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Friday, September 12th 2025 Week 37

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# Town's story has a new chapter with artwork

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

MODERN and classic art forms have been brought together in Droitwich to transform the facade of a building.

A new mural in the town, inspired by classic oil paintings, has given the side of Emms Haberdasher in Droitwich a new lease of life.

Titled 'Tides of the Time: The Legacy of Droitwich Spa's Brine', the mural was completed on August 19, and is the latest in a series of place-making projects delivered by Wychavon District Council and Droitwich Spa Place Board.

The artwork, funded through Wychavon's share of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund offers a playful interpretation of Droitwich Spa's historic identity.

At its centre is the town's famous brine bath, where various characters from Droitwich Spa's past will appear to float. The piece invites passers-by to spot references to well-known and lesser-known stories from the town's heritage, including its surprising connection to Shakespeare.

The design was shaped with input from residents following a four-week public survey in February 2024 and further developed during a workshop with groups such as the Droitwich Spa Historical Society and the



Droitwich Civic Society.

Coun Richard Morris, leader of the council and executive board member for economic growth and tourism at Wychavon, said: "This mural is a celebration of Droitwich Spa's fascinating past but also part of our future vision."

"By working with local people to bring colour, creativity, and curiosity to the High Street, we're helping to make the town centre more welcoming and exciting for everyone."

**The Mural at Emms Haberdashery, Droitwich Spa (supplied by JTH Digital Media). s**

The mural, at Emms Haberdashery, is one of several new street art pieces planned for the town, including the installation at The Talbot on the High Street – all designed to support the regeneration of Droitwich Spa and help shape a place people feel proud to visit, live and work in.

Matt Nicol, chair of the Droitwich Spa Place Board, added: "Street art can transform blank walls into talking points and attractions."

"It has been proven to increase footfall, improve well-being, and create a genuine sense of pride in a place."

"This mural is another great example of how we're putting Droitwich Spa on the map and inviting people to see the town in a whole new way."

Street art is known to enhance public spaces by improving their aesthetic appeal, sparking conversation, and encouraging people to explore their surroundings.

As well as supporting local pride, projects like this also help boost the local economy by drawing in visitors and increasing awareness through social sharing.

## Casting an eye over Raven work

A COMMUNITY group to scrutinise the care and restoration of the Raven is being set up by Droitwich Spa Civic Society.

Acting as an independent critique, the group will keep an eye on key developments with the Raven which was decimated by fire.

The group's first meeting will take place at 7.30pm on Wednesday, September 10, at Droitwich Methodist Church.

Everyone is welcome to attend and those going are encouraged to arrive at 7pm.

Coun Richard Morris, who has been heavily involved in meetings with key stakeholders regarding the future of the site, will provide an update for attendees.

Discussions will include the Raven's history, a chronology of the current situation, details on the site's listed elements, existing planning permission for redevelopment, the fire's impact and the site's future. Attendees can ask Coun Morris questions.

Extensive discussions have already taken place among key stakeholders to work on securing the site's listed elements and making the building safe ahead of a planned redevelopment by its private owners. Structural engineers, heritage organisations, building preservation trusts and key local political authorities are all involved in the discussions and work.



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# Mum tried to help one of Cody's killers escape to Jamaica

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

**THE MOTHER** of one of Cody Fisher's killers has been found guilty of helping her son flee the West Midlands and prepare to fly to Jamaica in the aftermath of the murder.

Jahzeen Carpenter, 40, drove to London a day after her son Kami Carpenter had stabbed Cody to death at the Crane nightclub in Digbeth, Birmingham, late in the evening on Boxing Day, 2022.

Carpenter arrived in the capital on the evening of December 27 in her Mercedes convertible, while her son was found with two suitcases of clothes.

Officers moved in and arrested them both outside flats in Lewisham, south east London, around 8.30am on December 28, 2022.

When her car was searched, more



Jahzeen Carpenter will be sentenced on October 15. s

than \$5,000 in cash was seized.

Examination of her mobile phone revealed that she had researched a flight from Gatwick Airport to Kingston, Jamaica, that her son booked a seat on and which was due to depart at 1.20pm on the day they were arrested.

After a trial at Wolverhampton Crown Court, Jahzeen Carpenter, of Peak Drive, Lower Gornal, was found guilty of assisting an offender. She is due to be sentenced on October 15.

Det Insp Phil Poole, from West Midlands Police's Homicide team, said: "Cody's murder left his family and friends devastated and struggling to come to terms with what had happened.

"But while his loved ones were grieving, Carpenter's mother was trying to help her son avoid capture and flee to Jamaica, which would have severely hampered our investigation and delayed justice. We worked really closely with



Jahzeen Carpenter and Kami Carpenter were arrested in Lewisham in London. Pictures by West Midlands Police. s

colleagues from the Metropolitan Police, who were able to move in and arrest both of them before Kami Carpenter could leave the country.

"It meant we were able to achieve justice for Cody's family, and our thoughts remain with them to this day.

"This conviction just shows how many lives and families knife crime can destroy."

Cody, 23, lived in Studley and was a sports coach at Woodrow First School, was attacked by a masked group at the Crane club in Digbeth on Boxing Day, 2022.

He played football for both Bromsgrove Sporting and Stratford Town.

Last year, Kami Carpenter, now 24, and from Kings Norton, was jailed for life for Cody's murder and ordered to serve a minimum of 25 years before he can be considered for release.

Another man, Remy Gordon, from Rednal, was ordered to serve at least 26 years after being convicted of the same offence.

West Midlands Police say knife crime was falling in the West Midlands, but there was still much work to be done.

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# Plenty of fun and games for all as community comes together for fete

PLENTY of fun was had at a summer fete held at Deelands Hall in Rubery which was attended by around 250 people.

The event was organised by Clarion Futures, the charitable foundation of Clarion Housing Group.

The fete was aimed at engaging the local community through free activities whilst letting them know about the variety of support available for them to access through Clarion Futures.

This support included members of each team from jobs and training, money guidance, digital inclusion, tenancy sustainment, tenancy repairs and communities.

Other local organisations which attended included Ax, Digikick, Cock Hill Cafe Church and the Birmingham Community Boxing Project.

Among the activities which drew in the crowds

were a boxing punch ball machine which led to 'best punch' competitions for adults and children, face painting, tombola, arts and craft activities and sweet pong (ball pong with sweets instead of beer).

DJ Dave delighted the crowd with his disco and party games and there were stalls selling handcrafted gifts, toys and books.

There were free ice creams, refreshments and fish and chips supplied by Rubery Fish Bar and there was a free draw where residents could win a £25 Shopping voucher.

Zoe Lee, the employment support officer (Midlands) for Clarion Jobs and Training, said: "The event could not have gone ahead without the support of volunteers from Deelands Hall including Anita and Julie and Deanne Hastilow and Bobbi Williams from the local community."



# Councillors call for lower speeds

**WELL OVER 1,000 residents have backed a petition calling for road safety to be improved in Rubery as councillors in the village urge county highways to take action.**

Launched by Rubery councillors Esther Gray and Peter McDonald, the petition will now form a motion to be brought before Worcestershire County Council later this month.

Over the summer the pair managed to bring in 1,330 signatures for the document which calls for speed limit reductions across the area due to 'excessive vehicle speeds posing a threat to the community'.

The councillors have previously highlighted the large number of educational establishments within the town including two primary schools, each with a nursery, a high school and two private nurseries.

They say the safety of roads surrounding these schools and nurseries should be a priority and have also highlighted the dangers to those in the area with disabilities.

Personal stories include mobility vehicle users 'playing dodgems' while crossing Whetty Lane and Leach Heath Lane, while those with visual impairments struggle to judge the speed of oncoming vehicles.

These instances, according to the councillors, are too numerous to ignore and demand immediate attention. The pair will now bring their motion before a full meeting of Worcestershire County Council on September 11.

When launching the petition, Coun McDonald for Rubery North, said: "We already have a 20mph restriction around schools in Rubery North and since the restriction we have not had

a child seriously injured by a vehicle.

"Not only does reducing speed reduce the number of accidents, it also reduces particulate emissions from tyre and brake wear. This can only improve the quality of the air we breathe."

When contacted by the Standard after the petition had launched, Coun Karl Perks, Worcestershire County Council's cabinet member for highways and transport, said: "Road safety is a top priority for us."

"We carry out road safety improvements, as we did at the shopping area on New Road, based on detailed accident investigation and analysis."

"We continually monitor the road network across the county and will consider this petition once it is presented to us."



Councillors Esther Gray and Peter McDonald are concerned with speed limits on Whetty Lane. Picture by Marcus Mingins 3625008MMR

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Medieval knights are just some of the mayhem and merriment on offer at Avoncroft this weekend. s

# Middle Ages brought to life

**THE SIGHTS and sounds of the Middle Ages are heading to Bromsgrove's Avoncroft Museum this weekend.**

The weekend Medieval merriment will see the venue transformed into a spectacle of 15th century activity for the whole family tomorrow and Sunday (September 13 and 14) with dozens of re-enactors from the Beaufort Company on site.

Visitors can step into the heart of the Wars of the Roses with a large scale re-enactment of the Battle of Loosecote Field. Watch as Yorkist forces under Edward

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

IV clash with the rebel army of Sir Robert Welles on Windmill Hill in a recreation of the 1470 battle which ended a rebellion before it had truly begun.

Tom Goodwin, from the Beaufort Company, said: "The re-enactment will immerse you in the chaos, courage, and drama of medieval warfare. Visitors get to explore the whole site while you get to see history unfold step by step before your eyes."

Each day there will be displays of medieval arms and armour of the type used in the War of the Roses, along with demonstration battles with swords, arrows and cannons.

Lynda Case, events co-ordinator at Avoncroft Museum, said: "There is something for everyone to enjoy - from the domestic household camps creating traditional food and creating complex bread ovens to learning how to tell a commoner from the nobility in a costume talk, along with an interactive displays including the Kiddie Drill and armouring a knight."

The full timetable is available to view on the Avoncroft Museum website. Due to expected high demand for tickets, pre-booking through the website is highly recommended.

Alongside these activities, Avoncroft's buildings, will be open for exploring including the windmill and Medieval town house.

Visit [avoncroft.org.uk](mailto:avoncroft.org.uk) or email [events@avoncroft.org.uk](mailto:events@avoncroft.org.uk) for more information on the museum which, through its collection of buildings, showcases Midlands life from the 1500s to the present day.

## Group event helps explore the stars

A SPECIAL summer event held by Redditch Astronomical Society (RAS) brought together creativity, literature and science at the town's library.

The day began with a lively workshop which was led by children's book illustrator Becky Hardy. She gave interesting insights into her famous illustrations in 'The Unlikely Astronaut' and shared insightful stories on her career journey and how she became involved in the project.

Her sparking enthusiasm inspired the younger members of the audience. In the afternoon, award-

by **Oliver Cureton-Phillips**

winning science fiction author Chris Beckett engaged with visitors during a thought-provoking question-and-answer session.

He spoke about the writing process, the inspirations behind his books, and the wider sci-fi genre. He encouraged guests to explore the links between imagination and science.

Throughout the day, RAS members welcomed both library users and event guests to their stand, where they discussed astronomy, shared resources and inspired conversa-

tions about the wonders of the universe.

The event was supported by the Arts in Redditch Foundation, with the library providing a welcoming venue.

Nic Smith, RAS events co-ordinator, said: "This event was a real team effort, and we're very grateful to Redditch Library and Arts in Redditch for their support in bringing it together."

"It's been wonderful to see families, readers and astronomy enthusiasts come together to explore science, creativity and the universe in such an engaging way."



Members of Redditch Astronomical Society with author Chris Beckett and book illustrator Becky Hardy. s

Redditch Astronomical Society holds monthly meetings at the Windmill Centre, covering everything from talks and

workshops to stargazing sessions.

New members and visitors are always welcome to join and share in the

society's passion for the night sky.

Visit [redditchastro.org.uk](http://redditchastro.org.uk) for more information on the group.



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Driver Shaun Hathaway and coun. Peter Whittaker replace the old bins with new ones. Picture by Marcus Mingins 3725008MMR

# Bins are set to change for many

A LARGE number of Bromsgrove residents' bins are set to be replaced this autumn as the council phases out an old and ineffective style of waste collection.

Bromsgrove is the last council in the country still using an old style of 'diamond lift' bins, making it impossible to source compatible vehicles and parts.

A total of 90 per cent of the district's bins will be replaced as the council retires the old models. To maintain reliable waste collections, councillors approved the switch to the UK-standard 'comb lift' bins earlier this year.

Deliveries of the new bins will take place between now and December, to most of the district's 30,000-plus households.

The new bins will be the same 240-litre size, with a grey body and coloured lids - green for recycling, grey for refuse, and brown for garden waste subscribers.

Garden waste bins will be replaced later, ahead of the 2026 season.

Coun Peter Whittaker, the council's portfolio holder for environmental services, said: "Thanks to everyone for bearing with us while we swap out our bins.

"It will save taxpayers money, by making the service simpler and more efficient.

"We squeezed all the value we could out of the old ones, but times move on.

"This change will solve the problems we faced replacing vehicles and machinery.

"I would just urge anyone with the old-style bin to remember to leave it out for longer on bin day as, after being emptied it could be collected up to 5pm."

Residents do not need to take any action to get a replacement, as old bins will be replaced automatically. Residents are advised to continue using their current bin until it has been emptied and collected.

If a new bin arrives before an old one is removed, continue using the old one, and leave it out to be emptied and removed.

The council will aim to take it away that day, leaving just the new bin. If it is not taken by 5pm, bring it back in, and try again next bin day. Assisted collections will continue as normal throughout.

The old bins will be recycled and repurposed into new ones.

Visit [bromsgrove.gov.uk/NewBins2025](http://bromsgrove.gov.uk/NewBins2025) for more information.

**REMEMBERING DANIEL:** A DAY OF EVENTS and fundraising is being held in memory of a teenage footballer who tragically died in July.

Daniel Drewitt (pictured) was just 16 years old when he lost his life in an incident at Sutton Park Pool, Sutton Coldfield, two months ago, leaving his family and the community devastated.

Now Daniel's former team mates at Bromsgrove Rovers AFC are set to play a friendly memorial match against Colmers School and Sixth form College, where Daniel

had studied.

The match will take place this Sunday, September 14 at Stoke Prior Sports and Country Club, Weston Hall Road, with proceeds going to a memorial and Daniel's family.

Other events on the day include live music, street food, special guests and entertainment.

The event opens at 11am and the football match kicks-off at midday, with organisers inviting people to go along and join in with celebrations of Daniel's life.



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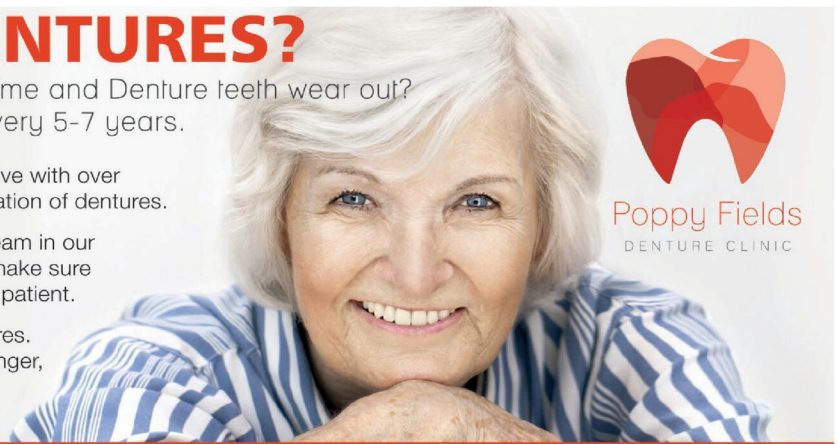
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## Firm helps food bank on special day

THE REDDITCH branch of Swift Temps teamed up with the Friends of Isaac's Food Bank CIC to support the cause.

The assistance came last Friday (September 5) which was National Foodbank Day.

Damian Lee, managing director of Swift Temps, said: "With the cost of living rising, more and more people are having to use food banks, and if we can help in any way, we will always try."

The community project provides essential donations to help people and families facing food insecurity.

The annual national day serves to raise awareness and honor the volunteers and organisations who provide support to vulnerable people.

In the last year, official data shows that four per cent of people in the UK have relied on food banks, including six per cent of children.

UK food banks distributed 2.9million emergency food parcels, with more than one million given to children in the last year ending in March 2025.

Business partners and local residents are welcome to donating food or funds to Isaac's Food Bank CIC.

Visit [facebook.com/FriendsofIsaacFoodBank](https://facebook.com/FriendsofIsaacFoodBank) for more information.

# RHS garden will blossom into a hospice favourite

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

**AN AWARD-WINNING garden which wowed the judges at the RHS (Royal Horticultural Society's) Malvern Spring Festival earlier this year, is set to open at the Primrose Hospice.**

The 'St Godwald's Retreat' is a new reflective creation by FB and Sons Lawns and Landscapes for Primrose after a link-up between the two.

It will be officially opened at its new home at the Primrose Hospice in Bromsgrove from 2pm to 4pm on October 12 and everyone is welcome.

The garden was awarded a bronze medal at the RHS Spring Festival.

Designer Marc Harbourne-Bessant said: "We hope the garden will become a space of peace and reflection for patients, families, and children of all ages.

"It has been designed with distinct areas to explore and enjoy, featuring scented flowers and vibrant foliage.

"The gardens at Primrose Hospice are already special and beautiful, but we hope this addition will add another meaningful layer.

"We believe the Wind Phone and Reflection Lodge will offer



The FB and Sons team – Hannah Bessant, creative director and garden designer Marc Harbourne-Bessant, director and co-owner Darryl Harbourne-Bessant, Myles Wall and Benjamin Clark. s

people a unique space to grieve and remember their loved ones."

During the event, attendees will be able to hear from Marc and Darryl from FB and Sons about the garden's unique features.

Visitors will then have the chance to explore the garden, followed by tea and cake.

Angelique Dalton, the Primrose Hospice's chief operating officer,

said: "We are so privileged to have worked with FB and Sons Lawns and Landscapes on the RHS Malvern Festival project.

"I was bursting with pride at the festival – not only in promoting the invaluable work of the hospice, but also in showcasing the stunning work of Marc, Darryl and the FB and Sons team to such a wide audience.

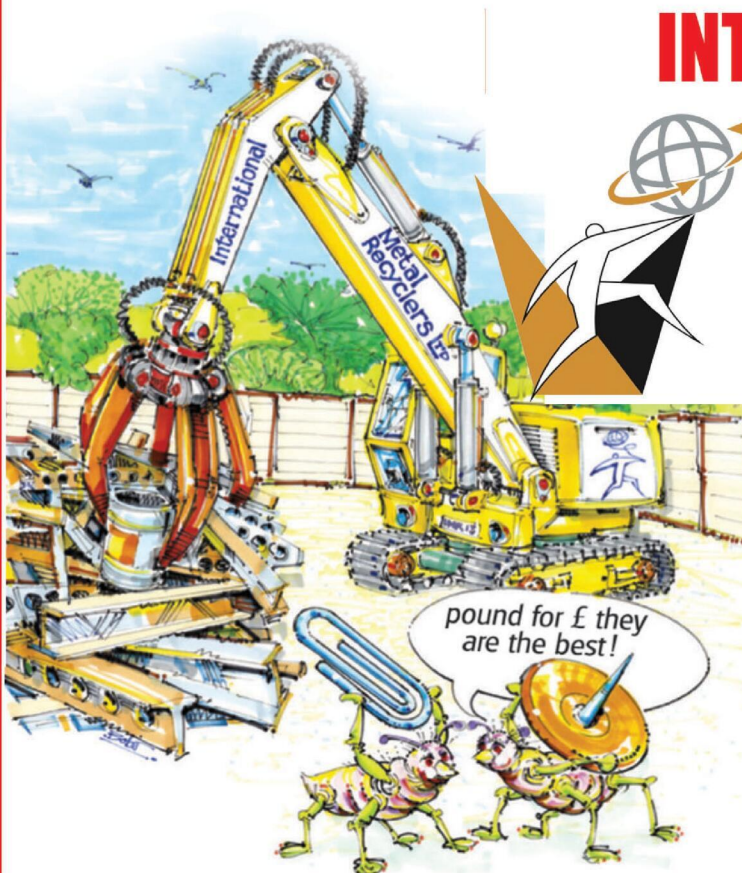
"Bringing the garden back to

the hospice will allow so many patients, families and visitors to enjoy and benefit from this beautiful space."

Entry is free and open to everyone in the community.

All paths around the garden and hospice are wheelchair accessible. Dogs on leads are welcome.

Visit [primrosehospice.org/events/st-godwalds-retreat](https://primrosehospice.org/events/st-godwalds-retreat) for more on the garden.



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# Council backs north-south split

**WYCHAVON councillors have unanimously backed splitting the county into a north and south division when local government is shaken up in the near future.**

At a meeting last Wednesday, Wychavon councillors were asked to assess both options and settled on backing a south Worcestershire authority.

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

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

running all services, or two councils – one for the north and one for the south – with each authority responsible for all services for its part of the county.

Although a report from consultants Mutual Ventures issued a report outlining significant savings in the event of one unitary authority for the entire county, Wychavon noted that a split county would deliver more effective democratic representation among other positives.

During the debate, councillors

expressed frustration with the Government for imposing reorganisation on the area and giving little time to plan properly for the changes.

Concerns were raised about whether the proposed cost savings under a single unitary model were realistic, the impact on service quality and provision and council tax levels – which on average are lower in Wychavon, Worcester City and Malvern Hills.

Asingle council for Worcestershire would also mean there would be more than 6,000 residents being represented per councillor, which it was felt would make elected representatives too remote from the peo-

ple they served and may negatively impact relationships with parish and town councils.

Coun Richard Morris, leader of Wychavon, said: "Nobody asked for reorganisation and nobody wants it."

"It will do little to solve the adult social care and children's services crisis which needs national solutions instead of further government dithering.

"If we must have reorganisation, then the two-council option delivers on the very clear message given to us by the public – being local does matter and our residents want a council that continues to understand and meet their needs.

"Wychavon has always focused on that local delivery, and this must not be lost in any reorganisation.

"Exploring shared service arrangements for some of the larger services also provides a tremendous opportunity for genuine transformation."

The two-council option will now be developed in detail.

Councillors will vote on the final proposal on November 19, before it is submitted to the Government by November 28.

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

For more information, visit the website at [shapeworcestershire.org/](http://shapeworcestershire.org/)

## Four charged over supplying drugs

TWO MEN from Northfield were among four arrested and charged by the National Crime Agency (NCA) last Thursday as part of an ongoing investigation into organised immigration crime and drug supply.

Kristian Leshi, 34, and Xhulijana Trimi, 29, were apprehended at an address on Cornbrook Road and were both charged with possession of class B drugs with intent to supply and

possession of criminal property in relation to cannabis and a quantity of cash found at the home.

The two others arrested were both also from Birmingham.

Moin Aftab, 25, and Mohammed Sohail-Yassen, 23, were arrested at an address on Warstone Lane, after officers found around two kilos of cocaine.

Both were charged with being concerned in the sup-

ply of class A drugs.

A 31-year-old man arrested at an address on Fountain Road, Birmingham, has been bailed pending further enquiries.

The NCA operation also led to the discovery of a cannabis farm at an address in Dudley, with plants worth £78,000 removed and destroyed from the property.

Police say investigations continue.

## I'm giving my full support to exciting 8 Hills project

I AM incredibly lucky to represent such a beautiful part of our country.

Not that I need reminding of that, but on my recent visit to the Clent Hills I couldn't help but reflect on that fact.

I was there to meet with the chairman of the National Trust, Rene Olivieri, to discuss their vision of an 8 Hills Regional Park.

The 8 Hills – an area around 47 square miles – is made up of Clent Hill, Romsley Hill, Frankley Beeches, Waseley Hill, Beacon Hill, Cofton Hill, West Hill and Weatheroak Hill. It is home to 1.4million people within a 15-minute drive – an amazing opportunity to make this green space more accessible.

The National Trust is working on exciting visionary, landscape-scale plans to create an independent, locally governed organisation for the 8 Hills area that would enhance public access to nature, support biodiversity, channel funding into green infrastructure and align development with community wellbeing – certainly a hot topic here in Bromsgrove right now.

It's important to stress no one is asking for more council tax money from you in order to fund this project.

It will be led by the National Trust, with the support of local councils, and there are several different places funding could come from. According to the National Trust, this could include adding key infrastructure to attract visitors



### Westminster Diary

**Bradley Thomas MP** writes for The Standard

The 8 Hills Regional Park would act as a non-statutory consultee for planning applications to help shape better developments.

My next step in supporting the 8 Hills Regional Park is to bring the National Trust and Bromsgrove District Council together.

I'll be urging the district council to include 8 Hills in their Local Plan and to recognise 8 Hills as a non-statutory consultee for planning applications.

This is an exciting opportunity for our constituency and how great would it be that this local project could become a national template.

How proud we would all be if it started right here in Bromsgrove.

It's time to make the 8 Hills Regional Park a reality.

**Bradley Thomas**  
Bromsgrove MP

to different parts of the park, potentially including cafes and leisure facilities which generate income, planning contributions from developers, grant funding, private investment, and health funding, related to the wellbeing benefits of the park.

The 8 Hills Regional Park has my full support. Why? New walking routes would be created for local residents and visitors to improve access to nature, so it would boost tourism to our stunning constituency, support local businesses, and it would foster a shared identity and sense of place.

It would also tie in with the work I'm doing to save our green belt and to defend our rural way of life.



**Bradley Thomas with Rene Olivieri from the National Trust.**

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# Europe trek in memory of Alma

by Ashleigh Osborne  
ashleigh.osborne  
@bullivantmedia.com

**A MAN from Solihull has set off on an epic drive through Europe, all in memory of his beloved dog Alma.**

Nigel Patterson, who lives in Monkspath, is driving through Europe alongside his friend John Arthur in two old Peugeotts to raise cash for Wythall Animal Sanctuary.

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 operates, and said he was shocked to find out they survive only on donations.

To channel his grief, he decided to redo the fund-



raising challenge he did for a children cancer ward in 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 trav-

elled 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 res-

cue and rehabilitate animals since 1968. It helps the animals who need it most by giving them a second chance at a forever home. Where this is not possible due to behavioural or medical reasons, the sanctuary is their forever home.

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

Nigel is hoping to raise £5,000 so the sanctuary can create a specialised quiet area for the dogs that 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 their residents tranquility and help to find their rescue animals good and loving homes."

Nigel used Springfield Pet Crematorium to handle Alma's passing and said

the service they provided was amazing. They donated £200 to get the fund off the ground, and Nigel said he was so thankful.

Nigel and John set off on Wednesday (September 10) and will drive 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."

If you would like to help Nigel visit [justgiving.com/crowdfunding/almas-trust](http://justgiving.com/crowdfunding/almas-trust) to donate or scan the QR code.



Amie Pallante, the PA to the CEO at AFH, hands over and the defibrillator to Bruce Hims. s

## AFH show their heart to donate life-saving equipment

AFH Wealth Management, based in Stoke Heath, Bromsgrove, has proudly donated a defibrillator to improve the response to cardiac emergencies in Finstall and Aston Fields.

The campaign began when AFH employee, Jenny Read, came upon a charity collection for a local defibrillator in Banners Restaurant in Aston Fields while collecting the firm's Friday breakfast sandwiches.

Seeing there was a demand, Jenny quickly recalled AFH had a spare defibrillator available due to its not being needed after the closing of a subsidiary office.

Jenny contacted Bruce Hims, a local businessman who fundraises to supply defibrillators to communities in and around Bromsgrove. He said the defibrillator outside Banners would provide vital access in a cardiac emergency.

"A defibrillator can cost £1,500 or more, so a huge thank you to AFH for this generous donation."

Defibrillators are essential in saving lives during cardiac arrests – they work by sending electric shocks to restore the heart's normal beating rhythm.

Jenny said: "Every minute without defibrillation and CPR reduces a person's chance of survival by seven to 10 per cent, making quick access to

these devices critical in public spaces."

She added AFH Wealth Management continued to champion health and safety schemes.

A defibrillator is available at AFH's head office and the company will be participating in Restart a Heart Day on October 15 when employees and visitors will have the chance to learn how to perform CPR and confidently use a defibrillator.

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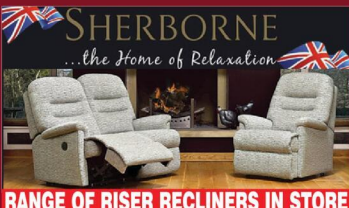
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# Thinking big when it comes to new art

HEART of Worcestershire (HoW) College has partnered with Reimagine Redditch and Arts in Redditch to commission a street art mural.

The piece - set to be the single largest piece of street art in the borough - will be installed on the Redditch campus this autumn.

The art will communicate an inspirational vision for the future of Redditch, as well as respond to themes identified through a consultation phase in 2024.

The artwork is being created with funding from Arts Council England's Creative People and Places Programme, and Arts in Redditch.

The artist of the installation has been announced as Andy Dice - aka Dice67 - who is Founder and Director of Cheltenham Paint Festival, one of the biggest and most well-respected paint festivals in the country.

As an artist painting in the public domain, Dice67's work is varied, often thought-provoking and colourful.

The design of the piece was inspired by the startling murmuration in Redditch and represents the possibilities of art and education for young people. It indicates they have the power to shape their futures. The final artwork will highlight Redditch's future possibilities, and enhance pride among students, staff, residents and the wider population.

Michelle Dowse, Principal and CEO of HoW College, said: "We



want our campuses to be great places of learning for our students.

"But we also want to model excellence, ambition and collaboration to demonstrate what we're all about to the wider community.

"A street art mural will help us to show the impact we're making in Redditch.

"This is a really exciting project which we hope will inspire countless stakeholders - whether they are learning or working at our college, or residents and visitors to the borough - to be ambitious about what is possible in Redditch and to know that great arts and culture can happen here."

Richard Bromhall, programme director for Reimagine Redditch,

said: "We needed an artist with a distinctive creative approach to create an unforgettable artwork for Redditch town centre at Heart of Worcestershire's Redditch Campus.

"I'm thrilled to see Andy Dice - aka Dice67 - bring all of his talent and expertise to Redditch. I can't wait for everybody to see his mural."

HoW College plays a pivotal role in the community, inspiring people and shaping futures.

By creating a signature work of street art at its Redditch Campus, it is hoped students, staff, and residents will feel inspired by Redditch's potential by engaging in culture.

Visit [howcollege.ac.uk](http://howcollege.ac.uk) for more on HoW College and the courses available there.



Hook Buddies crochet club at Bromsgrove Library have created 200 toy mice for cat homes and rehoming centres across the UK. Photo by Bromsgrove and Catshill Libraries. s

## An inspirational tail

A BROMSGROVE crocheting club have created hundreds of knitted toy mice to be donated to cat homes and rescue centres across the UK.

Hook Buddies crochet club, which meets at Bromsgrove Library every Tuesday - from 10am to midday - has so far knitted 200 of the little mice as part of Women's Weekly magazine's latest Get Together project.

The magazine regularly hosts charity craft campaigns. This most recent campaign is calling for thousands of little crocheted mice to claim a new Guinness World Record to add its existing three for

previous crocheting projects.

Every person or group taking part will have the opportunity of buying a participation certificate for a reduced price, should the project secure a record.

Previously, readers have been asked to make animal blankets for Battersea Dogs and Cats Home, hats for homeless people, poppies to mark the 100th anniversary of the beginning of the First World War and blankets and teddies for the Ukraine Relief Group.

Its most recent campaign called for twiddle mats and arm muffs to be made for those living with dementia in the UK.




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# Step back in time at historic venues

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

**A WHOLE host of events centred around Bromsgrove's heritage and culture will be on offer as part of a jam-packed Heritage Open Days Festival.**

Bromsgrove District Council has partnered with heritage organisations across the region for the free heritage extravaganza.

For 10 days, organisations are encouraged to host events, open their doors, and welcome in their communities for free.

The festival for 2025 focuses on the theme of Architecture.

Supported by the National Trust and People's Postcode Lottery, the festival is designed to break down barriers and encourage residents to find the hidden gems right on their doorstep.

Across Bromsgrove there are seven venues taking part in the festival which runs between today (Friday) and September 21.

Bromsgrove District Council's cabinet member for leisure and climate change, Coun Bernard McEldowney, said: "Every year we see volunteers and staff from so many organisations work incredibly hard to put on free events for our residents. "I am continually grateful to all



**Rev Richard Sandland, Sue Bryant, Barbara Murphy and Tessa Carrick ahead of a previous Heritage Open Day event a few years back at All Saints Church. Picture by Marcus Mingins 3621001MMR1**

those who make it possible every year for us to promote such a full schedule. There really is something for everyone."

New for this year, the council is encouraging visitors to attend as many events and locations as possible

for the chance to win exciting prizes as part of the Heritage Hunters campaign.

Visit [bromsgrove.gov.uk/hods](http://bromsgrove.gov.uk/hods) for more information. Festival booklets can be seen online or picked up at participating venues.

## Heritage Open Days venues

Visitors to **All Saints Church**, Burcot Lane, can enjoy stained glass windows, Bromsgrove Guild craftsmanship and memorabilia from the church's 150th anniversary, alongside an exhibition about the town's button factory. There will also be a book stall, refreshments and displays on the church's history and personalities. The event runs from 10am to 4pm on Saturday, September 13, and between 2pm and 4pm on Sunday, September 14.

**The Norton Collection Museum** opens from 10am to 4pm on both this Saturday and next (September 13 and 20) with displays on the Bromsgrove Guild, glass, buttons, nails, railways, Court Leet, Chartist, hardware, bicycles and Banshee Motorcycles, plus a recreated Edwardian high street.

**The Greenhouse** at Barnes Close, Chadwich hosts an open day from 10am to 3pm on Tuesday, September 16, with an illustrated display on 95 years of history including its Cadbury family links and role in peace and reconciliation. At 2pm, artist and architect Clare Nisbet-Clossick will give a special talk on Bromsgrove's 20th century architecture.

**The Former Chapel** in Windsor Street will be open between 11am and 2pm on Wednesday, September 17.

The Grade II listed building features a Greek Revival entrance with Doric columns, Hardman Studios stained glass, a First World War memorial board and decorative scripture tablets, with alterations by architect John Cotton. Visitors can view both side elevations following recent demolition nearby, see history displays, enjoy refreshments and are advised

to remove shoes on the martial arts floor mats.

**Avoncroft Museum of Buildings**, Stoke Heat, will be offering free entry across 19 acres of historic buildings on Saturday, September 20 and Sunday, September 21 - 10am to 4pm on both days. Attractions include a working windmill, medieval hall, Victorian toll house, prefab, National Collection of Telephone Kiosks and a Showman's Wagon.

Families can enjoy free heritage bus rides, a miniature train, vintage fun-fair, games, crafts, an art exhibition, samba band, tombola and raffle. Dogs on leads are welcome, and refreshments, parking and hand-made cakes are available.

**St John's Church**, Kidderminster Road, combines music and history on Saturday, September 20 with a coffee and cake concert at 10.30am, followed by its Side-by-Side Open Day until 3pm.

Visitors can learn about the spire restoration project, try heritage craft skills such as stone carving and lime pointing, see demonstrations by a structural engineer and architect, and build a model of the church. Myth-busting talks by historian Simon Henderson and refreshments will also be available.

**St John's Court Nursing Home** will open between 2pm and 4pm on Saturday, September 20.

Formerly a vicarage and later council offices, the Grade II listed building features Jacobethan revival gables, an oriel window and later extensions by CE Bateman and others. Visitors can view displays on the history of the building and enjoy tea, coffee and cake, with supervised children and dogs on leads welcome.



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## Club launches walking football

NEW weekly walking football sessions for people living with Parkinson's have been launched by Alvechurch Football Club's community foundation.

The club has introduced the new Parkinson's walking football centre in partnership with the Northfield Network scheme and is aiming to provide fun, inclusive and low impact walking football sessions, run by FA qualified coaches.

The sessions – for people living with Parkinson's disease – take place from 4pm to 5pm every Monday at The Hayes, Redhill Road, Kings Norton.

The foundation ambassador for the Parkinson's programme and former England U21 manager, Aidy Boothroyd, will be at the sessions across the year to help out with coaching and playing.

Aidy was diagnosed with Parkinson's in November 2021 making this cause important to him

The scheme's slogan is: "Sport for strength, movement for life".

Sessions are free and contain a warm-up, technical play and fitness and non-contact matches which attempt to benefit and improve fitness, boosting social, physical and mental wellbeing.

Email [Kev@Alvechurchfc.co.uk](mailto:Kev@Alvechurchfc.co.uk) for more information.



Teams and officials who made the day such a success at Cherry Tree Walk. Pictures by Richard King.

# Boro unite for Nigel tribute



Joy Lowe (middle) with the two captains Nikki Brazil (left) and Molly Maguire (right) and the Nigel Lowe Memorial Cup.

**REDDITCH Borough Football Club** hosted a memorial match in memory of club stalwart **Nigel Lowe**.

The club's two senior women's teams contested the inaugural Nigel Lowe Memorial Cup at Cherry Tree Walk.

Nigel, who died in November last year, was a friend of the club who previously sponsored the team.

He helped improve the club's facilities at their Cherry Tree Walk home.

He also helped raise the club's profile within the Redditch community.

Redditch Borough Ladies took on Redditch Borough Women for the Nigel Lowe Memorial Cup.

Borough Women play in the West Midlands Regional League Premier Division and Borough Ladies play in Division One of the Midwest Counties League.

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

Nigel's daughter, Ellie-Kay, lined up for Borough Ladies having played for the club over the last seven seasons.

Borough Women triumphed 4-3 in a thrilling contest.

Nigel's wife Joy presented the cup to winning team captain Molly Maguire.

Redditch Borough founder, Julian Workman, said: "It was a fantastic day for the club which was rounded off with a great tribute to Nigel."

Prior to the memorial game taking place, a number of the club's junior female sides took to the pitch.

Redditch's under-8s, under-9s, under-10s, under-12s, under-15s and under-16s all played matches in a celebration of the club's women's section.



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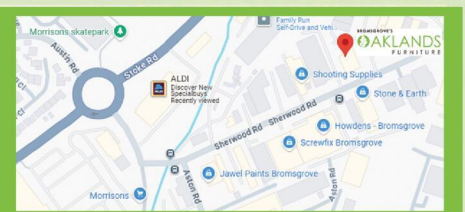
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# MP in plea for speeding action

WORCESTERSHIRE County highways is being implored by Bromsgrove's MP to reinstate a planned speed limit reduction along an A-road in Bordesley after plans were halted.

Bradley Thomas said Worcestershire County Council's decision to pause the plans along the A441 through Bordesley 'made no sense'.

After residents raised concerns about road safety along the busy route through the village, Mr Thomas brought key stakeholders together to discuss the issues.

Following the meeting with local and county councillors, Worcestershire highways, under the previous Conservative administration, committed to reducing the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph and work was well under way with a public consultation planned.

However, following local elections in May and changes in administration, Worcestershire County Council's new highways chief has parked the plans whilst it reviews new Traffic Management Policies.

Both the plans and its consultation are now on hold under the new Reform UK administration.

As a result, Mr Thomas has written to Coun Karl Perks, chief of highways and transport, calling on him to urgently restart the process.

Mr Thomas said: "A key part of My Plan for Bromsgrove and the Villages is to improve



road safety – and I know Coun Perks is committed to this too.

"Given the work has already been done by the previous administration, it makes no sense to me this has been put on hold.

"I know residents will be very disappointed, especially as they've waited for too long already for the speed limit to be reduced through their village."

Worcestershire County Council confirmed it was reviewing the proposal for changes to the speed limit on the A441 through Bordesley.

The county spokesperson offered no further comment.

**Bradley Thomas MP is calling on Worcestershire County Council to restart plans for speed limit reductions in Bordesley after they were put on hold. s**



The team at Monsoon which was named 'Birmingham's Best Restaurant' at the Midlands Food and Drink Awards. s

**AWARD WINNERS:** STAFF at an eatery in Hollywood are celebrating after it was named 'Birmingham's Best Restaurant' at the Midlands Food and Drink Awards.

Monsoon on May Lane prides itself on serving great food from its chefs and providing a warm welcome from the front-of-house staff.

The team said a trip to the restaurant should be more than a meal - 'it should be an experience'.

"Our chefs, led by the visionary chef Anika Patel, pour their hearts into every plate, blending vibrant South Asian flavours with contemporary flair.

"This isn't just a win for our team - it's a celebration of passion, community, and the artistry of food that brings us all together.

"From the heart of our kitchen to the joy at your table, every dish we serve tells a story of dedication, creativity and love.

"This award belongs to our extraordinary team and our incredible customers

who've made Monsoon a cherished part of Birmingham's culinary scene.

"Our kitchen team works tirelessly, sourcing the freshest ingredients and crafting every element with precision."

They added the award was a milestone and a triumph to be shared with their customers who were 'the heartbeat of Monsoon'.

"This accolade from the Midlands Food and Drink Awards is as much yours as it is ours.

"Birmingham's food scene is a vibrant tapestry, and to be named its Best Restaurant is humbling.

"We're proud to stand alongside the city's culinary innovators, contributing to a region known for its diversity and creativity."

They added the award fueled the restaurant's drive to keep pushing boundaries and experimenting with new flavours.

Visit [monsoon.restaurant](http://monsoon.restaurant) or call 01564 829200 for more information or to book a table.

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Reader Travel

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*White rice, pak choi sesame seeds*

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*Shredded duck, mandarin pancakes, cucumber, spring onion, hoisin*

**KATSU CURRY 19**  
*Jasmine rice, katsu curry sauce, kimchi add breaded chicken 4*

desserts

**MOCHI 6.5**  
*Chocolate & Pistachio*

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sides

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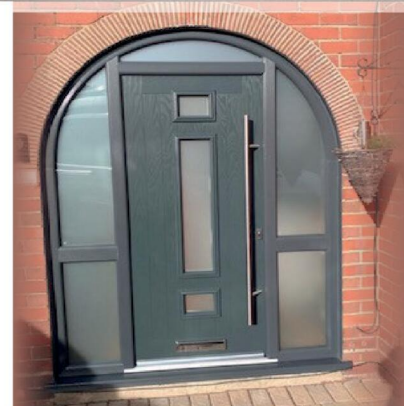
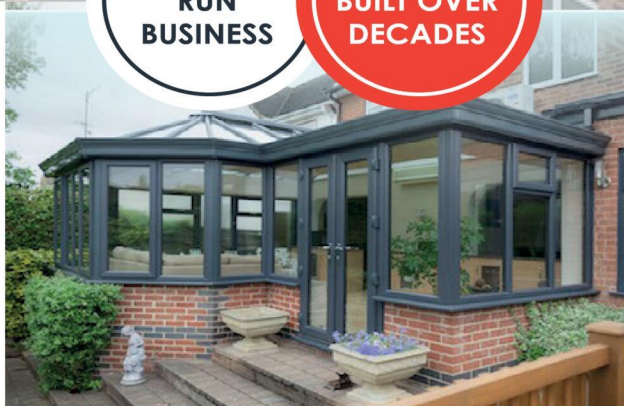


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# Healthcare staff secure victory after fair pay fight

**HEALTHCARE assistants across Worcestershire have won a major victory in their long-running campaign for fair pay, UNISON has announced.**

More than 1,000 of the support workers across Worcestershire Acute Hospital NHS Trust, who have spent years carrying out clinical duties far beyond their original job description, will now receive up to £4,000 in back pay.

Every healthcare assistant at the trust will also be moved up from band 2 to band 3 of the NHS Agenda for Change pay scale, securing a permanent annual wage increase of up to £2,000, the union added.

The breakthrough deal last Wednesday follows six months of determined organising, campaigning and negotiation by hospital staff, who demanded recognition for their vital role in patient care, along with UNISON.

UNISON West Midlands regional organiser Claire Breeze said:

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

“This is an incredible achievement for healthcare assistants at Worcestershire Acute Trust.

“For too long, staff were expected to take on demanding clinical responsibilities without the recognition or reward they deserved.

“Now, thanks to their determination and solidarity, more than 1,000 healthcare assistants will receive the back pay they’re owed and a permanent uplift to their wages.

“This win means a fairer deal for staff, and ultimately better care for patients. It shows the power of union members standing together and sends a clear message NHS staff must always be properly valued.”

Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust’s portfolio includes the Alexandra Hospital in Redditch, Kidderminster Hospital and Treatment Centre and Worcestershire Royal Hospital in Worcester.



Midlands Air Ambulance Charity has completed its 80,000th mission.

## Air ambulance flies milestone mission

MIDLANDS Air Ambulance Charity has now attended more than 80,000 missions – more than any other air ambulance charity in the UK.

Covering Worcestershire, Warwickshire, the West Midlands, Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Shropshire and Staffordshire, the charity operates three air ambulance helicopters and a fleet of critical care cars, providing rapid pre-hospital emergency care to those most in need across the six-county region.

The charity’s 80,000th mission was to a male from the West Midlands, who had sustained a traumatic leg injury whilst at work.

The patient was given advanced treatment on scene by Midlands Air Ambulance

Charity’s critical care crew before being taken by air ambulance to Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham.

The MAA’s capabilities have come a long way since its very first mission and, with continued investment and unwavering support, it now operates 24/7 delivering hospital-level care directly at the scene of a traumatic or medical emergency.

Rob Davies, patient liaison lead and critical care paramedic for Midlands Air Ambulance Charity, said: “Reaching our 75,000th mission in February last year was a major milestone, and surpassing 80,000 so soon highlights the demand for our service.

“Our crews administer advanced treatments and medicines that support in managing

each patient’s needs in the crucial period immediately after an incident.

“This achievement is a powerful reflection of the dedication shown by our crew and the wider emergency services response teams.

“We’re truly grateful to everyone who has played a part in helping us reach this milestone who, at times, operate in challenging and dangerous environments to deliver critical care to those in urgent need.”

Email patient.liaison@midlandsairambulance.com or call 0800 8 40 20 40 to contact the Midlands Air Ambulance Charity’s patient liaison service.

Go to midlandsairambulance.com or follow the Midlands Air Ambulance on social media for more on the charity.



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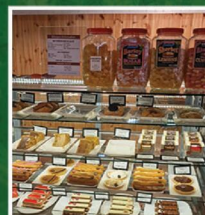
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SCAN ME

# Choosing your child's school



## THE EDUCATION GUIDE



**W**hen choosing a new school for your child, whether it's their first primary school, you've just moved into the area or you want to change schools, you will first want to contact your local council to find all the school options available to your child in your catchment area.

Then you will need to look at the admission criteria for the schools you're interested in. If there are special circumstances you can sometimes apply for places in schools in other areas but a good place to start is looking is on their excellent website at [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk).

It's a good idea to look at each school's inspection and performance reports. To teach and accommodate pupils, all UK schools must meet strict quality standards set by the UK government and other education bodies. These standards cover

*“...it's a good idea to look at each school's inspection and performance reports”*

the quality of teaching, accommodation, pupil welfare, facilities and more.

To check that schools are meeting these standards, they are inspected at least every three years for boarding, and every six for teaching quality. Between

scheduled visits, inspection bodies will respond to complaints if necessary.

After the inspection, the school receives a report which shows how they performed. You can see the reports on the schools' websites, or by contacting Ofsted at [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk).

Once you've narrowed down your favourite schools, it's a good idea to set up a visit or find out when their next Open Day is. This will give you a chance to see the facilities and meet some of the staff and pupils.



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# Open Evening

**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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**ST AUGUSTINE'S  
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL  
OPEN EVENING**

**THURSDAY  
2ND  
OCTOBER  
2025**

**5PM-7PM**



**PRINCIPAL TALKS  
@ 5.15PM, 5.45PM,  
6.15PM, 6.45PM**



**SAVE  
THE  
DATE**



# THE EDUCATION GUIDE



## Attend an Open Day

Every UK school has its own unique atmosphere and facilities.

If you can, it's a good idea to visit the schools you are interested in before you enroll.

Nearly all schools hold 'open days' – these are often held in autumn (September, October and November) but you might also find them at other times of the year. On an open day, you can meet the teachers and other staff, look around the school premises and meet other pupils.

In some boarding schools, you can even stay overnight in a boarding house and take part in a 'taster day' of classes before you enroll.



**BROMSGROVE SCHOOL**

### OPEN MORNINGS

**Preparatory**  
pupils aged 7 - 13  
**Saturday 20th September**

**Pre-Preparatory & Nursery**  
pupils aged 2 - 7  
**Saturday 27th September**  
10.00am - 11.30am

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# THE EDUCATION GUIDE



## The UK Education Path

**Age 3-4:** In the UK, many children start their education aged 3 or 4 by attending a nursery school, playgroup or the reception or nursery class of a primary school. This education is not compulsory.

**Age 4-16:** Full-time education is compulsory for all UK children and teenagers between the ages of 5 and 16. All UK

children are entitled to a free place at a state school between these ages.

Primary education is for children aged 4 or 5 up to 11 or 13. Terms you might hear are primary school, infant school, junior school, pre-

preparatory (pre-prep) school and preparatory (prep) school. The terms 'pre-preparatory' and 'preparatory' are most commonly used in the independent sector.

Secondary education is for pupils aged 11 or 13 to

16. Terms you might hear are secondary school, high school and senior school. The term 'senior school' is more commonly used in the independent sector.

**Age 16 and over:** After the end of compulsory education, students might enter further education and then higher education.





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*"A happy and successful school."*  
*"The school is led very well, it wants nothing less than the very best."*  
*"The school has a genuine family feel."*  
*"Children get off to a great start in Early Years."*  
*"Pupils' behaviour is exemplary."*  
*"The schools strong ambition for pupils is realised."*  
*"Pupils are ready for the next stage of education when the time comes to leave their much-loved first school."*







'Love and respect ourselves, others and God's world'

Executive Head: Mr Gromski  
Head of School: Mr Uren

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'Pupils are enthusiastic about coming to this school.'

'Children in reception cheer with excitement when they get a question correct.'

'Standards in reading, writing and mathematics are consistently very high.'

'Pupils are very well prepared to learn to read from first thing in reception.'

'The school actively fosters a love of reading.'

'The school has a very ambitious curriculum in place.'

**OPEN DAY 15th OCTOBER 2025**  
**at 9:30am — 10.30am.**







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[office@hindlipfirst.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:office@hindlipfirst.worcs.sch.uk)

# THE EDUCATION GUIDE

## Applying to a School

For independent schools, you will need to apply directly to the school. There are around 2,500 independent schools in the UK, which educate around 615,000 children, some 7 per cent of all British children and 18 per cent of pupils over the age of 16. Look on the school's website or contact them to ask about the application process. Here in the Midlands we have some exceptional independent boarding and day schools.

For state schools, applications are usually handled by the local

government so your local council will be able to help with all applications. However, do remember demand for places varies and for the most popular schools, (especially in the independent sector) you may have to apply up to three years in advance. For many, you should apply a year in advance if possible, but if you have left it later than that it is still worth enquiring. Just email or phone the admissions offices at the schools you are interested in.

It is best to start in September (the start of the academic year in the UK), so that you begin at the same time as other students and it will be easier to settle in. However, don't worry if you can't apply that far in advance or start in September – some schools are very flexible.



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## South Bromsgrove High Open Evening Thursday 2nd October 6.30pm – 8.30pm

Please aim to come at the following times:

- Alvechurch 6.30pm - 7.15pm
- Aston Fields 7.15pm - 8.00pm
- St John's 7.30pm - 8.30pm

Visitors from other schools should attend from 7.00pm  
Headteacher's Presentation at 7.20pm & 8.10pm



### Our Vision...

To develop polite, resilient and well-rounded young people, who through hard work and determination make excellent progress.



# Wet weather failed to dampen spirits at festival

THE CROWDS braved the rain and came out for this year's annual Rubery Festival on Sunday.

The event began with a parade from Legion Way to St Chad's Park where there was a live music stage and arena, along with 30 stalls from charities and community groups.

Attendees were entertained by an array of singers, including Jasmine Nicholson, Stephen Law, Scott Smith Cartwright, Michelle Black, Charlie Thompson as Elsa from Frozen and many more.

And there were dance performances from Excellis Dance and other groups, children's rides, a bouncy castle, face painting, vintage vehicles, classic cars and more.

Organiser Tony Maslen thanked everyone who supported the event including the helpers, those who went along, the singers, dance groups, food vendors, stallholders.

"It was a very wet day but the show must go on - and it certainly did," he added.

Visit the story on our website for more pictures of the day.

**LEFT: The Rubery Wombles litter-picking group were among the stall-holders. s**



**RIGHT: The parade journeyed from Legion Way to St Chad's Park. s**

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**November**

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15 GLOUCESTER QUAYS SHOPPER.....£27

19 MISS SAIGON Alexandra Theatre.....£79

22 CARDIFF SHOPPER .....£35

27 THURSFORD CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR (2 Days).....£235

**December**

9 THE NUTCRACKER Birmingham Hippodrome .....£65

12 BLENHEIM AT CHRISTMAS .....£75

21 THE WICKED WIZARD OF OZ BPplus Arena.....£75

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or email enquiries@showcoachtours.co.uk

Visit www.showcoachtours.co.uk for the full programme

# Crews battled blaze for hours

A TOTAL of 14 fire engines attended a severe blaze in Longbridge on Wednesday night and into yesterday morning (Thursday).

The fire broke out around 10.35pm in West Works Way.

At the height of the incident, 14 fire engines and two hydraulic platforms attended and worked to extinguish the flames.

Residents living nearby were told to stay indoors and keep all of their doors and windows shut to prevent smoke entering their properties.

Bristol Road South was closed between Longbridge island and the McDonald's as the emergency services dealt with the incident and drivers were told to avoid the area late on Wednesday night and yesterday morning.

Crews - more than 60 firefighters - were supported throughout the night by drone operators giving a bird's eye view of the incident.

The building, measuring around 30m by 50m, was constructed of steel frame and metal sheeting.

Speaking yesterday, West Midlands Fire Service said: "Firefighters have made good progress extinguishing the fire overnight, and we have scaled down significantly."

"Currently, three fire engines remain at the scene as crews continue to damp down any remaining hotspots."

There were no reported casualties or injuries at this incident.

Yesterday, as the Standard went to press, a structural engineer was at the scene.

TWO MEN have been charged with wounding with intent after a stabbing in Redditch last Friday evening.

Damion Nance, aged 22, of Fabian Close, Rednal, Birmingham, and Michael Knight, aged 35, of Chapel Street, Headless Cross, Redditch appeared before Kidderminster Magistrates on Monday.

They were remanded in custody and will next appear at Worcester Crown Court on October 6.

POWER tools, an electric bike and mechanic tools were stolen in a Rubery burglary between Monday night and 6.20am on Tuesday morning.

The thieves gained access to Beacon Farm, Beacon Lane and, after taking their haul, fled towards Beacon Hill and Monument Lane.

Witnesses or anyone with information should email Hagley and Rubery Safer Neighbourhood Team at: hr.snt@westmercia.police.uk or call police on 101.

Alternatively, call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

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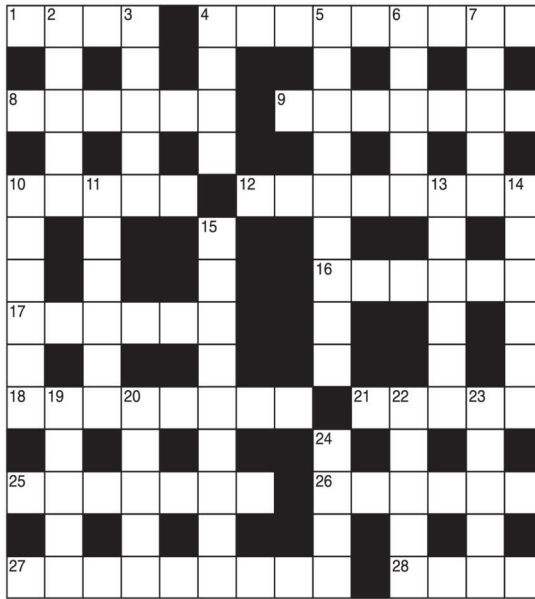
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# GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

## ACROSS

- 1 & 16 Across Novelist whose books include Epitaph for a Spy (4,6)
- 4 Loud-humming insect (9)
- 8 Plant in its earliest stages of development (6)
- 9 Ornamental shrub with pendulous, usually red flowers (7)
- 10 A conductor's staff (5)
- 12 A day set apart annually in America, etc., for public tree-planting (5,3)
- 16 See 1 Across
- 17 Yellow-flowered perennial used for flavouring soups, sauces, etc. (6)
- 18 A trading centre or mart (8)
- 21 See 25 Across
- 25, 20 Down & 21 Across Short ghost story by Henry James (3,4,2,3,5)
- 26 Speech or writing in commendation or praise (6)
- 27 Measure in length, breadth, or thickness (9)
- 28 Greek god of war (4)



## DOWN

- 2 A Cuban dance (5)
- 3 An article of bric-a-brac; a small collectible item (5)
- 4 A bar or chain stretched across a harbour (4)
- 5 Villain who murders several wives, in a tale by Perrault (9)
- 6 Colourless volatile liquid used as an anaesthetic (5)
- 7 Character in Uncle Tom's Cabin (5)
- 10 Shielding device or structure (6)
- 11 Fleshy, globular root used as a vegetable (6)
- 13 Monetary unit of Hong Kong (6)
- 14 Common wayside plant sometimes called milfoil (6)
- 15 Indoor game played with a red, white and a spotted white ball and a cue (9)

- 19 The spiritual and temporal leader expected by Muslims (5)
- 20 See 25 Across
- 22 Rosalind's cousin in As You Like It (5)
- 23 Score of two under par on any hole in golf (5)
- 24 Seabird with a forked tail and long wings (4)

# SOLUTIONS

ACROSS: 1 Eric; 4 Bumblebee; 8 Embryo; 9 Fuchsia; 10 Baton; 12 Arbor Day; 16 Ambler; 17 Fennel; 18 Emporium; 21 Screw; 25 The Turn; 26 Eulogy; 27 Dimension; 28 Aes. DOWN: 2 Rumba; 3 Curio; 4 Boom; 5 Bluebeard; 6 Ether; 7 Eliza; 10 Baffle; 11 Turnip; 13 Dollar; 14 Yarrow; 15 Billiards; 19 Mahdi; 20 Of The; 22 Cella; 23 Eagle; 24 Tern.

## General Knowledge Crossword

ACROSS: 1 Egre; 4 Beneath; 8 Banquet; 9 Repe; 10 Lees; 11 Pleasure; 13 Reel; 14 Lone; 16 Habitual; 17 Sore; 20 Erup; 21 Coronet; 22 Toddler; 23 Error; Down: 1 Embellishment; 2 Range; 3 Tour; 4 Battle; 5 Narator; 6 Ampoule; 7 Helter-skelter; 12 Teetotal; 13 Rebound; 15 Lancer; 18 Owmmer; 19 Urge.

## Crossword

ADVANTAGE: Victoria, Argo, Golden Hind, Titanic, Hesperus, General Belgrano, Mary Celeste, Pequod, Britannic, Poseidon, Lusitania, Temeraire, Nautlius, African Queen, Bismarck, Mayflower, Bounty, PARTICLES: Pinatof, Black Pig, Potemkin.

## Wordwheel Pathfinder

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

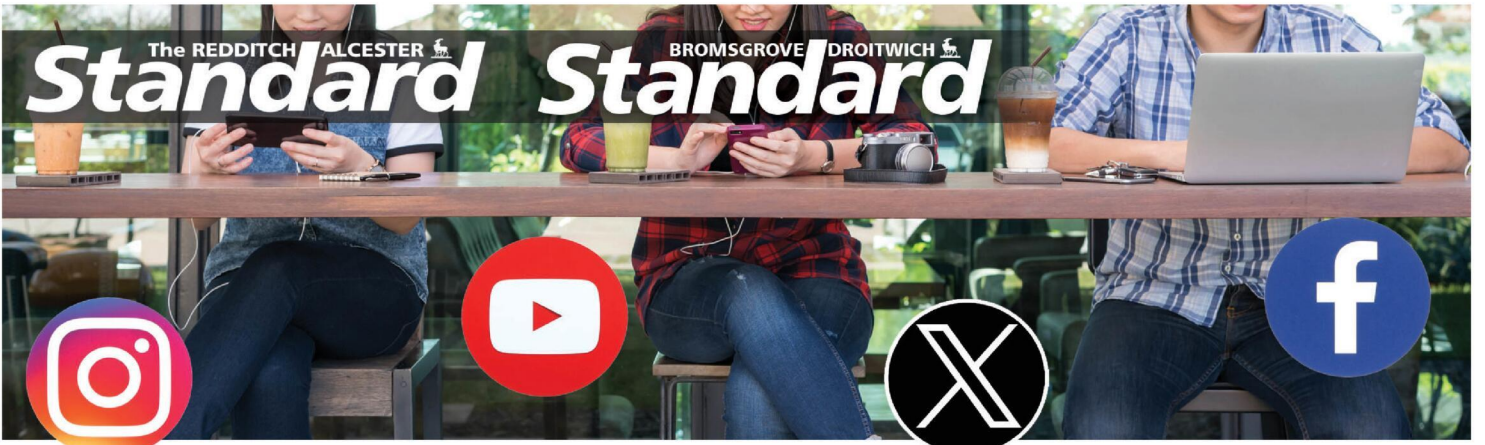
## Codeword

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

Hard

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

Easy  
Sudoku



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## BIRTHDAY MEMORIES



**LOWE**  
**Margaret Lilian**  
12.9.1943 - 4.10.2019

Today we would have been celebrating your 82nd Birthday with tears in our eyes and broken hearts. Flowers we bring to your grave, kisses we blow for you, to keep so close to your heart. We love and miss you everyday.

*Love always*  
*Your loving Husband, Daughters, Son and Family*  
xxxx



## DEATHS

**WESTWOOD**  
**Keith Alan**  
**Wes**

Passed away on 23rd August 2025, aged 63 years.

Will be sadly missed by all family and friends.

Funeral service and cremation will take place at Redditch Crematorium on Friday 19th September at 2.00 pm.

Family flowers only please, any donations may be made on the day to Primrose Hospice.

All enquiries to James Giles & Sons.  
Tel: 01527 872318.

## DEATHS

**SOLWAY**  
**Kevin**  
**"Kev"**

Aged 66 years.

Suddenly passed away on Thursday 28th August 2025.

A much loved Husband to Debbie, a beloved Dad to Leanne, Hayley, Lewis and Lydia. A very special Grandad, Brother and Father-In-Law.

Kev will be greatly missed by all of his family and friends.

A service to celebrate Kev's life will take place at Redditch Crematorium on Friday 3rd October 2025 at 2.00pm. Family flowers only please, donations if so desired to The Brain Tumour Charity can be made via Thomas Brothers The Funeral Directors Birchfield House 494 Evesham Road Redditch B97 5JF 01527 547777 Thank you

## DEATHS

**Janet Abbotts**  
**(Mary)**

Passed away peacefully on 2nd September, 2025

A Loving Wife, Mother, Grandmother and Great Grandmother  
Free from pain at last  
*All my love, Always Alan*

Funeral at Redditch Crematorium at 11am on Wednesday 24th September, 2025  
Family flowers only  
Donations to Cancer Research c/o Huntley's Funeral Services

## DEATHS

**HILL**  
**Shane Philip**

Aged 64 years.

Passed away suddenly on Saturday 23rd August 2025.

Dearly beloved Husband of Sarah. Devoted Father to Jacob, Jasmine and Lily. A service to celebrate Shane's life will be held at St. Matthias & St. George Church, Astwood Bank B96 6EH on Tuesday 23rd September at 12 noon, followed by a brief committal at Redditch Crematorium for close family. All welcome to The Southerest Hotel B97 4JS from 1pm. Family flowers only, donations if so desired to National Rheumatoid Arthritis Society c/o Thomas Brothers B97 5JF 01527 547777

## DEATHS



**STOKES**  
**Betty Winifred**

Age 90 years

Much loved Mom of Darren, Wife of John and Sister to Brian, Ken, Pat, Les, Mavis and Billy.

Passed away peacefully on Sunday 24th August 2025.

Funeral service at Redditch Crematorium on Thursday 18th September 2025 at 10.15am.

Bright colours for Betty.  
*"Bet" will always be in our hearts, one of life's true diamonds*  
xx

## FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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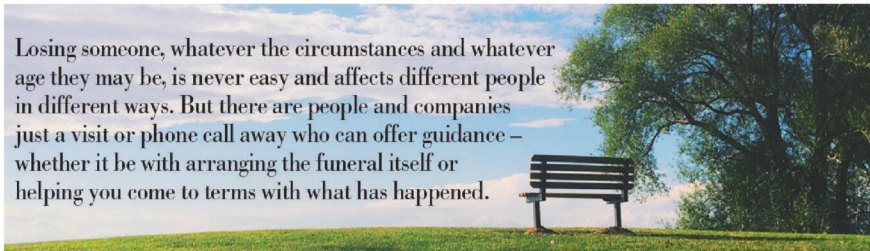
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Losing someone, whatever the circumstances and whatever age they may be, is never easy and affects different people in different ways. But there are people and companies just a visit or phone call away who can offer guidance – whether it be with arranging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




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# Classified

www.directory247.co.uk

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## PUBLIC NOTICES

### PUBLIC NOTICES

#### Warwickshire County Council

**ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984**  
 Warwickshire County Council has made the following Temporary Traffic Orders:  
**COCK BEVINGTON ROAD, SALFORD PRIORS**  
**Order Effect:** Road closed to vehicular traffic.  
**Reason for Order:** Works to repair washout chamber.  
**Order Commences:** 15 September 2025 for up to 18 months.  
**Anticipated Completion:** 17 September 2025.  
**Access & Diversion:** No diversion available.  
**Contractor:** Chevron Traffic Management Ltd, Tel: 03300 080 820.

**C39 SPERNAL LANE, SPERNAL**  
**Order Effect:** Road Closed to vehicular traffic from Fork Hill to the A435.  
**Reason for Order:** Carriageway patching and associated works, 08.00hrs-16.00hrs.  
**Order Commences:** 16 September 2025 for up to 18 months.  
**Anticipated Completion:** 16 September 2025.

**Access & Diversion:** A435, Arden Road, Tything Road West, Kinwarton Farm Road, Kinwarton Road, Captains Hill, School Road and vice versa.  
**Contractor:** Balfour Beatty, Tel: 03452 415 302.

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

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

S Duxbury, Director of Strategy, Planning & Governance, Shire Hall, Warwick CV34 4RL Date 12 Sept 2025

### PUBLIC NOTICES

#### BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL & REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Advertisement Key: ADVSTD = Wider Publicity, FP = Affects Footpath, LB = Listed Building.  
**24/01146/FUL** ADVSTD FP  
**Site:** The Dell, Peterbrook Road, Majors Green, Worcestershire B90 1HZ.  
**Proposal:** Change of use of existing garage and extension to create a special needs nursery and hardstanding for parking and turning.

**25/00828/LBC** LB  
**Site:** Hewell Gardens, Holyoakes Lane, Bentley, Worcestershire B97 5SR.  
**Proposal:** Replacement windows and frames.

**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.**

#### COLIN HILES Deceased

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 anyone having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the deceased, late of Flat 9, Headley Court, The Rough, Headless Cross, Redditch, Worcestershire, B97 5FS, who died on 26/01/2024, must send written particulars to the address below by 13/11/2025, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests notified.

Kevin Bottomley c/o Taylor & Emmet LLP, 20 Arundel Gate, Sheffield, S1 2PP, Ref:TS21012

## PUBLIC NOTICES

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

### MISCELLANEOUS

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**FIVE** Minton Bellemeade salad plates (8") blue flowers, bone china, very good clean condition. £7.00 for all. Tel: 07934132759

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**POOLE** pottery coffee pot, white with blue lid, no chips / cracks £20 07947 634608

**POOLE** pottery sugar bowl and cream jug white with pink lid, no chips / cracks £15 07947 634608

**SMALL** Wedgewood blue and white plate with plate stand £15 - 07947 634608

**GOLD** plated charms / pendants, sail ship, spinning wheel and steam engine - £12 07947 634608

**6** Silver plated tea spoons in presentation case 1960 era, case and spoons in good condition - £15 07947 634608

**FIVE** Minton Bellemeade salad plates (8") blue flowers, bone china, very good clean condition. £8.00 for all. Tel: 07934132759

### MISCELLANEOUS

**ROMAN** crinkle blouses, cap sleeve. Polyester / cotton. One white, one pink-same design, very good condition. Size medium 12 / 14. £3.00 each or both for £5.00. (I can forward photos if interested) Tel: 07934132759

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**NESCAFE** Dolce Gusto with coffee pots £25 07743929558

**BREADMAKER** fast bake as new £20 07743929558

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# WANTED

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The sixth-generation Clio includes enhanced interior materials and in-car technology, and offers many traditional C-segment qualities in a B-segment car.



**THE NEW Renault Clio has been unveiled.**

Over its 35-year history, the Clio has always set the benchmark in its category in Europe and has remained the best seller for Renault throughout its five previous generations.

The first model, launched in 1990, represented a conscious step up in quality and a complete revolution in its segment, reflected in the adoption of an actual name, rather than a number, to follow on from the Super-5 era.

Over the generations, Clio has consistently redefined standards in its segment in terms of design, comfort, cabin space, quality, safety, driving pleasure, and multimedia features, while also reducing emissions. These efforts twice earned the model the highly esteemed title of 'European Car of the Year', in 1991 and 2006.

Clio has included numerous iconic versions over the years, such as the sporty 16V and Williams, and the incredible Clio V6 with its rear mid-engine.

Overall, Clio has sold nearly 17million cars across 120 countries around the world, making it the best-selling French vehicle of all time. In fact, Clio continues to top the charts, emerging as the best-selling car in Europe in the first half of 2025.

In the UK, Clio has sold over 1.3million cars since its introduction here in 1990.

The fifth generation Renault Clio introduced a full hybrid E-Tech 145hp powertrain, which has proved very popular among UK consumers. So far in 2025, UK Renault Clio sales have been split roughly 40/60 per cent petrol/HEV.

## Latest Clio to arrive

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## Spa held by Cribbs as Rudd makes 200th appearance for club

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

**FOOTBALL:** DROITWICH Spa stretched their unbeaten run to four matches following a 1-1 draw away at Cribbs.

An early goal from Charlie Tilley put the Saltmen ahead only for George Kellow to draw the home side level shortly before half time at The Lawns.

And midfielder Cory Rudd made his 200th appearance for the club in the fixture following his arrival at Spa in 2018.

The result means Droitwich sit second in the Hellenic League Premier Division table, three points behind leaders Roman Glass St George.

Andy Crowther's side made a bright start as Cribbs goalkeeper Freddie Godden kept out Nathan Binner's deflected shot.

And Spa took the lead on 10 minutes when Tilley finished from 12-yards out after Godden could only parry Joe Hurdman's cross from the left into the scorer's path.

The visitors went close again moments later as Binner tried his luck with a strike across goal after good work from Hurdman.

And Rudd almost marked his 200th appearance for the club with a goal only to see his effort from distance hit the angle of post and crossbar.



Spa thought they had doubled their lead on the 20-minute mark only for Hurdman to see his effort ruled out due to a foul by James Lemon in the build-up.

The away side continued to dominate proceedings with Lemon unable to guide Joe Clayton's cross into the net.

And Cribbs made Droitwich pay for their missed chances on 40 minutes as Kellow rose highest to head home at a corner against the run of play.

The hosts spurned a golden chance to take the lead early in the second period as Jaden Neale blazed his effort well over the crossbar.

Spa responded just past the hour

mark as Godden turned Rudd's bouncing free-kick around the post.

Substitute Alex Dugmore thought he had put Spa ahead late in the second half only for the referee to again deny the Saltmen a second goal.

Dugmore's protestations following the decision saw the striker sent to the sin-bin.

And Cribbs stopper Godden made further saves in the remaining minutes to deny Spa all three points.

Droitwich are next in action against Corsham Town on Saturday, September 13 with kick-off at 3pm at the King George Playing Fields.

**Droitwich were left frustrated by Cribbs. Picture by Mathew Mason.**

## Multi-year deal for EXCELR8 and Vertu

**BTCC:** DROITWICH-based EXCELR8 Motorsport have signed a multi-year deal with Vertu to take effect from the start of the 2026 BTCC season.

British Touring Car Championship front-runners EXCELR8 and Vertu, the fourth-largest automotive retailer in the United Kingdom, first joined forces back in 2021.

Vertu then took up the role of EXCELR8's title sponsor the following year through its Bristol Street Motors brand.

And the deal coincided with EXCELR8's rise to the pinnacle of the sport when Tom Ingram won the BTCC title in 2022.

Ingram has since finished as runner-up in each of the past two seasons and currently leads the drivers' standings in the 2025 Championship.

EXCELR8 team owner, Justina Williams said: "We are thrilled to have extended our relationship with Vertu into 2026 with this new multi-year deal, and it's fantastic that we are in a position to announce the news before the current season has even been completed.

"Our partnership has gone from strength-to-strength in recent years, and it's been particularly pleasing this season to see a teal takeover in the paddock thanks to the sheer number of fans attending events in their Team Vertu kit.

"Vertu's support in this

being our strongest season in the BTCC so far can't be underestimated as without them, we wouldn't have been able to carry out the winter testing that has played a key part in us developing our car to be better than ever.

"With four cars now running consistently at the front of the field, we are in a fantastic position in the title race ahead of the final two rounds, and we look forward to chasing success alongside Vertu for the remainder of the year and beyond."

Vertu chief executive, Robert Forrester added: "Our partnership with EXCELR8 in the British Touring Car Championship has been a huge success, particularly since we became title sponsors of the team back in 2022.

"It has allowed us to showcase our brand to a huge audience across the UK, and has been particularly important this year after our brand consolidation and the change to Team Vertu - with the success the team has enjoyed on track putting the Vertu name front and centre of a huge audience.

"The drive and desire to succeed has once again been evident with the results that the team has secured on track, and we look forward to continuing our BTCC journey, and challenging for plenty of silverware, together over the coming seasons."

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