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Friday, October 10th 2025 Week 41

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Campaign in appeal for help to save hotel



The group is hoping to give a future to the listed parts of the former Raven Hotel building. Picture by Nicky Roberts. s

A GROUP set up to help save the listed part of the former Raven Hotel building has issued a rallying call for people to join the campaign.

Raven Heartbeat is working with Droitwich Spa Civic Society, local councillors and Wychavon District Council to give the historic parts of the building a future for the community.

And while it admits, because of the damage caused by the devastating fire earlier this year, it will never be a hotel again, campaigners are determined to keep its memory alive and repurpose it for the town.

The group already has a retired solicitor in its ranks, along with a host of other members who all have an interest in history, old buildings or both. And it is hop-

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

ing to enlist many other Droitwich residents and people with a field of expertise – whether they are passionate about the Raven itself, the town’s heritage or have experience in architecture, building or historic building conservation.

The group is chaired by Mike Meredith, who is also the Droitwich Spa Civic Society chair, with both organisations pooling their knowledge and resources for one of the town’s oldest buildings.

There are main parts of the building the group is hoping to first protect, preserve and conserve. The first is the timber framed structure which dates back to the 1500s and the ‘book-end’ buildings either side which

were designed by John Cotton and commissioned by Salt King John Corbett from the 1800s.

Speaking to the Standard this week, the Raven Heartbeat group said: “There are so many people with fond memories of The Raven – whether they stayed there or went there for a special occasion, such as a wedding, anniversary, birthday party or Christening.

“We are not interested in the newer buildings on the site which – under the current application going through planning – will be demolished and replaced with housing. This can still go ahead and the homes built as planned.”

The listed parts – which were

going to be used for the Brine Baths – are no longer needed for that purpose. The latest proposals mooted would see the Brine Baths relocated to the Lido.

“A lot of the current planning application – on the section we are interested in – is null and void because the damage sustained would not enable those proposals to physically be carried out,” said the group.

“We feel it is in everybody’s interest for the listed parts to be acquired so they could be used for a future community use.”

The group added, while there had not been much to report publicly recently, Raven Heartbeat

wants the people of Droitwich to know it has not been forgotten - there is a lot of work going on behind the scenes.

The first priority is to get the building covered to prevent further weather damage and protect it through the winter months.

Meetings between Raven Heartbeat’s leadership, the group and the council and one public meeting have already been held.

The next public meeting is at 7pm on Tuesday, October 14, in the upstairs room of The Old Cock Inn and everyone is welcome to attend. Search for ‘ravenheartbeatgroup’ on Facebook for more on the campaign.

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Meeting to discuss flags

THE MEETING to discuss the removal of 'unauthorised' Union and England flags from lamp posts across a Bromsgrove village is set for next week.

At its last meeting, Wythall Parish Council discussed the display of the flags on what they said were Parish Council lamp posts.

For the past month, the authority has been asking residents to write in with their thoughts and feelings about the displaying of the flags.

They are also investigating removal costs and asked anyone who wanted a flag removing from a lamppost outside their property to inform it.

It also appealed to the group which installed the flags to come forward and engage constructively before the removal after November 11.

Residents are being encouraged to attend the full council meeting, taking place at Wythall Village Hall, Alcester Road at 7.30pm on October 16.

In a statement, the parish said: "The consensus was that the flags had been installed without choice, discussion or democratic process - principles which the Parish Council believes lie at the heart of our community's values.

"Concerns were also raised regarding public safety, particularly where flags have been attached to lampposts using unsafe methods, creating risks for both those installing them and the wider public.

"Following discussion, the council resolved to work towards the removal of the flags."

They have decided to keep the flags in place until after Armistice Day, when the parish council and community will come together to commemorate those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

It added: "The parish council recognises and respects the range of public feelings on this



matter. For residents who wish to express their pride by flying the national flag, we warmly support appropriate displays on private property - such as gardens, vehicles, and windows - where the choice lies with the individual.

"Wythall Parish Council remains committed to upholding community choice, safety and the respectful and appropriate display of our nation's flag."

Coun Adam Kent represents the area on Worcestershire County Council.

He confirmed that some of the lamp posts in Hollywood and Wythall were owned by Worcestershire County Council and some were owned by the parish council.

He said: "It's absolutely ridiculous - I don't see a problem with the flags.

"Reform UK which runs the county has already said it won't be taking the flags down on its lamp posts.

"And I don't want to see taxpayers' money spent on taking the flags down."

The flags on lamp posts on Shawhurst Lane. Picture by Ashleigh Osborne.

Wythall man jailed for part in carjackings

A MAN from Wythall has been jailed for 16 years following a series of carjackings at gunpoint across Birmingham and Solihull.

Damien Scarlett (pictured), 36, from Selsdon Close was arrested in March last year.

Scarlett was initially arrested on March 4 2024, after officers stopped a stolen vehicle which had been taken at gunpoint the day before from a man who was getting out of the car with his young family in Hall Green.

As officers followed the vehicle, which had already been switched onto false number plates, a firearm was seen being thrown from it. This was recovered and determined to be viable.

The investigation linked Scarlett with two other gunpoint carjackings in similar



circumstances, one near Earlswood Lakes, and another in Solihull where a woman was threatened into handing over her keys.

Scarlett was charged with three counts of robbery, three counts of possession of a firearm, and dangerous driving.

He denied the offences,

but was found guilty following a trial, and sentenced at Birmingham Crown Court last Tuesday to 16 years in prison with an additional four years on licence.

Det Ch Insp Neata Simpson, from Birmingham Police, said: "There is no doubt Scarlett is an extremely dangerous individual, who pointed a gun at the young, vulnerable, and elderly.

"We believe that if he hadn't been arrested - he wouldn't have stopped."

"It's thanks to incredibly hard work from our dedicated team of officers, working together with colleagues from across the force, that we were able to stop him and bring him to justice.

"The length of his sentence reflects the severity of his crimes and we should all be pleased he is now behind bars."

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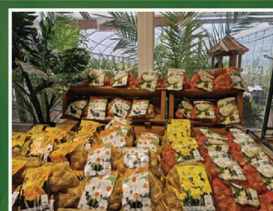
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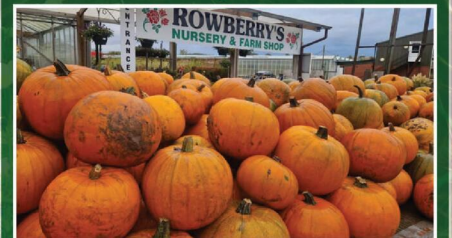


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See page **28**

Figures reveal train reliability

by Ryan Smith
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ALMOST 1,000 railway stations across the country have been more reliable than Bromsgrove for on-time arrivals in recent months.

This is despite the town's station rising 485 places in the countrywide ranking of railway station reliability over the past 12 weeks.

In the past three months, Bromsgrove Station has ranked 949th highest out of the country's 2,639 railway stations for reliability, with 65 per cent of all trains arriving at

the station being on time.

Only three per cent of trains departing Bromsgrove have been 10 minutes late or more and just two per cent have been cancelled.

In addition, 24 per cent of all trains arriving at the station since mid-July were less than five minutes late.

However, Bromsgrove has only been the 756th busiest station in the country, meaning its performance still ranks around 200 places below how reliable it is.

The data has been collected by railway reliability website OnTimeTrains.

Redditch station is currently the highest performing in Worcestershire, ranking



Howden's chief executive Emma Temperley and executive director Jo Taylor with Millfields headteacher Lisa Montandon, wellbeing governor Lauren Jones and pupils. Picture by Marcus Mingins 4125005MMR

Funding school's new activity areas

A BRAND new reading hut and sensory garden have been installed on the playground at Millfields First School, thanks to funding from Howden Insurance.

The exciting additions are designed to support both literacy development and the mental health and wellbeing of pupils aged between two and nine.

The reading hut will be a dedicated outdoor space filled with books, offering children the opportunity to enjoy reading during playtimes in a calm and inviting environment.

The sensory garden will provide a peaceful area for reflection, relaxation, and sensory exploration - supporting emotional regulation

and wellbeing for all pupils.

As well as Howden's contribution, further cash was raised by the school community during the summer fair, demonstrating the strong support and enthusiasm from families and friends of the school.

Headteacher Lisa Montandon said the school was grateful to Howden insurance and everyone who supported the summer fair.

"These new spaces will make a real difference to our children - encouraging a love of reading and providing a calm, nurturing environment to support their mental health and wellbeing."

537th best in the country over the last three months.

Bromsgrove also ranks below Kidderminster, Bart Green, Blakedown and Wythall in the national rankings.

Bromsgrove Station is operated by West Midlands Railway.

A spokesperson for the rail firm said: "We run over 1,200 services each day and work closely with industry partners to continuously improve reliability."

"One of the ways we're doing this is through our major \$1billion investment in new trains and maintenance facilities, including our Class 196 fleet on the route to Hereford, our electric Class 730 fleet on the Cross City line, and major upgrades to our Birmingham maintenance depot, which will improve journeys for our customers across the West Midlands."

"The OnTimeTrains website measures the

proportion of trains arriving at a particular station early, on time or less than one minute late.

"For each station, most of the trains recorded as delayed were between one and two minutes late."

"Delays or cancellations can occur for a wide variety of reasons including industrial action, cable theft, weather and infrastructure issues."

"Any passenger whose journey is delayed by 15 minutes or more for any reason can claim compensation via the Delay Repay scheme."

* WHAT do you think of rail services and train reliability to and from Bromsgrove, Alvechurch, Bart Green, Longbridge, Northfield and Droitwich? Email: editor@bromsgrovestandard.co.uk with your views.

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Race night aims to be a winner for HB9 charity

by Ryan Smith
ryan.smith@bullivantmedia.com



The Cubs tried on some uniforms.

Officers give online advice

TWO officers from Redditch Police visited Oakenshaw Community Centre to speak to the Cubs group regarding issues that arise when children transition from primary school to secondary.

PC Alimov and PC Lisle delivered a presentation about internet safety and how to stay safe online with a specific focus on playing games online and on consoles.

PC Alimov spoke about road safety, especially now autumn, winter and the earlier darker nights are approaching.

The officers also gave tips on how to be safe in winter including wearing bright or reflective clothing and wearing shoes with good grip to prevent slipping on ice.

The Cubs enjoyed trying on some of the uniforms and sitting in the cage of the police van.

A CHARITY race night at Stoke Prior Sports and Country club will be held to raise vital cash for a charity set up to honour the memory of a local teenage boy.

The race night will take place at 7.30pm next Friday, October 17, with proceeds going to the HB9 Harry Bennett Foundation.

HB9 was founded in memory of Harry Bennett, who tragically passed away from sepsis in 2020 at just 16 years old.

The foundation looks to honour Harry's passion for sport and his belief in its power to change lives.

It aims to support people and teams so more people can enjoy the physical and mental benefits sport brings.

Mark Goddard, manager at Stoke Prior Sports and Country Club, said: "We're asking everyone to grab their free ticket and come along for an exciting night of racing fun.

"The more people who join us, the more we can



raise for HB9 in Harry's memory.

"It's free to get in, there are prizes to be won and every bet and raffle ticket helps make a difference - so don't miss it."

Mark and co-manager James Maycroft got into the spirit of the event as they met up with Bear Claws - a racehorse who only retired last week after a successful career on the track.

Guests can look forward to nine races on the big screen - three horse races, three dog races and three pig races.

Further fundraising will take place on the night, including a raffle, with all



Ready to race - Mark Goddard and James Maycroft with Bear Claws ahead of the charity race night to help the charity named in memory of Harry Bennett, left.

cash going to the foundation.

Entry to The Great Charity Race Night is free, but the venue is asking people to secure a com-

plimentary ticket online so numbers can be managed in advance.

The Race Night is strictly for over-18s when it comes to betting, but everyone

is welcome to come along and be part of the event.

Visit tickettailor.com/events/stokepriorsports/countryclub/1786974 to book your free tickets.



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Exhibition is set to showcase 2,000 years of town's history

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

A NEW exhibition charting 2,000 years of Droitwich Spa History has got under way in the upstairs gallery of the town's library.

The exhibition, which has been compiled by the Droitwich History and Archaeology Society, invites visitors to come and test their knowledge against the story revealed on

the walls. The exhibition, part of the extended nationwide Heritage Week events, tells in words, pictures and maps the story of the history of Droitwich Spa - from the earliest times to this year's devastating fire at the Raven Hotel.

The exhibition runs until the October 31 and on certain days, members of the society and friends will be on hand to shed more light on certain elements of the town's past.

This morning (Friday, October 10), there will be a selection of

Raven images and maps, some items from the Nelly Copson archive.

In the afternoon, there will be more on the salt industry and brine hotels.

Tomorrow (Saturday), the salt industry and brine hotels will also be placed in the spotlight.

Next Friday, October 17, members of the Worcester and Birmingham Canals Society will be in attendance to talk about the region's waterways.

Large scale maps of Droitwich Spa will be available to view next

Saturday, October 18.

On the morning of October 24, there will, once again be a selection of Raven images and maps, some items from the Nelly Copson archive in the morning and a focus on the salt industry and brine hotels in the afternoon.

And finally, on Saturday, October 25, there will be a display on The Paul Jones postcard collection. Paul is a Droitwich Spa historian and author - one of his books is on the postcard collection.

Chris Bowers, chair of the

Droitwich History and Archaeology Society, said the best times to visit were on Fridays or Saturdays, because of the experts and additional tabletop displays.

"During the week, we're told by people that they make return visits as there is so much information to absorb.

"Children and young people who are learning about local history in class, or as scouts and guides working on their interest badges will find much to see and learn about."



Police released this picture of the men they want to speak to following the assault in Bromsgrove on Sunday. s

Help to identify men involved in vicious assault

A MAN was taken to hospital with serious injuries after a vicious assault in Bromsgrove in the early hours of Sunday morning.

The incident happened around 3.50am outside the Istanbul Restaurant on Worcester Road, where a man, aged in his 20s, was assaulted by a group of four to five men.

The man suffered serious injuries and was taken to hospital, where he was in a stable condition.

Officers from West Mercia Police have released the CCTV image of two men they believe were in the area at the time of the incident and who, they think, will be able to help with enquiries.

Police would also like to speak to a third man, who

they believe may have also been injured during the assault.

Det Con Thomas Stevenson, said: "We are keen to identify the men pictured, as well as the other man who may have suffered injuries, to please get in touch as they may hold vital information that can help with our investigation.

"If you recognise, or know these men, please contact police immediately."

Witnesses or anyone with information should email DC Stevenson at thomas.stevenson@westmercia.police.uk or call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Alternatively, visit: crimestoppers-uk.org to submit information online or call police on 101.

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TRIBUTES have been paid to much-loved Bromsgrove School youngster Namsong Rai following his death.

Namsong passed away on Monday surrounded by his family.

Namsong was born in 2010 and has been part of the school community since 2020.

A post on the Bromsgrove School Facebook page post

read: "It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Namsong Rai who passed away last night surrounded by his family.

"Namsong has been a valued member of our School community since 2020, and our thoughts are with his family and friends during this incredibly difficult time."

The school has been offering support to pupils and staff affected by the loss and encouraged anyone who needed help to reach out.

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Fundraising tree is set to return

THE PRIMROSE Hospice's Lights of Love which gives people the chance to remember lost loved ones is returning to Bromsgrove and Redditch this year.

The festive fundraiser - the biggest in the charity's event calendar - raised more than £35,000 for the cause last year.

While Christmas and the festive season is a season of joy and celebration, it can also be a difficult time for many if they have lost those closest to them. It can become a time of remembrance.

The Lights of Love offers a meaningful way to pay tribute to loved ones.

Anyone who has experienced the grief of bereavement is welcome to dedicate a light - regardless of whether their loved one received care from Primrose, whatever their age, and no matter how near or far they lived.

Once the Primrose has received a donation and tribute, every name is then displayed around the charity's trees in Bromsgrove and Redditch, where each twinkling light represents a life loved and will shine brightly throughout the festive season.

Names will also appear on a beautiful online Lights of Love display, where heartfelt messages can be shared and photographs can be uploaded in memory of the person being remembered.

For those wanting a quiet moment of reflection, a Book of Remembrance will be available at the Primrose Hospice.

And there will be a special remembrance



service at St Godwald's Church at 4pm on Saturday, December 13.

The hospice hopes people will gain comfort in the knowledge that - by remembering their loved ones - they are also helping to support patients with life-limiting illnesses and bereaved families in north east Worcestershire.

Call: 01527 889796, visit: primrosehospice.org/events/lightsoflove or email: fundraising@primrosehospice.org for more on the Lights of Love.

Primrose fundraiser, Kelly Wetherall, and Mel Vann-Blockey, clinical nurse specialist, at the Lights of Love tree in Bromsgrove. s



The Primrose Hospice Choir will be performing its special 25th special anniversary concert next Friday. Picture by Tony Slade. s

CELEBRATION: THE PRIMROSE Hospice Choir will celebrate 25 years of singing, fundraising and community spirit with a special anniversary concert.

The group will mark its major milestone with the event at 7pm next Friday, October 17, at the Rocklands Social Club.

The choir is inviting everyone to join them and is hoping to see as many people as possible at the event.

For a quarter of a century, the choir has performed concerts and community events to raise vital funds for the Primrose Hospice and has also brought together through the joy of music.

The choir was founded in 2000 to support the Primrose Hospice and Family Support Centre.

For a quarter of a century the choir has performed concerts and community events to raise vital funds for the Primrose Hospice, while also bringing people together through the joy of music.

This anniversary concert will showcase The Primrose Hospice Choir along with a line-up

of guest performers. The evening promises variety, good music and celebration.

The choir said that for concertgoers this was more than a night of live entertainment - it was also an opportunity to support Primrose Hospice and Family Support Centre, which provides essential care and support for people with life limiting illnesses and their families in north east Worcestershire.

Every ticket sold will help ensure these services remain free of charge to those who need them most.

Rod Laight, Primrose Hospice Choir patron, said: "Reaching 25 years is a proud and moving milestone.

"This concert is a celebration of music, community and the extraordinary difference that Primrose Hospice makes every single day.

"We hope people will join us on October 17 to share in what promises to be a wonderful evening."

For more information or tickets, call Anita on 07737 317493. Tickets will also be available on the door.

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Joan and Raymond Powell celebrated 75 years of wedded bliss on Tuesday. Picture by Marcus Mings 4125006MMR
RIGHT: The pair on their wedding day in 1950. s



Police act on illegal e-scooters

BROMSGROVE Police have carried out an operation to clampdown on the illegal use of e-scooters in the district.

Officers were out and about last Tuesday – both plain-clothed and uniformed – stopping riders breaking the law.

Three e-scooters were seized as part of the operation.

A spokesperson for the force said: “We have been sending out a message to the local community through social media, to local schools and colleges on what the law is.

“The education phase has stopped and now it is about us using enforcement.”

According to the law, it is legal to buy e-scooters and ride them on private land. But, currently, it is illegal to use privately owned e-scooters on public roads, pavements and cycle lanes.

Using one on a public road will result in the scooter being seized and could mean a fine and six points on the rider’s driving licence.

The only e-scooters which can be used are those part of a council-run scheme, such as the one in Birmingham.

Diamond couple still dazzle

SPARKLING Rubery couple Ray and Joan Powell toasted their diamond wedding anniversary on Tuesday.

The pair celebrated 75 years since they got married with a party, surrounded by their family.

Ray Powell, who turns 99 on Boxing Day, was born in Nechells and grew up in Aston while Joan Hartley was born in Winson Green and grew up in Northfield.

Joan was a sewing machinist at Austin Motor Company in Longbridge, where Ray also worked, as an upholsterer.

But the pair did not meet until

by **Tristan Harris**
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a works outing to the London Palladium. Ray said, as soon as he saw Joan, he was ‘instantly besotted’.

The pair got married at St Laurence’s Church in Northfield on a beautiful sunny October 7, 1950.

They honeymooned in Brailles, near Shipston-on-Stour in Warwickshire. There, they hired two bikes and, it was not until they were coming downhill, they realised the brakes did not work.

They later bought their own bikes

because they could not initially afford a car. They replaced those with a \$50 tandem because Ray said he was fed up with having to wait for Joan to catch up. A tandem meant she was always just behind him.

He realised, pretty quickly, he was doing most of the work when he looked in the handlebar mirror and Joan was sat there, touching up her make-up, instead of the pedals.

These days they mostly enjoy socialising but they used to love ballroom dancing and travelling.

Joan is a talented dressmaker and still a fantastic knitter.

Ray loved gardening, art, reading

and chess. And, when he retired, he taught himself German.

The pair’s first home was in Northfield but they moved to Waseley Road, Rubery, in 1964.

They had two children – Lynne and Michael – as well as three grandchildren – Aaron, Laura and Michael – and two great grandchildren – Roman and Theo – and another one on the way.

And, when asked the secret to a long marriage, Joan joked: “I’d got nowhere else to go.”

But both agreed: “It’s about marrying the one you love and enjoying sharing the same interests.”

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New academy tackles pain

A NEW academy has been launched by the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital to cut down the number of GP appointments needed to care for chronic joint pains.

The Northfield Hospitals NHS Foundation has launched the MSK Academy to empower those with the expertise and skills in musculoskeletal (MSK) conditions to provide better patient care.

In the UK, MSK conditions make up over a quarter of GP consultations and the new academy is attempting to help bring those numbers down.

Uzo Ehiogu, MSK academy clinical lead, said: "MSK conditions are highly prevalent in this country - chronic joint pain affects nearly 9million people in the UK and MSK conditions account for over a quarter of GP consultations.

"For the NHS to help bring these numbers down we need to arm first contact practitioners and GPs with the knowledge to prevent MSK conditions from worsening, aid early decision making in the patient pathway and support staff across the entire patient journey in providing the best patient care.

"We're really excited to be launching the MSK Academy to help tackle these challenges and support healthcare professionals across the region."

The MSK Academy will provide virtual and face to face learning opportunities for those who have an interest in musculoskeletal healthcare and will deliver training to support early career practitioners in Allied Healthcare, nursing, GP trainees and surgical trainees.

It will do this by harnessing the hospitals existing education, library and research services alongside further leveraging its partnerships with industry and universities.

Visit mskacademy.co.uk for more information.

History talk to offer a snapshot of the past

THE LATEST talk in Redditch History Society's annual programme takes place this Monday, October 13, and focuses on postcards from the town's past.

'Early Postcards of Redditch Town Centre' includes early images of Alcester Street - particularly the Palace Theatre - and St Stephen's Church and the Church Green.

There will also be images of roads and areas of the town centre which no longer exist.

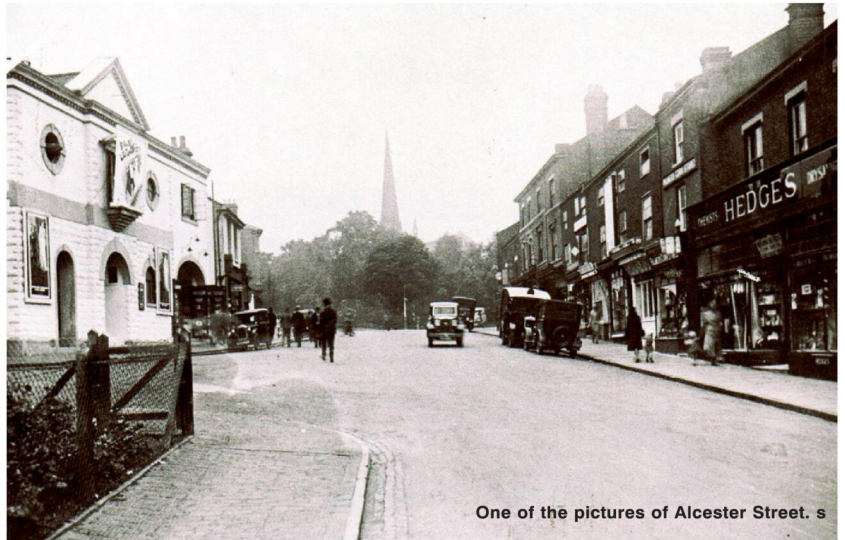
The presentation will be given by society member Chris Jackson.

Chris, a philatelist, as well as a postal and local historian, will be drawing from his own archives to take us on this virtual journey, which follows on from his previous talks which concentrated on outlying areas of Redditch.

The talk will no doubt bring back many 'pre- New Town' memories as well as showing newer residents how the town of Redditch has evolved and dramatically changed over the last century or so.

This promises to be another memorable afternoon of social and local history, not to be missed.

The society meets from 2pm to 4pm on the second Monday of every month.



One of the pictures of Alcester Street. s

Non-members are always welcome for a £4 admission fee and refreshments are available after the talk for just 50p per person.

The meeting next month - on November 10 - will feature a talk delivered by Richard Churchley on

Needlemaking in Worcestershire and Warwickshire, from 1640 until 1940.

Visit: redditchhistorysociety.org.uk or check out the leaflet, available at Redditch Library and The Palace Theatre, for more on

the Redditch History Society's latest series of talks.

Further details of the 2025 season can be found at: redditchhistorysociety.org.uk or on the society's leaflet, available at Redditch Library and The Palace Theatre

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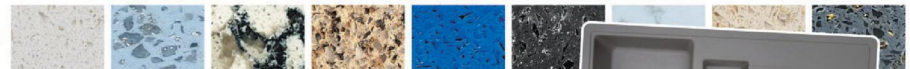


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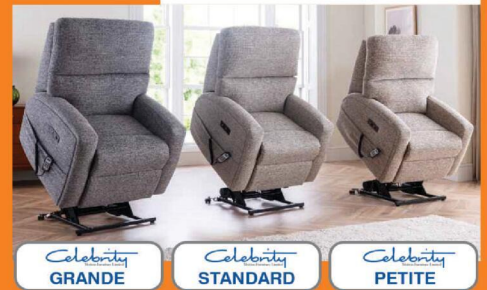
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Reds on the ball in networking event

MORE than 40 local businesses came together at Redditch United Football Club's latest networking evening.

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

The event, hosted by the club at their Sallie Swan Street ground and organised in partnership with Steve Cook of Non-League Networking, brought together business owners, entrepreneurs and professionals for an evening of relaxed networking, food and football.

Attendees had the opportunity to strengthen local links, share ideas and discuss opportunities for collaboration in a friendly, informal setting.

The evening highlighted Redditch

United's growing role as both a sporting institution and a community hub, with the club's facilities increasingly being used for local events and initiatives schemes beyond football.

Town MP Chris Bloore also attended the event.

He said: "It was fantastic to see so many local businesses coming together."

"Supporting small and medium-sized businesses is vital – they are the backbone of Redditch's econo-

my and central to creating jobs and opportunities in our town.

"Events like this showcase the strength, ambition and community spirit.

"I want to thank Redditch United and Non-League Networking for hosting such a brilliant evening and I'll continue to stand up for our local businesses in Parliament and here at home."

Iain Wain, managing director of Redditch United, expressed his enthusiasm for hosting the event and underlined the club's commitment to supporting local enterprises and community activity.

The networking event is part of a series designed to provide grass-



More than 40 businesses attended the event at Redditch United. s

roots business support, offering a space for businesses to share experiences, explore opportuni-

ties and build valuable connections without the constraints of formal meetings.



Bradley Thomas MP is 'thrilled' with the return of his small business awards. s

Nominations open for MP's small business awards

FIRMS across Bromsgrove district are now able to submit their nominations for the town's small business awards.

The accolades, run by Bromsgrove MP Bradley Thomas, will look to celebrate the contribution small businesses make to the local economy.

Returning for a second year, Bromsgrovians can vote for their favourite firm on the build-up to Small Business Saturday, which is on December 6.

Last year, Casa Med, a fam-

ily-run Mediterranean tapas restaurant in Bromsgrove town centre, and JJ's Cafe, an independently owned cafe in Hollywood, were revealed as joint winners.

SJP Theatre Arts, a Bromsgrove theatre school, secured the runner-up spot and Bremin's, an independent coffee shop and bar in Aston Fields, clinched third place.

In total, 1,992 votes were cast by local residents in last year's inaugural awards.

Mr Thomas said: "After the

huge success of my inaugural Small Business Awards, I'm thrilled to announce they're back for another year.

"It's another opportunity to champion our small businesses at what remains a challenging time.

"Small businesses aren't just the backbone of our economy, they're also at the heart of their communities.

"I'm once again encouraging small businesses across Bromsgrove and the villages to put themselves forward for

the public vote to be in with a chance of winning a Small Business Award. I'm looking forward to receiving your nominations and to celebrating our small businesses."

Small businesses will have until October 30 to put themselves forward for the public vote, after which residents will be able to vote for their favourite firm.

Businesses can visit bradley-thomas.org.uk/small-business-awards-2025 to put themselves forward for public vote.



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Reform name candidate for by-election

REFORM UK have announced their candidate for the upcoming **Worcestershire County Council Bromsgrove South by-election.**

Philip Hingley is standing in the poll on October 30 which was triggered when Reform UK's councillor Gaynor Jean-Louis resigned due to ill health.

Mr Hingley said he had leadership experience, a business background and an unwavering drive for improvement.

The by-election presented a 'real opportunity for change', he added.

"Voters deserve an experienced leader who can bring clear direction and strategy," he said.

"What we don't need are more 'uniparty' politicians, career candidates who promise the world, hop between parties, and ultimately

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

deliver nothing.

"In this campaign, you will rightly hear much about two issues of immediate concern - protecting our precious green belt from inappropriate development and finally delivering the long-awaited improvements to the A38.

"These are pressing priorities, and I will continue to champion them."

Mr Hingley added it was 'time to think bigger' as communities faced difficult financial challenges.

"Reform UK is committed to listening to residents, identifying their real priorities and setting out a long-term vision for growth and prosperity," he said.

"That means promoting a strat-

Philip Hingley is standing for Reform UK in the Bromsgrove South by-election on October 30. s



egy for enterprise, supporting local businesses, and creating the right environment for talent and innovation to thrive.

"We all share a responsibility to provide a better and safer environment for our families and our children.

"That can only be achieved by working together with honesty, purpose, and determination.

"With your support, I will ensure our community's voice is not just heard, but acted upon."

Also standing in Bromsgrove South is current Bromsgrove District Councillor Sam Ammar (Liberal Democrats), former Redditch Borough Council leader and current borough councillor Matt Dormer (Conservatives) and Laura Rollins (Labour).

The Standard has previously covered the other candidates and their proposed policies. Visit [bromsgrovestandard.co.uk/news/bromsgrove-south-by-election-candidates/](https://www.bromsgrovestandard.co.uk/news/bromsgrove-south-by-election-candidates/) for more.

Deadline to give Local Plan views

RESIDENTS have less than two weeks to share their views before the deadline on Bromsgrove's Local Plan.

The Local Plan will determine where and how 9,000 new homes, businesses and infrastructure will be developed across the district by 2043.

Bromsgrove District Council has already received an unprecedented 7,000 responses, after holding 19 public events and launching a digital platform to make it easier for people to get involved.

The council's portfolio holder for planning, Coun Kit Taylor, urged residents to take part before the consultation closes at 5pm on Monday, October 20.

He said: "This stage may be ending soon, but the process is far from over.

"Your feedback now will shape the next stage, so please share your views."

The consultation sets out 21 potential development locations from more than 400 sites previously suggested. These options remain at an early stage and will be reassessed alongside all responses before the plan is finalised.

Consultation materials are available online at [bromsgrove.gov.uk/BromsgrovePlan](https://www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/BromsgrovePlan) and in local libraries. Feedback can be submitted by email, post, or through the council's interactive consultation platform.

Step back in time to learn more about town's history

A GUIDED walk will offer the opportunity to learn more about Droitwich Spa's rich history this weekend.

The town walk will take place at 11am tomorrow

(Saturday, October 11) and will start outside St Richard's House.

The tour lasts around 90 minutes and gives people the chance to learn more about

the town centre and the history behind some of its most iconic landmarks.

Anyone who would like to take part will need to book in advance at the Droitwich Spa

Heritage Centre. Tickets cost £4 per person.

The Droitwich Spa guided walks take place on the second Saturday of each month.



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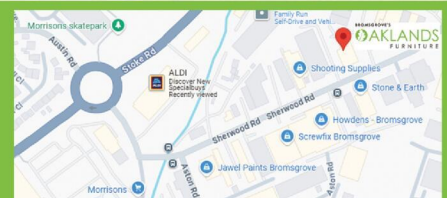
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A right Royal treat of a comedy romp

REVIEW
Backstairs Billy,
Norbury Theatre

IF YOU love outrageous non-PC comedy and fascinating stories, based on true events, Backstairs Billy at Droitwich's Norbury Theatre is for you.

It is based on the life of the Queen Mother's most treasured butler William Tallon who – after repeatedly writing to Her Majesty – landed a job at Clarence House at the age of just 15.

With questionable morals and lifestyle choices (and that is an understatement), he remained with the late monarch until her death, despite his involvement in many scandals filling the pages of the tabloids in the 1970s and 1980s.

With 17 characters, several in this talented ten-strong cast had to double up as they brought the beautifully-written piece to life.

Senior footman, played by Beth Ralley and the palace staff – Verity Culleton, Tina Andress, Rueben Whitter and Jess Buttery – all set the scene of a royal household brilliantly in carefully choreographed scenes of them pacing around and moving floral displays and other items, ready for Her Majesty and her reception guests.

Buttery was also wonderful as sitcom actress Annabel Maud who has one too many in the Queen Mother's presence and as similarly exuberant character, Lady 'Miffie' Astlebury.

Whitter also plays artist Ian and



The cast of the hilarious comedy Backstairs Billy. Picture by Tristan Harris.

enjoys sharing some of the most hilarious scenes at the end of the first act with his late night rendezvous with Billy and in the second act with his rather suggestive sculpture.

He conveys the only political/social comment in the piece which is made even more powerful because of its uniqueness.

Andress and John Edward-Bick are great as Hugo and Lady Adeline but even funnier as the straight-laced, tee-total but then 'literally laced' WI member and Rotarian Mr and Mrs Harrington Bahr.

Playing drunk characters is not as easy as it looks – they both smashed it (pun intended).

Charlie Hopkins rose to the challenge of naive Welsh footman Gwydion – his highlight came when

he broke into booming song with a traditional hymn – much to the bemusement of the Queen Mother.

Ken Messenger presented the pompous Mr Kerr with aplomb. He is the 'baddie' in this tale and the way Messenger played him, you willed the brilliant bastion to be taken down a peg or two.

Cullerton was excellent as Young Billy – she brought some terrifically touching moments between the character and Her Majesty among all the crazy comedy.

It is hard to pick between Martina Ponsonby and James Ralley as The Queen Mother as Billy. They had a fantastic rapport – exactly how you envisaged the monarch and butler's relationship in real life.

Ponsonby was born to play The

Queen Mother. Care was taken with every beautifully delivered line and mannerism.

There was plenty of humour as she showed her royal character's mischievous side, laughing lots and making observations on other royals and guests. But, there was also pathos performed perfectly as well, as she reflected on her life and her new 'sidelined' role.

Each time she appeared through those double doors, you felt a rush of anticipation about what she was going to say or do next.

Ralley paced around Clarence House like he owned the place. Like Ponsonby, every movement, line and detail was carefully crafted and you could not help love Backstairs Billy from the start.

A shout-out as well to the controller of the radio controlled corgi – there cannot be many shows with one of those in.

In each of the acts, the comedy started with giggles and titters and reached a crescendo of hilarity.

Huge congratulations to director Anthony Madden and his backstage team for this right Royal raucous romp.

The final performances of Backstairs Billy are at 7.30pm at the Norbury Theatre tonight and tomorrow (Friday and Saturday). Visit norburytheatre.co.uk or call 01905 770154 for more information and tickets.

Tristan Harris



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Barnt Green Choral Society now has 70 members and will celebrate its 75th anniversary next year. s

Choir ready to mark 75 years

BARNT GREEN CHORAL SOCIETY is preparing for the future ahead of its 75th anniversary next year.

The choir has shown impressive growth over recent years and now has nearly 70 members, including 12 new singers this term. And, continuing its success, it has also been recognised by the Charity Commission as a 'Charitable Incorporated Organisation', as well as it being a 'registered charity'.

A new and modern strong and robust constitution has been introduced and, from the start of next year, further major improvements will be made by consolidating the choral society's structure.

Chair of trustees, Peter

Bould, said: "The new structure will provide a solid framework for both individual singers and the choir as a whole to thrive, grow and most importantly enjoy their music."

The past 12 months have been particularly busy for the society, as it showcased a moving performance at the annual Waseley Hill Crematorium Memorial service for the bereaved and staging the choir's annual Spring Concert, featuring Sir John Rutter's Magnificat and Requiem. The original composer himself sent a message of good luck.

The summer was concluded with a performance of highlights from 'Mary Poppins the Musical' and involvement with, alongside Bromsgrove Community Choir, Alexander

L'Estrange's modern cantata 'AHOY'.

This upcoming season, the choral society will perform 'The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace' by Karl Jenkins and 'Song of the Universal' by Ola Gjeilo on March 28, 2026, at Bromsgrove's Artrix.

The society said: "In 1951 the founders would never have dreamed that 75 years later the choir would still be going from strength to strength. For seven-and-a-half decades the Bromsgrove arts scene has been enhanced by the choir's splendid renditions of some of the world's best choral music."

Email Barnt Green Choral Society at info@barntgreen-choralsociety.org.uk for more on the group and how to get involved.



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Getting started is quick and straightforward – visit hcahealthcare.co.uk/gp-subscriptions to explore your options and sign up.



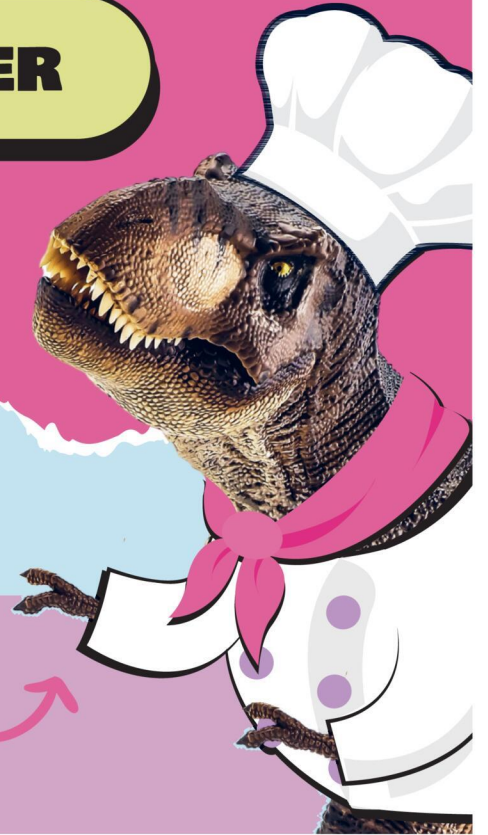
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Choosing your child's school



THE EDUCATION GUIDE



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

Then you will need to look at the admission criteria for the schools you're interested in. If there are special circumstances you can sometimes apply for places in schools in other areas but a good place to start is looking is on their excellent website at www.gov.uk. It's a good idea to look at each school's inspection and performance reports. To teach and accommodate pupils, all UK schools must meet strict quality standards set by the UK government and other education bodies. These standards cover

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

the quality of teaching, accommodation, pupil welfare, facilities and more. To check that schools are meeting these standards, they are inspected at least every three years for boarding, and every six for teaching quality. Between

scheduled visits, inspection bodies will respond to complaints if necessary. After the inspection, the school receives a report which shows how they performed. You can see the reports on the schools' websites, or by contacting Ofsted at www.gov.uk. Once you've narrowed down your favourite schools, it's a good idea to set up a visit or find out when their next Open Day is. This will give you a chance to see the facilities and meet some of the staff and pupils.



Studley St Mary's C. of E. Academy



Wednesday 22nd 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

SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

Thursday 16th October 2025

6pm - 8 pm (Presentations at 6.15pm or 7pm)



Visit our Outstanding School...
meet our staff ...
talk to our students...
and see our impressive
Sixth Form facilities.

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

Beyond the Classroom

- Excellent provision for the promotion and development of independent learning.
- Excellent support and skills development for student leadership, empowering advocacy.
- Excellent pastoral support.
- Wide range of enrichment opportunities that include, extended project qualification, Young Enterprise, Duke of Edinburgh and iDEA.
- Excellent CEIAG — thorough and informative careers advice and guidance programme that allows for post Sixth Form progression to university, apprenticeships or the world of work. Our aim is to ensure that no student leaves as a NEET (not in education, employment or training).
- Additional support and guidance for those applying to Oxford or Cambridge University.



Arrow Vale, Matchborough Way, Redditch B98 0GF

Check out our website www.arrowvaleschool.org.uk for all relevant information and documentation.

If you are unable to attend our 6th Form Open Evening, please contact us on **01527 526800** or email office@arrowvaleacademy.co.uk to make an appointment.



Subjects & Qualifications

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

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

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

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

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

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

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












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



THE EDUCATION GUIDE



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-  Every student offered a laptop for study
-  Support for work experience placements
-  Post-16 sports, arts and performances
-  Dedicated year 12 residential trip

Aspiration, bespoke support and challenge are at the heart of our successful sixth form. Visit our website to register your details: www.northbromsgrove.worcs.sch.uk

Sixth Form Open Evening

Thursday 23rd October 5:30 - 8:00pm
Head Teacher / Director of Sixth Form
Presentation - 6:00pm



"Great all round experience, very positive and hoping my youngest son is there to start year 12 in September!"

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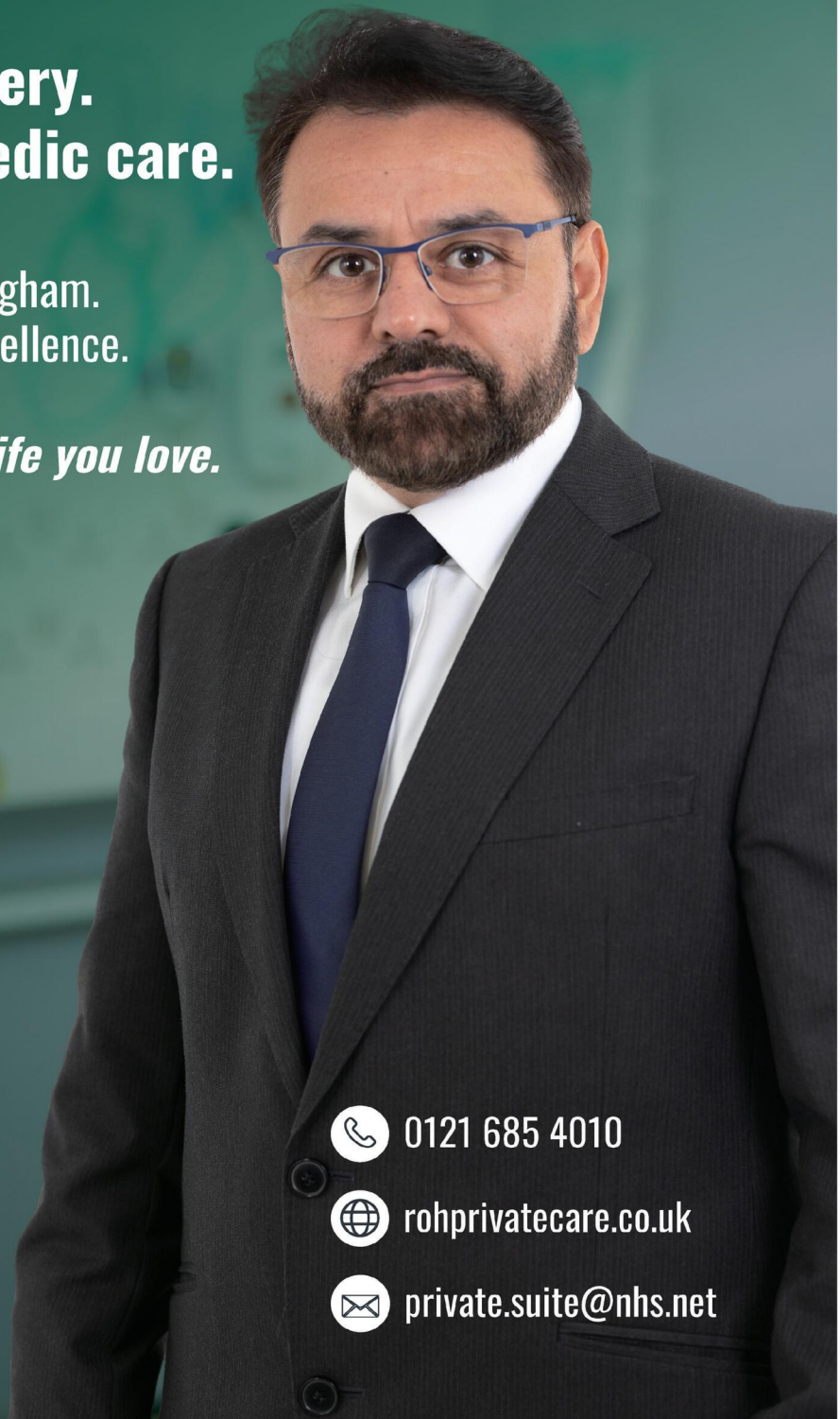
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SUDOKU

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

EASY

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

HARD

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

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.

European birds of prey

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

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

- Jot (4)
- Silence by surprise (6,4)
- Agreeable (8)
- Performs (4)
- Rub out (6)
- Took notice (6)
- Protects (6)
- A planet (6)
- Serpents (4)
- Wins back (8)
- Honest (5,5)
- Transmit (4)

DOWN

- Crawling (2,3,5)
- A continent (4)
- Lubricate (6)
- Drawing (6)
- Nearby (8)
- Recedes (4)
- Moscow citadel (3,7)
- Rough (8)
- Writer (6)
- Gregarious (6)
- Sad to say (4)
- Joins (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.

- Memo
- Facial feature
- Defeated
- Misplaced
- Final



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.

- 12767 gives a girl's name;
- 329784 gives a second girl's name;
- 9755748 gives a third girl's name.

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.

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

WORDWHEEL

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

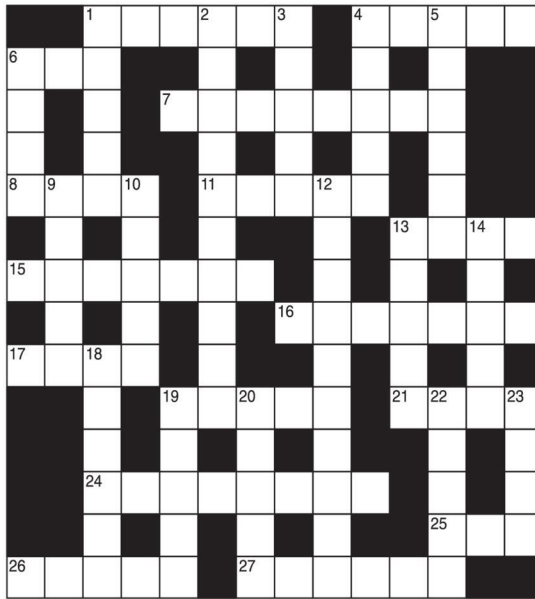


How you rate
 15 words: average 35 words: very good
 25 words: good 40 or more: excellent.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 River on which Oxford stands (6)
- 4 & 6 Down American whose collections of verse include Hard Lines and Versus (5,4)
- 6 & 19 Across Well-known symphony by Dvorak (3,5)
- 7 'Miss' in German (8)
- 8 Female domestic fowls (4)
- 11 & 13 Across Expanse of sea in the Orkney Islands (5,4)
- 15 Cat's-tail grass, valued for cattle fodder (7)
- 16 Salt of nitric acid, used as a fertiliser (7)
- 17 & 1 Down Pen name of the author of The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (4,5)
- 19 See 6 Across
- 21 & 24 The Republic of Ireland's first female president (4,8)
- 25 Sea bird such as the puffin, razorbill or guillemot (3)
- 26 Surname of the ace fighter pilot, knighted in 1976 for his work for disabled people (5)
- 27 Preliminary or rough drawing (6)



DOWN

- 1 See 17
- 2 Strong, sweet liqueur made from a black cherry grown in Dalmatia (10)
- 3 A steam bath or bathhouse (5)
- 4 Last letter of the Greek alphabet (5)
- 5 Hebrew prophet who interpreted the dreams of Nebuchadnezzar (6)
- 6 See 4 Across
- 7 In botany, the heath genus (5)
- 8 Loose, protective garment with a gathered yoke (5)
- 9 Word that reads the same backwards and forwards (10)
- 10 A marketplace, especially in ancient Rome (5)
- 11 Aquatic, fish-eating carnivore (5)
- 12 An implement for forcing down a charge in a muzzle-loaded firearm (6)
- 13 Surname of the composer famous for Der Freischutz and Abu Hassan (5)
- 14 Rows of soldiers standing side by side (5)
- 15 The Muslim God (5)
- 16 City on the Ouse traditionally the capital of the North of England (4)

SOLUTIONS

ACROSS: 1 Thames; 4 Ogden; 6 New; 7 Fraulein; 8 Hens; 11 Scapa; 13 Flow; 15 Timothy; 16 Nitrae; 17 Mark; 19 World; 21 Mary; 24 Robinson; 25 Auk; 26 Bader; 27 Sketch. DOWN: 1 Twin; 2 Marchino; 3 Sauna; 4 Omega; 5 Daniel; 6 Nash; 7 Erta; 8 Smock; 12 Paludrome; 13 Forum; 14 Otter; 18 Ramrod; 19 Weber; 20 Ranks; 22 Allah; 23 Vork.

General Knowledge Crossword
 ACROSS: 1 lota; 8 Strike dumb; 9 Pleasant; 10 Acts; 12 Efface; 14 Heeded; 15 Guards; 17 Saturn; 18 Asps; 19 Reclaims; 21 Above board; 22 Send; Down: 2 On all fours; 3 Aia; 4 Grease; 5 Sketch; 6 Adjacent; 7 Ebbs; 11 The Kremlin; 13 Abrasive; 16 Scribe; 17 Social; 18 Alias; 20 Adds.

Crossword
 INSERTING: Osprey, golden eagle, long-eared owl, hen harrier, red kite, barn owl, buzzard, sparrowhawk, marsh harrier, hobby, little owl, peregrine falcon, tawny owl, lammergeier, honey buzzard, goshawk, griffon vulture, kestrel, merlin, white-tailed eagle.
 HERALDING: montagu's harrier, snowy owl, gyrfalcon.

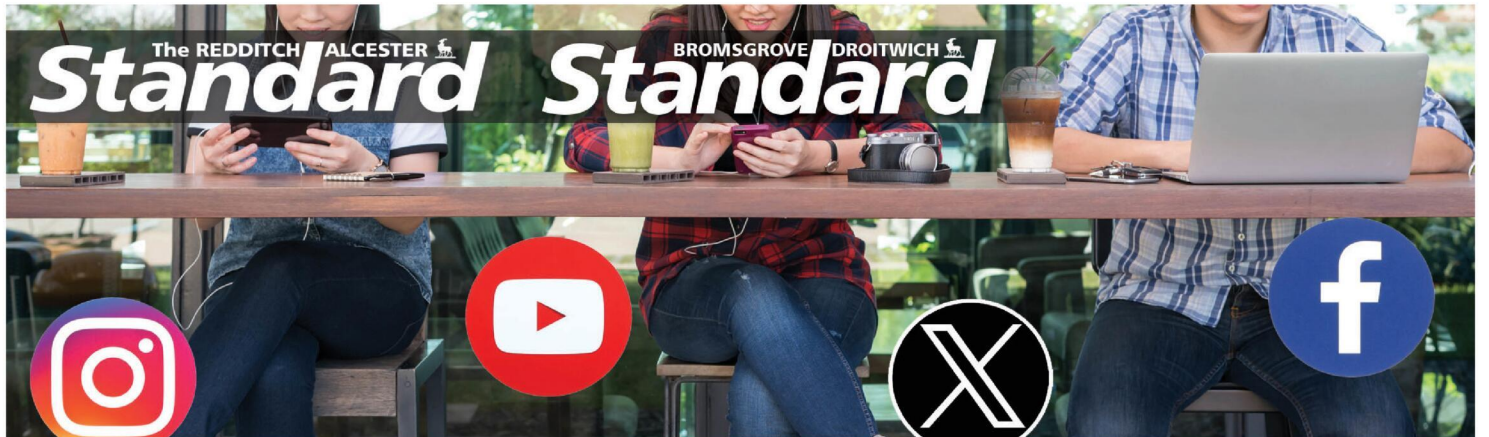
Wordwheel Pathfinder
 1=U, 2=C, 3=D, 4=G, 5=M, 6=X, 7=N, 8=A, 9=T, 10=R, 11=B, 12=L, 13=K, 14=Y, 15=H, 16=Y, 17=F, 18=P, 19=Z, 20=L, 21=E, 22=Q, 23=L, 24=S, 25=W, 26=O

Ladder
 Vote, Note, Nose, Lose, Lost, Last, Cast.

Codeword

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

Sudoku
 Easy



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Anonymous



Family Notices

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

DEATHS

HARTOPP Ruby Florence Emily

Aged 94 years.

Passed away peacefully at home on
Monday 29th September 2025.

A much loved Mum to Glenda.

Now reunited with Husband Ron,
Daughter Julie and Maitland.

Ruby will be greatly missed by all of her
family and friends.

A service to celebrate Ruby's life will take
place at Redditch Crematorium
on Friday 31st October 2025 at 3.30pm.

Family flowers only please, donations if so
desired to Cancer Research UK
can be made via

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DEATHS



CHAMBERS John Meredith

Sadly passed away peacefully
Saturday 4th October.

Aged 90 years.

A much loved Husband, Father and
Grandfather.

In loving memory from

Jennifer, Charlotte, William, Toby
and son-in-law Gary.

We all loved him very much and will miss
him dearly.

XXX

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



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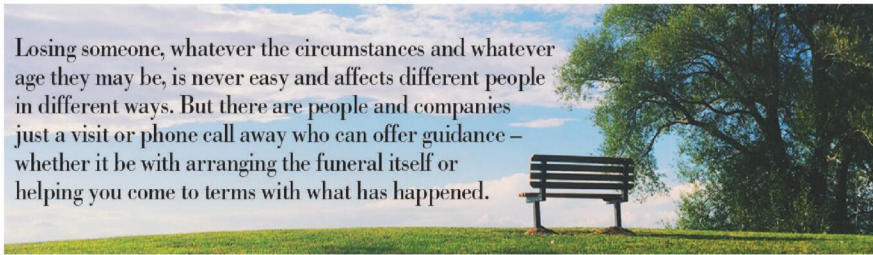
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Losing someone, whatever the circumstances and whatever age they may be, is never easy and affects different people in different ways. But there are people and companies just a visit or phone call away who can offer guidance – whether it be with arranging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




Whatever the occasion, why not send your loved ones a message.... *Call our team on* **01527 588688**



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PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICES

Warwickshire County Council

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

Warwickshire County Council has made the following Temporary Traffic Orders:

D51330 WATERY LANE, ULLENHALL

Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic from Ullenhall Street to Perry Mill Lane.

Reason for Order: Drainage and associated works, 09.30hrs-15.30hrs.

Order Commences: 15 October 2025 for up to 18 months.

Anticipated Completion: 15 October 2025.

Access & Diversion: Perry Mill Lane, Gentlemans Lane, Forde Hall Lane, Ullenhall Street and vice versa.

Contractor: Balfour Beatty, Tel: 03452 415 302.

D5207 SAMBOURNE LANE, SAMBOURNE

Order Effect: Road closed between Oak Tree Lane and Sambourne Park.

Reason for Order: Footway reconstruction works, closed 08.00hrs - 17.00hrs, weekdays only.

Order Commences: 13 October 2025 for up to 18 months.

Anticipated Completion: 17 October 2025.

Access & Diversion: Jill Lane, Oak Tree Lane and vice versa. Vehicular access & egress will be maintained where possible and safe to do so.

Contractor: Balfour Beatty, Tel: 03452 415 302.

ARDEN ROAD, ALCESTER

Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.

Reason for Order: To safely enable telecoms work.

Order Commences: 14 October 2025 for up to 18 months.

Anticipated Completion: 15 October 2025.

Access & Diversion: Tything Road West, Kinwarton Farm Road, Kinwarton Road, Captains Hill, School Road, Village Road, Aine End, Henley Road, Alcester Road, Woodton Rise, Stratford Road, New Road, Hunger Hill, Oldberrow Lane, Oldberrow Road, Redditch Road, Birmingham Road, Priory Square, Haydon Way, Coughton Hill, Willoughby Close, Arden Road and vice versa.

Contractor: Ericsson, Tel: 01652 656 291.

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

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

S Duxbury, Director of Strategy, Planning & Governance, Shire Hall, Warwick CV34 4RL Date 10 Oct 2025

PUBLIC NOTICES

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

SCB Transport Ltd of 8 Hurstlake Rise, Worcester, WR4 0NX, is applying for a licence to use Hay Lane Farm, Hay Lane, Sharnal Green, Droitwich WR9 7EP as an operating centre for 1 goods vehicles and 1 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.

Representors 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 at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-guide-to-making-representations-objections-and-complaints-goods-vehicle-operator-licensing

PUBLIC NOTICES

Application for a Premises Licence Licensing Act 2003

NNA Limited has applied to the Licensing Authority, Wycharon District Council for a premises licence for KFC, Toyford Services, Evesham WR11 4TP with the proposed relevant licensable activities: Late Night Refreshment daily between 2300 hours and 0500 hours. If you wish to object to this application, you must write to: Worcestershire Regulatory Services, Wyre Forest House, Finepoint Way, Kidderminster DY11 7WF or enquiries@worcesterservices.gov.uk. Your representation must be received by 3 November 2025. The record of the application is available for inspection by appointment. You can phone 01905 822799 for an appointment. Under Section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003, it is an offence, liable on summary conviction to an unlimited fine, knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in or in connection with an application.

PUBLIC NOTICES

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL & REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

25/01049/LBC

Site: Lock 58 Tardebigge Flight Worcester and Birmingham Canal, New Wharf, Tardebigge, Worcestershire.

Proposal: Following on from Application 25/00251/LBC, we require to regularise the following additional work:

(1) Replacement of concrete cover, (2) Additional brickwork to chamber walling and (3) Removal of brickwork to the top of upstream paddle culvert chamber.

25/00900/S73 ADVSTD MAJ Site: Land At, Whitford Road, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire.

Proposal: Variation of condition 27 of planning permission APP/P1805/W/20/3245111 allowed on appeal 09/02/2021 (LPA 16/1132).

FROM: No more than 99 dwellings shall be occupied until the junction of the A448/Whitford Road/Perryfields Road has been altered in accordance with the plan Whitford Road/Perryfields Road proposed junction arrangement ref 461451-D-014, and until a pedestrian crossing on the A448 has been provided in accordance with the plan Potential A448 signalled crossing ref 7033-SK-015 revision A.

AMEND TO: No more than 250 dwellings shall be occupied until the junction of the A448/Whitford Road/Perryfields Road has been altered in accordance with the plan Whitford Road/Perryfields Road proposed junction arrangement ref 461451-D-014, and until a pedestrian crossing on the A448 has been provided in accordance with the plan Potential A448 signalled crossing ref 7033-SK-015 revision A.

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 or in writing Planning Services, Redditch Town Hall, Walter Stranz Square, Redditch, B98 8AH.

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL & REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Advertisement Key: ADVSTD = Wider Publicity, DEP = Departure.

25/00444/FUL

Site: 16 Retreat Street, Astwood Bank, Worcestershire B96 6AH.

Proposal: Change of use of open space to residential garden area and enclosure with fence, erection of a car port and driveway with new access (dropped kerb). The proposed development does not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area to which the application relates.

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 or in writing Planning Services, Redditch Town Hall, Walter Stranz Square, Redditch, B98 8AH.

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

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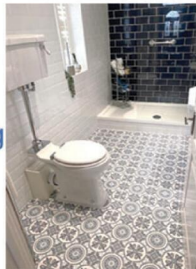
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DACIA has continued its winning streak at The News UK Motor Awards 2025, with the brand's newest model, the Bigster, crowned 'Family Car of the Year' to mark the fourth consecutive triumph at the ceremony.

The panel of expert judges from The Times, The Sunday Times and The Sun praised the Bigster for its blend of space, comfort and value, all qualities that have already made done itself.

"The Bigster delivers more space than the excellent Duster, with a huge boot for its class, along with the affordability for which the brand is famous.

"But what nobody saw coming was for Bigster to be so comfortable, high tech and good to drive. For us, it absolutely deserves the title of Family Car of the Year."

The Bigster's win extends Dacia's run of success at

The Motor Awards, after the Duster claimed 'Value Car of the Year' in 2024, the fully electric Spring did the same in 2023, while the seven-seat Jogger kicked things off with the title in 2022.

Luke Broad, Dacia Brand Director for the UK, said: "Bigster has struck a real chord with British families since it arrived just a few months ago. They tell us they love the space, the flexibility, the comfort and the robust SUV style, all at a price that makes sense.

"To now see Bigster recognised as 'Family Car of the Year' by such respected motoring experts is hugely rewarding and proves that Dacia continues to deliver exactly what families are looking for."

Priced from £25,215 on-the-road, the Dacia Bigster has redefined what buyers can expect from a family friendly SUV. Available in three trim levels - Expression, Journey and Extreme - and with a choice of mild-hybrid, hybrid or 4x4 powertrains, it combines rugged looks and generous equipment levels, while staying true to Dacia's no-nonsense, great-value ethos.

Bigster equipment includes keyless entry, a 10.1-inch central touchscreen, dual-zone automatic air conditioning, alloy wheels, multi-view parking camera, and intelligent

cruise control with speed limiter. Dacia's famed clever thinking shines through with four YouClip attachment points and easy-fold rear seats, while the popular Extreme trim highlights Dacia's outdoor-ready nature, with modular roof bars and washable MicroCloud TEP upholstery.

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Team Vertu driver wins second BTCC title at Brands Hatch in finale

by Aaron Sutcliffe
aaron.sutcliffe@bullivantmedia.com

BTCC: TOM Ingram stormed to his second British Touring Car Championship (BTCC) title at Brands Hatch driving for Droitwich-based Team Vertu.

Ingram went into the final weekend of the season with a 33-point lead at the top of the drivers' standings ahead of closest rival Ash Sutton.

And Ingram clinched the title with a seventh victory of the season in race two - a result which gave the Coventry driver an unassailable lead at the top of the standings.

He extended his lead in the first race after finishing fifth with Sutton only able to cross the line in ninth place.

Ingram then secured his second BTCC title in race two as he topped the podium ahead of closest rival Sutton.

And Ingram ended the season with a sixth-place finish while Sutton finished second.

Ingram is now a double BTCC champion after first lifting the title in 2022.

He finished 34 points clear of Sutton in the drivers' standings after finishing on 462 points.

Ingram said: "I cannot put into words just how special this feeling is after everything that's gone on this year.

"I've had the best season's racing I've had in my life - Team Vertu have completely smashed it.

"I've put absolutely everything into this. It's been incredibly full-on both physically and emotionally, and the hard work that

Tom Ingram celebrates after clinching his second BTCC title. Picture by Jakob Ebrey Photography.



has gone in behind-the-scenes has been unmatched.

"I've never seen anything like it, quite honestly.

"The BTCC has always been my lifelong dream - it's my passion, my hobby, my everything - and I never wanted to be a one-hit wonder.

"This one feels more special than in 2022. Then, it felt like we came into the weekend as underdogs and pulled it off, but this year we have left nothing on the table.

"The teamwork, the emotion and the sheer will to win have been nothing short of unreal.

"From the bottom of my heart, a huge thank you to everyone."

Team Vertu could only finish second in the teams standings, just two points behind NAPA Racing UK.

That was despite securing a double podium in race one as Tom Chilton finished second with Adam Morgan in third.

And Team Vertu achieved a second double podium in race two after Senna Proctor finished third to back up Ingram's race win.

However, the Droitwich team failed to secure a podium place in race three with Ingram sixth, Morgan seventh and Proctor eighth.



Charlie Tilley heads in for Spa against Royal Wootton Bassett Town. Picture by Mathew Mason.

Spa on top of table and through in Cup

FOOTBALL: PERRY Moss scored a brace as Droitwich Spa claimed a 2-0 win against higher-division Sporting Club Inkberrow in the Worcestershire Senior Cup.

Moss netted either side of half time to seal Spa's place in the next round at the King George Playing Fields.

And Inkberrow had Samson Hewett sent off late on as the Step Four side finished the game with 10-men.

The result means Spa have now won their last five games in all competitions and stretched their unbeaten run to nine matches.

Andy Crowther's side made the perfect start when Moss beat Inkberrow goalkeeper Tom Nicholls to a loose ball and finished into an empty net.

And the Saltmen eventually doubled their lead on 65 minutes when Moss chipped the ball over Nicholls after

Nathan Binner's initial cross evaded the head of James Lemon.

Inkberrow player Hewett then received a straight red card on 75 minutes for a late challenge on Binner.

That came after Droitwich battled to a 2-1 home win against Royal Wootton Bassett Town in the league last weekend to remain top of the table.

An early goal from Charlie Tilley put Spa ahead before Moss's free-kick doubled the home side's lead before the break at the King George Playing Fields.

However, Kassa Anderson halved the deficit for the visitors early in the second half before Spa substitute Sam Hurdman saw red with a couple of minutes left to play.

Droitwich are next in action against Cinderford Town on Saturday, October 11 with kick-off at 3pm at Edge Hills Road.

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