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## Taking up the challenge despite cancer diagnosis

by **Sonny Rackham**  
[sonny.rackham@bullivantmedia.com](mailto:sonny.rackham@bullivantmedia.com)

A DROITWICH man is set to take on a national cycling challenge for a cancer charity after he and his friend both received diagnoses in recent years.

Richard Guest, aged 47, was diagnosed with Stage 4 Non-Hodkin Lymphoma in 2022 and will ride in Olympic legend Sir Chris Hoy's Tour de 4 on Sunday, September 7.

Sir Chris Hoy's Tour de 4 was created after his own Stage 4 diagnosis as a hopeful reminder that the disease, 'while devastating, doesn't define the limits of what's possible'.

Richard, an aerospace engineer and father-of-two who has been in remission since December 2023, is taking on the challenge in support of his friend Tony who has now also been diagnosed with Stage 4 cancer.

As an avid cyclist, Richard was riding his bike even while undergoing treatment with his wife Lisa suggesting he 'possibly over did it' from time to time.

Richard said: "Being diagnosed



with cancer was a moment that changed absolutely everything. In the face of fear and uncertainty, I turned to one thing that gave me strength, clarity, and purpose - cycling.

"Even on the hardest days, get-

ting on my bike helped me stay grounded, focused, and hopeful. It reminded me that while I couldn't control everything, I could still fight, with every pedal stroke, every mile.

"As one of my dear friends is

**Droitwich's 47-year-old Richard Guest during his preparations for Sir Chris Hoy's Tour De 4. s**

now about to take on the next stage of his own battle, I want him - and all those fighting now - to know they're not, and never will be alone."

Varying in distance and difficulty, the Tour de 4 has four categories, catering to all levels of fitness, cycling proficiency, and health.

The options range from the yellow ride, a 20-minute static bike ride for those undergoing treatment, to the most advanced red ride for 'more seasoned' cyclists.

Richard will complete the red route, a 56-mile ride featuring 3,830 ft of elevation on roads around Glasgow. The event aims to fundraise and change perceptions for those living with cancer.

The aerospace engineer's family and friends, including his son's who enjoy cycling themselves, will be supporting him on sidelines.

Richard is fundraising for Bowel Cancer UK and has raised almost £2,000 already.

Visit [gofundme.com/f/my-tour-de-4-fundraiser-to-fight-cancer-tjh5z](https://gofundme.com/f/my-tour-de-4-fundraiser-to-fight-cancer-tjh5z) to donate.

### Man is charged

A MAN has been charged with several offences after an incident in Cutnall Green in which a woman was hit by a car.

The incident happened at 1.10am on Sunday in Elmley Close.

Police were called and, following the collision, Christopher Finch, 35, of Bromley Lane in Kingswinford has been charged with grievous bodily harm with intent, driving whilst disqualified and use of a motor vehicle on a public road with no third-party insurance.

He has been remanded and appeared at Kidderminster Magistrates' Court on Tuesday.

A man and a woman, both aged 35, were arrested on Monday. The woman has been released on police bail.

Police said enquiries were ongoing.

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**Laura Gregory from Worcestershire Acute Hospitals Charity with Rosemary Dickson from the League of Friends and Ward Matron Jen Wood celebrate the makeover. s**

THE CHILDREN'S A&E waiting room at Alexandra Hospital in Redditch has recently been given a transformation thanks to the League of Friends of Alexandra Hospital and Worcestershire Acute Hospitals Charity providing collaborative funding.

The two charities joined together to ensure the environment was as warm, welcoming and interactive as possible for the hospital's youngest patients.

The project saw artwork, furniture and wall games installed throughout the waiting room, bringing colour and comfort to the dedicated children's space.

Waiting in A&E can be a stressful and emotional time for young patients, their loved ones and carers and having a more comfortable space to wait and rest can make a real difference to patient experience.

The League of Friends of the Alexandra Hospital exist to support the Alex in relieving and helping patients both past and present, along with supporting NHS staff and services to carry out their work at the hospital.

# High praise for Alex

CLINICAL quality and safety for patients having planned surgery at the Alexandra Hospital in Redditch have been recognised nationally, with the hospital awarded accredited elective surgical hub status.

The accreditation is the third for Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust, which manages the Alexandra, Kidderminster and Worcestershire Royal Hospitals, following successful separate accreditations for children's and adult surgical services at Kidderminster in 2024.

The latest accreditation follows several months of hard work, compiling a portfolio of evidence and hosting a visit by a team of external expert reviewers who met trust staff and patients who had been cared for at the Alexandra.

Stacey Waldron, divisional director of Nursing for Surgery at Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust, said: "I am delighted the Alexandra has received this accreditation, which is a testament to the incredible collaborative efforts of our teams and truly highlights how we work together to ensure the best outcomes and experiences for our patients."

"This milestone reflects the dedication and hard work of many



colleagues and a special thanks goes out to everyone who played a role in preparing the evidence and hosting the visits.

"Their commitment and diligence have not gone unnoticed and it is heartwarming to see that all their efforts have paid off."

"This accomplishment is something we should all be proud of, as it underscores our commitment to excellence in patient care."

Hubs bring together the skills and expertise of dedicated staff under one roof, with protected facilities and theatres, helping to deliver shorter waits for surgery.

Because they are separated

from emergency services, surgical beds can be kept free for patients waiting for planned operations, reducing the risk of short-notice cancellations.

The accreditation team praised the welcoming, friendly team at the Alexandra for providing high quality care delivered in an efficient way, with an excellent approach to quality improvement.

The hub accreditation scheme, run by NHS England's Getting It Right First Time (GIRFT) programme in collaboration with the Royal College of Surgeons of England, assesses hubs against a

framework of standards to help deliver faster access to some of the most common surgical procedures.

At the Alexandra, these range from orthopaedic operations such as hip or knee replacements to gynaecological and urological procedures - many of which are carried out with the trust's surgical robot.

The scheme also seeks to assure patients about the high standards of clinical care and looks at evidence in key areas including: The patient pathway, staff and training, clinical governance and outcomes, facilities and ring-fencing, utilisation and productivity

Prof Tim Briggs, chair of GIRFT and NHS England's National Director for Clinical Improvement and Elective Recovery, said: "We have been impressed with the professionalism and enthusiasm of the hub teams who are delivering outstanding care."

"All of the sites we accredited are focused on delivering safe and high-quality care, and an excellent patient experience."

"GIRFT's focus is on developing surgical hubs with the aim of improving patient flow so that patients have shorter waits for surgery and, for some procedures, will be more likely to be able to go home on the same day."



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## Have your Say on the Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Worcestershire County Council invites all residents, organisations and communities to help shape the new Local Nature Recovery Strategy. Share your views during the consultation period, open until **Friday 26 September 2025.**

View the strategy and complete the questionnaire at [worcestershire.gov.uk/lnrs](http://worcestershire.gov.uk/lnrs)

You can email us at [lnrs@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:lnrs@worcestershire.gov.uk)

Or alternatively, send your views by post: **Environmental Policy Team, Worcestershire County Council, Wildwood Drive, Worcester, WR5 2LG**



 **worcestershire county council**

# PUBLIC NOTICES



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See page **30**



# Jacob steps out to say thank-you to hospital



A KIND-HEARTED Bromsgrove boy has raised more than £1,000 for the Birmingham Children's Hospital (BCH) Charity to say thank you for the care and treatment the hospital provided for his little sister Bee.

Jacob Lees, who is five years old, wanted to do something to help raise funds and decided to undertake the '31 Miles in August' challenge.

He has made sure he did at least a mile a day throughout last month to clock up 31 miles in a variety of ways, including walking, running, cycling and scooting.

Bee, whose full name is Phoebe, has spent a good part of her first year under the care of multiple departments at BCH and will be continuing to do so for the

foreseeable future.

The family said on his fundraising page: "Jacob absolutely adores his little sister and he is her number one fan."

"Sports is not his usual choice of activity so he has really pushed himself."

He originally wanted to raise £100 but has now managed six times that.

On the final day of his challenge, he walked from

Wychbold to Droitwich – a distance of 3.1 miles – dressed as a dinosaur.

As he did, he received support from drivers who beeped their horns as they passed by.

Jacob, Bee and their parents want to say a massive thank you to everyone who has donated to the page.

The charity uses its vital funds to make a real difference to all those which

use the hospital, making it feel just like home for its patients and finding new ways to treat and cure childhood diseases.

Visit this story on our website and click through to donate.

**Jacob has raised more than £1,000 for the Birmingham Children's Hospital Charity by taking on the 31 Miles in August challenge. s**

# Change will help art organisation

**MEMBERS of Droitwich Arts Network (DAN) have voted overwhelmingly in favour of forming a Community Interest Company (CIC).**

At an extraordinary meeting on Tuesday, members agreed the formal incorporation of the network would create positives for its ability to operate.

Rhys Jones, DAN chairman, stated the change would enable the network to apply to sources of grant funding, own assets and sign formal agreements – all arrangements only available to incorporated organisations. By becoming a CIC, the new structure would also protect committee members and volunteers from personal liability, which they currently faced in the event of legal action.

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

CICs are specifically designed for social enterprises, requiring them to have a clear community benefit purpose and an 'asset lock' ensuring profits are used for that purpose.

Legal forms and documents will now be prepared and submitted to Companies House and the CIC Regulator to form the new company.

It is hoped, once approved and with a new bank account, Droitwich Arts Network CIC will be operational from January 1, 2026.

The organisation currently exists as an unincorporated association, meaning it cannot own property, employ staff or sign contracts for example.

The problems with the

nature of the organisation's structure has been highlighted by recent negotiations involving its premises at St Andrew's Square.

Its former base of operations, The Hub in St Andrews Square shopping centre, was under offer with a new tenant in recent months so the arts network had to vacate its home in early August.

Commenting on the recent closure of The Hub, Mr Jones emphasised the network would continue to hold events and meetings for the members and visitors.

Arrangements have already been agreed to hold events in Droitwich Library.

He added he was 'hopeful' a new hub would open in St Andrews Square before too long.

Search 'Droitwich Arts Network' online for more information.

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# Time to launch the KARENDAR

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

**A NEW quirky 2026 calendar to celebrate the 'Karens of Redditch' was launched at the Black Tap pub last Friday.**

The 'KARENDAR' toasts both women called 'Karen' and those who have 'Karen traits'. 'A Karen', according to dictionary.com, refers to a 'middle-aged woman who are perceived as obnoxious, angry, and entitled, particularly in situations involving public interactions'.

The concept for the calendar – the latest in the series by the borough's 'dullest man' Kevin Beresford who found fame with 'Roundabouts of Redditch' – came about during a conversation with his friend Sarah Campbell.

He told the Standard: "She told me she had a delivery go wrong but didn't feel like she could complain as she didn't want to be seen 'as a Karen'.

"We talked further and decided to start the Karen Appreciation and Support Society (KASS) to show our solidarity with the Karens of this world - whether they are called 'Karen', have a different name but live up to the stereotype or both.

"Karen used to be in Britain's top 10 most popular girls' names but who is going to call their daughter 'Karen' now with the connotations it has?

"It's a double-sided coin - I know a lot of sweet-natured Karens so it must be especially hard for them



Kevin Beresford sees the softer side of Susan 'Karen' Rooms during the KARENDAR launch at the Black Tap pub. Picture by Marcus Mings 3625002MMR

and, alternatively, there will be people with a Karen nature of called 'Karen' - we want to help them all, whichever side they are on."

Kevin said Karen traits were not always negative and the assertiveness could be beneficial - he gave Susan Rooms, the Black Tap landlady, as an example.

A self-confessed 'Karen', she features on the KARENDAR's December page.

"Being assertive and knowing what you want can be good when dealing with difficult customers."

Susan (aka 'Karen Rooms') said: "I am definitely a Karen every now

and again. My biggest gripe is people's eating habits. I went out with one man and actually ended up ending the relationship because of it.

"If people are eating in a way I don't like in a restaurant, I either let them know or turn away to face the other direction."

Kev's antics seem to disable her Karen attitude.

She added: "I love the KARENDAR Kev has come up with and love what he is doing for the town. It's a pleasure to host these launch events and help him put Redditch on the map again."

The KARENDAR is a 50/50 split

with six women featured called 'Karen' and the other six being 'honorary Karens' because of their personalities.

The Karen concept started in America and, although arriving in the UK, Kevin said it was not in most Brits' nature to complain.

"We have always been very reserved and not liking to complain but I think that is all changing now and people are getting better at it."

By joining KASS – open to anyone called 'Karen' or acting like one – women will get a personalised Karen coaster, certificate and a copy of the 2026 KARENDAR.

Kevin added: "The Oxford English Dictionary even lists the collective noun as 'A complaint of Karens' and, following on from that, want to hold an annual 'Karen Day'."

Apart from Kevin hailing from Redditch and having put the town on the map previously with his creations, he feels the Redditch Karens are the most formidable.

"I personally think the Karens of Redditch can out-Karen any others in the UK - maybe even the World. They could be the ones to take on the American Karens.

"A Redditch Karen is the loudest and the first to demand to speak to the manager – they have to be first in the queue, have that vacant parking space, even when claimed, and always demand the best sun lounger in Benidorm whilst tipping the occupant out of it."

As the KARENDAR and KASS was officially launched, Kevin feels that August 29 should be known from now on as 'Karen Day'.

"It's the end of a long summer and many Karens will be mums and, after entertaining their children throughout the school holidays, they will not be able to wait for the new term to start. They must be at the end of their tether by now."

He now wants as many Karens as possible – from Redditch and further afield to get in touch and join KASS.

"We did want loads of Karens to come down to the launch today but then I thought: 'Is that a good idea? They would only have moaned about it', he explained.

Visit dullkev.com for more on the KARENDAR and joining KASS.

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21st September	Being Prepared for Jesus' Return.
12th October	It's About Time.
19th October	Today's Headlines – Straight from Scripture.
26th October	Learning from the Angels at Work.

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For further information, please visit: [www.studleychristadelphians.org](http://www.studleychristadelphians.org)



LEFT: Protestors with their placards at the Bromsgrove Council House. s

RIGHT: Gary Martin, from Belbroughton, with Philip and Sue Ganner, from Rock Hill, and Mia the dog. Pictures by Tristan Harris. © Bullivant Media Group Ltd.



# Hundreds march in protest over proposals to build on green belt

**ALMOST 300 people staged a peaceful march through Bromsgrove to protest against building housing on the green belt.**

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

The march, organised by Bromsgrove Voices, took place last Thursday and aimed at raising widespread concerns relating to the Bromsgrove District Local Plan Draft Development Strategy.

Flags were waved emblazoned with the message 'Save Our Green Belt' and other protestors wore 'Save our Town' T-shirts. There were also placards saying 'Protect Our Future', 'Protect our green belt' and 'No to 9,000 homes on our green belt'.

Protestors highlighted a lack of infrastructure, increased traffic and the absence of alternative growth options presented to the public within the plan.

After meeting in Sanders Park, the group snaked their way along Kidderminster Road, St John Street, and the Birmingham Road

before arriving at the Council House on Stourbridge Road. There, the latest consultation event for the development strategy was being held.

"People went in to have their say on the proposal sites and there was plenty of debate inside and outside about the issues.

Philip Ganner from Rock Hill told the Standard: "It's simple. They are going to add extra homes with no extra facilities – no extra GP surgeries, no extra schools, no extra police or fire provision.

"The roads are already a nightmare. It can take an hour to get from one end of the town to the other sometimes because of the congestion.

"They've just got no consideration for those of us who are already living here – they've decimated the High Street.

"We moved here 30 years ago into homes which were built on brownfield sites but now they

want to destroy the green belt for housing. It's ridiculous."

Donna Westwood, who organised the march with Bromsgrove Voices, said the turn-out was 'fabulous'.

"It goes to show how many people are unhappy with these plans," she added.

"The amount of drivers beeping in support was encouraging as well – it's indicative of the plan and the consultation.

"What the council needs to do is go back to the drawing board."

Ms Westwood said brownfield sites – on the former fire station and council offices and near Asda – had not even been mentioned as options to take some of the housing.

And she criticised the council for being 'too compliant' and not pushing back on the government's proposals to build more homes.

"No-one has asked why Bromsgrove is being asked to take 85 per cent extra in the number of homes needed and Birmingham should take 20 per cent less than

its original allocation," she added. "Our MP (Bradley Thomas) stood up in Parliament to contest it and the Labour Government just said in response it was proud it would be able to deliver 1.4million extra homes.

"We accept we need housing but not on green belt land. There needs to be an England-wide assessment of brownfield sites so they can take as much of the properties as possible.

"If this is a locally-led plan, then the council needs to lead the way – don't hand 9,000 homes to the government on a plate and make it easy. The district needs to push back."

Following the march, Bromsgrove District Council urged people to have their say on the planning process before the September 22 deadline.

The council's portfolio holder for planning, Coun Kit Taylor, said: "When someone says 'save our green belt' we can show the actual approach to that.

"When it's about infrastructure, we can go through that. When it's

why do you want to build there, we can say 'hang on, we don't, the landowners do', and our job is to consider the implications of all those proposals to make a plan that's led by the needs of the whole community we represent.

"Events like this help more people engage with those real issues and hopefully encourage more to respond to the consultation."

Under the proposals, 21 potential housing sites have been identified from 400 developer-suggested locations, based on sustainability and infrastructure.

Of the proposed sites, 1,300 properties would be built in Bromsgrove and 3,000 homes would be earmarked for a single large site in Frankley, adjoining Birmingham.

The rest would be spread across Bart Green, Catshill, Wythall, Alvechurch, Hagley, and Stoke Prior, with each allocated 340 to 600 homes.

Visit the website at [www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/BromsgrovePlan](http://www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/BromsgrovePlan) to view the proposals and comment on them.

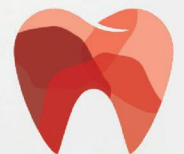
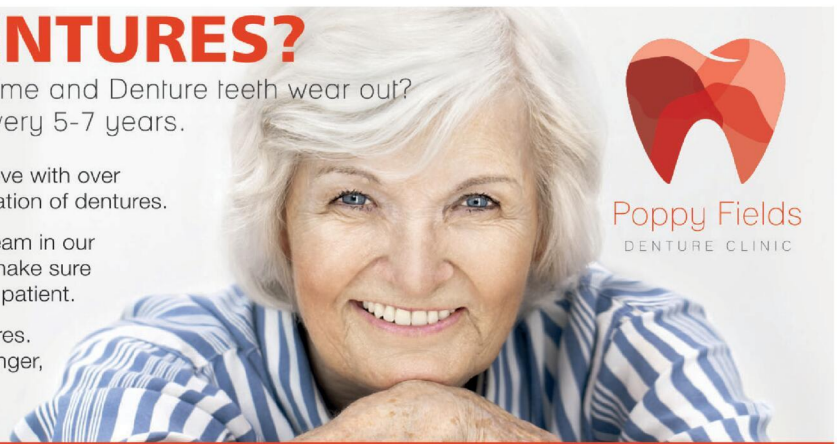
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LEFT: The Abbey Stadium in Redditch will also host sessions during the nine weeks.



RIGHT: Some of the Bromsgrove Couch to 5k sessions will take place on the Ryland Centre running track. Picture by Marcus Mingins 3625003MMR2

# Improvements in the long run

NEW Couch to 5k courses have got under way across Bromsgrove and Redditch.

The nine-week courses are designed for absolute beginners and offer an easy way to get fitter and healthier for anyone, whether they have never run before or

want to get back into being more active.

Anyone that wants to ditch the couch and start running are welcome at any session, you don't need to book, and sessions are completely free.

This programme is for new runners from the ages of 12 upwards, please note children will need to have a guardian running with them at all times.

The weekly sessions are led by Run Leaders who hold official qualifications from England Athletics and provide a course which is fully endorsed by the NHS. Participants are advised to attend three sessions a week on whichever days are ideal.

### Bromsgrove

There will be sessions on Mondays at 6pm at The Ryland Centre Track, followed by Wednesdays at 10am at Sanders Park

Bandstand and on Thursday at 9.30am at Catshill Meadow.

### Redditch

Sessions take place at 7.30pm on Mondays and Wednesdays at The Abbey Stadium track. There are also weekly sessions at 9.30am on Fridays. Meet by the play park.

Bromsgrove District Council's Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Coun Bernard McEldowney, said: "Couch to 5k always proves popular, and we are very honoured to have been a part of so many of our residents' journeys towards leading a healthier lifestyle.

"To be able to continue to host these sessions for free is a major asset for the people of our town."

Redditch Borough Council's Portfolio

Holder for Leisure and Recreation, Coun Juliet Barker Smith, said: "It's never too late to have a go at something new and I'm finding, especially in later life, keeping fit and staying flexible is absolutely essential.

"Giving residents across the borough the opportunity to get active, pick up a new hobby, and become part of a community is fantastic. We are continually grateful to all the run leaders who volunteer to facilitate these sessions which consistently prove popular."

Many graduates from local Couch to 5k groups go on to join local running groups including Parkrun.

Over the last few years, the councils have helped to develop many Run Leaders who are now part of the scheme.

Call the council's Sports Development team on 01527 881404 or email: [sd@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk](mailto:sd@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk) for more.

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# Golden girl Lauren retires as 'true icon'

**BROMSGROVE'S Lauren Rowles, the most successful Paralympic rower of all time, has announced her retirement from the sport.**

The 27-year-old won three Paralympic gold medals after triumphing at Rio 2016, Tokyo 2020 and Paris 2024.

She is the only athlete in the world to win three Paralympic gold medals in rowing.

Unbeaten since 2019, Ms Rowles is also a two-time World champion and three-time European champion.

She said: "After more than a decade representing Great Britain, it's time for me to hang up my rowing blades and move away from the

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

water. From my first strokes in a boat, rowing has changed my life in countless ways.

"It's given me a decade of unforgettable memories, lifelong friendships, and the honour of wearing the GB vest.

"Becoming the most successful para rower in the sport's history was something I could never have dreamed of when I first sat in a boat.

"It's a testament to the incredible teammates, coaches, and support staff who have been there throughout all the highs and lows to make the magic moments happen.

"While this chapter in my life closes, my passion for the sport and pride in what we've achieved together will forever remain.

"I can't wait to join you to cheer on the next generation to come."

Ms Rowles transitioned from athletics to rowing in 2015 and went on to enjoy unprecedented success in the sport. Alongside her medals, she also set numerous world records in the PR2 mixed double sculls discipline.

Ms Rowles received an MBE in 2017 and an OBE in 2025 for services to rowing.

Paralympic GB Rowing head coach, Nicola Benavente, added: "Lauren's journey in the world of Paralympic rowing has been nothing



Lauren Rowles (right) and Gregg Stevenson (left) after winning gold at the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games. Picture courtesy of Benedict Tufnell/British Rowing.

short of extraordinary. Her dedication, resilience and unparalleled talent have set a new standard for the sport. Her achievements include numerous gold medals and record-breaking performances, solidifying

her legacy as a true icon. Lauren has been an incredible ambassador for Paralympic sport, inspiring countless individuals with her unwavering spirit and commitment to excellence."



A young lad enjoys the inflatables on the family fun day. Photo by Platform Housing Group. s

## Fairground rides and ice pops are family favourites

WESTLANDS in Droitwich was awash with community spirit when hundreds of residents joined the estate's family fun day.

The fun-filled day has been an annual highlight for the estate for more than a decade and is jointly funded by Platform Housing Group and Wychavon District Council.

Organised by The Moving Forward Project, families enjoyed a sunny afternoon of free activities including face painting,

inflatables, fairground rides and ice pops.

Families also had the chance to meet with a wide range of local organisations, including the police, fire service and army, all on hand to engage with the community. More than 440 people attended.

Patrick Connelly, a communities officer at Wychavon District Council, said: "It was a well-organised event and we commend our partners Moving Forward for

their relentless efforts to make the fun day the success it is every year. We would also like to extend our thanks to Platform for match funding the day with us and the wider partners that had stalls at the event."

The Moving Forward Project works closely with Platform throughout the year, delivering schemes such as weekly drop in sessions, IT support and seasonal events, with Halloween and Christmas already in the

planning stages. Nikki Beeston, Moving Forward's project manager, said: "We would like to extend our thanks to all the agencies who came along to support the event.

"It was wonderful to see so many people engaging, taking part and enjoying the activities.

"Events like this are such a valuable way of bringing families and the wider community together, creating opportunities for connection and support."



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LEFT: The mayor with hospital staff and volunteers from the Redditch 41 Club, the hospital friends group and other organisations. MIDDLE: The work took place over three weeks. RIGHT: Volunteers travelled from afar afield as Melton Mowbray. s

# It's all looking good in the garden



Coun Joanna Kane, Mayor of Redditch with local volunteers and hospital staff at the official launch. s

MORE than 30 volunteers have given two gardens at the Alexandra Hospital a major transformation, creating a welcoming space for patients, visitors and staff.

The gardens were officially opened on August 30 by the Mayor of Redditch, Coun Joanna Kane, along with hospital staff and the volunteers from the Redditch 41 Club, which is part of the Redditch Round Table family and led the project.

Those involved turned an overgrown courtyard near the Same Day Emergency Care unit into a bright and accessible garden with new seating, decorative features, fresh gravel, bark and planting as well as refurbishing the League of Friends coffee shop garden.

What started as a plan to tidy up the League of Friends coffee shop garden quickly grew into a full-scale refurbishment effort.

The League of Friends coordinated the transformation with hospital staff and supported volunteers throughout the project, providing refreshments during the gardens' transformation.

The work was carried out over three weeks and included support from local businesses and volunteers from as far away as Melton Mowbray.

The Redditch 41 Club designed and installed the garden centrepieces and fitted benches to make the space more accessible.

Peter Dance, Chair of Redditch 41 Club, said: "I am incredibly proud of the work the Redditch 41 Club has accomplished.

"It may have started as a small idea, but the entire team came together to make it a reality.

"I'm truly proud of this achievement. The Redditch Round Table raises money

for Redditch people and without their help this wouldn't have happened.

"The transformation was a genuine community effort.

"The Redditch 41 Club would like to extend a huge thank you to several other Redditch organisations, including Redditch Round Table, Ladies Circle, Never mind, Tangent, Morris Mica, Davis's Aggregates, Dormer plant hire, and Robinsons tree surgery for their contributions."

Coun Kane praised the 41 Club for its dedication and generosity.

She said: "This new garden is a wonderful example of community spirit.

"It will provide a much-needed green space for reflection and relaxation at the hospital.

"I want to thank the 41 Club for their hard work and commitment to making Redditch a better place."

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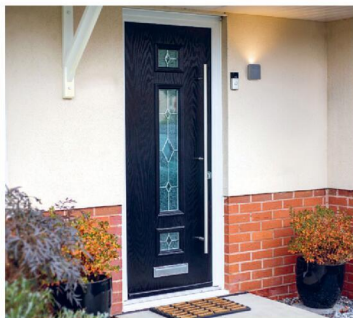
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# Choir will be in tune to mark anniversary

**THE BEL Canto Singers, a four-part harmony choir from Redditch, will celebrate its 35th anniversary with a special concert at Routh Hall in Bromsgrove School.**

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

The group is marking its marvelous milestone under the guidance of a new musical director, Ollie Neale, who is also the choir master and organist at All Saints Church in Bromsgrove.

The Bel Canto Singers are very much enjoying working with him and recently performed their Summer Concert at St Nicholas' Church in Alcester to a full congregation, receiving excellent feedback.

The concert showcased a selection of pieces from Bel Canto's varied repertoire. Videos of the choir performing the Summer Concert

are available on the Bel Canto Facebook page and people can hear all the pieces on the group's website.

The 35th anniversary concert, an evening of celebratory music, will again show the Bel Canto Singers' full range of musical genre when it is performed at 7.30pm on September 27.

The concert is free to attend - people just need to book the free places in advance so the group is aware of the numbers attending and so they can be entered into the 'ticket number raffle'.

There will be other raffle tickets available on the night where people can have a chance to win one of the group's amazing hampers.

Tickets can be obtained from any choir member, by contacting Bel Canto via [websitebelcantosingers.org.uk](http://websitebelcantosingers.org.uk) or by calling 07985 238334.

Each year the choir nominates a chosen charity to support which it feels is very important and in 2024/25 it was Redditch Find Your Voice, Parkinsons UK.

The organisation is an activity group which helps Parkinsons sufferers to improve their vocal skills in a relaxed and friendly environment.

The choir was able to present the charity with a cheque for £650.

This year, the Bel Canto Singers will be supporting Where Next which is a Redditch-based charity providing work experience for people with learning disabilities.

The singers said: "We have said this many times, but it is worth



The Bel Canto Singers will perform their 35th anniversary concert on September 27. s

repeating, that singing increases our sense of wellbeing and The Bel Canto Singers are guaranteed to do that.

"We love to welcome new members. Although an ability to read music is helpful it is by no means essential."

Visit [belcantosingers.org.uk](http://belcantosingers.org.uk) for more information on the Bel Canto Singers, to listen to their repertoire, browse the gallery and to find out times and prices of future concerts.

People can also contact the choir by calling 07985 238334.

## Thrill-seekers urged to take leap of faith in skydive hospice fundraiser

THE PRIMROSE Hospice is calling on budding thrill-seekers or those looking for a unique experience to take on a charity skydive to support its work.

The charity has a close working relationship with Skydive Tilstock and can help support those wanting to take the leap get themselves organised.

For a £50 deposit and the

commitment to raise £350 for Primrose Hospice, those interested can make the tandem skydive jump.

Skydive Tilstock is located at Tilstock Airfield in Whitchurch in Shropshire.

There are strict height, weight, age and medical restrictions for skydiving which participants must check before booking at sky-

divetilstock.co.uk - the Skydive Tilstock website. The maximum weight is 15st fully clothed, with further weight restrictions depending on height.

Participants must sign a medical declaration and may potentially need sign-off from their doctor before jumping.

The minimum age for parachuting is 16. Anyone under 18 must

have the written consent of a parent or guardian. There is no maximum age for tandem skydiving. However, anyone over 70 will require form 115b signed by a GP and need an assessment carried out by the parachute chief instructor.

Due to weather conditions, skydives are subject to last-minute cancellations and delays when the weather is not suitable or safe for

jumping. People may also have to wait for most of the day if they have an early check-in time, due to weather conditions.

Email the Primrose Hospice fundraising team at [fundraising@primrosehospice.org](mailto:fundraising@primrosehospice.org) or call 01527 889796 for more. Alternatively, go to [primrosehospice.org/events/parachute-for-primrose-2/](http://primrosehospice.org/events/parachute-for-primrose-2/) for further details.



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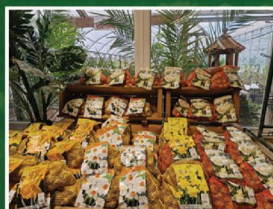
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# Inspired by his much-loved dog to take on a charity challenge

A MAN from Solihull is gearing up for his next fundraising challenge, all in memory of his beloved dog Alma and to raise cash for Wythall Animal Sanctuary.

Nigel Patterson, who lives in Monkspath, is driving through Europe alongside his friend John Arthur in two old Peugeots.

When Alma died, Nigel went to the sanctuary to donate her bedding and food.

He got chatting to the staff and asked how the sanctuary operated. He said he was shocked to find out it survived only on donations.

To channel his grief, he decided to redo the fundraising challenge he did for a children cancer ward in



**Fundraiser Nigel Patterson with Springfield Pet Cremations Martin Thompson, Lisa Taylor and Jacqui Mircetic. Picture by Marcus Mingins 3625004MMR**

used quiet area for the dogs which are more sensitive and get easily overwhelmed and stressed with the comings and goings of daily life

Nigel added: "By creating these quiet spaces we can give the sensitive souls of the sanctuary a relaxing haven for them to enjoy the peaceful life they so deserve.

"We want to help so other animals don't have to suffer like she did, give the residents tranquility and help to find the rescue animals good and loving homes."

The Regency Hotel in Solihull has donated £400 to get the fund started and so far it sits at £1,650.

Nigel and John set off on September 10 and are driving through France, Germany, Holland and Belgium in the next two weeks.

At the end of the drive, Nigel, alongside his wife, will be scattering Alma's ashes in a place special to the family in Germany.

Nigel said: "There is no grief like losing a pet. She was such a special girl, and I am glad we can do this for her and her memory can live on."

Visit: [justgiving.com/crowdfunding/almas-trust](http://justgiving.com/crowdfunding/almas-trust) to donate to Nigel's page.



Scan the QR code to donate to Alma's Trust.

Birmingham in 2010.

He said: "Our beloved dog Alma was nearly two years old when we rescued her and she had such a bad start in life, but we had 13 fantastic years together and she travelled all over Europe with us.

"She filled three doggy passports

and they were just the happiest of times.

"We loved her very much and she us."

Wythall Animal Sanctuary is a non destruct Sanctuary and has been helping rescue and rehabilitate animals since 1968.

It helps animals which need it most by giving them a second chance at a forever home or - where this is not possible due to behavioural or medical reasons - the Sanctuary becomes their forever home.

Nigel is hoping to raise \$5,000 so the sanctuary can create a special-



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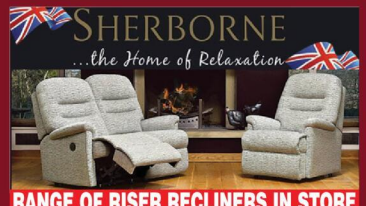


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Matthew Hartland becomes the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital's new chief executive. s

THE ROYAL Orthopaedic Hospital (ROH) NHS Foundation Trust has appointed a new chief executive.

The trust confirmed its appointment of Matthew Hartland following a competitive recruitment process. Mr Hartland has been working with the Trust on secondment and will formally take up the role in early October, subject to standard pre-employment checks.

During his time with ROH, he has led the development of a new trust strategy, supported leadership changes and overseen improvements in performance and delivery of targets.

Simon Page, chair of trustees at the hospital, praised Hartland's leadership and alignment with the Trust's values. He added: "Matthew's passion for patients, commitment to our people, and strong alignment with our values have been evident from the very beginning."

Commenting on his appointment, Mr Hartland said it was a privilege to be appointed chief executive.

He added: "I am proud of what we have achieved together so far, and I am excited to continue working with colleagues, patients, partners, and our community to build on this progress. Our focus will remain firmly on delivering the very best care for patients, supporting our exceptional staff, and strengthening the Trust for the future."

# New classes will help cope with hearing loss

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

NEW CLASSES in lipreading and managing hearing loss are set to start at Redditch Library.

According to the RNID (Royal National Institute for the Deaf), one in three adults are affected by hearing loss.

Many people with the condition experience negative attitudes, feelings of isolation and frustration.

It can affect not only communication but also confidence, relationships, social and work life.

Emma Ford, who is launching the classes which begin next month, decided to start them as there were no sessions like them in the north Worcestershire area.

The classes will provide a friendly and supportive space to practise lipreading skills and she will share tips and advice on managing hearing loss.

It will also be an opportunity for people to connect with others who understand.

She said lipreading classes offered much more than just learning to 'read lips'.

They provide valuable tools to navigate hearing loss, improve day-to-day communication and help users regain confidence.



"There is currently a shortage of lipreading teachers and classes in the area — which is why I decided to train as a qualified teacher myself.

"After a sudden and severe drop in my own hearing, I found lipreading classes to be extremely useful in rebuilding my confidence.

"Being in a group where everyone shared similar experiences also helped me to feel understood.

"The tips and advice I received enabled me to be more assertive and get better support."

Emma is working with the lipreading charity CELST.

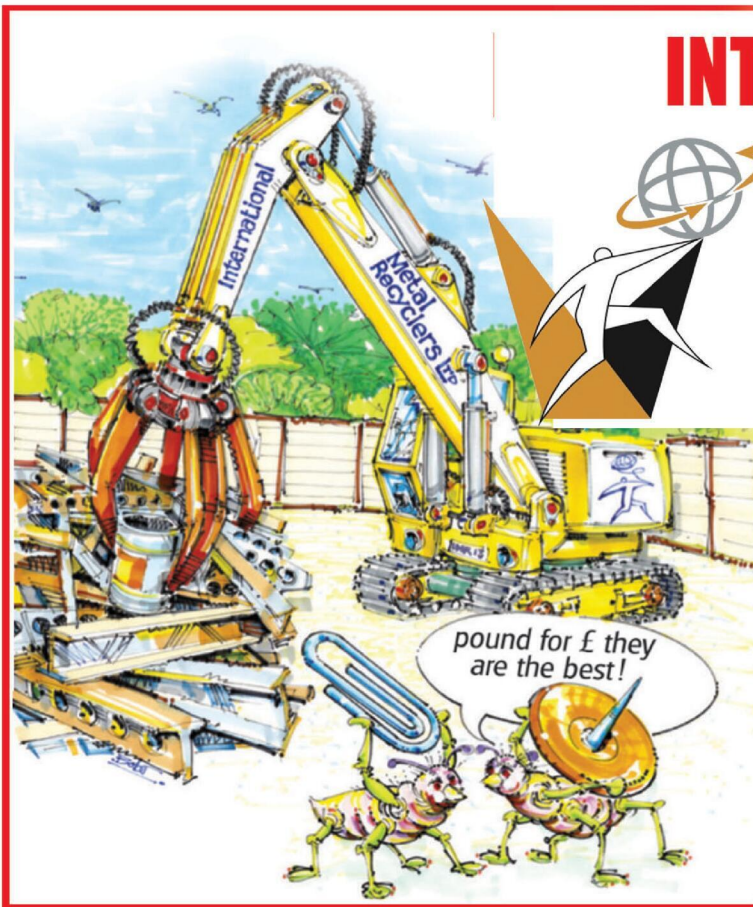
The sessions start at Redditch Library on October 7.

Booking is essential and, while the classes are free, donations to CELST are welcome to help support its vital work.

"Come along, learn new skills, enjoy a cuppa, and meet others who truly get it — because communication matters and so do you."

Email Emma at: lipreadingemma@gmail.com or call CELST (Central England Lipreading Support Trust) on 07799 224361 for more information.

Emma Ford is launching lipreading classes at Redditch Library next month. s



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# 'Two councils better than one' says Bromsgrove

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

**COUNCILLORS in Bromsgrove believe the best future for local Government reorganisation across Worcestershire would be to split the county into two authorities - one for the north and another for the south.**

At a meeting on Wednesday there was a majority vote by Bromsgrove District Council members to support the option of two unitary councils as part of Government instructed plans to transform politics at a local level.

Under Government plans, Worcestershire County Council and the six district, borough, and city councils will be abolished on April 1, 2028.

They will be replaced by either one single council for Worcestershire running all services, or two coun-

cils - one for the north of the county and one for the south - with each authority responsible for all services for its part of the county.

After considering the positives and negatives of each, a north and south split will now be explored further by Bromsgrove District Council officers and brought back before members in November. A final proposal will then be submitted to Government later that month.

Once the Government has approved the model for reorganising councils in Worcestershire, elections will be held in May 2027 for a 'shadow' authority or authorities, which will guide the setting up of the new council structure.

The new unitary authority or authorities will then take over local services in April 2028.

A majority of Bromsgrove residents preferred a split county as part of the county's engagement exercise on the proposals.

Bromsgrove District

Council leader, Coun Karen May, said: "First of all I want to thank our residents, who took the time to take part."

"I am delighted to report this council collectively listened to our residents and decided we needed to take this opportunity to shake things up and make a difference to our residents on the ground.

"While the appraisal report showed there could be bigger savings with a one authority approach we felt a smaller authority would have greater success in terms of outcomes.

"I am confident we have a firm foundation from which to develop our final proposal.

"I want to further reassure residents we will ensure they continue to receive excellent everyday services as Local Government Reorganisation continues and beyond."

Councils across the district have also cast their vote this week.

Visit: [shapeworcestershire.org/](http://shapeworcestershire.org/) for more information.



## Awards ceremony sees The Vasaanti team enjoy sweet taste of success

THE VASAANTI restaurant in Droitwich has been named 'Restaurant of the Year in Worcestershire' in the Master Chef Promotions Business Hospitality and Excellent Award.

Representatives from the Indian eatery attended the prestigious awards ceremony last Wednesday.

The Vasaanti, run by owner Akbar Miah, known as Aki, manager Alamin Miah and their team, has become very popular - not just across Bromsgrove, Droitwich and the rest of Worcestershire but also further afield.

The restaurant prides itself on the experienced staff providing honest good quality cuisine with traditional flavours while waiter Baz looks after the customers.

Aki has served up curries in Worcestershire for the last 20 years and formerly ran a restaurant in Bromsgrove before moving to Droitwich.

The team at the family-run restaurant wants to thank friends, family and customers for their votes.

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

The team at the Vasaanti in Droitwich celebrated being named 'Restaurant of the Year in Worcestershire' at the Master Chef Promotions Business Hospitality and Excellent Awards ceremony. s

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# Four new jobs created for new Bensons store

**A BED AND mattress retailer is opening a new store in Redditch today (Friday, September 5), bringing four new jobs.**

Bensons for Beds will launch at Washford Trade Park and local people have been recruited for the new roles at the outlet.

The branch has been

designed to showcase Bensons' extensive product range, with space dedicated to well-known brands and facilities for customers to test beds and mattresses in-store.

The opening marks part of the retailer's ongoing growth strategy, as it continues to increase market share across its core bedroom categories.

Over the past two years, Bensons has invested in in-store sleep advisor training, expanded its product range, and enhanced its digital capabilities.

Store manager Julia Spencer said: "We are really excited about opening our store in Redditch and expanding the Bensons brand further in Worcestershire."



The new Bensons store will officially open today at Washford Trade Park.

"We're obsessed with sleep, always wanting to offer our customers the very latest and best in sleep tech and we have a fantastic range on display in the new store."

"Whether you're a hot sleeper, a side sleeper, or a curled-up-like-a-kitten sleeper, we have a wide selection of beds and mattresses to suit everyone's individual sleep needs and our team will be dedicated to giving our customers everything they need to wake up on the right side of the bed."

## Lovely summer has left a massive impact on our natural world

SAT IN Sanders Park listening to the brass band playing, I pondered over Bromsgrove Climate Action's (BCA) message to readers this month.

Over the past weeks we have seen it exceptionally dry and we have enjoyed a lovely summer with clear blue skies and sunshine.

The downside to this has been the lack of rainfall, with trees suffering from the very dry conditions and trees planted in the park have needed watering. Thank you to BCA volunteers who did this.

Mature trees are losing leaves,



Eco Action



Column written by Bromsgrove Climate Action

and branches are becoming fragile through lack of water.

It has also caused problems for farmers, not only for their livestock but the crops they have planted and expect to harvest.

Pea crops have seen a drastic reduction to their yield. That's just one example as root crops

such as potato, swedes, carrots and turnips will also have been affected by the dry weather but are not harvested for quite a few weeks yet.

This will mostly likely mean an increase in price to the consumer.

In the last few months we have also seen the proposed number of homes that the council plans to build over the next 15 or so years.

The habitats of our native animals – badgers, roe deer, foxes and hedges – are being destroyed in this house-building process, together with the

hedgerows and trees which are the habitats of birds, mammals and numerous insects.

Developers need to be planting new trees across estates to mitigate some of the loss.

On a brighter note, BCA have had a busy few weeks with a stall in the High Street last month and stalls at BDHT Fun Days in Catshill and Charford.

Edwina, from our group, said it was lovely to talk to lots of new people and also to engage with the children who were in the most part quite knowledgeable about climate change and the things they could do to help.

The brook in Sanders Park is really clear and free of litter – this wasn't our doing.

Our next monthly meeting is at 6.15pm on September 11 at Millfields Social Club and we would love more people to get involved then.

We also welcome feedback on what we are doing and want to know if people want another big public meeting like the one which launched our group six years ago.

Feel free to contact us via email at bromsgroveclimateaction@gmail.com or through our Facebook page.



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Stuart Pearce took on a number of voluntary roles during Sporting Club Inkberrow's recent fixture against Bishops Cleeve. Picture courtesy of Beat Media Group.



# England legend drops in to praise volunteers

SPORTING Club Inkberrow welcomed England football legend Stuart Pearce to its Sands Road ground to celebrate the club's volunteers.

Pearce visited the club for a game against Bishops Cleeve last month as Inkberrow lost 2-0 in the Southern League Division One South clash.

The 63-year-old tried out a variety of different voluntary roles throughout the day from serving burgers to pulling pints, and collecting ticket money to announcing the team prior to kick-off.

Stuart said: "You've only got to go to any non-league club in the country and straightaway, they'll tell you the importance of volunteers."

"These clubs don't function without volunteers."

"I'm rolling the clock back to when I was a 16-year-old and I walked into my local

club, Wealdstone, who were in the Southern League, it was exactly the same then and it's not changed at all.

"The more people we can get volunteering, it gets people building a community spirit as well."

"We hear stories about pubs shutting down and that type of thing, but people can come down here, have an active lifestyle, take part in teams or help out, and really be part of something."

"All these people volunteering [at Inkberrow], you can sense the feelgood-factor, and the community feel, that's something you don't really get in the pro game."

"It's about making people feel involved."

"Volunteers are the people who put the games on, and we should be grateful to them for what they do."

Visit: [pitchinginvolunteers.co.uk](http://pitchinginvolunteers.co.uk) for more on volunteering opportunities in the local area.

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# County set for £2.5m transport injection



David and Hannah from Worcestershire Libraries have been among those promoting the Summer Reading Challenge. s

## Last chapter for scheme as deadline approaches

THE Summer Reading Challenge ends next week and the council is reminding children across Worcestershire to have one final push at getting it completed.

Finishers will be celebrated at Worcestershire's libraries with an awards ceremony, where they will proudly take home a shiny medal and certificate.

The scheme challenged children to read six books over the school

summer holidays by signing up at their local libraries.

Participants then share which books they have read and join Worcestershire's amazing group of finishers.

The deadline for completed schemes is next Saturday, September 13.

Visit [www.worcestershire.gov.uk/summerreadingchallenge](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/summerreadingchallenge) for more information.

WORCESTERSHIRE is to get £2.461million over the next three years to help deliver faster, more reliable travel for residents living in the county.

It will receive \$506,000 from 2026 to 2027, \$978,000 in 2027 to 2028 and \$977,000 in 2028 to 2029 - part of \$2.4billion investment by the Government.

The cash will support local transport connections, drive growth and provide access to opportunity as part of the Government's Plan for Change.

Investment is aimed at making journeys smoother and more reliable for people using public services, going to work, the shops, and seeing family and friends.

The funding boost is specifically for communities outside England's major cities.

Thanks to the additional resource funding, local authorities will be able to decide how to improve public transport and drive forward schemes that boost growth and matter most to their communities.

This could include new zero emission buses, improving accessibility, reducing congestion, and making streets safer with improved lighting and crossings for pedestrians and cyclists.

Transport Secretary Heidi Alexander said: "Good transport connections are the foundation of thriving communities, which is why we're backing local authorities to transform journeys for



Worcestershire County Council has stressed the importance of reliable, sustainable and accessible transport, such as the On Demand bus service which was launched in 2021 and has since been expanded. s

millions of people across England.

"This investment will help councils to improve transport for local people - from cleaner buses to safer cycling routes - connecting communities with jobs, education and essential services.

"By putting resources directly into the hands of local leaders, we're ensuring every part of the country benefits from better transport links that support economic growth and provide opportunity - all part of our Plan for Change."

Jane Gratton, Deputy Director of Public Policy, British Chambers of Commerce welcomed the news, calling it 'much-needed funding'.

"High-quality reliable transport options, which reduce congestion, are key to boosting local economic growth."

Ben Plowden, Chief Executive,

Campaign for Better Transport, said: "With 70 per cent of trips under five miles, properly resourced local authorities are central to the task of improving sustainable travel choices.

"Better transport makes a huge difference to people's lives, unlocking opportunities and revitalising communities."

The move was welcomed by Worcestershire County Council's Coun Karl Perks, the authority's cabinet member for highways and transport.

He said: "Reliable, sustainable, and accessible transport is vital for Worcestershire's communities, and this revenue support will help us develop and deliver schemes that build on our existing plans.

"This funding is in addition to the Local Transport Grant capital allocations."

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# Postal concerns on the agenda

DISCUSSIONS have been held about ongoing postal service issues affecting Redditch residents, including delayed mail deliveries.

The meeting - between Royal Mail regional operations director Kate Seals and Redditch MP Chris Bloore - followed a period of serious service disruptions which delayed critical correspondences.

Among them were hospital appointments and urgent documents which led to many complaints from Mr Bloore's constituents.

During the discussion at the local delivery office, Mr Bloore was briefed on recent improvements to service reliability, which Royal Mail attributed to the hard work and dedication of local postal staff.

They are working hard to restore high standards amidst broader national reforms.

These improvements come as Royal Mail implements significant changes to its service model, including the introduction of a five-day delivery schedule for second class letters - these will run from Monday to Friday while a six-day first class mail service will be maintained.

Royal Mail is now required to deliver 90 per cent of first class letters within one working day and 95 per cent of second class mail within three days by 2026.

Mr Bloore said: "Royal Mail services are essential for our communities - from vital healthcare appointments to family correspondence.

"I'm pleased to hear about the progress being made in recent weeks, thanks to the hard work and dedication of local Royal Mail staff.



"However, residents across our constituency rightly expect reliable daily postal deliveries as a basic service and I made that point very clear during our meeting."

The MP acknowledged the efforts of local Royal Mail employees but emphasised consistent, dependable postal services were essential for the community.

Mr Bloore added: "When people are waiting for hospital appointment letters or other urgent correspondence, delays aren't just inconvenient - they can have serious consequences for people's health and wellbeing."

The MP plans to engage closely with Royal Mail to ensure services continue moving in the right direction.

**Redditch MP Chris Bloore with delivery manager Ryan Orton during the visit to the local delivery office. s**



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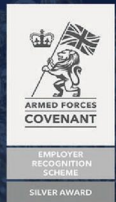
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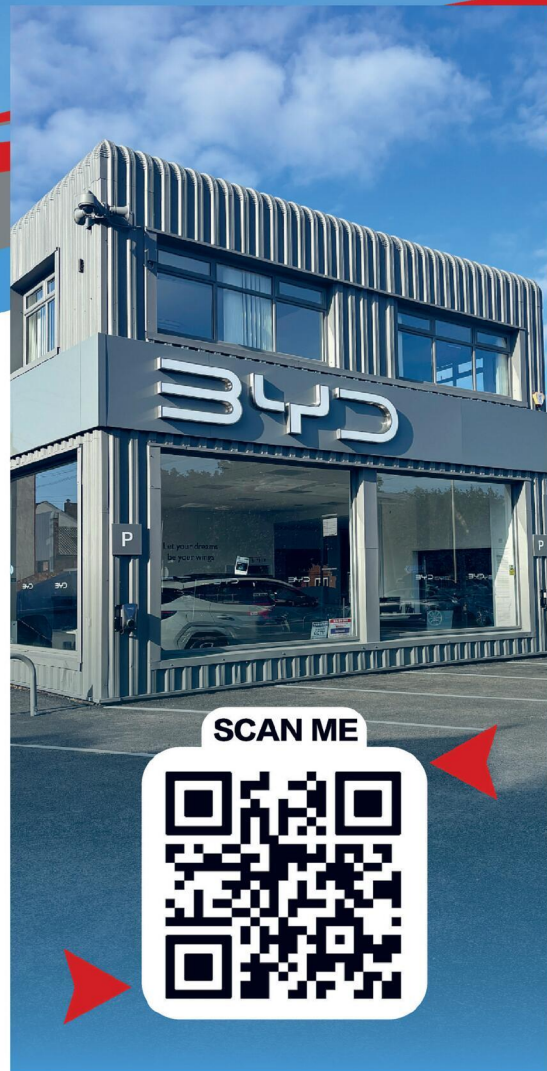
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# Incidents underline need for a month-long focus on safe driving

WEST Mercia Police reinforced the importance of safe driving as part of the National Road Victim Awareness Month throughout the whole of August.

The force's Roads Policing Officers enforce across Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Shropshire 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week.

Motorists have a big part to play in keeping everyone safe.

During the past week, officers from West Mercia have detected a number of offences, including drink-driving, drug-driving, using a hand-held mobile phone at the wheel, child seat and seatbelt offences and speeding.

Others have led to drivers being pulled up for having no MoT, no insurance, illegal registration plates and stolen fuel.

One car caught the attention of one of the force's officers who was concerned about the standard of their driving. The driver turned out to be 15 and the dad thought it was a good idea to take his son out for a practice session. Both were dealt with and the vehicle seized.

Last year 57 people lost their lives and 516 seriously injured in road crashes across the three counties.

During National Road Victim Awareness Month, West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner John Campion spent time with the specialist roads policing team in Worcestershire to see the work they



West Mercia Police has been reiterating the safety message during National Road Victim Awareness Month during August. s

### Highlighting the dangers

West Mercia Police has also put together a video which featured Det Sgt Rose Hughes from the force's Serious Collision Investigation Unit. She speaks about the role of Family Liaison Officers who are specially trained to support loved ones after an unimaginable loss.

And Mr Campion reflects on the importance of raising awareness and the ongoing work being undertaken to reduce harm on the roads.

The video, like all those shared throughout August, was created in partnership with RoadPeace.

West Mercia Police wants to thank Ange, Diana, Leanne, Louise, Abbie and Lucy for their courage in sharing deeply personal stories.

Their stories all carry a powerful message, and that is that one moment of recklessness can shatter lives forever.

Anyone affected by a road collision can get help from RoadPeace by visiting: [orlo.uk/RaBrj](http://orlo.uk/RaBrj) or by calling the RoadPeace helpline on 0800 160 1069.

It is funded by the West Mercia PCC to support victims across the West Mercia Police area.

are doing to keep everyone safe by responding to the theft of farm equipment, attending collisions, and enforcing the law against drivers using mobile phones, as well as being on hand following a vehicle fire on the motorway.

A West Mercia Police spokesperson said: "That's real lives we are talking about, families that are left absolutely devastated.

"Our officers work tirelessly 24/7 to ensure our roads are safe for all that use them and to deal with those

road users that refuse to follow the law.

"You only have to see some of the videos we have been posting this month as part of National Roads Victim Month to see why this work matters."

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# CARING People CARING Places

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## Caring People, Caring Places: The heartbeat of our community

**In every corner of our towns and villages, there's a quiet network of people and places who make care their calling.**

From the vet who checks on your family dog like it's their own, to the funeral director who offers gentle guidance during life's most difficult goodbyes, these unsung heroes are woven into the very fabric of our daily lives. This isn't just about care for the elderly – though they are, of course, a cherished part of this picture – but about the many ways compassion shapes our communities, across all ages and walks of life.

At its heart, Caring People, Caring Places is a celebration of humanity. It's about those who dedicate themselves to the wellbeing of others – people who don't just do a job, but perform a service rooted in empathy, patience, and

dignity.

Take, for instance, the local solicitor who offers free advice sessions on will writing, ensuring peace of mind for families at any stage of life. It's not just about legalese and paperwork – it's about offering reassurance, answering difficult questions, and helping people plan with clarity and care.

Veterinary clinics also tell a powerful story of compassion. Ask any pet owner and they'll say the vet is a lifeline during tough times – when the dog has eaten something it shouldn't, when the cat needs emergency surgery, or simply when a furry friend is nearing the end of their life. These clinics often extend their care beyond animals, understanding how closely our emotional health is tied to our pets. Many offer grief support and work closely with rehoming charities to give abandoned animals a second chance at love.




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# CARING People CARING Places



Speaking of second chances, fostering and adoption services are a profound example of care in action. Across our region, there are families opening their doors – and their hearts – to children who need stability, support, and love. Social workers, carers, and support staff



dedicate their careers to making sure that vulnerable young people find not just shelter, but a sense of belonging.

And while we're on the subject of homes, care homes and supported living facilities continue to provide more than just a roof and regular meals. Many of these places are hubs of life and activity, staffed by people who understand that dignity, independence, and companionship are vital at any age. Increasingly, intergenerational projects and pet therapy schemes are breathing new life into care spaces, offering residents laughter, stimulation, and purpose.

But care doesn't stop at the front door. Funeral directors – some of the most quietly compassionate professionals in our communities – play a deeply important role in helping families navigate loss with grace and respect. Alongside them, stonemasons craft lasting tributes that honour lives lived, with each inscription carved in memory and love. These trades might not often make headlines, but their impact is profound and lasting. And let's not forget the smaller, sometimes overlooked services that make a world of difference. The kennels and catteries that provide safe havens for pets when families are away; the hearing aid specialists who reconnect people to the sounds – and conversations – they've been missing; or the volunteers who give their time to animal shelters and community centres, ensuring no one is forgotten.

These people and places aren't glamorous, and they rarely seek the spotlight. Yet they form a backbone of care and community that deserves



recognition. Their work is local, personal, and essential. They remind us that "care" isn't a service – it's a value. One that's practiced every day in countless acts of kindness, patience, and professionalism.

It might be easy to picture care as something reserved for our oldest citizens – and yes, their needs are crucial – but Caring People, Caring Places shines a light on the broader picture. From children finding safe new homes, to pets being lovingly rehomed, to families finding comfort and support through life's major

transitions, this is a celebration of care in all its forms.

So next time you pass the hearing clinic, walk past the vet's office, or drive by the local foster services banner, pause for a moment. Think of the people inside – doing quiet, tireless work to make someone else's life a little easier, a little warmer, a little more human. Let's support these people, these businesses and these organisations.

Because caring isn't just something we do. It's who we are.

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# CARING People CARING Places

By engaging with those around us and working together with local organisations, we can create an inclusive environment where everyone feels valued and supported.

Ultimately, the strength of a community lies in its ability to care for one another; thus, fostering a spirit of compassion and social responsibility should remain at the forefront of our collective efforts.

Here's what we can do to help:

**1 Volunteering:** Dedicate some time to local charities, food banks, or community centres to lend a hand where needed.

**2 Checking In:** Regularly reach out to neighbours, especially the elderly or those living alone, to see how they are doing and offer support.

**3 Creating Support Networks:** Establish friendships among neighbours to create a reliable support system, where everyone feels comfortable asking for help.

**4 Organising Community Events:** Arrange social gatherings, such as street parties or community clean-ups, to foster connections and unity among residents.

**5 Sharing Skills:** Offer to teach a skill or hobby to others in the community, promoting personal development and creating bonds among participants.

**6 Advocating for Local Needs:** Be an active voice for your community by attending local council meetings and advocating for resources or services that enhance wellbeing.

**7 Promoting Mental Health Awareness:** Share information and resources about mental health support, encouraging open conversations within the community.

**8 Supporting Local Businesses:** Prioritise shopping at local stores and markets to help sustain the community's economy and create job opportunities.

**9 Creating Food Shares:** Set up a community food-sharing initiative where surplus food can be donated and shared among those in need.

**10 Becoming a Mentor:** Offer guidance and support to younger members of the community, helping them navigate challenges and build confidence in their abilities.

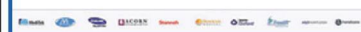


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# Postage bills may prove popular...

THE NATION'S ducks are being celebrated in the latest special collection of Royal Mail stamps.

The company has announced the selection which depicts a range of wild and domestic ducks, ready for collectors to snap up.

Ducks are a familiar species worldwide and are much-loved by people in the UK with 22 symbolic species still living in the country today.

The featured ten duck breeds on the stamps can be found throughout UK's natural environment, from rivers and wetlands to coastal estuaries.

Species include diving, dabbling and perching ducks which are closely associated with a range of aquatic habitats.

Some species are resident year-round, while others migrate to and from northern breeding grounds, making the UK an important wintering site for several internationally significant populations.

Male ducks are typically more colourful and patterned than females, whose more muted plumage helps them stay hidden while nesting.

The mallard, the world's most common duck, is widespread across the UK and is the ancestor of most domesticated duck breeds.

Over time, ducks have been bred for a variety of purposes – from food production to pest control and ornamental display.

For these new additions on the exciting stamp issue, Royal Mail has been working closely with Steve Ormerod, Professor of Ecology and Water Research at Cardiff School of Bio-sciences and water fowl author, Dr Chris Ashton.

Prof Ormerod said: "The UK's wild ducks are among most elegant of all our birds. Their diversity of life histories, behaviours and calls evokes the character of habitats ranging from local ponds, lochans and lakes to rivers, wetlands and coasts."

"Ducks have also played a central role in the human history of animal domestication - for example for food, pest control or as protected 'rare breeds'."

"This spectrum from cultural connection to wilderness is celebrated in this beautiful collection of Royal Mail stamps."

David Gold, Director of External Affairs and Policy, Royal Mail, said: "We are pleased to showcase the beauty and variety of wild and domesticated duck species found across the UK, celebrating our rich wetland wildlife."

"Most of us will recognise some of the ducks on these stamps but we hope that the set will help to raise awareness of the less well-known species."

The stamps, and a range of collectible products, are available at: [royalmail.com/ducks](http://royalmail.com/ducks) or by calling 03457 641 641.



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Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2025 6:30pm-9:00pm

Headteacher's Address: 7.00pm and 8.00pm

Open Mornings: 9:00am – 10:00am  
Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September and Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025

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[www.henleyschool.com](http://www.henleyschool.com)

@HenleySchool





Morris dancers were performing in a North West Clog around the town for the festival. Pictures by Richard Morris. s

# Plenty for everyone at festival which celebrates Spa's salt-making heritage

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

THOUSANDS flocked to Droitwich's Vines Park last week for the town's SaltFest which ran from Tuesday to Sunday (August 23 to 31).

The event featured live music, comedy, street food, plenty of children's entertainment, arts and crafts stalls and much more.

In keeping with Droitwich's historic roots there was an opening ceremony from town crier, Edgar Harwood, and plenty of nods to the Spa's past.

The town's history and archaeology society offered unique insights with talks and demonstrations and there was even salt making workshops.

Visitors walked around rubbing shoulders with Viking re-

enactors who showcased the music, weapons, dress, stories and crafts from the era.

Children enjoyed a fireworks display, the famous SaltFest duck race, ice cream, inflatables, canal trips on the historic Pamela May 2 narrow boat, attractions and rides, a magic show, face painting, an outdoor cinema and lots more.

Plenty of tipples were enjoyed at the real ale and cider festival bar with local wine, beer and spirit producers welcomed to showcase their home-grown, distilled, brewed or fermented offerings.

Local artists displayed and sold their paintings and creative delights with the craft fayre welcoming 100 stalls. Street food vendors brought international cuisines with culinary offerings from India, Italy, America, Korea, Thailand, Mexico and

Greece all on display.

There was live music, including ska, folk, reggae, country and Western, barn dance tunes and more. An open-mic night offered the chance for budding artists to show off their talent while a comedy night brought the laughter.

There was even a dog show, aerial acrobatics and Morris dancers to keep visitors entertained.

Organiser Simon Berry told the Standard the festival enjoyed a 'good turnout' with some 17,000 visitors.

He added this year's event was 'very successful' and spoke of his excitement for next year which will welcome in a new theme.

SaltFest 2026 will focus on historical figure John Corbett and the town's salt production history.

# Are you prepared for government's emergency alert?

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

**A UK-WIDE emergency alert test will take place this Sunday, September 7, to ensure the Government's system is working correctly.**

It comes after the first national test which was undertaken in April 2023.

Since then, five real alerts have been sent out - all during major storms when lives were genuinely at risk.

The Emergency Alerts system serves a crucial purpose to keep the public safe and will only be used when there is a danger to life nearby.

Among the reasons for sounding the alarm include severe weather events, such as wildfires, extreme

storms or flooding.

Regular testing ensures the system continues to work correctly and reaches as many people as possible when it is needed most.

The government has likened the run through to testing smoke alarms or practising fire drills - it needs to know that it will work effectively during a real life-threatening emergency.

### So what will happen?

Compatible smartphones and tablets will display the alert message on screen and make the distinctive siren sound and vibrate.

The sound is designed to be attention-grabbing and will override normal volume settings.

This ensures alerts can reach targeted residents, even if phones are on silent or the holder is in a noisy environment.

Not all devices will receive the alert.

Older phones or those not connected to 4G or 5G networks may not be compatible with the system.

### Domestic abuse victims

Whilst these alerts are aimed at protecting the public in emergencies, they could also put victims and survivors of domestic abuse at risk.

This is especially true of those who rely on hidden phones as part of their safety plan.

For that reason, people can opt out of these tests.

Go to: gov.uk/alerts/opting-out to opt out of these tests.

Visit: gov.uk/alerts for more on the Government's emergency alerts system and go to: gov.uk/prepare for more on preparing for emergencies.

# 'Time to get your chimney swept ready for autumn and winter,' says fire service

RESIDENTS across Worcestershire who have working chimneys in their homes for open fires and log burners are being reminded to get them swept by an approved sweep before the cold weather sets in.

The warning has been issued by Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service during Chimney Fire Safety Week which began on Monday and runs until the following one (September 1 to 8).

The awareness week is part of the Government's Fire Kills campaign and highlights how getting chimneys swept prevents damage, lowers fuel costs, reduces harmful emis-

sions and protects the environment.

According to experts, sweeping a chimney twice a year and using a quality assured fuel is the key to preventing chimney fires.

Sweeping, which should be done before the fire is used again, not only removes soot and tar deposits but also gives sweeps the opportunity to check for any problems with the appliance, chimney or liner, keeping residents and families safe and warm this winter.

People are being reminded they should have fully working smoke alarms - which can give an early warning if a fire does break out - and a fire plan to

ensure everyone can escape.

There should be at least one smoke alarm on each floor which should be tested monthly at least.

And the fire service encourages everyone to pass this safety message on to others to help spread the word.

Visit: chimneyfiresafetyweek.co.uk for more on maintaining chimneys and fire prevention advice.

Anyone who thinks they may qualify for a free Home Fire Safety visit can call the HWFRS Prevention team on 0800 032 1155.

And go to: safelincs.co.uk/hfsc/ to complete a free online Home Fire Safety check.



We are testing  
Emergency Alerts on  
mobile phones and tablets  
across the UK on

**Sunday 7 September at 3pm**

Find out more at [gov.uk/alerts](https://gov.uk/alerts)



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live for today,  
hope for tomorrow.  
Anonymous



# Family Notices

Tel: 01527 588688 Email: reception@bullivantmedia.com

**IN MEMORIAM**



**Patricia Mary Mann**  
(née Willis)

13th March 1944 - 4th Sept 2015

Ten years have passed Mum, we miss you more than ever. Our memories and love for you keep you with us. Forever in our hearts, Melissa, Gemma and great grandchildren  
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live for today,  
hope for tomorrow.  
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### LUNCHTIME SUPERVISOR

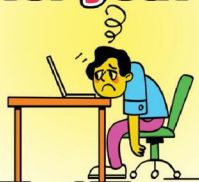
We currently have an opportunity for a Lunchtime Supervisor to join our team working Monday to Friday 11.15 a.m.-1.45 p.m., term time only.

Full details and the online application form is available through the School website [www.bromsgrove-school.co.uk](http://www.bromsgrove-school.co.uk)

Closing date for all applications is Monday 15 September 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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- **Term time only**, plus some additional hours during peak periods or non-term time.
- **Up to 921 hours per year**, we are happy to consider a range of working patterns and hour combinations. Hours are typically worked at a regular weekly rate during term time. Please tell us your preferred hours in your application
- **Annual salary:** £13,268 (based on 921 hours) – Full-time equivalent: £24,305.

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You'll play a key part in providing high-quality catering for students and staff. This is a fast-paced, rewarding environment where teamwork and a positive attitude really matter.

We're looking for someone who:

- Has a **cheerful, can-do attitude** and enjoys working with people.
- Is **reliable, punctual, and flexible**.
- Works well as part of a team in a busy kitchen.
- Is **well-organised and hardworking**.
- Has **previous experience in commercial catering** (preferred, but not essential).

### Why Join Us?

- Be part of a **welcoming and happy team**.
- Contribute to a **successful and valued** part of the school.
- Enjoy school holidays off (with some peak-time work).
- Opportunities to develop catering skills in a supportive environment.

### Apply Today!

This is a rolling vacancy, and applications will be reviewed as they are received. Interviews may be conducted, and appointments made, at any time, so don't wait to apply.

To find out more or to download an application form, visit our job vacancies page on our website at <https://website.droitwichspahigh.worcs.sch.uk/>

We look forward to hearing from you!

*"Droitwich Spa High School & Sixth Form Centre is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment."*

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Working hours are Monday to Thursday 8.00 a.m.-4.00 p.m., Friday 8.00 a.m.-6.00 p.m., term time only plus 6 weeks of holiday club during school holiday periods.

Full details and application forms are available on the school website: [www.bromsgrove-school.co.uk](http://www.bromsgrove-school.co.uk)  
Informal discussions with the Deputy Head of EYFS, Mrs. Belinda Miles 01562 777234

**Closing date for all applications is Monday 8th September 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 and the Disclosure Barring Service.



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### PUBLIC NOTICES

**Warwickshire County Council**

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

**C39 BURFORD LANE, SPERNAL**  
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic from Upper Sperrall Farm Road to Sheffield Green Lane. Reason for Order: Carriageway patching and associated works, 08.00hrs-16.00hrs.  
Order Commences: 9 September 2025 for up to 18 months.  
Anticipated Completion: 10 September 2025.  
Access & Diversion: Burford Lane, Alcester Road, Henley Road, Village Street, Sperral Lane and vice versa.  
Contractor: Balfour Beatty, Tel: 03452 415 302.

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

**BROOM LANE, DUNNINGTON**  
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.  
Reason for Order: Works for new water connection.  
Order Commences: 24 September 2025 for up to 18 months.  
Anticipated Completion: 26 September 2025.  
Access & Diversion: Broom Lane, Dunnington Road, Wixford Road, Ryknild Street, Mill Lane, Bidford Road, High Street and vice versa.  
(Contractor: Go Traffic Management Limited, Tel: 01158 965 832.)

**SPERNAL LANE, SPERNAL**  
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.  
Reason for Order: Works to install new water connection, closed 08:00hrs-18:00 hrs.  
Order Commences: 22 September 2025 for up to 18 months.  
Anticipated Completion: 24 September 2025  
Access & Diversion: Sperral Lane, Sperral Lane, School Road, Captains Hill, Kinwarton Road, Kinwarton Farm Road, Tything Road West, Arden Road, Birmingham Road, Willoughby Close, Coughton Hill, Haydon Way and vice versa.  
Contractor: Go Traffic Management Limited, Tel: 01158 965 832.

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/roadworkspmap](http://warwickshire.gov.uk/roadworkspmap) or call us 01926 412515.  
S Duxbury, Director of Strategy, Planning & Governance, Shire Hall, Warwick CV34 4RL Date 5 Sept 2025

### PUBLIC NOTICES

**BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL & REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Advertisement Key: FPS = Footpath Setting, MAJ = Major Development.

**25/00888/FUL MAJ FPS**  
Site: Land At Wheaton Hill Farm, Astwood Lane, Astwood Bank Worcestershire

Proposal: Installation of Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) including access tracks and service roads, underground cable route, on-site substation, other ancillary electrical infrastructure, security fencing and CCTV, on-site car parking, drainage and water supply features, temporary construction compound, new landscaping and biodiversity enhancements.

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](mailto: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**

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### PUBLIC NOTICES

**BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL & REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Advertisement Key: ADVSTD = Wider Publicity, CA = Conservation Area, FP = Affects Footpath, FPS = Footpath Setting, MAJ = Major Development.

**25/00915/FUL FPS**  
Site: Lyndel, Bell Green Lane, Wythall, Worcestershire B58 0DJ.  
Proposal: Proposed Garden Room, Gym, Sauna and Open Canopy Area

**25/00839/FUL CA**  
Site: 10 Chapel Street, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire B60 2BQ.  
Proposal: Single Storey Extensions.

**25/00901/S73 MAJ ADVSTD**  
Site: Land At Whitford Road, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire  
Proposal: Variation of condition 25 of planning permission APP/P1805/W/20/324511 allowed on appeal 09/02/2021 (LPA 16/1132): FROM: No part of the development shall be occupied until the junction of Fox Lane/Rock Hill has been altered in accordance with the scheme for a roundabout shown on the plan Fox Lane/Rock Hill schematic ref 7033-SK-005 revision F. AMEND TO: No more than 49 dwellings (of which, no more than 30 shall be for private sale and no more than 18 shall be for affordable housing) shall be occupied until the junction of Fox Lane/Rock Hill has been altered in accordance with the temporary scheme shown on the plan 7033-WSP-HGN-00-SK-C-0022. Thereafter, no more than 200 dwellings (of which, no more than 120 shall be for private sale and no more than 80 shall be for affordable housing) shall be occupied until the junction of Fox Lane/Rock Hill has been altered in accordance with the scheme for a roundabout shown on the plan Fox Lane/Rock Hill schematic scheme ref 7033-SK-005 revision G and ancillary drawings 7033-s276-701 rev C02, 2015004 AGE- ZZ-XX-DR-X-0002, 0003, 0004, 0005, 0006 REV C02.

**25/00798/S73 ADVSTD MAJ FP FPS**  
Site: Land At Perryfields Road, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire  
Proposal: Application for the variation of part of the wording of Conditions 32 and 33 of Outline Planning Application 16/0335 (allowed at appeal) (Appeal Reference: APP/P1805/W/20/3265948) to amend the occupation trigger numbers included within the aforementioned conditions comprising the following: Condition 32 Amending the occupation trigger for a roundabout at the Junction of Rock Hill/Fox Lane from 100 dwellings to 398 dwellings; amending the occupation trigger for cycle improvements along Skourbridge Road from 100 dwellings to 153 dwellings; amending the occupation trigger for improvements at the Worcester Road/Shrubbery Road junction from 100 dwellings to 550 dwellings and Condition 33 Amending the occupation trigger for a signal-controlled junction on the A448 Kidderminster Road from 200 dwellings to 550 dwellings; and roundabout works on the A448 Kidderminster Road from 200 dwellings to 396 dwellings.

**25/00943/FUL CA FPS MAJ**  
Site: Dodford Village Hall, Priory Road, Dodford, Worcestershire B61 9DD  
Proposal: Part removal of the existing external steps, to allow an external platform lift to be installed with associated retaining walls.

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](mailto: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.

**TREVOR WILLIAM THOMAS (Deceased)**  
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of 53 Stretley Road, Rednal, Birmingham, B45 8SP who died on 12/11/2024, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 05/11/2025, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.  
Lloyds Bank Plc, Po Box 5005, Lancing, BN99 8AZ

**Michael Henry Bowen (Deceased)**  
Pursuant to the Trustee Act of 1925 Notice is hereby given that all creditors and others having any claims against the Estate of Michael Henry Bowen who died 15/08/2025 of 7 Corner Lane, Redditch, B97 5WP are required to send written particulars to the undersigned on or before 06/11/2025 after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interest of which they have had notice.  
Andrew John Bowen, 6 Gloucester Close, B60 2RE

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## Double Donington delight for Vertu as team lead the way

by Aaron Sutcliffe  
[aaron.sutcliffe@bullivantmedia.com](mailto:aaron.sutcliffe@bullivantmedia.com)

**BTCC:** TEAM Vertu lead both the drivers' and teams standings in the British Touring Car Championship (BTCC) following a points-laden weekend at Donington Park.

The Droitwich-based team claimed two race wins at the Leicestershire circuit as Tom Chilton and Tom Ingram both triumphed.

And Adam Morgan also secured a podium finish in race two while Ingram crossed the line behind race-winner Chilton to secure a one-two in the opening race of the weekend.

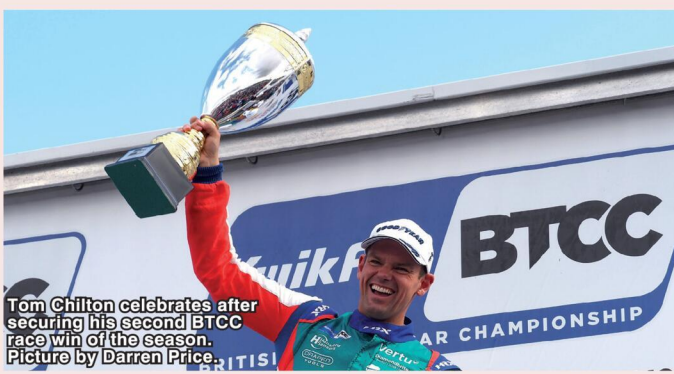
Ingram now leads the drivers' standings by 32 points while Team Vertu sit just two points ahead of NAPA Racing UK in the teams standings.

Championship leader Ingram said: "It's been a really, really strong weekend and if we could have similar at Silverstone next time out then it would be great."

"We did exactly what we needed to do by maximising our performance across race day."

"I'll readily admit that we've had luck on our side a little bit because Ash [Sutton] got caught up in some drama in race two when he would probably have won."

"We also got a good reverse grid draw which set us up for the win in race three and means we've been able to extend our advantage in the standings."



Tom Chilton celebrates after securing his second BTCC race win of the season. Picture by Darren Price.

"Once again the car has been on top form which is all down to the little improvements we continue to make."

"It's in such a nice place and it doesn't seem to matter what kind of circuit we go to, it just works which is huge credit to the team."

"I don't think there is such a thing as the perfect race car, but the Hyundai certainly isn't far off."

"I'd say it's the first time in my career that I've had a car that is this strong at so many circuits."

"It's pretty special."  
Team Vertu made the perfect start to the weekend as Chilton converted his first pole position in 14 years to a race victory with

Ingram just behind.  
The teams other drivers, Morgan and Senna Proctor, finished seventh and eighth respectively.

And Morgan stepped onto the podium in race two with a second-place finish.

Ingram also extended his lead over title rival Ash Sutton with a fourth-place finish after the latter driver crossed the line in eighth following a collision with teammate Dan Rowbottom.

And Ingram ended the weekend in style as he came out on top in a battle with Sutton to take the race win with Chilton sixth.

The BTCC season continues at Silverstone on the weekend of September 20 and 21.



Josh Hurdman celebrates after opening the scoring. Picture by Mathew Mason.

## Saltmen back on top with Hallen triumph

**FOOTBALL:** DROITWICH Spa returned to the top of the table with a comfortable 3-0 home win against Hallen.

Spa took the lead courtesy of Josh Hurdman's goal inside the first minute at the King George Playing Fields.

And late goals from substitutes James Lemon and Nathan Binner sealed the points for Andy Crowther's side.

The result means Droitwich sit top of the Hellenic League Premier Division table, although some of the teams below them have at least one game in-hand.

Spa made the perfect start when Hurdman volleyed the ball into the net inside 60 seconds after good work from Pery Moss.

In a game of few chances, Hallen almost drew level 15 minutes from time

only for Dom Rogerson to produce a fine save to deny Elliot Gardner when one-on-one.

And the visitors went close again as Gardner secured another chance to draw Hallen level seven minutes from time.

Moments later Rogerson denied both Ryan Crawford and Harrison Fairman in quick succession.

However, Spa doubled their lead against the run of play on 87 minutes when Lemon finished Reiss Taylor-Randle's cross from close range.

And the Saltmen made sure of the points deep into injury time as Hurdman beat the offside trap and squared to Binner who finished into an empty net.

Droitwich are next in action away at Cribbs on Saturday, September 6 with kick-off at 3pm at The Lawns.

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