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Friday, September 19th 2025 Week 38

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## Son takes on Severn challenge in hospice fundraiser

### 220-mile run in memory of dad

Joe Hemming is set to run 220 miles over a few days in memory of his father. s

**A DROITWICH man is set to run hundreds of miles along the River Severn over six days to raise funds for St Richard's Hospice which cared for his father with 'incredible compassion' in his final days.**

Joe Hemming, aged 32, will be running 220 miles from Llanidloes in Wales to Bristol in memory of his dad, army veteran Rob Hemming, who died in the hospice's care at the age of 72 on June 10 this year.

The start of the run – June 5 to 10 – will mark exactly one year since Joe's dad was taken into hospice care. He passed away just five days later after being diagnosed with terminal cancer around six months

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

before. Joe's planned route holds even more significance, with the journey being a nod to one of his dad Rob's dying wishes – to have his ashes scattered in the River Salwarpe.

Rob, who was born and raised in Droitwich and loved the Salwarpe, wanted his ashes to drift into the Severn before heading out of the Bristol estuary and into the Atlantic, so he could 'travel the world'.

The route will also take Joe through the heart of Worcestershire which has been the Hemming family's home for many years. Joe's mother, Jill, and father, Rob, were

together for more than 40 years. Their 40th wedding anniversary would have been June 17, 2025.

Joe, also a veteran now working in recruitment, told the Standard: "I wanted to honour that timeline by running over those exact dates, ending the challenge on the anniversary of his passing.

"It's going to be physically and emotionally tough, but it's my way of saying thank you."

St Richard's Hospice provides specialist palliative care for adults with serious progressive illnesses, offering support not only to the patient but also to loved ones. Its services include pain management, emotional and spiritual support and bereavement care.

Joe added: "The hospice looked

after my dad – and our whole family – when we needed it most.

"They do amazing work every single day, and they rely heavily on fundraising to keep going."

While Joe will be running the majority of the route alone, he has enlisted the support of his mother and younger sister Amelia, one of Joe's three siblings including two sisters and a brother, to follow along to help with logistics and resupplying.

Amelia, her partner and Joe's friend from the army, will be joining Joe for parts of the journey, with the veteran also putting out an open invite to anyone who wants to run alongside him at any point.

He said he was happy for anyone to get involved. He wants to hear

from anyone whether they want to run a marathon distance or just a few miles, either for Joe's cause or their own.

This is not the first time Joe has ran for a cause close to his heart.

A couple of years ago, Joe and his partner, Joanne, lost their young baby. He was inspired to run two ultra-marathons and three marathons to raise funds for Tommy's Baby Charity, helping to bring in around £900 for the cause. Now he hopes to raise at least £1,000 for St Richard's Hospice, having brought in £500 already.

Visit [justgiving.com/page/joe-hemming-3](http://justgiving.com/page/joe-hemming-3) to donate.

Email [hemming1990@hotmail.com](mailto:hemming1990@hotmail.com) to enquire about running alongside Joe.



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# Pocket-sized bleed kits will save lives

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

**A 'GAME-CHANGING' pocket-sized bleed control kit which was developed in Bromsgrove was officially launched last Friday.**

'Lil BleederZ' is the brainchild of Sherie Wilson, the customer services manager at Judd Medical.

Sherie, who as a victim of knife crime, joined the company six months ago.

She had the idea for the pocket-sized

bleed control kit, following her own experience and amidst the rise in knife crime.

Judd Medical has developed the pack in the last six months.

### The kit

The Lil BleederZ contains two tourniquets - one for an arm wound and one for a leg, a pressure bandage, vinyl gloves for the user to avoid infection, and a foil blanket to keep the casualty warm.

It is designed to stem the bleeding long enough for an ambulance to arrive as the first eight to 10 minutes between a 999 call and medics reaching the scene is a crucial time for the patient.

The kit also contains instructions on how to use the items and a QR code to a one-minute video which also goes through what to do in the event of a stabbing or similar medical emergency.

It has been made so the user does not have to be first aid trained and each one costs £9.99 to make it as affordable as possible.

Lil BleederZ has the slogan 'Small enough to carry, Strong enough to save'.

### The launch

At the launch at Judd Medical's base, Sherie told her own personal story and her journey in coming up with the idea for the kit.

Speaking to the Standard, she said: "I myself was a victim of knife crime so it is an issue that is very close to my heart."

"Back when it happened to me, it was a rarity but you only have to watch the news or read the papers to see how it has increased.

"Because I am clinically qualified, I know that when someone is stabbed, time is critical - that time from when the knife goes in to when help arrives."

"We know the ambulance service is under pressure and can't get there instantly - there is usually a six to 10-minute delay - so Lil BleederZ was created by myself as an interim measure so a young person, member of the public or anyone, can apply a tourniquet and put a blanket around the patient to keep them warm and the bleed at bay."

The event was attended by Bromsgrove MP Bradley Thomas.

He said: "This has the potential to be a game-changer - it is such an inspirational creation."

"It can be used by anyone - they don't



**Bromsgrove MP Bradley Thomas, creator Sherie Wilson and Redditch anti-knife crime campaigner Pete Martin at the Lil BleederZ launch. Pictures by Tristan Harris. Copyright Bullivant Media Group Ltd.**

have to be medically trained - and just watching the one-minute video could help save a life.

"And it does not just apply to knife crime, it can be used in other emergencies as well."

### Lil BleederZ benefits

A number of charities also attended the launch, including Pete Martin from Redditch's #droptheknife campaign and Redditch Self Defence Association. Pete has been extensively campaigning across Redditch and Bromsgrove against knife crime, educating children and young people about the dangers of carrying weapons.

On the Lil BleederZ, he said: "We have been looking for an alternative to

the larger bleed control kit for some time.

"We need one out there which is smaller so it can be carried in the pocket, satchel, rucksack or handbag and it needs to be affordable - this ticks all the boxes and it is made right here locally so we will definitely be putting in some large orders and we can then swing by and pick them up."

"This can go in the pockets of young people, of door staff at pubs and clubs and we have even been contacted by companies interested in having them in the glove boxes of all their work vans."

"There is a security guard in the Kingfisher Centre who is a first aider and he does all our training in the regular bleed kits so he'll be able to incorporate this pocket-sized one as well."



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See page **34**

# Hewell inmates 'not supported'

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

**A DAMNING inspection at HMP Hewell has brought to light an 'overcrowded' prison failing to support occupants in various ways.**

Inspectors, who visited the prison in June, said new prisoners were not given work, training or education opportunities quickly enough and many were not assessed properly when they arrived.

In a report published on Monday, the inspectors described the men's prison in Tardebigge as overcrowded, but they did praise work being done to remove drugs from the jail and relationships between prisoners and staff.

HM Chief Inspector of Prisons Charlie Taylor said the jail faced 'significant challenges', adding it had capacity for 1,094 inmates and held just over 1,000 at the time of the inspection. Just over half of the prisoners were living in overcrowded conditions, with two sharing a cell designed for one.

The report said 'disappointingly', of the 13 concerns raised followed the inspectorate's previous visit in 2022, only six had been fully addressed.

Mr Taylor said safety remained a concern. Although the prison was generally calm and most prisoners reported feeling safe, the rate of violence was higher than in similar establishments.

Too many men were spending long periods locked in their cells with nothing to do. Some were getting as little as two hours out of cell a day. New arrivals, who should have been a priority, were particularly poorly served.

Support for those on remand was minimal with too many men being released without stable accommodation.

And, although the mental health and substance misuse teams were delivering good care - despite high levels of need, mentally unwell men waited for too long to transfer to a specialist unit.

However, physical security measures to combat potential drone incursion had improved.

According to mandatory testing data, drug use at the prison seemed lower than comparable establishments.

Another positive, Mr Taylor said, was the strength of relationships between staff and prisoners. The prison's peer mentors were doing 'excellent work.'

Other concerns, however, highlighted little being done to promote positive behaviour and limited support for those at risk of suicide or self-harm.

Strategies to ensure a culture of reading among the prisoners was not fully implemented with inspectors raising concerns about the teaching of English and maths within the jail.

Despite this, a new, experienced governor had already shown a clear understanding of the issues and had a real long-term commitment to the prison, despite only being in post for three weeks at the time of inspection.

The new leadership team was also described as 'competent and capable' and had an opportunity to drive improvement and bring the stability needed.

Inspectors ultimately described the prison governor as having a 'willingness to learn' from the inspection's findings.

Visit: [hmpirisons.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmpirisons-reports/hmp-hewell-5/](http://hmpirisons.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmpirisons-reports/hmp-hewell-5/) for more information.



**Volunteers chipped in over £3,000 worth of unpaid work to support invasive species clearing efforts at the Lickey's and Coton over the summer.**

**HELPING HAND:** VOLUNTEERS have contributed more than £3,000 worth of unpaid work to help clear invasive plant species from the Lickey Hills and Coton Park.

The Lickey Hills Society has been hosting sessions to clear Himalayan balsam from the two areas on a weekly basis throughout the summer from May to August.

There should have been 14 sessions but one was cancelled due to torrential rain.

Regardless, a calculation of the work put in by volunteers at the 'balsam Bashes' equated to £3,015 of unpaid efforts.

Volunteers, at an average of around 11

people per session, contributed a total of 247 hours over the summer.

A Lickey Hills Society spokesperson said: "Most impressive. Thanks to everyone involved."

Particular thanks went to Jill and Peter Harvey who attended and led every session.

The society described their efforts as an 'amazing commitment'.

Lickey Hills Society said there was evidence to suggest there was now less balsam than in the past.

The clearing sessions have been taking place for many years.

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# MP backs calls to protect woodland

**REDDITCH MP Chris Bloore visited Southcrest Woodland with representatives from the Woodland Trust to highlight the importance of protecting ancient woodland and biodiversity in the borough.**

Southcrest Woodland is one of Redditch's precious ancient woodlands, providing a vital habitat for wildlife, as well as an outdoor space for the local community.

Ancient woodland covers just 2.5 per cent of land in the UK, yet around 40 per cent has been damaged over the last century by commercial plantations and inappropriate management.

Without urgent government

action, many of these irreplaceable habitats risk being lost forever.

The visit, arranged in partnership with the Woodland Trust through the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Woods and Trees, gave Mr Bloore the opportunity to see first-hand the challenges facing ancient woods.

He was briefed on the trust's 'Rescue Our Forgotten Forests' campaign, which calls for bold and fully-funded recovery plans to restore these habitats.

Mr Bloore said: "It was a real privilege to visit Southcrest Woodland and witness the natural beauty and biodiversity of an ancient woodland right here in Redditch.

"Protecting these spaces isn't just

about preserving our heritage – it's about tackling climate change, supporting wildlife and leaving a greener future for the next generation.

"The Woodland Trust's work to restore damaged ancient woods is absolutely vital.

"We face a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to bring these precious ecosystems back from the brink but we must act now.

"I will continue to work with the Woodland Trust to support their campaign and press the Government to do much more to protect and restore ancient woodland."

The Woodland Trust is calling on government to launch fully-funded, evidence-based recovery plans for ancient woodland restoration and



Redditch MP Chris Bloore with Scott Blance, the Woodland Trust's lead government affairs officer at the ancient Southcrest Woodland. s

revising and increasing funding schemes to support landowners and public bodies so they can restore damaged sites.

The trust also wants stronger legal protections on ancient woods, including reforms to the forestry felling licensing system, to encour-

age sensitive, restoration-focused management.

Mr Bloore has pledged to use his platform in Westminster to champion this cause, as well as engaging with local stakeholders to protect Redditch's natural heritage for future generations.



Bradley Thomas did a wing walk to raise funds for Primrose Hospice. s

## Bradley reaches for the skies in thrilling fundraiser

BROMSGROVE'S MP Bradley Thomas has raised thousands of pounds for the Primrose Hospice after completing his daring wing walk challenge.

Mr Thomas was strapped to the top of a Boeing Stearman biplane as he took to the skies on Saturday in aid of the charity.

Flown by a skilled wing walking display pilot, Mr Thomas experienced a thrilling series of flypasts, zoom climbs, steep dives, and banks.

He has so far raised almost

£3,000 for Primrose Hospice, and there's still time for people to donate.

The MP said: "It was the most exhilarating experience being strapped to a plane and whizzing around the skies – all in aid of a good cause.

"I'm really proud to have raised thousands of pounds for Primrose Hospice, a great local cause that supports so many families across Bromsgrove.

"Thank you to everyone who has donated so far. There's still

time to donate and any donation will be greatly appreciated."

Primrose Hospice and Family Support Centre provides care and advice to patients living with a life-limiting illness and support for families in the North East Worcestershire area.

As an independent charity, the Primrose Hospice relies on the support of individuals and businesses to help raise the £1.95million needed each year to provide services free to all who require them.

David Burrell, chief executive officer of Primrose Hospice, said: "We are incredibly grateful for Bradley Thomas's fantastic support for Primrose Hospice.

"Taking on a wing walk is a challenge that very few people would consider tackling.

"His effort will help us continue to provide our services, and it really highlights Bradley's commitment to this community."

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# Extension to encourage more contributions

**THE CONSULTATION on Bromsgrove's development strategy has been extended by four weeks to enable more contributions from the public.**

Originally launched on June 30 for an extended 12-week period, the consultation will now span 16 weeks, closing on Monday, October 20.

Bromsgrove District Council has invited input from residents and infrastructure pro-

viders, such as the NHS, schools, utilities and transport services.

The process is the third of five consultation stages towards shaping a Local Plan for the 9,000 new homes the Government requires in the district by 2043.

Local Plans provide a way for communities to guide where and how those future homes, businesses and infrastructure will be developed.

The consultation builds on earlier 'issues

and options' and 'call for sites' stages by outlining proposed development locations and the strategy for selecting them.

All responses from residents and stakeholders will be carefully considered in shaping the next stage of the Local Plan, with further consultation to follow.

So far, more than 5,000 representations have been received via email, letter, and the online consultation platform.

Bromsgrove District Council's portfolio holder for planning, Coun Kit Taylor, said: "A lot of people want to have their say on how we will control future housebuilding in the district.

"So far we've had a fantastic response and with over 400 sites proposed - it's vital we get this strategy right.

"Following a cross-party recommendation

from the Overview and Scrutiny committee, the Cabinet unanimously recommended an extension to the consultation to ensure all residents and stakeholders can have their say."

Visit: [bromsgrove.gov.uk/BromsgrovePlan](http://bromsgrove.gov.uk/BromsgrovePlan) or a local Worcestershire library for more information.

Email: [bromsgroveplan@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk](mailto:bromsgroveplan@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk) or write to Bromsgrove District Council, Strategic Planning and Conservation, Parkside, Market Street, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, B61 8DA to respond as part of the consultation.

The consultation will now close for comments at 5pm on Monday October 20.

Email: [bromsgroveplan@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk](mailto:bromsgroveplan@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk) or call 01527 881211 for queries.



**Cicyly got behind the wheel of a car for the first time in her life, thanks to driving instructor Karen. s**

**BEHIND THE WHEEL:** A SPRIGHTLY nonagenarian at Droitwich's Westmead Care Home has driven a car for the first time in her life at the age of 93.

Cicyly enjoyed her first driving experience and showed it is 'better late than never to achieve your goals'.

Cicyly mentioned to the not-for-profit care home's activities coordinator, Kate Lockwood, that she had never driven a car and wished she had.

Cicyly said: "I said I'd never driven and didn't think I ever could.

"Kate asked if i'd like to try - I couldn't believe it"

With motivation and encouragement from the team at Westmead and guidance from driving instructor Karen Bevan, of Karen Bevan Driving School, Cicyly was able to fulfil her wish - on private land.

She said: "I felt elated. I couldn't believe I'd ever do it at my age. Turning the wheel made me feel like I can still do things."

Karen kindly volunteered her services free of charge

Cicyly embraced the nerves in the moment and said: "Karen was so lovely - she made me feel confident and gave me my independence. I can't thank her enough."

RESIDENTS in Droitwich can learn more about what is going on in their local area when a community showcase takes place tomorrow (Saturday, September 20).

Droitwich Community Showcase will take place at Droitwich Baptist Church on Ombersley Street East from 10am to 1pm. Those attending the free event can learn

about new and established clubs, activity groups, sport and fitness classes, volunteering opportunities, support services and watch performances from local groups in the area.

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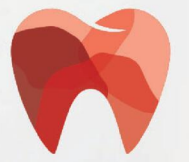
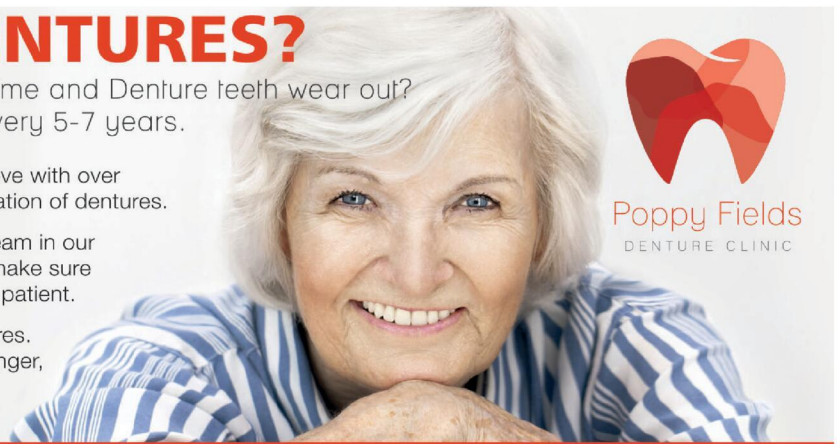
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# Learn more about church spire project

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

**LIGHT will be shed on the project to restore Worcestershire's tallest spire at Bromsgrove's St John's Church tomorrow (Saturday) as part of Heritage Open Days.**

The Friends of St John's Church is inviting everyone to the venue for a day of music, heritage craft skills and architecture.

The event will begin with the first in the latest season of free Cake and Coffee Concerts at 10.30am.

The Orchestra of St John will play popular pieces by classical composers Mozart and Haydn and the performance will be followed by coffee and home-made cake.

Afterwards, visitors can explore the building and churchyard, learn about the Spire Project and try their hand at the heritage craft skills used in the restoration project, at the free event.

Inside the ancient church visitors can learn how the spire has remained as a landmark for the town for 500 years, with the structural engineer giving a demonstra-



**Bromsgrove's St John's Church has Worcestershire's tallest spire. s**

tion using a model of the church and a fan. The project's architect will talk through the technical drawings and plans to restore the spire.

Outside the church, visitors can meet the stonemasons and heritage restoration team to learn about the materials and stone being used in the project.

There will also be the opportunity to have a go at carving a piece of stone and lime pointing.

The Friends team will be on hand to discuss the project so visitors can learn about the fundraising and the project timeline.

Refreshments will be available all afternoon and the church will be open until 3pm.

Visit [stjohnsfriends.co.uk](http://stjohnsfriends.co.uk) for more information.



## Lock history revealed in heritage event

VISITORS can find out more about the history of the famous Tardebigge Lock as part of Heritage Open Days.

The Worcester, Birmingham and Droitwich Canals Society is holding historical, architectural and artistic walks along the lock flight tomorrow (Saturday) and Sunday, September 21.

There will be free guided tours from passionate volunteers at 10am, 11.30am, 1pm and 2.30pm.

Participants can learn about

canal building endeavours, water management in the locks, the longest narrow lock flight in Britain, the Wharf and its beautiful surrounding landscape through the years.

There were also be the chance to explore the sites of past quays, quarries, rail tracks, lime kilns and the current major project for conservation and repair, the old experimental boat lift turned double depth lock.

Local guides from the Canals Society and Rivers Trust will

explain the development and establishment of the Inland Waterways Association.

Narrowboat 'Cecilia' will also be offering trips through the Tardebigge tunnel and back across on both days at 10.30am, 12pm, 1.30pm and 3pm.

The community boat has recently been refurbished and has room for 12 passengers. Charges apply and no dogs are allowed.

Visit [bit.ly/47GzYvd](http://bit.ly/47GzYvd) for more information.

## Group celebrates community artwork mosaics

THERE will be the chance to find out more about the Batchley Mosaics in Redditch from 1pm to 4pm on Sunday (September 21).

Visitors can celebrate the new exciting community mosaic artwork on the wall next to the children's play area.

Reimagine Redditch and Batchley Support Group have come together for the event which will also provide information on the history of the pool.

There will be an exhibition by Batchley Support Group, the chance to make flower mosaics

with artist Jackie Nash, enjoy walkabout theatre and have a go at circus skills.

Throughout the afternoon, the Reimagine Redditch Team will be on hand to talk to people about the future creative ideas and plans for Batchley.

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# Blue lights aplenty at annual open day

**BROMSGROVE'S** popular police and fire hub open day returns this month to give people a taste of the gruelling and life-saving work of the region's emergency services.

Visitors to the station on Slideslow Drive will experience a host of displays, demonstrations, entertainment and more from a host of different emergency services from 10am to 4pm on Sunday, September 21.

Demonstrations will include a mock road traffic collision, a CPR showcase, a chip pan fire exercise, fire rescues, drone operations and a dog search and rescue mission.

People are invited to meet their local policing teams including canines and their handlers. Emergency service vehicles including police, fire and ambulance, will also be in attendance for visitors to take a look at.

Other attractions to explore on the day include vintage cars, craft stalls, food vendors and an ice cream van, as well as exhibits from key emergency service partners, including the Severn Area Rescue Association and their vehicle and equipment, the NHS, St John Ambulance, Anti-Knife campaigner, the Community Safety Partnership and Bromsgrove District Housing Trust.

Insp Rich Field said: "There's



plenty to see and do for all the family at Bromsgrove Police and Fire Hub this Sunday which is a great opportunity to come along and meet some of your local officers and take a unique look at the work of our teams.

"Members of the public will be able to sit in a police car and there will be a guest appearance by our force's mascot PC Peeler and our own real life police dogs and lots more emergency services vehicles visiting, thanks to our partner agencies.

"The event is completely free and I would encourage anyone interested in policing or anyone who wants to experience first-hand what our job looks like, to come along on the day."

Entry is free to the event and parking is available free of charge in the HOW College opposite the police and fire station, subject to availability.

All exhibits will be there subject to operational needs.

West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner John Campion added: "I am committed to putting policing back into

the heart of communities as I know the public expect a police force that understands and tackles their concerns.

"I am a big supporter of open days, as they always prove to be a fun way for communities to meet the local team, raise concerns and get a unique insight into the varied world of policing."

Although admission is free, donations are welcomed.

**There will be numerous demonstrations at the Bromsgrove Police and Fire Open Day on Sunday. Picture by Insp Richard Field, West Mercia police. s**



Reform UK's Coun Jean Louis resigned this week due to ill health, triggering a by-election in the Bromsgrove South division. s

## Council readies for by-election

THERE is set to be a by-election in the Bromsgrove South division on Worcestershire County Council after the councillor for the area resigned.

Coun Gaynor Jean Louis, who represents Reform UK, has quit her role due to ill health, meaning another vote will need to take place to fill the space.

Worcestershire County Council leader and fellow Reform UK representative, Coun Joanne Monk, said: "In our very first full council meeting, I said that if any councillor is consistently unable to fulfill their duties of representing their local community, then they should consider resigning, even if the reason is due to ill health.

"We have to announce that Coun

Gaynor Jean Louis has formally resigned.

"We fully support Gaynor's decision to step down from her role as Reform UK councillor for Bromsgrove South due to health reasons.

"This has not been an easy decision, and I'm proud of Gaynor for putting her family and her community first – values that every Reform UK member stands firmly for.

"Following the resignation, there will be a by-election for Bromsgrove South, for which arrangements will be made by the council and communicated in due course.

"On behalf of Reform UK in Worcestershire and nationally, I would like to wish Gaynor the very best for the future."




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# Clay shooting event bids to hit target again

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



**Bill Smith with S4F owner Mark Treverton at the launch of Silver Shots in April.**

**A POPULAR clay pigeon shooting event for those aged 65 and over is back by popular demand.**

Silver Shots, being hosted by Shooting 4 Fun (S4F) at The Oaklands Outdoor Pursuits Centre in Hanbury, returns on October 1 after a popular launch event in April.

It gives participants the chance to enjoy the thrill of clay shooting in the Worcestershire countryside.

Silver Shots offers a safe, supportive, and sociable experience tailored especially for older participants.

Every session is carefully designed to suit age and build, with expert instructors on hand to ensure maximum comfort and minimum recoil.

Participants will enjoy a 15-minute session between 11am and 4pm, taking aim

at 25 flying clays under one-to-one guidance.

Whether people are a complete beginner or have tried shooting before, Silver Shots promises fun, excitement,

and a real sense of achievement.

For £25 per person, the package includes professional coaching and all equipment provided, including the 25 clays, and complimentary tea or coffee.

There is plenty of free parking and there are toilet facilities on site.

Organiser and S4F owner Mark Treverton said: "Seniors really embraced our first Silver Shots event, with every session fully booked."

"We're delighted to bring it back so more people can try something new and experience the enjoyment of clay shooting in a relaxed and welcoming environment."

Places are limited and are expected to be booked up quickly.

People can call 01527 575141 or email: mark@shooting4fun.co.uk to book their place.



The Primrose Hospice's Home charity shop has celebrated its first year of trading in Bromsgrove High Street.

## Hospice shop marks first anniversary

THE PRIMROSE Hospice is celebrating the first anniversary of its Home charity shop in Bromsgrove.

It marks a milestone of support from the local community and fundraising for the hospice.

In its first year, the store has welcomed 22,840 customers through the doors and gratefully received more than 6,000 bags of donations.

Ian McRoy, the Primrose Hospice's retail manager, said: "One year ago, we proudly opened our largest store to date on Bromsgrove High

Street and what a year it's been.

"Thanks to your incredible support, the shop has exceeded all expectations."

"Your generosity and enthusiasm have helped us build a unique and special space on our High Street."

"We'd like to thank everyone who has supported us, including our incredible volunteers."

"Here's to many more years of community, helping our planet and vital fundraising."

As it looks ahead for the fast-approaching festive season, the

Bromsgrove shop will be hosting a visit from Father Christmas from 11am to 3pm on October 11.

The shop offers a treasure trove of clothing, furniture, homeware, books and much more.

Staff at the shop is always on the look-out for pre-loved donations, which help raise vital funds to support patients and families in the community.

Visit [primrosehospice.org/support-us/shops/our-shops/](http://primrosehospice.org/support-us/shops/our-shops/) or call 01527 598644 for more information.

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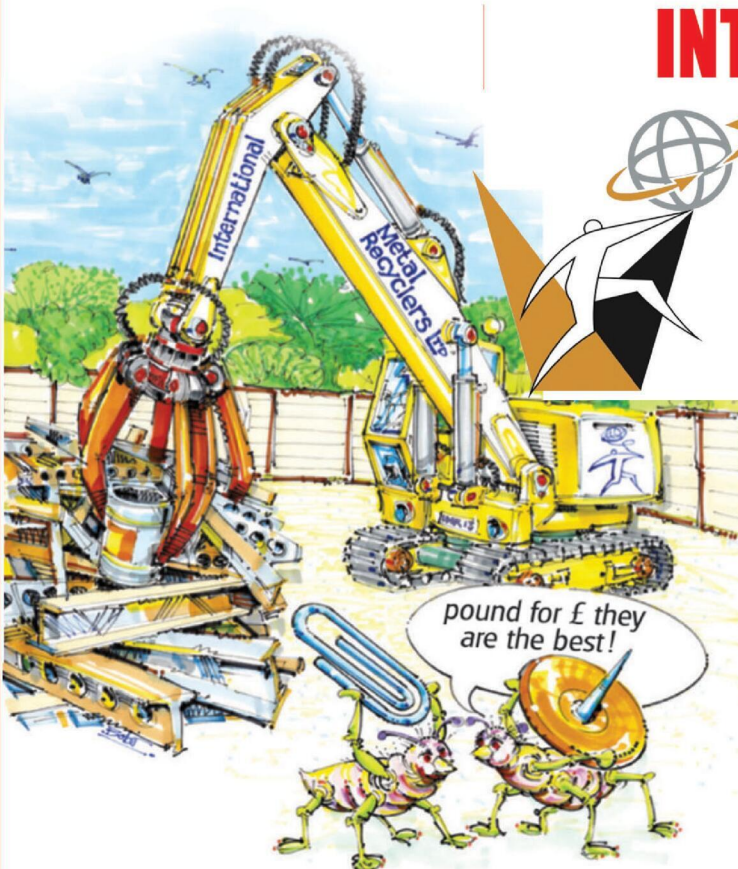
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# Nigel and John revving up to raise thousands for sanctuary

by Ashleigh Osborne  
ashleigh.osborne@bullivantmedia.com

**A MAN from Solihull is well under way on his 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 Peugeot's to raise funds 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 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 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 the animals who need it most by giving them a second chance at a forever home or, where this is not possible due to behav-

oural or medical reasons, the Sanctuary is their forever home.

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 find their rescue animals good and loving homes."

Nigel used Springfield Pet Crematorium to handle Alma's passing and said the service it 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 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."

Anyone wanting to help Nigel with his fundraising can visit: justgiving.com/crowdfunding/almas-trust to donate or scan the QR code.

**John Arthur and Nigel Patterson are waved off from Wythall Animal Sanctuary by Danni Howard, Amie Lanckham-Dixon, Leah Burrows and Gina Lines. Picture by Marcus Mingins 3725011MMR**



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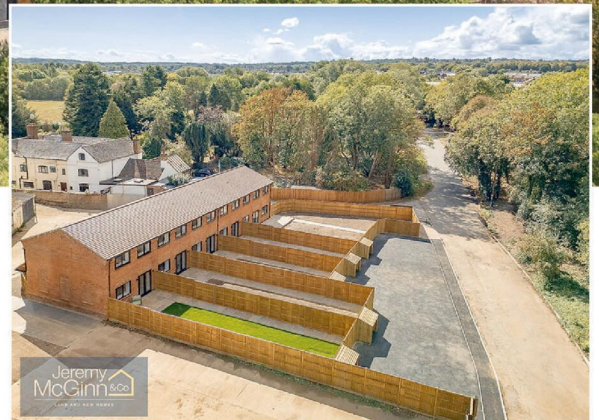
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LAND AND NEW HOMES

# Death crash man not found for two days

**A MAN from Kidderminster died in a crash in Fernhill Heath and was not found for two days.**

The collision happened around 3am on September 7 on the A449.

Officers from West Mercia Police received an automated collision detection alert from a mobile phone.

They attended the location provided by the alert but, despite a search, no vehicle was found. A further alert was received in the afternoon and additional searches were carried out in the daylight to

no avail. Around 3.55pm on September 9 – two days after the crash – a member of the public reported finding a car, a black Jaguar XF, off Hurst Lane.

West Midlands Ambulance Service attended and sadly the driver of the car, a Kidderminster man in his 20s, was pronounced dead.

Following the incident West Mercia Police has self-referred itself to the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC).

ChSupt Gareth Morris said: "As is standard practice for all forces in circumstances

such as this we have referred the matter to the IOPC.

"We understand the need and value in independent oversight and in giving the man's family answers to what happened and what action we took. "Our thoughts are with them."

The force added it would continue to appeal to anyone who saw, or has dash cam footage of a vehicle matching this description in the area, from 3am Sunday morning.

Information can be given by emailing [sciunorth@westmerciam.police.uk](mailto:sciunorth@westmerciam.police.uk)

## WOW! Toddlers have good time outdoors

THE WOW Outdoor Toddlers group has returned to Peacock Lodge at Winterfold School and is running on Tuesday afternoons.

The sessions, which run from 2pm to 3pm, offer local families a free, fun and engaging outdoor experience during term time for

little ones. They take place at the school's dedicated Outdoor Learning Centre

While parents and carers are invited to relax, with provided refreshments, the sessions encourage children to explore nature, get creative and build early social skills in a safe and welcoming environment.

The group activities will go ahead no matter the weather - rain or shine. Families are reminded to be dressed for any conditions to ensure they make the most of their adventurous time.

Visit [winterfoldhouse.co.uk](http://winterfoldhouse.co.uk) or email [officestaff@winterfoldhouse.co.uk](mailto:officestaff@winterfoldhouse.co.uk) for more information.



Fencing is one of many activities older children at Winterfold can participate in. s

## Youngsters ready to club together

WINTERFOLD School in Chaddesley Corbett has launched its new Clubs and Activities Programme.

The scheme offers a range of opportunities to children of all ages, ranging from kindergarten to year eight.

The programme is tailored to different interests and age groups.

Younger pupils can explore Mini Greenfingers Gardening Club, yoga, football, drawing club, construction club and speech and drama.

Older pupils can immerse themselves in netball, pickleball, fencing, art club, run club,

rock and pop golf, chess, knitting, cricket, speech and drama, forest school, OWLS, and academic explorers.

The school also has a thriving music scene with the junior band, junior choir, festival choir, string group, and percussion group, meaning every young musician can find a group to suit their skills and passions.

Headteacher Denise Toms said: "At Winterfold, we believe that education goes beyond the classroom.

"Our new Clubs and Activities Programme is designed to inspire curi-

osity, nurture talents, and develop skills such as teamwork, creativity, and resilience. By offering such a broad co-curricular choice, we ensure every pupil can discover and pursue their unique interests."

Winterfold is holding an open morning from 9.30am next Friday, where prospective families can find out more about what the school has to offer.

Visit [winterfoldhouse.co.uk](http://winterfoldhouse.co.uk) or email: [info@winterfoldhouse.co.uk](mailto:info@winterfoldhouse.co.uk) for more information or go to [winterfoldhouse.co.uk/](http://winterfoldhouse.co.uk/) Discover to book a place.



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# Town's top talent is celebrated at annual Business Awards

by Isabel Matthews

## COMPANIES from across the borough are celebrating after success at the 2025 Redditch Business Awards.

The fourth annual awards ceremony took place on Saturday at the Palace Theatre, celebrating remarkable businesses, charities, individuals, and organisations which define the town.

The event was organised by Redditch BID and brought together more than 260 guests for a night full of praise, recognition and unforgettable performances.

Finalists were judged based on innovation, growth, customer experience and social responsibility, offering a broad view of the positive contributions being made across the borough.

The evening was hosted by BBC Hereford and Worcestershire's Elliot Webb and there were live performances from Stagecoach Redditch, Gem 90s and Bradley McIntosh from S Club 7.

There was also an amazing amount of sponsors, including Kingfisher Redditch, Redditch United FC, Minuteman Press, Rily's Restaurant, Lazy Panda collectibles and alert alarms.

Muj Rahman, Redditch BID manager, said the awards aimed to highlight the people and organisations

which made the town 'such a lively and vibrant place'.

"Every nominee has a story of effort and resolve and it is a privilege to showcase these achievements.

"From start-ups making their first impression to well-established businesses continuing to expand, the dedication and creativity we see here tonight are truly motivating.

"These awards are more than just a celebration of success - they serve as a catalyst for ongoing growth and innovation.

"By recognising those who go above and beyond, the awards motivate others to elevate their ambitions and demonstrate what is achievable."

Guests enjoyed a champagne reception, lively entertainment, and excellent dining, along with chances to connect and forge new relationships.

The ceremony highlighted the importance of business as a key part of community life in Redditch.

The organisers said the recognition of industries, such as hospitality, manufacturing, retail, technology and charitable organisations, showed how inclusive the local economy really was.

The first award of the evening 'Business of the Year' went to the Palace Theatre Redditch with Swift Temps 'Highly Commended'.

'Trades Person of the Year' was awarded to Marc Sterland (Aerials



and Satellites) with Kingfisher Home Developments Ltd 'Highly Commended'.

Olawa Craft Bakery won 'Shoppers Choice' and was Highly Commended in 'Independent Business of the Year' - that was won by Charley Barker Zumba.

Vernier Springs and Pressings took the 'Manufacturing Business of the Year' with Thorlux Lighting 'Highly Commended'.

'Hospitality Business of the Year' went to Rily's Restaurant and Pitcheroak Golf Course was 'Highly Commended'.

Loft Hair and Beauty won the

'Hair, Beauty and Wellbeing Business of the Year' with 24/7 fitness 'Highly Commended'.

'Employer of the Year' went to Diamond Bus with Rubicon Leisure 'Highly Commended' and Employee of the Year went to Holly Sproson and 'Highly Commended' was Ella McCormack.

The final four awards were won by Yours Clothing (Customer Service Award), Stagecoach Redditch (Creative Business of the Year), Ahead of Wellbeing CIC (Charity of the Year) and Robert Jankowski (Redditch Community Hero). Highly Commended in those

categories, respectively, were The Fragrance Shop, Top Box Studios, Animal Food Bank UK and SEND Support.

Visit: [redditchbid.co.uk](http://redditchbid.co.uk) or email Muj Rahman at: [bidmanager@redditchbid.co.uk](mailto:bidmanager@redditchbid.co.uk) for more on the event and Redditch BID's schemes.

Alternatively, call Redditch BID on 01527 384000 for more.

Visit this story on our website for more pictures of the evening.

**Companies and organisations from across the borough were celebrated during the Redditch Business Awards. s**



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# Award-winning cuisine on offer at Droitwich's Vasaanti this Christmas

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Excellent Awards, the team at Droitwich's Vasaanti are getting ready to add even more sparkle for visiting diners this Christmas.





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**SEATING 1: 1.00-2.30pm • SEATING 2: 3.00-4.45pm**  
 All guest are requested to leave at the allocated finish times

<p><b>Option 1</b> <b>APPETISERS</b> Popadom &amp; Chutney Tray</p> <p><b>STARTERS</b> Any Starter <small>*Excluding seafood</small></p> <p><b>MAIN COURSE</b> Any Main Course <small>*Excluding seafood and signature dishes</small></p> <p><b>SUNDRY</b> Any Rice or Nan Bread or Chips</p> <p><b>DESSERT</b> Gulabjamon with Ice Cream <b>£44.95</b> Adults <b>£29.95</b> Child (Under 10)</p>	<p><b>Option 2</b> <b>APPETISERS</b> Popadom &amp; Chutney Tray</p> <p><b>STARTERS</b> Any Starter <small>*Including seafood</small></p> <p><b>MAIN COURSE</b> Any Main Course <small>*Including seafood and signature dishes</small></p> <p><b>SUNDRY</b> Any Rice or Nan Bread or Chips</p> <p><b>DESSERT</b> Gulabjamon with Ice Cream <b>£49.95</b> Adults <b>£34.95</b> Child (Under 10)</p> <p><b>PRE-ORDER REQUIRED FOR OPTION 2</b></p>
---	---

£20 per person Non-refundable cash deposit required to secure the booking. Any unattended guests will still be charged for in full on the day.

**01905 770 051 • www.vasaanti.co.uk**  
**69 High Street, Droitwich, WR9 8EP**

**TAKEAWAY COLLECTION**  
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AVAILABLE ON REQUEST (PRE-ORDERS ONLY)

The Indian eatery, run by owner Akbar Miah, known as Aki, manager Alamin Miah and their team, has its festive menu ready and is now taking orders. Christmas is now just over 12 weeks away and people are being urged to book their tables to beat the rush and **avoid disappointment**.

On Christmas Day itself, there will be two sittings at the venue - the first is from 1pm to 2.30pm and the second is between 3pm and 4.45pm.

There are two options on the Christmas Day menu with each having an appetiser, starter, main course, sundry item and dessert.

All this is available for just £44.95 for adults and £29.95 for children under 10 (when the starters and main courses exclude seafood). Or, customers can have option 2 (which includes seafood on the starters and main courses) for £49.95 for adults and £34.95 for children under 10.

The Vasaanti will be open everyday throughout the festive season, so you can enjoy a get-together with family or friends or a work night out.

Aki, took over the restaurant from his brother after a successful 17 years at India Spice in Bromsgrove and has been serving up curries in two towns for the past 20 years.

And since he and his team took over, the Vasaanti has gone from strength-to-strength with Aki and his team working hard to build up the restaurant's reputation.

The restaurant prides itself on the experienced staff providing honest good quality cuisine with traditional flavours.

The staff, including Baz with his renowned reputation for looking after the customers, are ready and cannot wait to welcome diners throughout the festive season.

And, after Vasaanti won 'Restaurant of the Year in Worcestershire' this month and the equally prestigious 'Best Restaurant in Worcestershire' at the TMiiCA Awards the year before, there is no better place to be celebrating Christmas.

After already having plenty of customers journeying to the eatery from the surrounding areas since he took over, Aki is looking forward to seeing many familiar faces from Droitwich, Bromsgrove, Kidderminster, Redditch, Worcester, Stourbridge and even further afield.

Alternatively, if you cannot make it to the popular restaurant, there is always the option to have the mouthwatering meals The Vasaanti has become famous for delivered as a takeaway.

So with December fast-approaching, why not book yourself and friends, family or workmates a table and give yourself a real culinary treat this Christmas?



# The TARDEBIGGE

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### South East Asia

starters

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**KARAGE CHICKEN 7.5**  
*Sweet chilli sauce, sesame*

**VEGETABLE DRAGON ROLL 7**  
*Sushi rice, avocado, cucumber; carrot, seaweed, soy sauce*

mains

**TERIYAKI SALMON FILLET 21**  
*White rice, pak choi sesame seeds*

**DUCK PANCAKES 22**  
*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*

**SALTED MISO CARAMEL CHEESECAKE 8.5**  
*Japanese fluffy cheesecake, with salted miso caramel*

sides

**DUCK SPRING ROLLS 6**

**TEMPURA PRAWNS 6**

**PRAWN CRACKERS 3**

**CURRY SAUCE 1.5**

**SWEET & SOUR SAUCE 1.5**

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# £7.7m to help council get more people into work

**WORCESTERSHIRE** is set to get £7.7million in Government funding to deliver Connect to Work, a new programme designed to help people facing extra challenges find a job and stay in sustained employment.

The cash is being provided through the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and will enable Worcestershire County Council to manage Connect to Work over the next five years, with the aim of supporting around 2,000 residents into employment.

Some people face barriers which can make finding and keeping a job particularly challenging, such as long-term health conditions, disabilities or other personal circumstances.

Connect to Work, from Careers Worcestershire, together with delivery partners including Setec, the NHS and Worcestershire County Council's Adult Front Door service, aims to break down these barriers

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

by offering tailored one-to-one support and connecting people with local employers who understand their needs.

The programme is voluntary and open to anyone aged over 18 who is entitled to live and work in the UK.

People do not need to be on benefits to take part, they just need to want to work, and to meet the eligibility criteria which are detailed on the Worcestershire County Council website.

Each participant will be paired with a specialist employment adviser, who will help participants set goals and create a step-by-step plan and assist with job searching, applications and interviews.

Carers Worcestershire will also work with employers to match people to the right opportunities and provide up to 12 months of one-to-one support for those out of work, or up to four months of help for



Jennie Sanders, Jayne Wilson, Hannah Strong from Careers Worcestershire, Coun Alan Amos and Charlotte McCaughtrie, also from Careers Worcestershire. s

those already in work but struggling to stay in their role.

Coun Alan Amos, Worcestershire's Cabinet Member for Business and Skills, said: "This is about Worcestershire people and Worcestershire jobs - £7.7 million is a serious investment into the county from the DWP.

"Connect to Work will give local people the practical help they need to move into sustained employment, stay in work, and contribute to our county's growing economy.

"We don't do token gestures here - this is about outcomes and we'll make sure it delivers real results

for those Worcestershire people who want our help in connecting to work."

Speaking at a launch event for Connect to Work at Visit Worcestershire New Road, Judy Gibbs, Head of Skills and Employability at Worcestershire County Council, added, "It is a real privilege for my Careers Worcestershire team to lead Connect to Work, creating Worcestershire's future workforce.

"Every resident deserves the chance to access meaningful employment, whatever challenges they face.

"Connect to Work is like a set of traffic lights - something may stop you getting into work, but we can help you overcome barriers, get ready, and connect you with local employers so you can go into a job.

"By providing tailored guidance, Connect to Work will change lives and strengthen Worcestershire's economy."

Delivery of Connect to Work across Worcestershire will begin from next month.

Visit [worcestershire.gov.uk/ConnectToWork](http://worcestershire.gov.uk/ConnectToWork) for more information on the scheme.



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## Health bosses want to hear your views

STAFF at Worcestershire's hospitals are seeking responses from patients, their carers and families and friends as part of a new scheme.

People are being invited to give their opinion by taking part in the Worcestershire Acute Hospitals Trust's annual Big Quality Conversation.

Through this the trust, which runs the Alexandra, Kidderminster and Worcestershire Royal Hospitals, is hoping to engage with as many people as possible.

The survey is anonymous and available in 95 different languages which will ask questions on safety, effectiveness on treatment and overall care experience in the hospitals.

Hayley Flavell, interim Chief Nursing Officer at Worcestershire Acute Hospitals Trust, said: "We really want to engage and understand what is important to our local community and we will use this information to directly inform the Trust's quality priorities."

"This year we are running our survey until January and, by completing the survey, our local community can help make a real difference and support us in delivering excellent standards for care."

The survey can be filled in at [surveyhero.com/c/BigQualityConversation25-26](http://surveyhero.com/c/BigQualityConversation25-26) and is also available in paper format.

# Tell us your experiences of hospital, says trust

**AN INFORMATIVE platform for patients across Herefordshire and Worcestershire (HWHCT) to provide feedback on services is set to be launched.**

The Care Option is being launched this week across the HWHCT's hospitals which house and run a range of mental health, learning disability and community nursing services for children, young people and adults.

Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care Trust will use the system so people can share their experiences when going for appointments and treatment at hospitals in the two counties.

It is hoped the move – for patients, service users, families, and carers to post their feedback and stories about NHS services – will increase transparency. It is also aimed at giving those who use the platform a timely response when concerns are raised.

Once feedback has been submitted, staff can respond directly to

by Oliver Cureton-Phillips

submissions, supporting transparency between patients and their health providers. It will also speed up the process in which feedback is received and responded to – improving experiences for both patients and staff alike.

Over the past 18 months, the trust has been gradually introducing the platform through a phased approach. During this period, 95 per cent of the stories shared by patients highlighted a positive experience of the care and support they received.

To date, more than 400 staff have been trained to use the platform so they can directly respond to feedback. This is important in helping HWHCT identify what works and what could be better by ensuring feedback is acknowledged, acted on, and used to enhance services.

Sue Harris, the HWHCT's director of strategy and partnerships, said: "Behind the scenes, our teams have been working hard to ensure



NHS staff are welcoming feedback via the HWHCT's new Care Option platform. s

staff are trained up and are confident in using the Care Opinion platform."

"With trained staff now able to respond directly to feedback, we're making sure patient, families, and carer voices are heard."

"It's about putting people at the heart of everything we do by improving the accessibility of our feedback channels, tackling health inequalities, and ensuring everyone has a chance to shape the care they receive."

While Care Opinion is a digital platform, the trust recognises not everyone has equal access to online services.

Ms Harris added, for that reason, there were other ways people could get in touch so Care Opinion was accessible to as many people as possible.

Patients and the public can access the website to tell their story at [careopinion.org.uk](http://careopinion.org.uk) or call 0800 122 3135 to leave feedback on care.

HWHCT also gives the option to send feedback in via post.

Care Opinion is just one of the ways people can share their experiences.

Visit: [hacw.nhs.uk/patient-and-carer-experience](http://hacw.nhs.uk/patient-and-carer-experience) for the full range of feedback options available.

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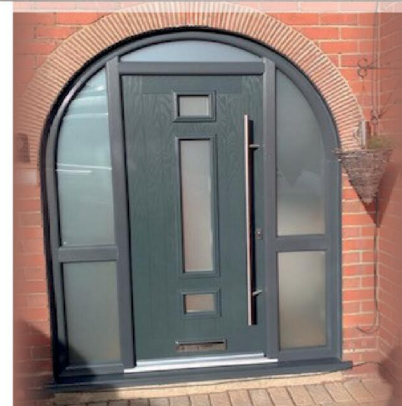
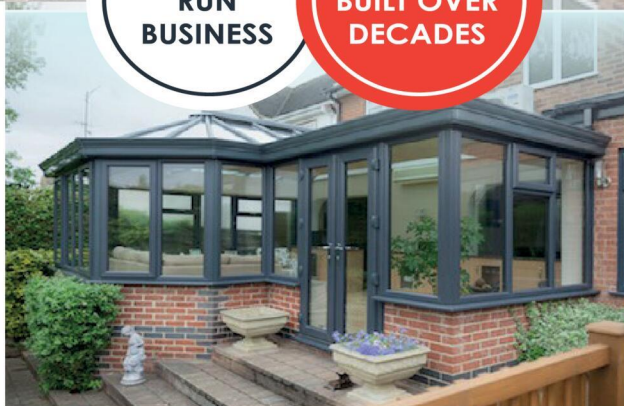


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# THE EDUCATION GUIDE



## 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.



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10.00am - 11.30am

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[www.bromsgrove-school.co.uk](http://www.bromsgrove-school.co.uk)

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# THE EDUCATION GUIDE



## Entry Requirements...

Most UK state schools, and some independent schools, do not have entry requirements linked to academic performance. Places are allocated based on factors such as proximity, meaning the student must live within a certain distance of the school.

However, some independent schools and a minority of state schools do set academic entry requirements. Each school sets its own requirements.

For some schools, pupils and their parents may need to take part in an interview. Interviews are not meant to be scary – they are usually very friendly. They are a chance for you to ask questions, and for the school staff to find out what you are looking for.

Many schools hold entrance exams. Some schools hold exams as a way to select the most academically gifted pupils. Others do not select pupils based on the exam results, but use them as a way to identify what

academic support you will need. Don't be concerned about the exams. There are many different schools, catering for all abilities and talents.

Regarding English language skills, schools welcome pupils with a range of abilities, but some may recommend that you do a language course before you begin or when you have enrolled, to ensure your child will understand his/her classes.

For sixth form entry (to study for A-levels, International Baccalaureate or equivalent), most schools set target grades for your exams taken at secondary school level (such as GCSEs or IGCSEs), particularly for the subjects you want to continue studying.

A boarding school is a residential school where pupils live and study during the school year. There are approximately 500 boarding schools across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.



# Studley High School Open Evening Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September at 6pm

Explore our outstanding academic results, enriching curriculum, and supportive community.



Throughout the evening there will be:

- Headteacher talks in the main hall at 6pm and 7pm
- Guided tours with our pupils throughout the evening
- Exciting subject challenges with our talented staff
- Opportunity to speak to senior staff and ask any questions

## Always Aiming Higher



# Welcome to Our **OPEN EVENING**

## Tuesday 23rd September 6pm - 8.30pm



**Come and visit our Outstanding School... meet our staff ... talk to our students... and see the fantastic facilities we have on offer.**



*We are a school that strives to do ordinary things extraordinarily well!*



As the majority of our students moving up to Arrow Vale will either be from Ipsley or Church Hill Middle Schools and we would like to ask you, to help with the flow of the evening, if you could please come to visit our school during the suggested time slots below:

- ⇒ **Parents with pupils at Church Hill and from other schools outside the catchment area: 6pm - 7.15pm (Presentation will be 6.05pm - 6.25pm)**
- ⇒ **Parents with Pupils at Ipsley: 7.05pm - 8.30pm (Presentation will be 7.10pm - 7.30pm)**

Check out our website [www.arrowvaleschool.org.uk](http://www.arrowvaleschool.org.uk) for all relevant information and documentation.

If you are unable to attend our Open Evening, please contact us on **01527 526800** or email

[office@arrowvaleacademy.co.uk](mailto:office@arrowvaleacademy.co.uk) to make an appointment.

Address: Matchborough Way, Redditch B98 0GF



# Subjects & Qualifications

...helping prepare them for Further Education or for a Career

In the final two years of secondary school (aged around 14–16), most UK pupils take one of the following sets of qualifications: GCSEs: The General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) is an academic qualification taken by students aged 14–16 in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. This is the most common qualification for students at this age in the UK. International GCSEs (IGCSEs) are very similar to GCSEs and are a popular option for international students based overseas.

International Baccalaureate Middle Years program: The International Baccalaureate (IB) is available at an increasing number of schools in the UK. Students study languages, humanities, sciences, mathematics, arts, physical education and technology, usually in preparation for the main two-year IB program.

Standard grades and Intermediates (Scottish qualifications): Standard Grades are generally taken over two years of study, in the third and fourth year of secondary school, with an exam at the

end of the fourth year. There are three levels of study: credit, general and foundation. Exams are usually taken at two levels – credit and general, or general and foundation. Intermediate 1 and 2 are designed for students who have passed Standard Grades at general or foundation level, and for any student wishing to take up a new subject at school or college.

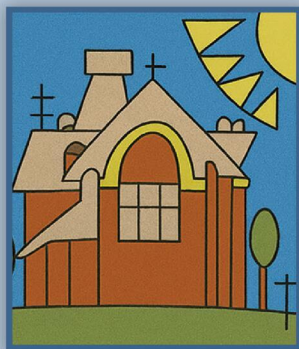
These qualifications usually require a mix of exams and coursework. Most students take a number of subjects – for example, a student taking their GCSEs might study

between 7 and 10 subjects including maths, English literature, English language, physics, chemistry, biology, information technology, geography and history.

All of these qualifications are highly regarded by universities, colleges and employers in the UK and around the world. The aim is to give pupils a good grounding in a variety of subjects, to help prepare them for further education or for a career.



## THE EDUCATION GUIDE



### Dodford First School Open Days

For Preschool & Reception parents whose child is starting school in September 2026.

**Wednesday 8th October 9.30am & 5.30pm.**

**Wednesday 12th November 9.30am & 5.30pm.**

**Thursday 8th January 9.30am.**

No need to book, just turn up at the allocated time.

**Dodford First School,  
Fockbury Road, Dodford, Bromsgrove, B61 9AW.  
01527 831569**



**Tibberton CE First School**  
Plough Road, Tibberton WR9 7NL



### Open Day

**Friday 17th October 2025  
9.30am to 10:30am**

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*“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.”*

# Waseley Hills offers a sense of community and purpose in an exceptional atmosphere

**Waseley Hills High School extends a warm welcome to families who are looking for a school with high aspirations, a real sense of community and purpose for their child.**

Waseley has a completely new, state-of-the-art building that matches our high ambitions for the pupils who attend. We would love to share with you the

exceptional atmosphere of a school which this year received a 'Good' Ofsted rating in all categories and reported: "Staff know pupils well and always have their best interests at heart, with many pupils saying, 'Staff here really care.' Pupils and staff feel proud to belong to this harmonious and welcoming school community."

The school community is made

up of fantastic students, supportive parents and carers, and dedicated staff. Our vision for the school is underpinned by three pillars: Aspire, Invest and Respect.

By working together, with a common goal of students having the very best education and experience, we believe that our young people can flourish and become the best versions of themselves.

We nurture every student's natural curiosity, providing them with life-enriching opportunities to develop socially, academically and morally. Students at Waseley develop confidence, resilience, respect for others and a life-long love of learning.

Our students now have access to the very best facilities they deserve to match the excellent teaching, pastoral care and enrichment opportunities here. There is further investment in the facilities to come as block two of the new building is due to open in the next 18 months to further



support our vision of the very best for our community.

Being part of the Central Regions School Trust, we are able to both provide and draw on expertise from within our network to underpin our commitment to provide exceptional quality education for all of our students.

We believe that students can achieve brilliant things irrespective of their starting points and we always have the highest expectations of every

one of our students. However, we believe that there are always further improvements to strive towards.

We are committed to developing our practice, in partnership with our community, to ensure that every student can leave school having reached their potential and feeling happy.

We value every child and live by the mantra of no child left behind as we support them through their journey to GCSE, A-Levels and beyond.



## Waseley Hills High School **OPEN EVENING** THURSDAY 2ND OCTOBER

Calling all Year 6 Parents/Carers! You and your child are invited to our Open Evening on Thursday 2nd October 2025 from 5.00pm to 7.30pm.

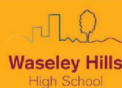
Discover our unique and vibrant school in its fabulous green environment, explore our state of the art new build with Tilbury Douglas, and get a glimpse into the warm and supportive educational experience we offer. Our dedicated teachers will be available to answer any questions you may have and provide insights into our curriculum.

Don't miss this fantastic opportunity to see first hand why our school is the perfect choice for your child's future. We can't wait to meet you and showcase the thriving learning environment we have created!

For more information, please visit our Facebook page and school website at [www.waseleyhillsschool.org.uk](http://www.waseleyhillsschool.org.uk)



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Bringing history to life - Historical Worcestershire characters head to the House of Commons. ©



Knight train - Travelling in style with Great Western Railway. ©



Battling to boost tourism - Characters representing Simon de Montfort and Prince Edward, famed from the Battle of Evesham. ©

# Looking for capital gains

by Isabel Matthews

HISTORICAL figures from Worcestershire arrived in Westminster and took centre stage as part of the Heritage Open Days week.

They made the journey down to London last Thursday to help launch Visit Historic Worcestershire, a scheme to celebrate the county's rich heritage.

King Charles II and Sir Edward Elgar set off from the county in a Malvern-built Morgan Motor car, while knights from the battle of Evesham journeyed by Great Western Railway before gathering at Westminster - a fitting stage given Simon de Montfort's role in shaping the foundations of Parliament.

The event brought Worcestershire's history to life - from dramatic royal escapes and civil war battles to world famous music and industrial landmarks.

These moments form the backbone of Visit Historic Worcestershire, which will showcase the county's past across four themes: Royals and Rebels, Democracy, Creatives and Industry.

Lorna Robinson, visitor economy and destination manager at Visit Worcestershire, said: "With over 2,000 years of history woven into our landscapes and landmarks, Worcestershire has helped shape the nation - from King Charles II's dramatic escape and the foundations of Parliament, to the music of Elgar.

"London is one of our biggest visitor markets, so it makes perfect sense to launch our heritage initiative in the capital. From Worcestershire to Westminster, we're excited to put our county's stories centre stage and inspire more people to discover them for themselves."

The 18-month focus on heritage follows visitor research showing that Worcestershire's history is often overlooked, despite its national and interna-

tional importance.

Heritage and culture remain among the top reasons people choose to visit the UK, according to VisitEngland.

Worcestershire is well placed to benefit from this interest and attract new audiences, particularly as the county's visitor economy has now surpassed £1billion annually.

The project was coordinated by a group of local historical and destination experts, but with a fresh twist to encourage and engage new audiences.

To accompany the launch, a light-hearted film has been released, re-imagining Worcestershire's most famous figures in the modern day.

Over the coming weeks, people will also be able to spot the adverts across Worcestershire and in key locations around London.

Head to: [visitworcestershire.org/historic-worces](http://visitworcestershire.org/historic-worces) to watch the video and explore Historic Worcestershire.

## All aboard for Heritage Days

PEOPLE in the county will be able to use the Worcestershire on Demand bus to get to certain Heritage Open Days events this weekend.

The county's flexible public transport service offers residents and visitors affordable on-demand travel to sites without the hassle of fixed routes or timetables.

Operating across Bromsgrove and surrounding areas, Malvern Hills, and Wychavon, the service offers app-based journeys which make exploring Worcestershire's history simple and sustainable.

People are urged to make the journey part of the experience and are urged to 'sit back, relax, and let Worcestershire on Demand take them to a wide range of free and fascinating events'.

Other areas covered include walking tours in Upton-upon-Severn, the historic Fladbury Mill, the Almonry Museum in Evesham, the Norton Collection Museum in Bromsgrove, and much more.

Some travel restriction may apply.

Visit: [worcestershire.gov.uk/WOD](http://worcestershire.gov.uk/WOD) for more on the Worcestershire On Demand service, including the areas where the service is available and how to book a journey.

And head to: [visitworcestershire.org/blog/heritage-open-days-in-worcestershire](http://visitworcestershire.org/blog/heritage-open-days-in-worcestershire) for more on the Heritage Open Days events across the county.

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## BEAUTIFUL BUXTON & CHATSWORTH HOUSE AT CHRISTMASTIME

Departing Mon 17 Nov '25

On this enchanting getaway, we visit Chatsworth House for its annual Christmas display, where the house and grounds are transformed into a magical winter wonderland. We also enjoy free time in Buxton to enjoy the exquisite architecture and festive atmosphere.

### SO MUCH INCLUDED...

- ✓ Return coach travel from Bromsgrove, Worcester, Droitwich
- ✓ 2 nights at the Palace Hotel (JG3 rating) Buxton with dinner & breakfast
- ✓ Free time in Buxton
- ✓ Excursion to Chatsworth House



## NEWQUAY & THE CREAM OF CORNWALL TURKEY & TINSEL

Departing Mon 3 Nov '25

Join us for some early Christmas celebrations in Newquay, where there's plenty of festive-themed fun on offer at our hotel! Winter is a lovely time to enjoy the crisp clean air and explore the atmospheric streets of Cornwall's seaside towns and villages.

### SO MUCH INCLUDED...

- ✓ Return coach travel from Bromsgrove, Worcester, Droitwich
  - ✓ 4 nights at the Pentire Hotel, Newquay (JG3 rating) with dinner & breakfast (includes traditional 'Christmas' dinner with complimentary glass of wine)
  - ✓ Mulled wine reception on first evening
  - ✓ Afternoon tea and Christmas cake on 'Boxing Day'
  - ✓ Entertainment every evening
  - ✓ Excursions to Penzance, St Ives & Falmouth
- Optional excursion to Port Isaac & Padstow (£14pp)

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- Book by 03 Oct 2025



## WARNER ISLE OF WIGHT ENTERTAINMENT BREAK

Departing Thu 15 Jan '26

Join us at Warner Norton Grange Coastal Village for a few days away with entertainment and a range of activities on offer. There's also the opportunity to enjoy a lovely trip to two of the island's most recognisable locations, Newport and the Needles.

### SO MUCH INCLUDED...

- ✓ Return coach travel & ferry crossings from Redditch, Bromsgrove, Worcester, Droitwich
  - ✓ 2 nights at the Warner Norton Grange Coastal Village, Isle of Wight (JG3 rating) with dinner & breakfast
  - ✓ Daytime activities in the resort
  - ✓ Use of leisure facilities
  - ✓ Entertainment every evening
- Optional excursion to Newport & the Needles (£12pp)



## CANTERBURY CHRISTMAS MARKET & FOLKESTONE

Departing Fri 14 Nov '25

The Edwardian harbour town of Folkestone and the classic backdrop of Canterbury provide the whimsical settings for a festive breakaway to Canterbury Christmas Market, full of delightful treats to kick off your Christmas season.

### SO MUCH INCLUDED...

- ✓ Return coach travel from Redditch
- ✓ 3 nights at the Grand Burstin Hotel, Folkestone (JG2 rating) with dinner & breakfast
- ✓ 2 for 1 bar (6pm-9pm) on selected drinks
- ✓ Entertainment every evening
- ✓ Free time in Folkestone
- ✓ Excursions to Sandwich & Canterbury

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# SUDOKU

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

## EASY

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

## HARD

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

# PATHFINDER

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

## UK Airports

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

Solutions opposite

# CROSSWORD

1		2		3			4		5		6
7							8				
						9					
10									11		
12						13					
						14				15	16
						17				18	
19		20							21		
22						23					
24							25				

## ACROSS

- 7. Skilled (6)
- 8. Acme (6)
- 10. Feeling (7)
- 11. Clear (5)
- 12. Rational (4)
- 13. Sham (5)
- 17. Avidity (5)
- 18. Couple (4)
- 22. Object (5)
- 23. Decisive (7)
- 24. Outcome (6)
- 25. Venerate (6)

## DOWN

- 1. Opposite (7)
- 2. Nominate (7)
- 3. Exhaust (5)
- 4. Fervent (7)
- 5. Nip (5)
- 6. Obscurity (5)
- 9. Guiltlessness (9)
- 14. Squirm (7)
- 15. Sailor (7)
- 16. Small truck (7)
- 19. Narrative (5)
- 20. Foremost (5)
- 21. Odd (5)

Scribble pad

# LADDER

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

- Phoned
- Crooned
- Beach grains
- Spoke
- Cruise



# NINER

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

- 87553 gives a religious man;
- 531264 gives a religious man;
- 5789 gives a poet.

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

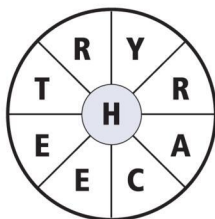
# CODEWORD

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

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

# WORDWHEEL

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



How you rate  
 15 words: average  
 25 words: good  
 35 words: very good  
 40 or more: excellent.





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IN MEMORIAM

**Arthur John Lane (Jack)**  
In memory of our Father who sadly died aged 55 in 1963.  
*Love Jennifer & Family*

IN MEMORIAM

**TERRY JACK**  
**Beloved Dad**  
**2-9-21 - 21-9-2016**  
Although our lives we cannot share, The love and fond memories will always be there.  
God Bless Dad.  
*Forever loved and missed by our loving Daughter Val and Son-In-Law Gordon xx*



FUNERAL DIRECTORS

DEATHS

**GREEN Rosina 'Rose'**

Sadly, passed away on Tuesday 26th August 2025, aged 71 years old. Now reunited with her beloved Husband David.  
A service to celebrate Rosina's life will take place at Redditch Crematorium on Friday 10th October, 2025 at 11:45am. Rosina's own wishes were for you to all attend and enjoy her last party. No black clothes, please wear the brightest garment in your wardrobe. No flowers or donations. Please buy yourself flowers, a bottle of wine or both, to enjoy in loving memory of Rosina.  
All enquiries to: Thomas Brothers, The Funeral Directors, Birchfield House, 494 Evesham Road, Redditch, B97 5JF. 01527 547777 Thank You.

DEATHS

**LOBODA Romualda Teresa 'Roma'**  
Passed away peacefully at home on Sunday 31st August 2025. Dear loved Mother, Grandmother and Great Grandmother.  
A service to celebrate Roma's life will take place at Mount Carmel Church on Tuesday 30th September 2025 at 12 noon, followed by committal at Redditch Crematorium.  
Family flowers only, donations if so desired to Acorns Children's Hospice.  
All enquiries to Thomas Brothers, The Funeral Directors, Birchfield House, 494 Evesham Road, Redditch B97 5JF Thank you

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# Family Notices

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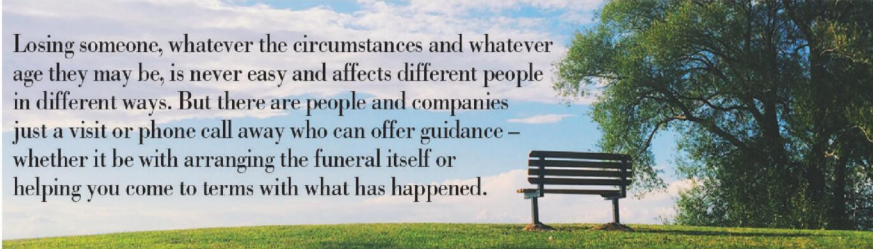
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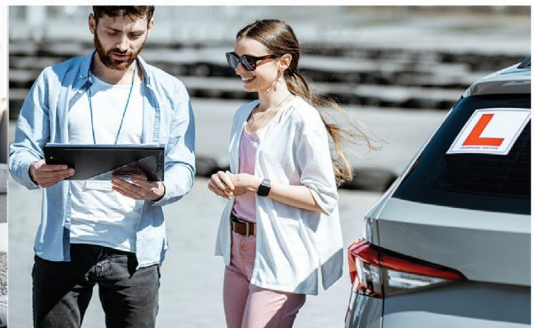


Losing someone, whatever the circumstances and whatever age they may be, is never easy and affects different people in different ways. But there are people and companies just a visit or phone call away who can offer guidance – whether it be with arranging the funeral itself or helping you come to terms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



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## PUBLIC NOTICES

### PUBLIC NOTICES

#### Warwickshire County Council

**ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984**  
Warwickshire County Council has made 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.

**SPIERNAL LANE, SPIERNAL**  
**Order Effect:** Road closed to vehicular traffic.  
**Reason for Order:** Works to install new water connection, closed 08.00hrs-18.00hrs.  
**Order Commences:** 22 September 2025 for up to 18 months.

**Anticipated Completion:** 24 September 2025.  
**Access & Diversion:** Spernal Lane, Spernal 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/roadworksmap or call us 01926 412515.**

**S Duxbury, Director of Strategy, Planning & Governance**  
Shire Hall, Warwick CV34 4RL Date 16 Sept 2025

### PUBLIC NOTICES

#### ANDREW JOSEPH FRANCE

(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 31 The Fye Lea, Droitwich, WR9 8SS, who died on 23/08/2025, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 20/11/2025, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

Daniel James Sandbrook,  
The London Gazette (S2622),  
PO Box 3584,  
Norwich NR7 7WD

#### AVERY CHRISTINE LITTLEHALES

(otherwise Avery Christine Whitehouse)

(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 Flat 24 Brook Court, Bunt. Lane, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, B90 1AD, who died on 17/05/2025, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 19/11/2025, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

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W 3'4" L 7'  
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**COFFEE** Machine Nescafe Dolce Gusto with coffee pods £25 07743929558

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**KENROY** Wingerette 1950's collector's child's toy. £15. 01527 873674

### MISCELLANEOUS

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### MISCELLANEOUS

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## KIA unveils new model

**KIA Europe has unveiled the K4, a model boasting a dynamic look based on the company's 'Opposites United' design philosophy.**

The hatchback is also designed to meet the demands of modern drivers, offering plenty of interior space, premium features, and advanced technologies.

The model introduces an expressive new design, while its spacious interior offers passengers in the rear class-leading legroom (964mm) and plenty of headroom (973mm). Behind the rear seats, customers can make use of 438 litres of cargo space, making the model ideal for either transporting moving boxes or weekend trips.

The design turns heads with a distinctive floating roofline which slips elegantly into the rear hatch. Key design cues include the Star Map Signature Lighting inspired by the EV9, rear hidden door handles integrated into the C-pillar, and an exclusive Sparkling Yellow exterior colour. On top of this, the K4's GT-Line looks even sportier. The

trim features a three-spoke steering wheel, paddle shifters, 17-inch or 18-inch alloy wheels, gloss black mirror caps, side sills, and wheel arch mouldings.

Sjoerd Knipping, Chief Operating Officer of Kia Europe, said: "With the K4, we are demonstrating how our models can deliver dynamic design, innovation, and intelligent technology irrespectively from their powertrain."

The K4's propulsion options include electrified powertrains to ease the transition to electric mobility. Of the five available powertrains in Europe, two are electrified, aligning with Kia's broader electrification strategy.

The powertrain offering starts with a 1.0-litre T-GDi petrol engine (115PS) with a six-speed manual transmission. This engine is also available with mild-hybrid technology. Customers who opt for the mild-hybrid engine can pair it with a seven-speed dual-clutch automatic transmission instead. The 1.6-litre T-GDi petrol engine comes with a seven-speed dual-clutch automatic transmission (150/180PS). Later in

2026, the powertrain line-up will be expanded to include a full hybrid option.

The K4 boasts one of the most advanced technological offerings in its class. A panoramic display integrates a 12.3-inch instrument cluster, a 5.3-inch climate display, and a 12.3-inch touchscreen infotainment screen. The Connected Car Navigation Cockpit (ccNC) system unites navigation, multimedia, and vehicle settings control into a single, intuitive interface. Wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto are standard across all trims with a wireless phone charger available in higher trims.

A Harman Kardon premium audio system transforms the cabin into a personal concert hall. Comfort is further enhanced with heated and ventilated front seats wrapped in stylish, black bio-based artificial leather upholstery.

The Digital Key 2.0 with ultra-wideband technology allows compatible smartphones to function as virtual keys. At the same time, Kia Connect services offer a range of digital tools, such as over-the-air

(OTA) updates, music streaming, and Wi-Fi hotspot capability. With its AI-powered voice assistant, drivers can simply say "Hey Kia" to control various features or get information, including help with the owner's manual or local recommendations.

With its bold aesthetics, spacious flexibility, high-tech features, and performance-focused variants, the K4 is an evolution of other hatchbacks. As customer needs shift toward personalisation and intelligent mobility, the K4 positions itself as a stylish, smart, and connected choice.

The K4 will be produced at the company's new plant in Mexico, with models expected to arrive in UK showrooms in the fourth quarter of 2025. Full UK pricing and specifications will be announced closer to its on-sale date.

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## Spa keep pace with leaders after victory against Corsham



Nathan Binner doubles Spa's lead against Corsham. The midfielder came off the bench to provide a goal and an assist in the Hellenic League Premier Division clash. Picture by Mathew Mason.

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

**FOOTBALL:** DROITWICH Spa earned a hard-fought 3-0 victory against 10-man Corsham Town to stretch their unbeaten run to five matches.

The Saltmen took an early lead courtesy of Reiss Taylor-Randle's goal before visiting goalkeeper Ryan Clarke saw red for the visitors after the break at the King George Playing Fields.

Further goals from substitute Nathan Binner and James Lemon sealed another victory for Andy Crowther's side.

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

Less than 60 seconds into the contest, Corsham's Raphael Oppong collided with the advertising boards and sustained a serious injury which led to a delay of around 25 minutes.

Oppong received treatment on the pitch and was later taken to hospital in an ambulance.

Spa struggled to find their rhythm following the long delay as Pele Kouisseoue went close on a number of occasions for Corsham.

However, Droitwich broke the deadlock on 15 minutes when Taylor-Randle latched onto a ball over the top and chipped the Corsham goalkeeper to put Spa ahead.

And a couple of last-ditch tackles from Ben Tilbury ensured Droitwich took a narrow one-goal lead into the break.

However, Corsham stopper Clarke received a straight red card just before the hour mark after he brought down Alex Dugmore with the Droitwich man clean through on goal.

That meant Corsham forward Neikell Plummer went in goal for the visitors for the remaining half-hour with his first action to hold Taylor-Randle's effort.

Spa eventually doubled their lead on 71 minutes when Binner applied the final touch to Joe Hurdman's pass following some pinball in the Corsham penalty area.

And the Saltmen made sure of the points two minutes from time as Lemon found the net after good work from Binner down the right.

Spa have now won back-to-back matches at home and three of their last four games.

Droitwich are next in action against league leaders Roman Glass St George on Saturday, September 20 with kick-off at 3pm at Kingy's.

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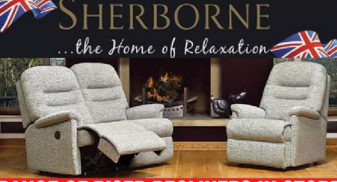


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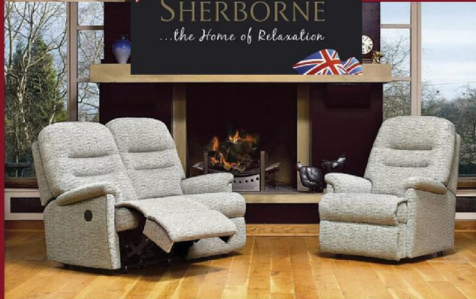
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