Arthur David 'Dave'

Sadly passed away 3rd August aged 79. Much loved and sadly missed by Brother John, Sister Mag and Families. R.I.P. Funeral at Redditch Crematorium on 4th September at 2pm

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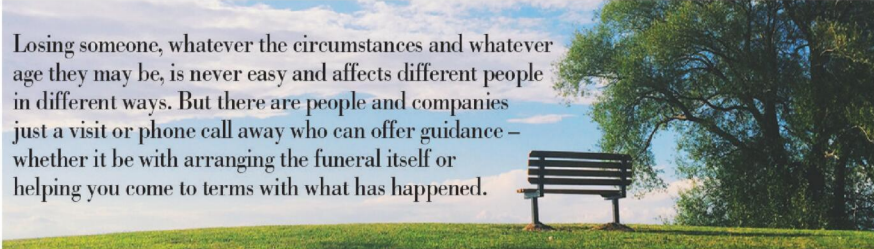
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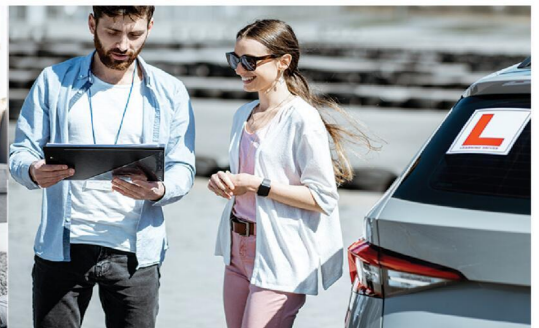


Losing someone, whatever the circumstances and whatever age they may be, is never easy and affects different people in different ways. But there are people and companies just a visit or phone call away who can offer guidance – whether it be with arranging the funeral itself or helping you come to terms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



Whatever the occasion, why not send your loved ones a message....

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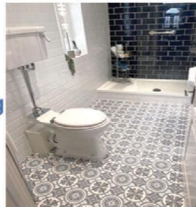
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Race win for Ingram at Knockhill

by Aaron Sutcliffe
aaron.sutcliffe@bullivantmedia.com

BTCC: TOM Ingram extended his lead at the top of the British Touring Car Championship (BTCC) standings after securing a double podium at Knockhill.

Ingram followed up a third-place finish in race one with victory in race two and crossed the line fourth in race three.

The Team Vertu driver now leads the BTCC drivers' standings by 17 points ahead of Ash Sutton.

And the Droitwich-based team remain second in the teams standings, just seven points behind leaders NAPA Racing UK.

Ingram said: "It was a fantastic weekend. As a team, we pulled a bit of a tactical masterstroke in race one."

"I don't think we really expected to be able to get a podium on the medium tyre, so huge thanks to Senna [Proctor] - he really put the word mate in teammate."

"And then race two was absolutely perfect. What a car Team Vertu gave me yet again - it really is on another level this year."

"Race three was a case of managing risk versus reward, particularly in the battle with Ash [Sutton]."

"We had a bit of a ding-dong, but at a certain point, I made the call to just focus on bringing it home."

Ingram claimed a surprise podium finish in race one after Senna Proctor let his Team Vertu teammate through on the final lap of the race.

Proctor came home in fourth with Adam Morgan further back in 11th.

However, Team Vertu's Tom Chilton suffered a disqualification in race one for exceeding his permitted overboost.

Ingram then secured his fourth race win of the season in race two after he made light work of the two drivers ahead of him.

The Coventry racer cruised to victory more than seven seconds ahead of title rival Sutton who finished second.

Proctor just missed out on a podium finish in fourth with Chilton eighth and Morgan 10th.

And Ingram finished the weekend with a fourth-place finish in race three following a constant nose-to-tail battle with Sutton.

Chilton finished just behind Ingram in fifth with Morgan seventh and Proctor 13th.

The BTCC season continues at Donington Park on the weekend of August 30 and 31.

Spa ship six in shock Slimbridge defeat after dramatic victory against Longlevens



Spa goalkeeper Dominic Hill punches clear under pressure against Slimbridge. Picture by Mathew Mason.

FOOTBALL: DROITWICH Spa suffered a heavy 6-0 home defeat against Slimbridge in midweek as the latter side replaced the Saltmen at the top of the table in the process.

Andy Crowther's side saw their four-game winning run come to an abrupt end at the King George Playing Fields.

The result means the Saltmen sit fourth in the Hellenic League Premier Division table.

Slimbridge broke the deadlock on 17 minutes when Jack Smith finished past Dominic Hill from Charlie Matthews' pass.

And Smith doubled the away side's lead 10 minutes later with his second goal of the game to send the visitors into the break with a two-goal lead.

Slimbridge struck again three minutes after half time as Jack Smith, a different Jack Smith to the player who scored the opening two goals, headed in Leighton Blacker's cross.

Droitwich won a penalty on 65 minutes only to see the spot kick saved by Slimbridge goalkeeper Stephen Sarkodie.

Spa then lost Cory Rudd to the sin bin before Smith completed his hat-trick on 75 minutes as he curled a shot into the net from 25-yards out.

Slimbridge made it five on 80 minutes as Raiyan Ahmed saw his effort from distance deflect into the net via the aid of the woodwork.

And Blacker completed the scoring on 86 minutes when he tapped home from close range from Ryan Ponting's header back across goal.

That came after Spa had

moved top of the table with a 2-1 victory against Longlevens AFC last weekend despite a red card for goalkeeper Hill.

Goals from James Lemon and Reiss Taylor-Randle put Spa in command at the break at the King George Playing Fields.

However, Bradley Martin halved the deficit for the visitors before Spa's new goalkeeper signing Hill saw red just past the hour mark after he committed a foul in the box.

With no substitute goalkeeper on the bench, Alex Dugmore took the gloves only for Longlevens to miss the resulting penalty as Spa held on.

The Saltmen took the lead on 10 minutes when Lemon guided Dugmore's flick-on into the bottom corner of the net.

And the home side doubled their lead on 24 minutes as Taylor-Randle pounced on a loose ball in the Longlevens penalty area to score his first goal for the club.

However, Longlevens reduced the deficit on 62 minutes when substitute Martin headed in following some pinball in the Droitwich box.

And Spa stopper Hill then received a straight red card moments later for a foul on Shiyak Sutherland in the penalty area after the latter took the ball around the Droitwich goalkeeper.

However, Cam Williams put the resulting penalty wide of the target as stand-in stopper Dugmore watched the ball travel past the post.

Droitwich are next in action against Highworth Town on Saturday, August 23 with kick-off at 3pm at The Elms.

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