

# DROITWICH Standard

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Friday, October 3rd 2025 Week 40

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## Your views sought on Impney Estate plans

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

**AN UPDATED vision for the future of Droitwich's historic Impney Estate will soon be brought before the district's planning authority.**

After proposals for a revitalisation of the estate were recommended for approval in 2022, an urban design review was ordered before the appli-

cation could be given the go ahead.

Now, following amendments to the estate owner's proposals, a new adjusted planning application is expected to be considered by Wychavon District Council before the end of the year.

Plans, which have been tweaked slightly following the design review, include the demolition of large parts of the estate's modern 20th century extensions to make way for the development of a 127 home settlement to be known as Little Impney.

The estate's Impney Hall, which

has a history of providing a unique hospitality offering locally, will be brought back into use as a hospitality venue, restaurant and hotel.

Impney Hall will undergo multi-million pound restoration works and the demolition of the modern adjoining buildings will allow for large parts of the grounds to be reinstated as parklands to complement the hall's hospitality offering.

Demolition works will also include the removal of the vast 45,000 cubic metre Regent Centre, which will make way for the new houses.

Little Impney will feature landscaped green spaces, wooded areas, play areas, allotments and a central square. Homes will consist of one-bedroom apartments and maisonettes and two to four-bedroom houses in terraced, semi-detached and detached forms. A small number of five bed examples will also feature. Building heights will now not exceed two storeys after initial proposals had maximums of 4.5 storeys.

Pillon's Villa, a building now set to be retained as part of amended proposals, will be transformed into two bespoke apartments.

As part of the estate development, four new commercial units will be provided to support the existing busi-



An artist's impression of Little Impney. A refurbished Pillon's Villa features on the left of this image. s



An indicative design of Impney Hall and its rejuvenated parklands from the previous application in 2022. s

ness community already on-site.

A new walking and cycling route is also proposed to allow members of the public to travel through the new parkland, while a 'substantial' seven figure sum is set to go towards local amenities, including education provision and affordable housing. Proposals from 2022 said 10 per cent of the development would be offered as affordable housing, as per minimum requirements for new sites featuring 10 or more homes.

Highways and footways will not be offered to Worcestershire County Council for adoption. Instead, these will remain privately managed.

Rod Spollon managing director of

Greyfort Group, which owns the estate, said: "If approval is secured, we are intending to commence works as soon as possible, subject to conditions."

"This will be a big step forward to revitalise the Impney Estate and take Impney Hall a step closer to John Corbett's original creation."

The plans are currently open to consultation.

Views can be expressed until next Friday, October 10, via Wychavon's planning portal.

People can visit: [impneyestate.co.uk](http://impneyestate.co.uk) for more information and search 'W/22/00914/FUL' at: [wychavon.gov.uk/planning](http://wychavon.gov.uk/planning) to have their say.

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## Man is fined after kicking goose in park

A MAN who attacked a goose at Batchley Pond in Redditch has been hit with a heavy fine from the courts.

Gavin Burgess, 40, of Auxerre Avenue, was found guilty of a public order offence – using threatening, abusive words and behaviour likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress – following the incident on March 5 this year.

Police were called to reports of Burgess kicking a goose in the park before he left the scene in his car. He was identified from his vehicle.

He was fined £660 at Worcester Magistrates' Court on September 4 and was ordered to pay costs of £650 and a victim surcharge of £264.

PC James Hall, from Redditch Police, said: "The wild fowl and wildlife at our local parks are a popular attraction for families and visitors, as well as an important part of our local habitat and anyone caught abusing them in this manner will face being arrested and put before the courts as Burgess was."

"We would like to thank all the people that reported the incident and assisted us with the investigation, which included special-ist advice from the RSPCA and RSPB."

# Specials join Safer Streets crackdown

**POLICE embarked on a targeted day of action in Bromsgrove and Redditch to tackle neighbourhood crime and anti-social behaviour.**

Supporting the Home Office's Safer Streets campaign, 12 special constables were deployed across Herefordshire, Shropshire and Worcestershire, working alongside West Mercia Police's Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNT) and CID.

Specials took part in a range of high-visibility patrols, community engagement activities and targeted operations aimed at reducing crime and increasing visibility in communities last Wednesday.

Eight retail crime locations were visited for engagement and disruption in Bromsgrove, hot spot patrols were completed, and one person was arrested over multiple shop thefts.

Specials supporting Redditch SNT arrested a shoplifting suspect,

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

completed hot spot patrols and helped seize two e-scooters in the town centre.

They visited multiple retail premises for engagement and reassurance and joined an engagement surgery in the town centre to increase visibility and public interaction.

Ch Supt for Local Policing, Edd Williams, said: "I'm incredibly proud of the dedication shown by our Special Constables during the Employer Supported Policing Day of Action."

"Their contribution is a vital part of our neighbourhood policing strategy and their efforts yesterday have made a real difference in tackling crime and anti-social behaviour."

"West Mercia Police has a proud history of working alongside our Specials, and this initiative highlights the strength of that partnership."



"We are grateful to the employers who support their staff in volunteering with us, your backing helps keep our communities safer."

Other regions across the county were targeted too with positive enforcement in the form of patrols, arrests, charges, and community engagement in Kidderminster, Worcester and Evesham.

The day also served to highlight the value of employer supported volunteering, showcasing how Specials who give their time freely play a crucial role in keeping streets safe and supporting frontline policing.

West Mercia Police embarked on a day of action across Redditch and Bromsgrove, with several hot spot patrols



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# Disappointed play area is not more accessible

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

**PARENTS of a girl who has disabilities which mean she cannot walk have criticised Bromsgrove District Council for not making the play area near their home more accessible as part of the recent improvements.**

Gillian Crosby-Read contacted the Standard about the issue amidst the current upgrades to park apparatus across the district.

She lives in Upland Grove with her wife Kate and her daughter Dakota, who is three and uses a walker for support.

They wrote to the council, detailing their concerns about the planned upgrade for Upland Grove Park and were in communication with Coun Rob Hunter and Coun Josh Robinson who have been supporting the family.

Mrs Crosby-Read said they never heard back from the council but the councillors

said the suggested changes were unable to be made.

Mrs Crosby-Read said: "It is also apparent to us that no other parks in Bromsgrove are accessible and the newly generated parks - a great opportunity to enhance equity - is not being realised but instead they are installing parks for able-bodied kids primarily."

She added she attended the consultation for the new park and was told their equipment was already ordered and that her daughter could play with a couple of things which was 'adequate'.

"We live right next door to Upland Grove Park where she loves to play."

"Saying that it will be heartbreaking to tell her she can't play there is an understatement."

"And listening to other kids enjoy the park from her bedroom which overlooks the park is just cruel."

"We feel we have been ignored and want to do everything we can to ensure our child and others like her get the opportunity to play, as any child should."

Ruth Bamford, Bromsgrove District Council's assistant director for planning, leisure and culture services, said: "We fully understand the family wanting even more out of the improvements the council is making to this play area."

"Play is so important, and we want to make sure our play areas are as attractive to as many children as possible."

"That's why during our engagement on this new play area, we were delighted to make several accessibility adjustments based on specific local feedback."

"We've changed a new swing type, adapted the new bouncy animals to include back support and changed the new access too following input from residents."

"A change we have not so far been able to commit to is to the design of the larger of the two new slide structures."

"Whilst the smaller new slide for younger children has an inclusive step, with handrails, to have something similar on the larger slide on the bigger unit would require expanding this small play area."

"That would be a large additional investment over and above the improvements already being made here."

"It's my view it would be most appropriate to focus any such additional spending on our larger main parks, which many more people can access and where there can be appropriate facilities like parking, toilets, cafes and so on."

"In fact, we're currently exploring our options for more accessible play opportunities in our main parks as part of this large programme of improvements across the district."



Dakota, three, and her mum Gill Crosby-Read who is calling for Upland Grove Play Area to be more accessible. Picture by Marcus Mingins 4025003MMR

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# Emilia sparks appeal on stem cell donors

**A FAMILY are celebrating the two-year anniversary of their daughter's life-saving stem cell transplant by appealing for more donors so other children and adults can be given the same second chance.**

Emilia Mackay was diagnosed with aplastic anaemia – a blood cell condition – in May 2023 and in the July a desperate plea was made for stem cell donors.

Fortunately, one was found and she was able to undergo the operation she needed at Birmingham Children's Hospital later that year.

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

By December, in time for Christmas, Emilia was back home and she has since gone from strength-to-strength and is now living the illness-free life every child deserves.

Her recovery journey in 2023 prompted her family to emphasise the critical need for more people to register as stem cell donors with blood cancer charity DKMS to help others still waiting for their match.

This week, with Emilia and her family having celebrated their two-year milestone, they

want to reiterate the message about the need for stem cell donors.

In 2023, only three per cent of the UK population was registered as a stem cell donor and, despite numerous pleas and appeals for more, that figure has largely stayed the same.

But every 20 minutes someone in the UK is diagnosed with blood cancer.

The Mackay family have been working with DKMS, which holds the biggest UK register of stem cell donors, to encourage more people to sign up.

Emilia's dad James Mackay said: "We went through a real-

ly tough time waiting to see if we could get a match for Emilia.

"We want make sure that happens to as few families as possible.

"People can check to see if they are eligible and, if they are not, they can always donate money to DKMS to help fund the testing process."

People can visit [dkms.org.uk/register](http://dkms.org.uk/register) to register for stem cell donation.

**It has been two years since Emilia Mackay's stem cell transplant, prompting the family to highlight the need for more donors to help other children and adults. s**



## New-look minor injury unit ready to open after £1.6m investment

THE NEW Minor Injury Unit (MIU) at Bromsgrove's Princess of Wales Community Hospital will officially open its doors on Monday, October 6, after £1.6million worth of investment.

Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust, which runs the service, has invested the cash into the development of a modern, purpose-built centre aimed at improving patient experience and streamlining care delivery.

The town's current unit will close this weekend – Saturday and Sunday, October 4 and 5 – to allow teams to relocate equipment and prepare the new space ahead of opening to patients on Monday.

Patients requiring treatment or advice for a minor injury during this time are encouraged to contact NHS 111, or visit one of Worcestershire's alternative minor injury units, located in Evesham, Malvern,

Kidderminster and Tenbury.

Dan Marshall, Modern Matron and Minor Injury Unit Lead, said: "We're kindly asking patients from Bromsgrove and surrounding areas to contact NHS 111 if they need advice or treatment for a minor injury this weekend. NHS 111 can provide expert guidance on the most appropriate service – whether that's another MIU, a GP, pharmacy, or in some cases, an emergency department."

To access these services people can visit the website at [111.nhs.uk](http://111.nhs.uk) or call 111.

The new unit is expected to provide a more comfortable and seamless service for patients, improving their overall experience.

Minor injury units in Worcestershire are a key part of delivering healthcare treatments – people can visit for a multitude of issues, including cuts, sprains, and minor burns.

X-rays are also available. MIUs enable patients to receive quicker treatment and to help the A&E focus on life-threatening conditions.

People can walk into an MIU, but it is recommended patients call NHS 111 first to assess their symptoms and get an appointment.

People can visit the minor injury unit service page online at [haew.nhs.uk/MIU](http://haew.nhs.uk/MIU) for more information.



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# Cuts see stations study hit buffers

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

**A COUNTY decision to cut funding for feasibility studies aimed at improving accessibility at railway stations across Bromsgrove district has been slammed by the town's MP.**

Bradley Thomas has picked apart the choice of Worcestershire County Council's Reform administration to slash the £1million investment, con-

sisting of borrowed funds.

The cuts, voted on at a meeting last Thursday, will impact both Bromsgrove and Alvechurch railway stations, along with those in Rushwick, Droitwich and Pershore.

According to the current administration, the funding was set aside to develop strategic documents which could be shared with rail operators on how to improve usage and accessibility of the county's railway stations.

Mr Thomas said: "I don't believe for a second this is what residents voted for back in May.

"We need investment in our roads,

footpaths and rail infrastructure – not cuts."

Mr Thomas is now urging the administration to reinstate the funding.

The decision comes as Worcestershire's Reform administration continue to echo fears around extensive financial short-cuts as budget reductions to other services including education have been announced.

Coun Rob Wharton, Worcestershire County Council's deputy leader with responsibility for finance and efficiency, said: "This council is in a financial emergency,

make no mistake about it.

"And this administration is prepared to take difficult decisions to get the council back on track."

An extensive railway station improvement scheme in Redditch, costing more than £10million has also been halted, as well as a £1.485m upgrade to Worcester Shrub Hill.

The funding for said improvements was announced in February 2022 as part of a £209million capital programme approved by the previous Conservative administration.

None of the rail accessibility strategy projects have reached the delivery stage with a small amount of funding required to finish the current phase of the master plan work at Droitwich.

Aspokesperson for Worcestershire County Council told the Standard: "The remaining £1million was neither sufficient nor intended to fund major scheme delivery - instead, it

was allocated for early-stage development and feasibility work.

"These proposals do not impact train services and the work completed so far could support future funding bids as and when opportunities arise.

"In the case of Bromsgrove Station specifically, it is owned by Network Rail, meaning matters such as platform access fall under the responsibility of Network Rail and the Department for Transport, not the county council."

The council is currently running a consultation to seek residents' views on how it manages its budget.

Views will inform the council's February 2026 budget.

People should visit: [worcestershire.gov.uk/budget26/27](http://worcestershire.gov.uk/budget26/27) to have their say.

The consultation closes on November 1.

**Bradley Thomas MP has slammed the county's decision to cut funding for feasibility studies to improve accessibility at railway stations.**



**ACE IT:** A DROITWICH golfer has played the round of his life after hitting two hole-in-ones to be crowned a tournament champion.

Gavin Bourne, a .04 handicapper who started playing golf when he was 13, secured himself two aces on September 21 in a 36-hole final at Droitwich Golf Club.

The local golfer, who has not landed a hole-in-one during a head-to-head match since his time as a junior, took on Tom Alinge to see who would be crowned Droitwich Golf Club Champion.

After the pair exchanged wins on the first two holes,

Gavin went ahead in style on the third. From 175 yards, he hit a 6-iron and saw the ball land but could not really see the green.

He said: "Walking up, there was a pitch mark about three foot in front of the hole, but also Tom's ball five feet away from it.

"I said 'Am I going to look a bit daft if I walk up to the green without my putter?'"

"And we got up to the hole and there it was."

Gavin had waited almost a decade for a hole-in-one, after he landed one whilst playing on his own around 10 years before.

But the next one arrived just 12 holes later, in the same round. On the 15th hole from 187 yards, he struck his 5-iron which hit the bank and rolled down towards the pin.

The club captain, who was refereeing, confirmed Gavin's second hole-in-one of the round from the green.

Gavin added: "I thought he was having me on. I couldn't believe it."

He explained he planned to keep the two balls he landed hole-in-ones with in a box on the mantelpiece, although he added: "the kids will probably nick them and hit them round the garden."

Gavin's second hole-in-one of the round paved the way for an 8&6 victory to win the Club Championship.

To celebrate he put a bottle of whiskey behind the bar and got some of the lads a beer before quipping about how much that might have cost him.

His triumphant win secured himself a spot in the Champion of Champions tournament for the Faldo Commemoration Jug at Welwyn Garden City club in Hertfordshire - Nick Faldo's old course.

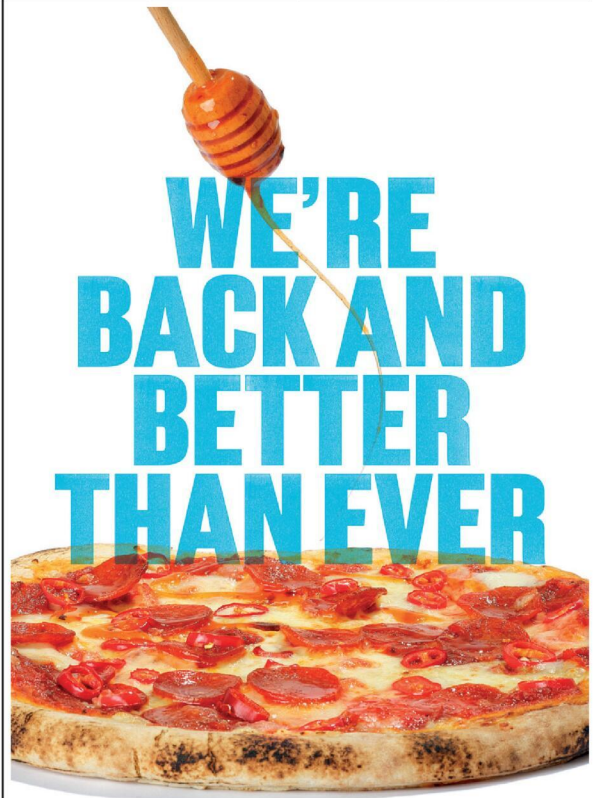
He added: "Next year's captain will caddy for me.

"I'm really looking forward to it."

England Golf Championships Director James Crampton estimated the odds of two aces to be around '67million to one'.

He added: "Gavin's achievements are astonishing - especially considering it was in a Club Championship Final."

**Gavin Bourne celebrated triumphantly after landing two hole-in-one's during a club championship final.**



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Bus fares across Worcestershire are being capped at £1 per trip during weekends throughout October. s



## Cheap weekend fares

DISCOUNTED bus fares which are capped at just £1 per trip will be on offer on services across Worcestershire throughout October.

Getting around the county has been made easier and cheaper, thanks to Worcestershire County Council working with local bus operators.

The special promotion is aimed at helping residents and visitors save cash, support local services and enjoy more sustainable travel. The offer applies to all local bus

services in the county on Saturdays and Sundays throughout October 2025, no matter the distance travelled.

The council said: "Whether you're heading into town, meeting friends, shopping, or exploring the countryside, leave the car behind and enjoy stress-free travel for no more than £1."

Visit: [worcestershire.gov.uk/bustravel](http://worcestershire.gov.uk/bustravel) for more on bus travel in Worcestershire and the service operators.

# Celebrating a love that lasts forever



IT WAS a case of love at first sight for a Wythall couple who have celebrated their platinum wedding anniversary.

When 23-year-old Vera first laid eyes on Derek in 1952 she knew she was going to marry him.

Working in her local pharmacy, Derek approached her to get a roll of film developed and she turned to a colleague afterwards and said 'I'm going to marry that fella'.

Now 70 years later, aged 96, Wythall-based Vera said: "There was just something about him. I thought he's a lovely bit of alright."

"He kept coming into the shop after that - I couldn't keep him away."

Derek later plucked up the courage to ask her on a date, which they spent at the Carlton Cinema.

Vera was not too impressed by Derek eating all the Turkish delights she had bought for her mother though.

Their passion for caravanning took them all over Europe, but it was Norway that held a special place in their hearts.

Derek said: "We loved Norway and even met the King and Queen whilst we were there."

"Not that we knew it was them - a waitress told us after they'd left the

restaurant. We'd been chatting for ages with them."

Vera, who drove a Civil Defence Ambulance during the war, was happy to take to the wheel of the caravan.

And their secret to a long-lasting marriage, Vera said: "Even after all these years we have never had a row."

"If we've got a problem we sit down and talk it over."

"If you do that you can have a better life with anybody."

The pair celebrated with Wiltshire Farm Foods Birmingham, which treated them to champagne and afternoon tea, along with the neighbours who joined in the fun.

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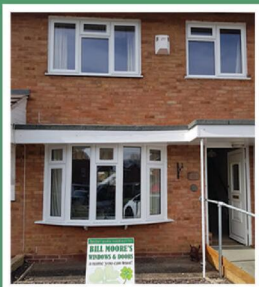


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# New awards to honour local heroes

A NEW community awards scheme is being launched across Droitwich Spa to honour local heroes in memory of the town's famed Pilgrim Father, Edward Winslow.

Individuals and charitable or voluntary groups can receive nominations across four awards, all of which celebrate people and organisations making a difference in their community.

The Winslow Community Champion is for individuals 'giving their time and energy freely whilst leading by example' in all their voluntary work across Droitwich.

Groups 'advocating for providing charitable support and giving in the town' can be put forward for the Winslow Champions Award.

'Unsung heroes who work tirelessly to support the community' can be nominated for the Winslow Endeavor Award.

And lastly, 'individuals giving years of dedicated service' to Droitwich through the giving of time and effort can be shortlisted for the Edward Winslow Salt of the Earth Award.

Visit the Droitwich Spa Town Council website and visit the home page to cast votes. Nominations are now open and will close on October 31.

The new awards scheme forms part

of this year's Edward Winslow celebrations in Droitwich Spa. Expanded for this year, the event will take place over three days in celebration of one of Droitwich's most prominent and historically significant residents from the 17th century.

The event celebrates the life and times of the Droitwich born man who became one of the first English natives to set sail for the shores of the United States, on the Mayflower Ship, from Plymouth in England, in 1620.

Kicking off on November 27, the festivities give a nod to Winslow's involvement in the first ever Thanksgiving dinner in Plymouth, Massachusetts on that same day in 1621.

The event will include festivities on Friday and Saturday, November 28 and 29.

Among the celebrations will be a United States of America flag raising, exhibitions including interactive experiences, live music, entertainment, displays, Thanksgiving meals across the town, a statue dressing, a church service and more.

Again, for this year, the event will encourage attendees to make donations to local foodbanks and community pantries across the town.



Bromsgrove Royal British Legion Secretary Michael Price with Chairman Jeff Evans. s

## Opportunity

THE ANNUAL General Meeting of the Bromsgrove Royal British Legion is set to take place at 8pm on October 13 and the branch has launched an urgent appeal to find a new secretary.

The current secretary, Michael Price, who has served many years has stood down.

The stalwart has become a lay minister and, as a result, no longer has the time to be the branch secretary.

Bromsgrove RBL Chairman Jeff Evans said: "We have held on to Michael for as long as we can.

"We didn't want to let him go, but we understand his time is now being taken up more and more by his new vocation.

"Michael has been with the Branch for many years and a huge supporter during Poppy Appeal.

"We are grateful for his loyal years of service."

Michael added: "I would like to reach my 40 years Service Award for the Poppy Appeal and I only have a couple of years to go.

"The secretary's job is not onerous role and I have thoroughly enjoyed my time - they are a friendly lot.

"I shall still attend meetings when I can."

Jeff added: "To function as a Branch, we need a secretary.

"So, if there is someone who wishes to come forward and can give up a couple of hours a month, please get in touch."

Anyone who can help can email Jeff at: [evansjeffp@gmail.com](mailto:evansjeffp@gmail.com) to register their interest and find out more about the role.

The Bromsgrove Royal British Legion AGM will take place at St John's Church Hall.

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LEFT: Samba band Someone At The Door performed. MIDDLE: West Midlands Ambulance Service was in attendance too with its vehicles. RIGHT: There were many stalls for people to browse. s

# Showing off their skills



The day was a success with an estimated 10,000 people attending. s

THE AUTUMN sun shone brightly on a hugely successful open day at Redditch Police and Fire Station - with an estimated 10,000 people in attendance.

West Mercia Police teams and emergency services partners, including West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner, Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service (HWFRS), St John Ambulance, West Midlands Ambulance Service, North East Worcestershire First Responders, anti-knife crime campaigner Pete Martin.

Chief Constable Richard Cooper, Supt Helen Kinrade and Insp Rich Field and the Redditch Safer Neighbourhood Teams joined their own mascot PD Peeler as so many children and families thronged the station.

There were loads of fun activities on offer including working police cars, the chance to put a loved one in the police van custody cell, a Samba band, food stalls and fairground rides, as well as demonstrations by HWFRS.



Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service carried out demonstrations of equipment including a CO2 extinguisher. s



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# JLR bailout is welcome help for town's firms affected by attack

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

THE GOVERNMENT has underwritten a £1.5billion loan guarantee to Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) after a cyber attack forced factory shutdowns.

Last month JLR paused production at factories including Lode Lane in Solihull and Castle Bromwich following the attack.

JLR has announced plans to restart operations at factories on October 1.

The Government has agreed to support JLR with a guarantee expected to unlock up to £1.5billion to give certainty following a recent cyber-attack, Business Secretary Peter Kyle has announced.

The Export Development Guarantee (EDG), which will be paid back over five years, will be provided by export credit agency UK Export Finance and is set to unlock a loan from a commercial bank that will bolster JLR's cash

reserves so it can support its supply chain which has been greatly impacted by the shutdown.

Redditch business Lear supplies the seats for JLR cars and has been unable to sell its products because of the cyber attack.

The company has been in talks with the town MP Chris Bloore to try and protect jobs at the factory.

Mr Bloore said: "Over the past few weeks, I've been working hard behind the scenes to make the case for urgent government support to protect jobs in Redditch and across the West Midlands.

"That's why I'm pleased the Government has listened and acted.

"Several firms here in Redditch are directly involved in the JLR supply chain and have been affected by the disruption.

"This intervention will help safeguard jobs and give local businesses the certainty they need."

In a statement the car company said: "As the controlled, phased restart of our operations continues, we are taking further steps towards

our recovery and the return to manufacture of our world-class vehicles.

"We continue to work around the clock alongside cyber-security specialists, the UK Government's NCSC and law enforcement to ensure our restart is done in a safe and secure manner.

"We would like to thank everyone connected with JLR for their continued patience, understanding and support.

"We know there is much more to do but the foundational work of our recovery is firmly under way and we will continue to provide updates as we progress."

JLR is considered one of the UK's largest exporters and a major employer - employing 34,000 directly in its UK operations.

It also operates the largest supply chain in the UK automotive sector, much of it made up of SMEs, and employing around 120,000 people.

**Chris Bloore MP with Mayor of the West Midlands Richard Parker.**



**AWARD WINNER:** BROMSGROVE'S triumphant marathon runner Gill Punt continues to earn the plaudits for her fundraising efforts with her latest recognition coming in the form of a BBC Make a Difference Award.

Gill Punt, head of PE at South Bromsgrove High

School, began raising funds for Cancer Research UK by running races after her dad Mike died of bile duct cancer in 1999, aged just 56.

To date she has ran 28 marathons, 70 half-marathons, claimed two Guinness World Records and earned herself a British Empire Medal.

She is set to run her 29th marathon - the TCS Amsterdam Marathon - on October 19.

This marks Gill's final push towards her fundraising goal of £2million for Cancer Research UK. She stands just £18,000 away from her momentous target.

At BBC Hereford and Worcester's ceremony last Friday, Gill was bestowed the Fundraiser Award after being nominated by her daughter.

She told the Standard: "I feel incredibly honoured to have been recognised with a BBC Make a Difference Award.

"The evening was so moving and inspiring and to be even a small part of it was very special.

"This award isn't really about me - it's about shining a light on the importance of fundraising, research and community spirit in the fight against cancer.

"Every pound raised brings us one step closer to a world where fewer families have to go through the heartbreak this disease causes."

Since our publication of Gill's last push to reach £2million of cash raised for Cancer Research UK, the fundraiser has shared her delight at receiving a substantial £1,000 donation from a single generous donor.

**Gill Punt received the award after her fundraising efforts have collected almost £2 million for Cancer Research UK.**

during the Second World War.

Visitors will be able to see military and civilian vehicles, including a Hellcat Tank destroyer, a 1940s Morris Ambulance and Bromsgrove's 1940s fire engine, which is returning to the town after many decades.

A traditional funfair with games such as coconut shy and hook-a-duck will run across the weekend, along with music performances from Kitten von Mew, the Vintage Class Singers, Zak Dien and Jo Thomas performing as George Formby.

Children's evacuee packs will form part of demonstrations on rationing and 'Make Do and Mend' techniques, designed to give younger visitors an insight into wartime life.

Free heritage bus services will operate between Bromsgrove Railway Station and the museum during the event, supported by Worcestershire Community Rail Partnership and Transport Museum in Wythall.

Discounted advance tickets are available online at: avoncroft.org.uk or can be purchased on the door.

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The Free Wills Month charities are paying for a limited number of simple Wills. The solicitor defines what is 'simple', and if your Will is considered complex, you may be asked to pay the solicitor for the extra work. There is no obligation to include a gift to any of the charities. The campaign is intended for those aged 55 or over. Free Wills Month is organised by Capacity Marketing for Charities, who is also acting as the agent for the Free Wills Month charities. For further information, and to view Capacity's privacy policy, visit [www.freewillsmoonth.co.uk](http://www.freewillsmoonth.co.uk).

**CROWDS TO FLOCK:** PEOPLE can step back in time to the 1940s at Avoncroft Museum this weekend with a special 'On the Home Front' event.

The two-day programme takes place tomorrow and Sunday (October 4 and 5) and will feature re-enactments, living history displays and demonstrations showing what life was like on the home front

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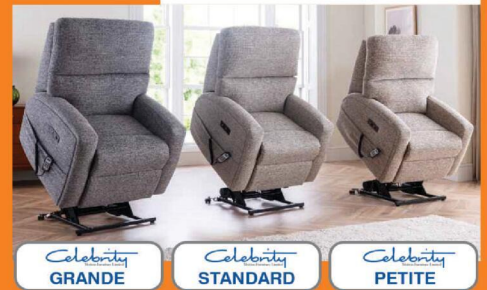
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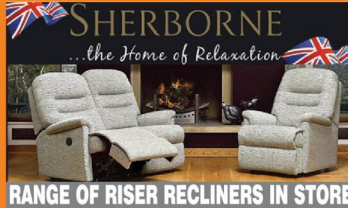


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# We need to be aware of the dangers of AI

THE CURRENT government has committed us to becoming an Artificial Intelligence (AI) super-hub.

This is without consulting us and without putting in place any safeguards to ensure AI aligns with human welfare.

In 2023, the European Union set clear rules for the use of AI and, a few days ago, Italy became the first country to implement these into law. Now in Italy, legislation limits child access and imposes prison terms for damaging uses of AI.

The UK has just accepted £31 billion of inward investment targeted at AI from some of the biggest American companies. Much of this money is for building huge data centres which consume enormous amounts of power and require significant volumes of water for cooling.

We must demand regulations ensure an energy-efficient design, perhaps where the heated water is piped into nearby homes.

Europe's largest data centre in Hertfordshire, just outside London, is to spread across 190 hectares of green belt farmland with its computers housed in giant warehouses, some 20metres high.

And the government plans to construct many of these across the country.

In a time when our priority must be to reduce our energy consumption to meet Net Zero targets, do we really need this technology?

AI is a remarkable digital technology able to scan vast amounts of human-generated data simultaneously – many billions of parallel 'calculations' and then mysteriously be able



Eco Action



Column written by Extinction Rebellion Bromsgrove

to reason about it. How this happens is not fully understood, so is not completely under human control.

The data AI is using is our cultural heritage plundered without permission from published books, articles, works of art and music, etc.

AI implementations have serious flaws, one of which is called 'hallucinations' – confident but false outputs which are the result of its statistical operation.

All AI implementations require retrospective alignment that adjusts their outputs after training. This can mean filtering hate speech, blocking misinformation about vaccines, preventing the promotion of self-harm or constraining political partisanship. This alignment is imposed by those who control them and thus not guaranteed to be neutral.

There are impressive AI breakthroughs in healthcare, such as AI-assisted diagnostic imaging.

But AIs also generate 'research' – fabricated science employed by corporations not interested in truth, only in persuasion. And AI 'slopaganda' – generated images and videos swamping social media to get attention, money and political influence.

What sort of technology will help us survive into the future? I believe we need to pause the headlong rush into AI and invest in 'frugal tech' and 'low tech'.

After all, the essential stuff of life – love, family, friendship, community – are still best left in analog.

Email Bromsgrove Extinction Rebellion at bromsgrove@extinctionrebellion.uk or check out @xrbromsgrove on Instagram.

# Repair cafe ready to fix those broken household items

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

## RESIDENTS can have their items fixed for free at the next Bromsgrove Repair Cafe.

The event takes place at All Saints Church Hall, Burcot Lane, from 2.30pm to 5.30pm tomorrow (Saturday, October 4).

The cafe features a group of experienced volunteer repairers who give their time as a community service to try to repair broken household items, saving them from the tip or the back of a dark cupboard.

The repairers can fix electrical and electronic items (PAT tested after repair to check their safety), mechanical items, tool sharpening, jewellery, clothing, stringed instruments, toys, turntables/audio equipment, wooden furniture and clocks. They can also repair bikes by appointment.

Whilst repairs do not cost anything, a small cash donation is always welcome to help cover costs and ensure the cafe can continue.



The next Bromsgrove Repair Cafe takes place tomorrow (Saturday, October 4) at All Saints Church Hall. s

There are also low cost coffee, tea and cakes available for people to enjoy while they wait to see repairers and have their items fixed.

Free parking spaces are available on Burcot Lane near the church and there is a free car park behind the church hall on Shenstone Close.

The last entry for the repair

cafe is 4.30pm and the next sessions will be on November 1 and December 6 – it always takes place on the first Saturday of the month.

Email [repaircafebromsgrove@gmail.com](mailto:repaircafebromsgrove@gmail.com) or visit [facebook.com/RepairCafeBromsgrove](https://facebook.com/RepairCafeBromsgrove) for more information or to book a bike repair appointment. Alternatively, call Julie on 07818 045881.

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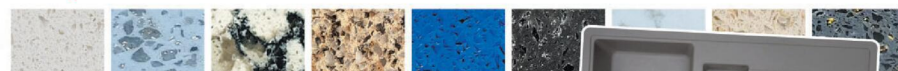


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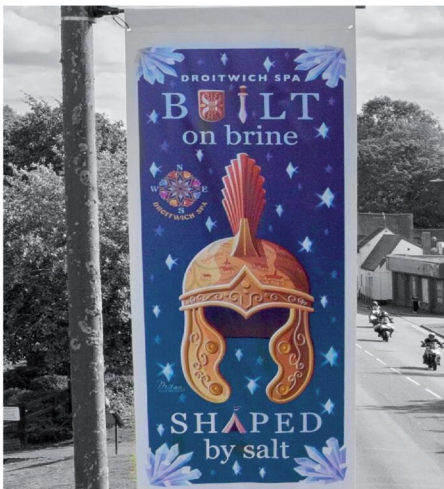
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One banner is a nod to Droitwich Spa's historic relationship with brine and salt. s



NEW decorative banners celebrating Droitwich Spa's rich heritage and iconic attractions are now brightening up the town. The eye-catching designs have been installed on lamp posts throughout the town centre this month. Each banner captures a different theme close to the heart of Droitwich Spa – from its famously crooked High Street to the refreshing Lido, its unique salt and Roman history, the scenic canal, and the stunning mosaics at Sacred Heart Church. Funded through Wychavon's share of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, the banners have been developed as part of the town's ongoing place-making efforts and have been supported by the Droitwich Spa

Place Board. In future, they will rotate with other promotional banners, including the popular Rik Mayall Comedy Festival set. Matt Nicol, Chair of the Droitwich Spa Place Board, said: "These banners are a celebration of what makes Droitwich Spa such a special place. "Whether you live here or are visiting for the day, they help tell our story and make the town feel welcoming and vibrant." Coun Richard Morris, leader of Wychavon District Council said: "We're investing in local pride through projects like this, which not only brighten up our town centres but also promote the unique features that make our places stand out."

# Park revamp praised

COUNCILLORS in Rubery are celebrating another revamp of a local park after a site on Brook Road was handed some much-needed investment.

Brook Road Park is the latest to receive new gym equipment thanks to Bromsgrove District Council's plans to invest in outdoor facilities across the district.

Councillors, Peter McDonald and Esther Gray, were delighted to see the investment in their local area.

Coun McDonald who represents Rubery North said: "I am really delighted to see further investment in the park after the update of the old BMX Track.

"The great advantage of outside gyms is that they are free to use and a fun and effective way to stay active safely, improve physical and



mental health, foster community engagement and offer a more natural and enjoyable workout experience."

The pair are determined to continue their campaign for further investment in both parks in Rubery

after old equipment was replaced at neighbouring St Chad's Park in April.

Through Bromsgrove District Council's commitments to improve parks and open spaces across the region, the councillors have been able to utilise revenue streams available to them to help fund the equipment.

The council committed to funding improvements at its play facilities in February's budget, with a plan released in December 2024 budgeting for a £2million spend but over the next 10 years.

Councillors Peter McDonald and Esther Gray try out the new exercise equipment at Brook Road Park. Picture by Marcus Mingins 4025004MMR

**COLLECTING MEMORIES:** DROITWICH Spa Heritage Centre is calling on local residents to help preserve the legacy of The Raven Hotel.

The centre, like many residents, has expressed deep sadness at the loss of one of the town's most iconic buildings to a recent fire and recognises the important role it has played in Droitwich's history.

Staff are collecting stories,

memories and photographs from those who have visited, worked at, or have family connections to the historic hotel.

A temporary exhibition is being prepared at the centre to celebrate the Raven's story and safely archive recollections for the future.

The aim is to capture the life, character, shared memories and special moments that have made the Raven Hotel such a signifi-

cant landmark in the community for generations.

Organisers say every story, whether large or small, helps paint a fuller picture of the landmark's role in Droitwich life.

Anyone with stories or photographs connected to the Raven Hotel is encouraged to contribute. Contributions can be made by emailing: heritage@droitwichspa.gov.uk or can be shared in person at the centre.



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# Browns Food Stores celebrates official launch with community event

**Browns Food Stores will officially launch its brand-new store at Oversley Mill Services in Alcester on Saturday 11th October, with a community celebration event running from 10am to 3pm.**

The event will see the ribbon cut by the local mayor, marking the start of a new chapter for the Alcester Bypass site following a complete knockdown and rebuild. Shoppers can look forward to special offers, in-store tastings, a free bottle of prosecco for the first 50 customers, and a spin the wheel with guaranteed prize wins.

The new store boasts a bright, modern design and a greatly expanded range focused on fresh food, food-to-go, local suppliers, and the trusted Co-op own-brand range. Customers will also be able to try out the new Browns Kitchen food-to-go concept, offering hot food,

coffee, and a wide selection of options for those on the move. On top of that, the refreshed site still benefits from BP fuel and pumped Ad blue, along with new top of the range car washing and jet washing facilities.

**Harry Brown, of Browns Food Stores, said:**

*"We've completely transformed the store into somewhere people can really enjoy shopping. Whether it's picking up fresh food for home, grabbing lunch on the go, or topping up the weekly shop, Browns offers a new kind of experience for Alcester and beyond."*

The store will be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, serving both the local community and passing motorists.



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Celebrations from 10am - 3pm

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**Bromsgrove MP Bradley Thomas has been working with Nicky Robinson from NR Aesthetics and Skin LTD to bring about change. s**

# 'Victims need help' says MP

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

broke for summer recess, I was proud to join MPs from across the political divide in demanding justice for the victims of the DES scandal.

**REDDITCH MP Chris Bloore** has signed a cross-party letter urging government action on Diethylstilbestrol (DES) scandal

"I've heard from families in Redditch affected by this drug - their experiences are harrowing and have often been overlooked or ignored for decades.

Mr Bloore has joined 36 cross-party MPs in demanding urgent Government action on behalf of victims affected by Diethylstilbestrol (DES) - a drug prescribed to thousands of pregnant women between the 1940s and 1970s which has since been linked to cancer, infertility and severe reproductive health complications.

"The government must take immediate, meaningful action, issue a formal apology, invest in better training for NHS staff and create clear pathways for diagnosis, treatment and support.

Coordinated by Jessica Toale MP and sent to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, the cross-party letter calls for an official government apology, improved NHS awareness and training on DES and dedicated support for affected families.

"These women and their families have suffered in silence for far too long - and they deserve to be heard."

The campaign follows a major ITV News investigation which revealed widespread and long-lasting harm caused by the drug, as well as failures in regulatory oversight that allowed DES to be prescribed long after risks were first identified.

The ITV report has already prompted hundreds of people to come forward, with many only recently discovering they were exposed to DES and may be at increased risk of rare cancers or infertility.

It is estimated up to 300,000 women in the UK may have been exposed - with devastating consequences for them and their children.

In light of this, the MPs are also urging the government to proactively raise public awareness and ensure at-risk individuals can access appropriate cancer screening and medical advice.

Mr Bloore said: "Before Parliament

Mr Bloore added: "We've seen the tragedies of the infected blood scandal, thalidomide and now this.

"It's time to learn from these mistakes, not repeat them.

"I will continue to stand with those affected in Redditch and across the country until justice is done."

**SAFETY CONCERNS:** MP BRADLEY Thomas has demanded urgency from the government on the introduction of measures to crack down on 'black market' cosmetic procedures.

pists and aesthetic practitioners injecting Botox or other brands of botulinum toxin, or dermal fillers

published early 2026. This will seek views on the range of procedures which should be covered in the new restrictions.

Mr Thomas spoke in a Parliamentary debate on the need for the government to urgently introduce regulations for non-surgical aesthetic treatments.

Last month, the government announced only qualified health-care professionals will be able to perform the highest risk procedure and are registered with the CQC.

Mr Thomas raised his concerns during the debate and labelled the Government's action as 'a welcome step forward'.

Since last year, the local MP, has teamed up with Nicky Robinson - the owner of NR Aesthetics and Skin LTD - a CQC (Care Quality Commission) regulated medical aesthetic clinic in Blackwell, to campaign for mandatory licensing for non-surgical aesthetic treatments

The government is giving priority to introducing restrictions to the highest-risk procedures first - such as fillers injected into breasts and genitals.

"This is a victory for Nicky and her colleagues who have been campaigning for quite some time for these measures to be introduced.

Ms Robinson expressed her concern to Mr Thomas last year about the damage being done to individuals by a largely unregulated group of practitioners.

Lower-risk treatments - including Botox, lip-fillers and facial dermal fillers - will also under stricter management through a new local authority licensing system.

"However, real concerns remain about the time frame. This cannot be a two-or-three-year project.

Currently, in the UK, there is no regulation at all in medical aesthetic procedures.

Practitioners will be required to meet rigorous safety, training and insurance standards before they can legally operate and once regulations are introduced, practitioners who break the rules on the highest procedures will be subject to CQC enforcement and financial penalties.

The industry is growing too fast, patients are suffering too frequently, and the NHS is already paying too high a price."

There is no legal training requirements for beauty thera-

A public consultation will be

Ms Robinson, who was in Westminster Hall to watch the debate, said: "Mr Thomas did an exceptional job of impressing upon the other Members of Parliament and the Deputy Minister for health the significant impact that the lack of regulation is having on patient safety."

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# Hospice gets a breakfast boost

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

**A CHARITY breakfast held in Redditch last month has raised an impressive £2,600 for Primrose Hospice and Family Support Centre.**

The Redditch 41 Club put on the event at Webheath Village Hall and around 239 breakfasts were served up in four hours.

The breakfast, which continues to grow in popularity and impact, brought together the local community for a morning of delicious food and heartfelt support for a vital cause.

The event was once again supported by Redditch Round Table, Ladies Circle, and Tangent, whose contributions were instrumental in its success.

This collaborative effort highlighted the strength and unity of these organisations in making a difference in the Redditch community.

Peter Dance, Chair of Redditch 41 Club, expressed his gratitude, said everyone was thrilled with how this year's breakfast had gone.



"The turn-out and generosity of our community, combined with the fantastic support from Redditch Round Table, Ladies Circle, and Tangent, have made this our most successful year yet.

"Raising £2,600 for Primrose Hospice and Family Support Centre is a testament to what we can achieve together and we're already looking forward to making next year's event even bigger and better."

Primrose Hospice and Family Support Centre provides essential care and support to individuals and families across north

Worcestershire who are facing life-limiting illnesses.

The funds raised will directly contribute to their invaluable work, ensuring the charity can continue offering compassionate services to those in need.

Redditch 41 Club said it extended its thanks to all attendees, volunteers and supporters who made this event possible.

**The charity breakfast in Redditch raised £2,600 for the Primrose Hospice and Family Support Centre. s**



Youngsters celebrates the nursery's achievement. s

## Nursery flying the Eco-Schools flag

A DROITWICH nursery has been recognised for its efforts in educating youngsters about the environment and sustainability.

The children and nursery team at Busy Bees Droitwich are celebrating after achieving a prestigious Eco-Schools Green Flag Award.

The accolade is an international accreditation for nurseries and schools which demonstrate excellence in environmental action and learning, along with a commitment to sustainability.

Busy Bees Droitwich achieved a 'Distinction' after successfully completing the Eco-Schools seven-step framework.

This included delivering impactful eco-projects, making their nursery more sustainable and increasing environmental learning and building an eco-club to lead sustainable projects and deliver eco-themed learning experiences.

The centre was commended for their commitment to fostering children's appreciation for nature and the environment and

utilising their Forest School to create a rewilding and bug garden.

Busy Bees was also recognised for its development of energy-saving habits and eco-learning activities, such as creating a pollinator garden, litter picking and learning about responsible resource usage.

Lucy Price, Busy Bees Droitwich's centre director, said everyone was over the moon with the award.

"The dedication and enthusiasm shown by both our children and nursery team over the past year have been truly inspiring - they have wholeheartedly embraced every chance to make a lasting impact on the environment.

"This achievement wouldn't have been possible without the incredible support from our children, staff, and families, whose efforts have been vital to our success.

"We look forward to continuing this journey, driving more sustainable initiatives that will benefit our children and future generations."



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# Norbury serves up a tasty treat of a classic murder mystery

## Theatre review

CLASSIC murder mystery was on offer at Droitwich's Norbury Theatre when Agatha Christie's *Go Back for Murder* was staged.

The story centres on Carla Crale who, as she comes of age, finds out her mother Caroline supposedly murdered her father Amyas Crale.

To add more intrigue to the plot, her mum, now dead herself, has left her a letter claiming she was wrongfully arrested and convicted.

This inspires Carla to go back to quiz everyone who was at the home at the time to cross-reference their version of events of that fateful 24 hours.

Using the information she has, she then returns to the scene, with the others, and reconstructs - *Crimewatch* style - the two days leading up to her dad's untimely death.

This ten-strong cast performed this quintessentially English middle class play well.

James Dean and Hugh Raymer were solid as Carla's Canadian husband to be Jeff and solicitor's assistant Turnbull.

Mary Field made the role of Governess Miss Williams her own, portraying the prim and proper



person perfectly.

Sophie Davey-Over was great as the posh, somewhat arrogant and 'always gets what she wants' manipulative Lady Melksham as she strutted about the stage like she owned the place.

And Adrian Over and Colin Potter were brilliant as the contrasting brothers Meredith and Philip Blake. The former was very enthusiastic and the latter more straight-laced. Their characters complemented each other wonderfully and their

chemistry on stage matched their relationship.

The pick of the performances on the night went to those who showed the most versatility.

Miles Nicholls was well-suited to the honest and trustworthy solicitor

Justin Fogg who, in the first act helps the main character come to terms with what she has learnt and helps her facilitate her plan. In the second, he takes up a more narrator role, breaking the fourth wall and keeping the crowd abreast with what was going on.

Gemma Matthews was an absolute joy to watch as Angela Warren. In the first act, as the character in her older years, she was quirky and had you wanting to find out more about her. And, in her portrayal of Angela as a youngster, the amount of energy she brought to the show was incredible.

And Emily Collins was fantastic in her dual mum/daughter role as Carla in act one and Caroline in act two. She is rarely off-stage and, with the way she captured the plight and trauma her characters suffered, you could not help but feel both empathy in the first half and sympathy in the second.

The first act was a tad slow while the scene was set but once it gathered pace in the second half, it became a wonderful watch.

**Tristan Harris**



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# The next award arriving... is for new rail fleet satisfying millions

THE WEST Midlands Railway (WMR) train fleet has carried more than 12 million passengers since it was rolled out a year ago and has picked up a prestigious national award.

Passengers on the Cross City Line, which connects Lichfield to Bromsgrove and Redditch via Birmingham, first boarded the new Class 730/0 electric train fleet in March 2024.

The full roll-out officially completed on September 26, 2024.

Each three-carriage Class 730 train has capacity for 546 passengers. As the trains run in pairs on the Cross City Line, providing six carriages for customers to use, every service can comfortably carry more than 1,000 people.

In their first year, the new trains have proven popular with commuters and leisure travellers alike with more than a million journeys made every single month.

WMR reported a 19 per cent rise in customer satisfaction on the route since the new trains entered service, citing their spacious carriages, intelligent air conditioning and modern features as factors behind the uplift.

The new trains - part of WMR's \$1.1billion investment in the railway - brought a significant increase in capacity to the line as well as customer benefits including air conditioning, improved accessibility and



The new West Midlands Railway fleet has carried more than 12 million passengers in its first year and won a national award. Picture by West Midlands.

the biggest upgrade to the Cross City Line since the 1990s.

"The trains have proved incredibly popular with our customers and their arrival has certainly contributed to the increasing number of passengers we are seeing using the route each year.

"Introducing a new train fleet is never an easy task with a lot of moving parts and I am pleased to see the hard work of everybody at West Midlands Railway in bringing the trains into service recognised at the National Rail Awards."

### Another accolade

As well as serving Birmingham New Street, the line includes the award-winning University Station, which saw over 3million passengers use the new fleet in its first year, since the transformation.

As well as the Cross City Line, Class 730 trains run on routes connecting central Birmingham with destinations including Walsall, Wolverhampton, Rugeley and Birmingham International.

Visit: [westmidlandsrailway.co.uk/travel-information/whats-new/new-trains/class-730-fleet](http://westmidlandsrailway.co.uk/travel-information/whats-new/new-trains/class-730-fleet) for more on the Class 730 fleet.

power points at every seat.

Jonny Wiseman, West Midlands Railway's customer experience director, said: "This new fleet is the flagship for our \$1billion investment into new trains and infrastructure.

"We want to provide the best possible passenger experience, and we are so pleased that the Class 730/0s are making such a positive impact on customer satisfaction already.

"The Cross City Line is the busiest

commuter route outside of London, so boosting capacity was hugely important to us.

"The new three-carriage trains run in pairs, comfortably offering space for over 1,000 people on every Cross City Line service."

### Award-winning

The roll-out of the new fleet was recognised at the prestigious National Rail Awards ceremony in

London on September 17 where it won for 'Fleet Achievement of the Year'.

The National Rail Awards is run by RAIL magazine and is often referred to as the 'Oscars of the railway'.

Judges said the trains had made a significant difference for passengers in the West Midlands.

John Doughty, WMR engineering director, said: "The introduction of the Class 730/0 fleet represented



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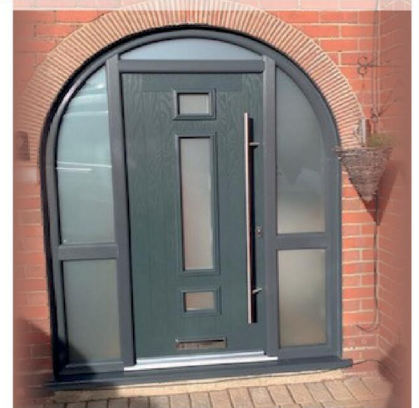
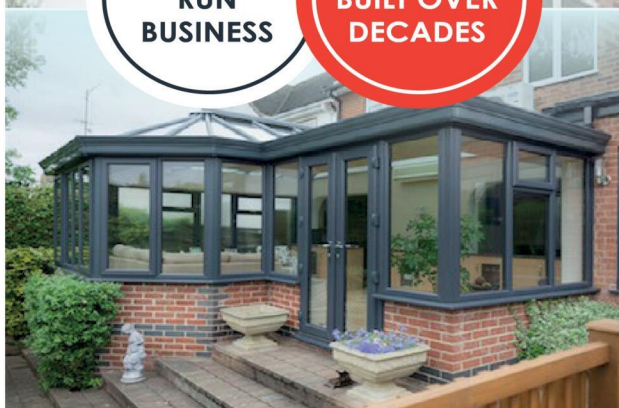


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# Unique hub is preparing for the worst



The Birmingham Rail Resilience Hub enables train operators and emergency services to prepare for emergency incidents. Picture by Network Rail. s

A UNIQUE training centre to help prepare transport providers and the emergency services for major incidents on the railway has opened in Birmingham.

The Birmingham Rail Resilience Hub has been created by Network Rail's Central route to train and develop teams alongside train operators, the police, fire and ambulance services.

The true-to-life training ground - which includes tracks, trains, level crossings, and all the other equipment and hazards found on the railway - have been mocked up in a purpose-built facility so teams

involved in managing emergency situations are prepared and ready to deal with them.

It allows for close partnership working between organisations, a better understanding of the challenges there will be in real life scenarios, and the opportunity to learn and improve together in a safe environment.

The new centre puts the West Midlands at the forefront of emergency planning and will be a focal point for supporting training and learning nationwide.

It was officially opened by Denise Wetton, Network Rail's central route director, and Martin Colmey, central

route's operations director, before hosting its first emergency exercise to demonstrate the types of scenarios and learning which can take place there.

Denise Wetton, Network Rail's Central route director, said staff worked around the clock to ensure railways ran safely for passengers and freight.

"Every day, we work round-the-clock to keep the railway running

safely for passengers and freight across Britain.

"We hope the scenarios which will be tested here never happen, but training and learning in this way will help everyone be prepared and ready."

The emergency exercise demonstrated how the rail industry and emergency services would respond to vehicles being struck by a train on a level crossing.

With passengers on board, it was shown how the area would be assessed and made safe, before trapped and injured people were rescued, and an investigation into what happened began ahead of reopening the railway.

Organisations involved in the exercise included West Midlands Police, British Transport Police, West Midlands Ambulance Service, West Midlands Fire Service, and Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service.

Rebecca Hodgkins, Operations Station Commander at West Midlands Fire Service, said it was fantastic to collaborate with Network Rail and their fellow blue light partners.

Other organisations involved and in attendance included Nimski which provided role-play actors for the exercise and the Rail Accident Investigation Branch (RAIB) which independently investigates accidents to improve railway safety, and inform the industry and the public.

## Focus on inclusion as rail staff members offer advice

RAIL staff members have given their advice to women applying for roles in the industry in the latest edition of West Midlands Railway's 'On the Rails' podcast.

The edition coincided with National Inclusion Week which ran from September 15 to 21 and aimed to inspire companies to take action to create inclusive workforces.

The rail industry is traditionally thought of as a male dominated

sector, with women reported to make up less than 20 per cent of the UK rail workforce.

Half take up non-operational roles such as marketing, finance and HR.

WMR - which carries millions of passengers every month along with sister company London Northwestern Railway (LNR) - is working to encourage more women into operational roles.

This year more than 20 per cent of those starting driver or engineering apprenticeships with WMR and LNR were women - surpassing the companies' target.

One contributor on the podcast was Kate Taylor, joint project manager for the delivery of WMR and LNR's new electric Class 730 fleets which now operate on Birmingham's Cross City Line and routes to and from London Euston.

She said she generally navigated the gender imbalance by being as good as she could.

"Women can be engineers, women can be directors, women can be administrators, women can be project managers.

"Women can be any of the things that men can."

During National Inclusion Week, WMR shared advice and career stories from women across the

business via its social media channels, including train service managers, its head of performance and a member of the company's graduate scheme.

Visit: [wmr.uk/podcast](http://wmr.uk/podcast) to stream or download the podcast which also features with White Ribbon UK, WMR's head of drivers and the company's EDI lead.

And go to: [wmr.uk/careers](http://wmr.uk/careers) for more on careers with WMR.

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No kitchen wants to be thought of as old or irrelevant, and just like us owners, the freshness adds an energy to the room that speaks volumes!

However, for many, the thought of splashing out double-digit thousands on a totally new kitchen is

not a realistic option right now, and that’s where a kitchen makeover really comes into its own.

### No Major Mess

The idea of ripping out perfectly good cabinets when it’s only the doors that need replacing is a difficult decision for many, and for good reason:

Ripping the heart of the home apart only to have workmen of all trades turning your life upside down for three or four weeks is not something everyone wants to sign up for.

### Covers All Bases

A kitchen makeover covers all the bases. For example, a straight forward door change can be completed in about one day with additional worktop swaps taking a half day more on average.

New sinks and other appliances can be undertaken at the same time, and all exposed panels, trims and plinths can be exchanged allowing a total colour change without leaving evidence!

### Get A Quote

A quotation allows for an on the spot price, and if you choose an established organisation, there should never be any pressure to buy.

We have been mastering the art of beautiful kitchen makeovers since 2005, and have a sterling reputation for quality value and service.

### Thanks

Let your kitchen show the world its rejuvenated bright and modern side with a quick kitchen makeover. Your home will look fantastic and who knows, the kitchen itself may even say Thanks!

Express your style with ease..



Every kitchen is different and what you want to achieve will depend upon your personal style and expression.

Our job is to give you some creative input and style advice to help you get the best from the room you’ve got without any stress or you having to spend a fortune!

### What our Customers say..

Our customers are the best people to tell you about our service. Here is what a few had to say

‘I am really pleased I decided to update my tired kitchen. It was trouble free’ says Avril Pitt on Google.

‘..extremely professional, and cleaned up after everything. 100% Recommended’ Says Janet Horsey on Google

‘We would highly recommend this lovely and friendly company.’ Say Therese Smith on Google

Why not call to discover what you can do with your kitchen using a modern makeover too?

For a no obligation quote or a free brochure call The Kitchen Doors and Worktops company today on 0330 321 0461

**DO UP YOUR KITCHEN WITH A KITCHEN MAKEOVER!**

**GET THE LOOK BY JUST USING NEW KITCHEN DOORS with FREE Worktops**

**WOW! FREE WORKTOPS**

**Our Kitchen Doors will transform your kitchen in a magical way! We have some amazing offers and now FREE Worktops. Its quicker and costs less than a total rip out. Request your FREE brochure.**

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[doorsandworktops.com](http://doorsandworktops.com)

Call direct 01384 660065 - 0800 448 8074

\*FREE Worktops Offer - Full details instore or online

Kitchen Door Company  
Doors House Wordsley West Midlands  
Request a FREE brochure or home quote today  
From around £3000 Complete.

# Artists open up doors and help raise vital cash

A RECORD number of attendees enjoyed Worcestershire's largest celebration of creativity this year as the county's Open Studios Art Week helped raise around \$5,000 for good causes on its triumphant return.

The event returned in late August after a year hiatus and post event surveys have demonstrated increased footfall, improved takings and higher-than-ever ratings of visitor satisfaction.

Taking place from August 19 to 25, 167 artists and makers adopted an open door policy at their studios and creative spaces to welcome a record number of visitors, estimated at between 15,000 and 18,000 - an increased footfall of 32 per cent compared to 2023.

Visitors described the experience as 'inspiring', 'welcoming', and 'friendly', with many commenting on the diversity of work on show and the unique opportunity it provided to talk directly with artists and makers.

"We have been thrilled by the response this year and were especially delighted to discover almost half of those who visited were new to the event," said co-organiser, Gemma Griffiths.

A total of 78 per cent of visitors said meeting artists was important to them and 99.7 per cent said they would recommend the event to friends and family.

Artists and makers taking part reported how much they enjoyed meeting the public

to discuss their work. Artwork sales also saw a 50 per cent increase compared to the 2023 event.

Participants reported too that sales opportunities have arisen since the event, as well as seeing an uptake in workshop bookings and commissions

Many participants praised the organisation of the event, rating it 9.2 out of 10, and spoke of how the week had helped to raise their profile locally and beyond.

One maker said: "The event was well-organised, inspiring, and gave me the chance to connect with both new buyers and fellow creatives."

Many of the artists and makers who take part use it as an opportunity to collect money for charity and this year some \$5,000 was raised for a diverse range of local good causes.

Behind the scenes, Worcestershire Open Studios is organised entirely by volunteers who give their time to manage finances, design, communications, the website, social media, signage and overall event organisation.

Their work ensures that 26,000 printed guides are produced and distributed across the county, alongside manning a website that acts as a hub for workshops, courses and the Artist and Maker Directory where creatives can display their work year-round.

The event enjoys the financial support of



Mary Brittain, Gemma Griffiths and Anna Cumming - local artists who make up the volunteer organising team for Worcestershire Open Studios.

five key sponsors - Elmslie House Malvern, Worcester Royal Porcelain Works, Bevere Gallery, Col Cards and the Arts Societies of Worcester, Malvern and Pershore and Evesham.

It also has the backing of a number of local art-based businesses which offer discounted goods and services to members.

"It simply wouldn't be possible for us to do

it without them and we are extremely grateful for their support," said Gemma Griffiths

Looking ahead, the team is already planning for next year. Worcestershire Open Studios 2026 will take place from August 22 to 31.

Those interested in taking part next year can visit [www.worcestershireopenstudios.org](http://www.worcestershireopenstudios.org) to sign up.

**Avery** | **Droitwich Mews**  
CARE HOME

# Stay & Play

Every Friday | 10.30am - 12pm

Join us for Stay and Play! Bring your little ones along for a joyful morning of play, laughter, and intergenerational fun. Our residents love welcoming young visitors, creating a warm and friendly space for shared activities and connections. Enjoy complimentary drinks and nibbles while making special memories together. Please note: £1.50 entry fee

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# THE EDUCATION GUIDE

'CHILDREN IN THE EARLY YEARS GET OFF TO A FLYING START' - OFSTED



**'LEARNING,  
CREATING  
AND GROWING TOGETHER'**

**OPEN DAY**  
22ND OCTOBER | 9:30AM & 5PM



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We are...

# 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.



#OneWoodfield  
Compassion  
Respect  
Resilience  
Responsibility

## OPEN EVENING

Monday 6th October 2025  
Headteacher's address at  
6:00pm and 7:00pm.



A Redditch middle school serving pupils in years 5 to 8; part of the Bordesley Multi Academy Trust.  
[www.woodfield.worcs.sch.uk](http://www.woodfield.worcs.sch.uk)



Central Region  
Schools Trust  
Founded by the RSA

# YOU'RE INVITED! JOIN OUR OPEN EVENTS



Join us on **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October** for our Open Evening!



We will be offering tours of our school between **5PM and 6PM**



More information can be found on our website:  
[www.arrowvalleyschool.org.uk](http://www.arrowvalleyschool.org.uk)



Alternatively, you can call and speak to us on: **01527 528111**

*"My children are thriving in this kind and caring school!"*



Parent/Carer



Join us on **Thursday 23rd October** for our Open Evening!



We will be offering pupil led tours between **5PM and 7:30PM**



More information can be found on our website:  
[www.ipsleyschool.org.uk](http://www.ipsleyschool.org.uk)



Alternatively, you can call and speak to us on: **01527 525725**

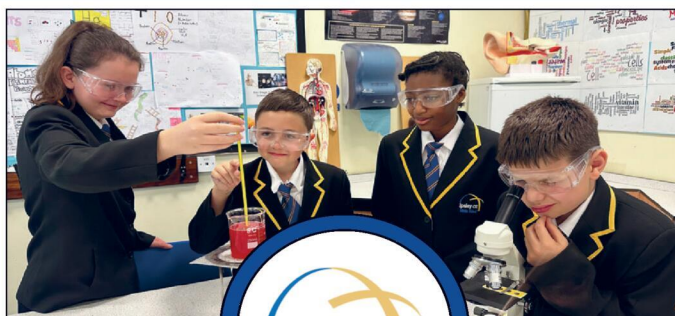


Follow us on BlueSky:  
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*"Joining **Team Ipsley** is the **best thing** my child has ever done!"*



Year 5 Parent/Carer





# 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.



## Studley St Mary's C. of E. Academy





### Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2025 6:30pm

### Y3 and Y5 places available for September 2026

Are you searching for a school that will 'walk alongside' your child from the moment they start? We are a nurturing school that strives to not only offer a high-quality curriculum but support the development of the 'whole child' through an exciting enrichment offer and an inclusive environment that fosters a true sense of community and belonging. Come and meet our incredible staff and children in person this October. We look forward to meeting you all soon.

# OPEN EVENING

*The playground will be open for parking*  
**Studley St Mary's C. of E. Academy, New Road, Studley, Warwickshire**  
 Tel: **01527 852153** E-mail **School.office@studleystmarys.covmat.org**



**Walking alongside to live life in all its fullness.**

*"Let us run the race that is before us, and never give up."*  
Hebrews 12:1

# 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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13+ and Sixth Form  
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[www.bromsgrove-school.co.uk](http://www.bromsgrove-school.co.uk)  
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**SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING**  
11 NOV

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2025  
TOP 10  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL FOR  
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE  
WEST MIDLANDS

# SUDOKU

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

## EASY

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

## HARD

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

# 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.

### Authors

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

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			

## ACROSS

- 7. Damp (5)
- 8. Calculate (7)
- 9. Unfathomable (7)
- 10. Centre (5)
- 12. Tyranny (10)
- 15. Inexpert (10)
- 18. Call forth (5)
- 19. Withdraw (7)
- 21. Deliberative assembly (7)
- 22. Awaken (5)

## DOWN

- 1. Spotless (10)
- 2. Prophetess (5)
- 3. Check (4)
- 4. Of the eye (6)
- 5. Stress (8)
- 6. Crazy (7)
- 11. Unable to speak out (6-4)
- 13. Sham (8)
- 14. Bold decorative style (7)
- 16. Seldom (6)
- 17. Indistinct (5)
- 20. Weary (4)

Scribble pad

# LADDER

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

- Feeble
- Knighted woman
- Risk
- Pointed projectile
- Dessert



# 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.

- 7394 gives a Biblical character;
- 85821 gives a Biblical character;
- 176294 gives a Jewish prophet.

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

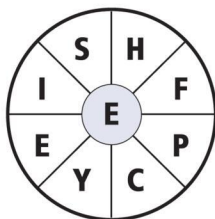
# CODEWORD

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.

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

# WORDWHEEL

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

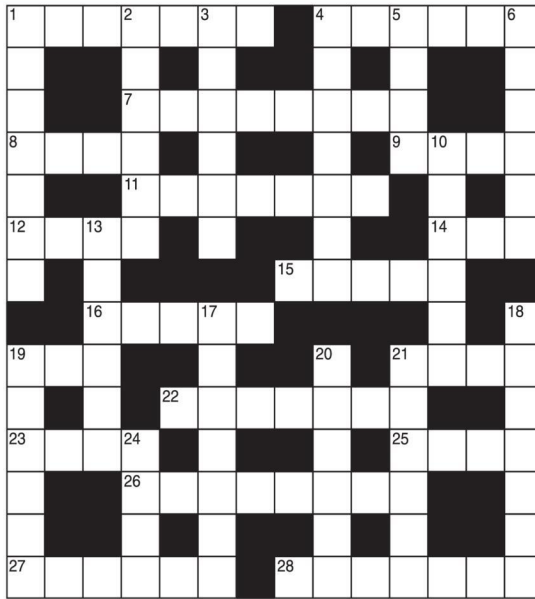


How you rate  
 6 words: average  
 9 words: good  
 12 words: very good  
 15 or more: excellent.

# GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

## ACROSS

- 1 Liquid, silvery-white metal used in barometers (7)
- 4 The Roman god of fire, and patron of metal workers (6)
- 7 Badges of office or honour (8)
- 8 Transparent structure behind the pupil of the eye (4)
- 9 In music, below the right pitch (4)
- 11 A violent wind storm (7)
- 12 District of London, south of Oxford Street and west of Charing Cross Road (4)
- 14, 18, 16 & 2 Romance by Alexandre Dumas, whose hero is Edmond Dantes (3,5,2,5,6)
- 15 Wine produced in a district of the Gironde department (5)
- 16 See 14
- 19 Small pocket for a watch (3)
- 21 See 4 Down
- 22 & 26 Romantic novelist who earned a place in the Guinness Book of Records for writing 26 books in 1983 (7,8)
- 23 Capital city of Latvia (4)
- 25 County of Northern Ireland (4)
- 26 See 22
- 27 Surname of the killer of Jean Paul Marat in 1793 (6)
- 28 Chief executive officer of a shire or county, in charge of law and order (7)



## DOWN

- 1 Animal such as a cuttlefish, oyster or limpet (7)
- 2 See 14
- 3 A summary, precis or condensed statement (6)
- 4 & 21 Across Marble statue of Aphrodite, now in the Louvre (5,2,4)
- 5 Hinged part or flap of a table (4)
- 6 Stinging plant growing on waste land (6)
- 10 Sweetish, pulpy fruit with a shell and single seed (6)
- 13 Peppermint-flavoured boiled sweet (6)
- 17 "Up above the world you fly, like a -- in the sky" (Alice in Wonderland) (7)
- 18 See 14
- 19 & 24 Colourless, corrosive, fuming liquid, occurring in ants and in various plants (6,4)
- 20 Light, low carriage with a movable hood (6)
- 21 Plant whose root yields a red dye (6)
- 24 See 19 Down

# SOLUTIONS

**General Knowledge Crossword**  
 ACROSS: 1 Mercury; 4 Vulcan; 7 Insignia; 8 Lens; 9 Flat; 11 Tempest; 12 Soho; 14 The; 15 Medoc; 16 Monte; 19 Job; 21 Millo; 22 Barbara; 23 Riga; 25 Down; 26 Cartland; 27 Corday; 28 Sherriff. DOWN: 1 Mollusc; 2 Cristo; 3 Resume; 4 Venus de; 5 Leaf; 6 Netter; 10 Litch; 13 Humbug; 17 Teatry; 18 Count of; 19 Formic; 20 Calash; 21 Madder; 24 Acid.

**Crossword**  
 Across: 7 Moist; 8 Computer; 9 Abyssal; 10 Heart; 12 Oppression; 15 Amateurish; 18 Evoke; 19 Retreat; 21 Council; 22 Rouse. Down: 1 Immaculate; 2 Sily; 3 Stem; 4 Ocular; 5 Emphasis; 6 Lunatic; 11 Tongue tied; 13 Pretence; 14 Baroque; 16 Rarely; 17 Vague; 20 Tire.

**Wordwheel Pathfinder**  
 Jane Austen, Phillip Pullman, Douglas Adams, Harper Lee, George Orwell, Charlotte Bronte, Sebastian Faulks, Joseph Heller, Daphne du Maurier, Malorie Blackman, Charles Dickens, Louisa May Carroll, John Steinbeck.

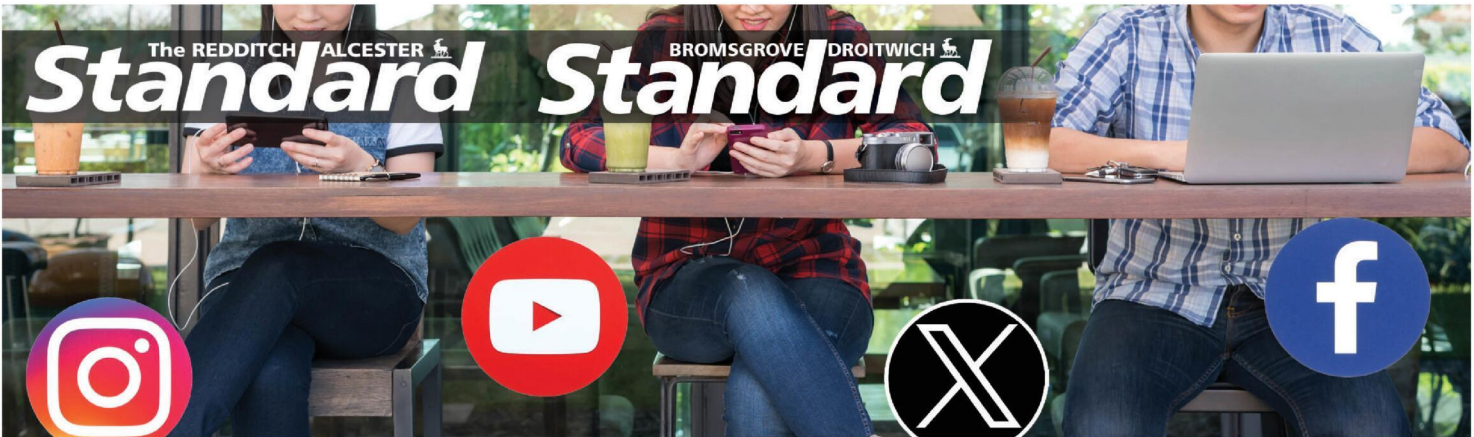
**Niner**  
 SUBIMATE

**Ladder**  
 Lake, Lame, Dame, Dare, Dart, Tart, Tam.

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

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

Easy  
**Sudoku**



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Tel: 01527 588688 Email: reception@bullivantmedia.com

DEATHS

# CRITCHER

## Marlene

Passed away on the 18th September 2025. Age 84

Reunited with Husband Raymond  
Greatly missed by her Family Ann, Andy, Sandra, Grandchildren & Great grandchildren and everyone who knew Mum

A service to celebrate Marlene's life will take place at Redditch Crematorium on Thursday 16th October at 11 o'clock

Family flowers only

Donations to Stroke Association to Thomas Brothers, Redditch

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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Basic funeral £2,450\* (excl. third party fees).  
A funeral service for your loved one that's at an affordable price, but without any compromise on the care we provide.

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\* Limited choice of date and time for service and committal, excluding cremation fees. Terms and conditions apply - please ask us for details.

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**Please call 01527 550505**

To arrange a home visit or to find out our opening times

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**01527 550 700**



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

**01527 588688**



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hope for tomorrow.  
Anonymous



# Family Notices

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## FUNERAL DIRECTORS



### Say goodbye your way

Reassure your loved ones that your funeral is the one you wanted — not the one they hoped you wanted. Choose from a fully prepaid plan or simply record your wishes with no upfront payment.

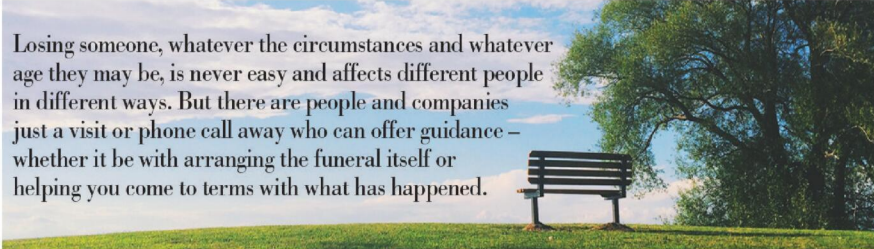
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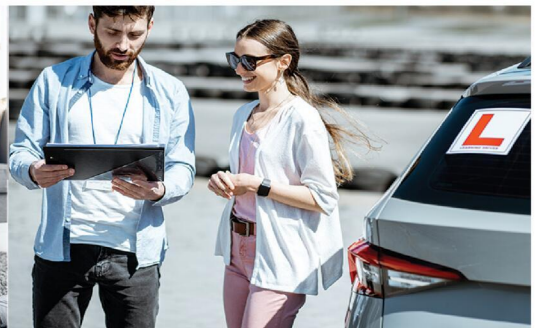
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## PUBLIC NOTICES

### PUBLIC NOTICES

**BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL & REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Advertisement Key: CA = Conservation Area, LB = Listed Building.

**25/00835/LBC** LB  
 Site: Old Mill Farm, Bromsgrove Road, Clent, Worcestershire DY9 9QB.  
**Proposal:** Windows replaced in 2020 due to poor condition and in a state beyond repair. Like for like replacement.

**25/00659/FUL** CA  
 Site: 15 Mearse Lane, Bart Green, Worcestershire B45 8HG.  
**Proposal:** Erection of new vehicular gates and associated piers.

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, Water Stranz Square, Redditch, B98 8AH.

Comments should be made within 17 days of the date of this publication. The Council does not acknowledge comments but will make these available for inspection online.

### PUBLIC NOTICES

**BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL & REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Advertisement Key: ADVSTD = Wider Publicity, LB = Listed Building.

**25/00982/LBC** LB  
 Site: Nat West Bank, Church Green East, Redditch, Worcestershire B98 8DE.  
**Proposal:** Closure to bank, removal of all signage/atms.

**25/00198/FUL** ADVSTD  
 Site: Woodland View, Billesley Lane, Portway, Worcestershire B48 7HG.  
**Proposal:** Material change of use of land to use as a residential caravan site for 4 traveller households with a total of 6 caravans, including no more than 2 static caravans, laying of hardstanding and erection of two amenity/dayroom buildings.

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, Water Stranz Square, Redditch, B98 8AH.

Comments should be made within 17 days of the date of this publication. The Council does not acknowledge comments but will make these available for inspection online.

### PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**APPLICATION FOR A PREMISES LICENCE OR CLUB PREMISES CERTIFICATE TO BE GRANTED UNDER THE LICENSING ACT 2003**

Applicant: ZEYDAN TRADING LTD trading as MORRISONS DAILY

Postal address of premises/club premises or description 11/12 KINGFISHER WALK, REDDITCH, B97 4EY. CONVENIENCE STORE TRADING AS MORRISONS DAILY

The applicant proposes to carry out the following licensable activities or qualifying club activities on or from the above premises/club premises: **THE SALE BY RETAIL OF ALCOHOL.**

Representations by interested parties or responsible authorities should be made in writing to Worcestershire Regulatory Services, Wyre Forest House, Finepoint Way, Kidderminster, DY11 7WF or via email to [wrsenquiries@worcesterservices.gov.uk](mailto:wrsenquiries@worcesterservices.gov.uk) by 19/10/2025

The record of the application is available for inspection by appointment.

Please call us on 01905 822799 for an appointment. IT IS AN OFFENCE, LIABLE ON CONVICTION TO AN UNLIMITED FINE, UNDER SECTION 158 OF THE LICENSING ACT 2003 TO KNOWINGLY OR RECKLESSLY MAKE A FALSE STATEMENT IN, OR IN CONNECTION WITH, AN APPLICATION

### PUBLIC NOTICES

**PROPOSED NEW HOMES & PUBLIC OPEN SPACE**

Catesby Estates are preparing proposals for a development of up to 80 new homes and enhanced public open space on land at Norton Farm, Bromsgrove.

We want to work collaboratively and openly with local residents before working up final plans which will be submitted as part of an outline planning application to Bromsgrove District Council.

Further information can be found at [www.catesby-nortonfarm.co.uk](http://www.catesby-nortonfarm.co.uk)

You can submit feedback via the website, [consultation@catesbyestates.co.uk](mailto:consultation@catesbyestates.co.uk) or by Freepost CASTESBY ESTATES.

**CLOSING DATE FOR FEEDBACK IS SUNDAY 19TH OCTOBER 2025**

**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence**

Total Exhibitions Ltd of Hill Farm, Doverdale, Droitwich, Worcestershire, WR9 9QA is applying for a licence to use Hill Farm, Doverdale, Droitwich, Worcestershire, WR9 9QA as an operating centre for 1 goods vehicle and 0 trailers. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Quarry House, Quarry Hill, Leeds LS2 7UE stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representatives must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioners Office.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

**Warwickshire County Council**

**ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984**

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

**B40890 ALCESTER ROAD, LITTLE ALNE**

**Order Effect:** Road closed to vehicular traffic from Whitehouse Hill to Burford Lane.

**Reason for Order:** Carriageway patching and associated works, 09.30hrs-15.30hrs.

**Order Commences:** 21 October 2025 for up to 18 months.

**Anticipated Completion:** 22 October 2025.

**Access & Diversion:** Alcester Road, Wootton Rise, Alcester Road, A3400, A4189, A435, Arden Road, Tything Road West, Kinwarton Farm Road, Kinwarton Road, Captains Hill, School Road, Village Road, Henley 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/roadworks](http://warwickshire.gov.uk/roadworks) or call us 01926 412515.

**S Duxbury, Director of Strategy, Planning & Governance,**  
 Shire Hall, Warwick CV34 4RL Date 3 Oct 2025

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## Range to expand

**SKODA'S multi-award-winning Enyaq range is expanding once again with the introduction of a new value-packed SE L 85 model.**

Reinforcing the brand's commitment to delivering exceptional value for money to customers, the new model sits below the Edition 85 and qualifies for the Government's new Electric Car Grant.

The new Enyaq SE L 85 brings down the entry price for customers who prefer the longer driving range offered by the largest 77kWh (net) battery. Open for order now with an OTR price of £41,980, the new Elroq SE L 85 delivers a WLTP combined driving range of up to 359 miles and supports DC rapid charging at speeds of up to 135kW.

A 10-80 per cent charge when connected to a suitable DC rapid charger can be completed in 28 minutes.

Powered by rear-mounted electric motor with an output of 286 PS, the Enyaq SE L 85 is capable of reaching 62mph in just 6.7

seconds and has a top speed of 111mph.

The new model – along with a number of other eligible models in the Elroq and Enyaq range – variant meets the Government 'Band 2' criteria for the Electric Car Grant, which means buyers will benefit from a £1,500 discount at the point of purchase.

The Enyaq SE L 85 also delivers a comprehensive package of standard equipment that includes 19-inch Proteus silver alloy wheels, 13-inch touchscreen infotainment system, Loft interior Design Selection, heated front seats and steering wheel, tri-zone climate control and an electric boot with Virtual pedal.

For customers wanting to tailor the specification of the SE L trim line, a new Plus option package is available.

Priced at £2,500, it includes Full LED Matrix beam headlights, electrically adjustable driver's seat with memory and massage function and manual blinds for the rear windows.

Customers choosing the Plus pack also benefit from LED rear lights with animated indicators, along with rear side airbags.

The introduction of the new Enyaq SE L 85 variant increases the number of Skoda models eligible for the recently introduced Government Electric Car Grant.

The scheme, which recognises brands that meet strict environmen

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# Standard SPORT



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Published by Bullivant Media Group Ltd, Webb House, Church Green East, Redditch, Worcestershire B98 8BP  
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by Aaron Sutcliffe  
aaron.sutcliffe@bullivantmedia.com

**FOOTBALL:** DROITWICH Spa moved top of the table with a hard-fought 2-1 win away at 10-man Lydney Town.

Goals from Reiss Taylor-Randle and Perry Moss put the visitors in command at the Lydney Recreation Ground.

Spa's second goal came moments after former Football League striker Matt Green saw red for picking up two yellow cards in quick succession.

Saltmen stopper Dom Rogerson then saved a penalty before Michael Symons halved the deficit as Spa held on to secure a third straight win.

The result means Droitwich sit top of the Hellenic League Premier Division table, two points clear of Roman Glass St George who have a game in-hand.

Lydney almost took the lead early on only for Rogerson to superbly tip Green's close-range effort onto the post.

Spa hit the woodwork at the other end as Charlie Tilley's header hit the post before Lydney blocked the follow-up behind for a corner.

And Binner then saw a header cleared of the line as Droitwich pushed for the game's opening goal.



However, Spa broke the deadlock on 26 minutes when Taylor-Randle headed in Jack Brighton's cross at the back post.

Lydney goalkeeper Alex Causon then held Brighton's effort from distance before keeping out Binner's free-kick from the edge of the penalty area.

Spa took a narrow one-goal into the second period only for veteran striker Green to see red for the home side moments after the break following a discussion with the referee.

And Moss doubled Droitwich's lead on 48 minutes with a cross-shot which deceived Lydney goalkeeper Causon.

Lydney won a penalty on the hour mark after Tilley fouled Morgan

Ewing in the box.

However, Rogerson superbly kept out O'Rien Reid's tame spot kick diving to his right.

The home side eventually reduced the deficit on 75 minutes when substitute Symons finished on the rebound from close range after Rogerson kept out Ewing's initial effort.

However, Spa held on to claim the points and move top of the table in the process.

Droitwich are next in action against Royal Wootton Bassett Town on Saturday, October 4 with kick-off at 3pm at the King George Playing Fields.

**Dom Rogerson saves a Lydney penalty.** Picture by Mathew Mason.

## Community Club players presented with awards

**TABLE TENNIS:** DROITWICH Spa Community Table Tennis Club held their AGM and presentation evening as players received awards following the annual summer league competition.

The event took place at The Talbot as a number of players scooped awards across the league's three divisions.

In Division One, Eliot Brandwood and Russell Evans won the Azim Sharif Memorial Trophy as league winners.

And Don Evans and Steve Smith claimed the runners-up prize while the latter player also topped the division averages leaderboard.

Brandwood and Evans retained their Division One title after the pair finished eight points ahead of Evans and Smith.

In Division Two, Keith Duffey and Dene Fokias won the Eliot Brandwood Cup with Paddy Crump and David Horsewell runners-up.

And Duffey topped the Division Two averages to claim another prize.

Duffey and Fokias finished just three points ahead of Crump and Horsewell to win the title for the first time.

In Division Three, Jonah Brown and Aaron Grainger won the Russell Evans Cup with Harriet Anderson and Susan Howard runners-up.

And Brown impressed to also win the Division Three averages award.

Brown and Grainger ran away with the title, winning the league by an 18-point margin ahead of Anderson and Howard.

Grainger also won the Don Evans Cup, awarded to the most improved junior player.

His attitude in practice sessions and progression in his play during

the summer league saw the committee vote Grainger as the most improved junior player.

The club hold sessions at RGS Dodderhill every Thursday from 7pm to 9pm.

And the club are welcoming new members, anyone interested should email: [droitwichtabletennis@gmail.com](mailto:droitwichtabletennis@gmail.com) for more details.



Aaron Grainger claimed the Division Three title and most improved junior player.



Russell Evans and Eliot Brandwood (Division One winners). Pictures by Harriet Anderson.

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