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Parents' plea to help Frankie walk and talk

by Ryan Smith
ryan.smith@bullivantmedia.com

THE PARENTS of 'incredible' Droitwich youngster Frankie Hotham are aiming to raise cash to give their daughter the best chance possible of walking and talking.

James Hotham and Hannah Bateman have set up a GoFundMe to raise cash for Frankie, aged four, who has cerebral palsy, developmental delays and is currently non-verbal.

The couple feel the current NHS treatment Frankie receives is not sufficient to meet her needs moving forward and have looked into potentially life-changing private forms of care.

This includes NAPA Intensive Therapy, which is designed to accelerate progress in movement, strength, and communication and Stem Cell therapy, which the parents hope will improve Frankie's mobility, coordination and speech.

It is expected her treatment costs next year will be between £35,000 and £40,000.

So far, almost £11,000 has been raised for Frankie through the GoFundMe page.

Frankie's mum, Hannah, told the



Standard: "Frankie is generally a really happy, bubbly young girl.

"She communicates in her own way, enjoys things like swimming, soft play and is a very easy going person.

"She's just started school and is loving it. We are really proud of her.

"The end goal is for her to be able to walk and talk.

"It's really good how much we have raised and we haven't done any fundraisers.

"If we could raise even half the amount we need, that would be amazing."

Some of the treatments Frankie will have will need to be repeated annually to give her the best possible chance to walk and talk, so her loved ones will be doing more fundraising in the future.

James, added: "Frankie is an incredible little girl who lights up every room with her smile and determination.

"Every day, Frankie faces challenges that most of us take for granted - moving independently, communicating her needs and being able to explore the world in her own way.

"Despite this, she is the happiest, most resilient child and she inspires everyone around her.

"These therapies come at a huge cost, and we cannot achieve this on our own.

"That is why we are reaching out for help.

"Every donation, no matter the size, brings us one step closer to giving Frankie the opportunities she deserves."

Visit: gofundme.com/f/help-frankies-dream-of-walking-and-talking/ to donate.

All smiles - Help Frankie to walk and talk.

Crash led to delays

A DRIVER had a lucky escape after a single car crash on the M5 near Droitwich on Wednesday.

The collision took place on the M5 southbound between Junction 5 for Droitwich and Junction 6 for Worcester.

This comes after a car crashed with the central reservation.

Two of four lanes were closed, leading to 30-minute delays.

Normal traffic conditions returned around 3.15pm.

West Mercia Police's Operations Patrol Unit were on the scene.

A West Mercia Police spokesperson said there were not thought to be any serious injuries and no arrests have been made.

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Shameem lands key UN role



AN AWARD-winning scientist from Hollywood has been recognised as a United Nations Climate Ambassador

Shameem Kazmi works as a global R&D and sustainability leader, including his tenure at Britvic PLC.

He has also written a book, *When the Ocean Forgets*, which has received praise from Sir David Attenborough and King Charles.

Beyond his professional achievements, Shameem serves as honorary professor of practice in leadership and innovation, mentoring future leaders and shaping discussions on sustainability, ethics and purposeful leadership.

Shameem said: "Becoming a UN Climate Ambassador isn't about a title,

"It's about responsibility, to speak for those without a voice, to restore balance between human progress and planetary boundaries and to make science relatable enough that it drives change."

As he steps further into his role as UN Climate Ambassador, Shameem is focused on strengthening the connection between science and society.

He is developing programmes to engage young scientists, entrepreneurs and community leaders in applied sustainability, believing that empowerment and education are essential to long-term change.

His goal is to inspire a new generation to act decisively for the planet, using knowledge as both a shield and a catalyst.

Share your views on green spaces

RESIDENTS in Redditch and Bromsgrove are invited to share their opinions as the latest places survey opens for responses.

The poll offers the opportunity for people to share their opinions on a small highly focused area.

Several different topics will be covered across a year, making it easier for residents to dedicate the time necessary to share their opinions in depth.

This time Redditch Borough and Bromsgrove District Councils are asking for opinions on the local environment, parks and open spaces and community safety.

Responses will help to inform the council's decision-makers on the priorities of Redditch and Bromsgrove residents when planning for the future.

Redditch's portfolio holder for performance, engagement, and governance, Coun Jane Spilsbury, said: "Our parks, open spaces, and the feeling of safety in our community are vital for wellbeing and connection."

"This survey gives our residents a voice in how we approach and plan for these areas - it only takes a few minutes, but your feedback will make a lasting impact."

These surveys are one way the council formally engages with the community across the borough, and its results feed into the council plan - the central plan which helps councillors and officers set the council's direction as an organisation.

Leader of Redditch Council, Coun Sharon

Harvey, said: "We want to hear directly from residents about what matters most in their neighbourhoods."

"Our new survey format is succinct and quick, submitting a response is a chance to shape how we move forward and I really thank anyone who takes the time to share their opinions."

Bromsgrove District Council's cabinet member for environmental services and community safety, Coun Peter Whittaker, said: "Environmental services, parks and open spaces, and community safety are shared priorities across the district."

"Your views will help us to understand what we're doing well and where we need to improve."

Coun Karen May, leader of Bromsgrove Council, added: "We are grateful for communities' input and welcome opinions from our residents."

"I'm thankful to everyone who takes the time to submit a response to this latest place survey."

"Knowing what our residents think, and their priorities, helps us to create plans which more reflect our communities."

The survey is now open for responses until Sunday November 9.

Redditch residents should visit: redditchbc.gov.uk/consultations and people living in Bromsgrove can go to: bromsgrove.gov.uk/consultations to complete the survey.

Paper copies are available from the council's customer services at 5 George Walk in the Kingfisher Shopping Centre in Redditch and the council offices at Parkside in Bromsgrove.

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Post-op Susan's well-earned lift

A WEIGHTLIFTER is rewriting the rule book on age and ambition after returning to the sport after two knee replacement operations.

Susan Vallance, 61, is also training to become a qualified personal trainer, following the surgeries at Droitwich Spa Hospital.

Her journey to the weights began almost by accident when Susan, who said she had always enjoyed squats, had her potential spotted by her personal trainer Paul Judson from Anytime Fitness.

He suggested she try powerlifting and a competitive routine of three sessions a week followed.

But her aspirations hit a serious roadblock when severe arthritis caused her knees to start giving way.

Following her first knee

replacement, a further disappointment struck when the competition she was preparing for was cancelled.

She said: "I was so disappointed after all the hard work I'd done."

"I was determined to carry on and training became a real motivator for me."

Referred by her GP, she met Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon Yuvraj Agrawal, part of the Circle Health Group.

Facing a second surgery, Susan feared she would never lift weights again but, on meeting Mr Agrawal, she was reassured and he said, together, they would make sure she could.

"He was true to his word and I did."

Susan added the support from hospital staff was also crucial.

"The physios and nurses were brilliant, Sister Veronica was especially wonderful."

"Her humour kept my spirits up even on tough days."

The road to recovery had its setbacks, including a post-operative virus and bouts of bursitis delaying her progress.

But now, after seven months, Susan is back in the gym and, guided by Paul, doing what she loves.

Susan said: "I'm now studying to become a qualified personal trainer."

"I want to help others regain their strength, whatever their age."

And for those having knee replacement surgery she advises them to stick to the physiotherapy.

"Push through the pain - your future mobility depends on it."



Susan Vallance with her consultant orthopaedic surgeon Yuvraj Agrawal. s



Daren Lacey and Jules Evans from the Royal British Legion with Chadsgrove College students who are taking over the Catshill Poppy Appeal box delivery. Picture by Marcus Mingsins 4225008MMR

POPPY BOXES: Community-minded students at Chadsgrove Educational Trust Specialist College have taken over the running of Catshill's Poppy Appeal collection box delivery.

The young people stepped in after long-term organiser Daren Lacey, who has done it for ten years, had to stand down to focus on another community project.

He will still run the local count centre and be the lead for the Remembrance Sunday Parade, which starts at Catshill Social Club at 9.30am on November 9 with the service at the memorial after.

Chadsgrove College students have long been supporters of both the Royal British Legion and Poppy Appeal.

As well as being involved in previous Poppy Appeals, they also held a special VE Day 80 event at their Cozy Cafe in May.

They will deliver Poppy Appeal boxes in the local area.

An RBL spokesperson said: "We are so grateful for their efforts - they are a credit to the college and the wider Catshill community." Any person or business in Catshill wanting a Poppy Appeal box should call 01527 871511 extension 400 or 'Option 2'.

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Army vet will join Cenotaph parade

AN ARMY veteran from Bromsgrove will represent the town at the national Remembrance Sunday parade at the Cenotaph in London on November 9.

Cpl Scott Blyth, a British Army veteran, will be representing the 1st Battalion, the Royal Yorkshire Regiment when he marches with the Royal British Legion.

Scott told the Standard: "It's an incredible honour – not just to represent my regiment, but to carry Bromsgrove with me as I march."

"This town has a proud military heritage, and being able to stand there, representing both Bromsgrove and my battalion, means everything to me.

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

"When you've served, Remembrance Sunday isn't just a date – it's deeply personal.

"You march for your mates who didn't come home, for the ones still fighting their own battles, and for the values we lived by – loyalty, discipline, and respect.

"To stand at the Cenotaph, shoulder to shoulder with other veterans, is a moment of pride and reflection.

"And for me, after everything I've faced – from homelessness to battling for proper support – it shows that we keep marching, no matter

what. That's the spirit of service."

Scott is also currently fighting to be formally recognised as the Armed Forces Covenant Advocate for the Bromsgrove area.

"A number of councillors and county representatives already recognise that role and I'm pushing for it to be made official," he explained.

"The Royal Yorkshire Regiment Association and the Ministry of Defence are aware of what I'm doing – because I'm determined that veterans in this area get the fair treatment and respect they deserve.

"Right now, too many of us aren't being supported properly.

"The Armed Forces Covenant



Scott Blyth has been selected to parade at the Cenotaph next month. Picture by Marcus Mingins 4225003MMR1

promises that no one who's served should face disadvantage – and I'm committed to making sure that promise is upheld, here in Bromsgrove and beyond.

"So marching at the Cenotaph

isn't just remembrance for me - it's a statement. It's about showing that even when the system fails us, we don't give up.

"We keep serving. "We keep standing tall."

Donation to hospital

REDDITCH Beaver Scouts welcomed a volunteer from Birmingham Children's Hospital to their colony meeting to accept a £80 donation.

The cash was raised by the Beavers donating 10p-a-week for drinks and biscuits.

Through fundrais-

ing the Beavers have now generated a total of £4,558.45 which has been donated to various charities.

The young members of the group were given the chance to choose the good causes the funds went to.

The Beavers handing over their fundraising money.



Drugs found in car stop

BROMSGROVE Police seized class C drugs, more than £1,000 in cash and a mobile phone suspected of being linked to drug dealing.

Officers from the Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) stopped a car on Rock Hill.

The vehicle was linked to drug dealing across the Bromsgrove area. The items were found and confiscated after a search of the vehicle.

* **DRIVERS** in Redditch are being warned to be on their guard after four attempted burglaries and car thefts in Brockhill.

Police said in the early hours of last Thursday, car keys were stolen and attempts were made to access four properties.

Two boys, aged 16 and 17, were arrested and officers are exploring if the incidents are linked.



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Table tennis marathon is a £3k hit for youth hub

by James Reid

A BROMSGROVE campaigner has undertaken a 12-hour table tennis marathon to raise £3,000 for a charity close to his heart.

Paddy Crump tackled 70 opponents, ranging from six years old to 70, at the event held from 9am to 9pm last Friday to coincide with World Mental Health Day.

The cash raised will go towards the Bromsgrove Youth and Community Hub to better support young people struggling with mental health in the local area.

The herculean feat took place in the hub.

Paddy hopes the funding will allow the venue to be open between 9am and 9pm full-time to provide a space for young people to access support when they need it most.

Paddy, an avid campaigner for youth mental health across social media, wanted his fundraiser, not only to be fun, but also to get peo-



ple talking about mental health. "Behind every statistic is a person struggling," he said. "Too often, young people wait far too long for help. "This is about raising awareness, raising funds and showing the



Paddy Crump has raised £3,000 for the Bromsgrove Youth and Community Hub after his table tennis marathon.

power of our community to come together."

Paddy was overwhelmed by the amount of people who turned out and described the response he received as 'incredible'.

"Some of the younger ones could barely see over the table," he added.

He was also delighted that those who came to play or watch openly spoke about mental health and the

issues surrounding it.

Mental health in young people is a topic which particularly resonates with Paddy who has struggled with obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD) and anxiety since the age of 13.

The original target of £2,000 was more than matched as the fundraising reached far and wide.

Paddy added: "We achieved everything we wanted and more."

Knife seized after disorder

A KNIFE was seized and two men were arrested following disorder in Bromsgrove on Monday.

Police were called to Fox Lane around 8.55pm following reports of trouble.

Two men, aged 19 and 20, were arrested on suspicion of affray. The teen was also held on suspicion of being in possession of a blade.

Following the incident, police patrols were stepped up in Charford as officers carried out enquiries into the incident.

* TWO people were arrested after a bike was stolen from Bromsgrove Railway Station on Monday.

Bromsgrove Police Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) and response officers were called to the station after reports of two men interfering with bikes.

Two men were located close by and found to be in possession of a stolen bike and bolt cutters.

Bromsgrove Police have urged people to stay vigilant, report any suspicious activity and visit one of the team's drop-in surgeries where they can get SMART Water to protect their bikes and other properties.

* A WHITE Vauxhall Vivaro was broken into on Station Approach, Barnet Green.

Thieves targeted the vehicle, which has the partial registration number 'FE70', between 2pm Friday October 3 and 7.45am on Monday October 7.

Witnesses or anyone with information should email the Hagley and Rubery Safer Neighbourhood Team at hr.snt@westmercia.police.uk, visit westmercia.police.uk/report or call 101.

BOX POSITIVE



FIGHTING BACK AGAINST PARKINSON'S



OPEN MORNING

Box Positive are opening their doors for an open morning for anyone living with Parkinson's or other neurological conditions.

It will be held at The Droitwich Amateur Boxing Club, Briar Mill, Droitwich Spa, WR9 0RZ on Friday 24 October, between 11am and Midday

Led by Charles who trained as a neurological Occupational Therapist, Specialist Fitness Trainer and Boxing Coach with over 18 years' experience, it is a chance to come and see first-hand what Box Positive is all about.

BOX Positive CIC was set up in 2018 by Charles Delve.

It was there that he discovered the remarkable evidence behind **non-contact boxing** for people living with Parkinson's, as well as other neurological, medical and mental health conditions.

He explains the importance of his find that the social connection of group exercise builds confidence, while the balance, weight shifting, reflex focus, and speed work within a boxer's training routine help improve movement, coordination, gait, and the ability to carry out everyday activities.

"I went on to become the first UK-qualified Counterpunch Parkinson's coach – a programme that originated in New Zealand and mirrors the successful Rock Steady Boxing initiative in the USA.

"Thanks to Droitwich ABC, the club where I began boxing as a youngster – and where I went on to win national titles and box for England under coach Chris Andrews – I've been able to deliver inclusive, all-ability sessions in a purpose-built centre."

The sessions take place at 10am every Tuesday and Friday at Droitwich Amateur Boxing Club for people with Parkinson's.

Charles said: "Sessions involve Parkinson's specific

exercises, flexibility and lots of coordination and weight shifting.

"A lot of the time one to one sessions involve a lot more than boxing – it all depends on people's ability, goals and also stages of the condition.

"I see people who were diagnosed in their 20s right up until late stage Parkinson's and palliative clients at the end of life.

"The boxing is however a good way to take people's mind off actively trying to target symptoms, where they can just immerse themselves in punching and learning a skill whilst also elevating endorphins and combating the conditions symptoms."

Alleviation and transformation

Charles said: "I work with Parkinson's, other neurological conditions and all people that want to be fitter and stronger.

"Over the past seven years, I've seen some truly astounding results that have gone beyond what the research predicted.

"Many participants have surprised themselves after being told their condition would only deteriorate.

"The impact of boxing on confidence, mood, and motivation can be transformative.

"Parkinson's often brings challenges beyond movement – these include apathy, low mood, anxiety, and a loss of identity. "Through Box Positive, participants are viewed holistically, not just in terms of their diagnosis.

Come and see

Anyone living with Parkinson's or a neurological condition are invited to the Open Morning at 11am on Friday, October 24, to come and experience the benefits first hand. Charles said everyone was welcome.

Call Charles on

07980 192053 or email: charlesdelve@boxpositive.co.uk for more information.

And don't miss the Droitwich ABC Home Show on Saturday 25th October at Stoke Prior Sports and Country Club – come and support your local club, which has produced multiple champions over the years.



E: charlesdelve@boxpositive.co.uk T: 07980 192053



House fire brings call for safety

HEREFORD and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service has played a significant role in preventing blazes from several thousand potentially dangerous tumble dryers.



It comes after a fire in a tumble dryer in Bromsgrove and the crew from the town's fire station submitting a product-related warning notification to the Office for Product Safety and Standard (OPSS).

The OPSS liaised with the victim of the fire and attended a forensic examination of the tumble dryer (pictured).

The fire victim Steve said: "We are lucky we were in the room at the time of the incident.

"It's scary to think of how different the outcome may have been otherwise with how fast the fire spread."

After the tumble dryer examination, the OPSS wrote to Haier, the manufacturer of eight affected brands, with a 'requirement to warn' notice.

This places Haier under a statutory obligation to contact those owners who were part of the company recent Corrective Action Programme.

More than 17,000 heat pump tumble dryer owners whose appliances were modified by Haier after safety reports in May this year must stop using them immediately because a fire risk still exists.

Brands involved include Baumatic, Candy, Caple, Haier, Hoover, IBERNA, Lamona and Montpellier.

Visit: tinyurl.com/5yjamhr9 for full details of the warning notice and what owners of the relevant models should do.



Mayor Joanna Kane with the landscape team. s

A space of peace and reflection

THE PRIMROSE Hospice unveiled its new garden in Bromsgrove.

The garden was created by landscape company FB and Sons Lawns and Landscapes, and was shown at the RHS Malvern Spring Show.

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

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

The garden has many special features including the temporary move of the Primrose memory tree and 'wind telephone', whilst not physically connected, the wind telephone

can be used to share news or feelings with our loved ones who have died.

The telephone is housed in a hand-built gazebo to give shelter and sanctuary for anybody to use.

Angelique Dalton Chief Operating Officer at Primrose Hospice said: "We are so privileged and thrilled to have been approached by FB & Sons Lawns and Landscapes.

"The opportunity for the Hospice to be part of the RHS Malvern Show was incredible and would not have been possible without the support of Marc, Darryl and the FB and Sons team.

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

"We hope many of you will come and experience it for yourselves."

Redditch Mayor Coun Joanna Kane was there at the opening of the garden, as the hospice is her mayoral charity.

She said: "The area is the home of the beautiful Primrose Memory Tree and has lots of features including a large pond, standing stones, an arch and lots of flowers.

"Huge thank you to the landscape team who spent 18 months creating this fabulous place of reflection."

Entry is free and open to everyone in the community.

All paths around the garden and hospice are wheelchair accessible.

Visit primrosehospice.org/events/st-godwolds-retreat/ for more information.




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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I'm overwhelmed by release of hostages

A BRITISH Jew who lives in Bromsgrove has described the peace deal between Israel and Gaza and the return of hostages as 'a momentous day'.

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

Adrian Kriss, a former Bromsgrove District Councillor, told the Standard on the day of the release on Monday: "Watching the pictures unfold of the hostages being released and the reunions with family was so emotional."

"It was unbelievable to see and I am completely overwhelmed. I never thought this would happen."

"It was hard to take, seeing so many civilians taken and placed in such inhumane conditions."

"It was impossible to comprehend what the loved ones have been through over the last two years. I am so happy the wait is over for them."

He said there were two wars going on – one on the ground and a propaganda war.

"Hamas has propagated hatred to its people - and this type of propaganda is very dangerous," he added. "I just hope everyone in the area can live in peace."

Mr Kriss added the majority of the people of both Israel and Gaza did not want the war and he said he

hoped the Middle East could now be rebuilt for the good of all those living there.

"Gazans have lost their homes and most of their possessions – it's appalling what has gone on. This should not be happening in the 21st century."

Mr Kriss praised US President Donald Trump for his courage and applying the pressure needed to broker the deal.

"We saw him do it with the Iranians and their nuclear programme and now he has done it again here," he said.

"I now hope he can do the same in Ukraine and bring peace there."

The remaining 20 living hostages held by Hamas in Gaza



Adrian Kriss has welcomed the peace deal and the return of the hostages. s

have returned to Israel after more than two years in captivity. They were kidnapped by Hamas during the attacks on October 7, 2023.

Hamas has said it will hand over the remains of up to 28 of the hostages who died in captivity.

Israel is releasing 250 Palestinian prisoners and more than 1,700 detainees in return for the hostages.



Council chairman, Coun Sam Evans, with the CEO of The Basement Project, Caleb Mallard. s

Teams come up with the right answers in Project quiz

TRIVIA whizzes from across Bromsgrove tested their skills at a quiz to raise funds for The Basement Project.

Among those taking part in the event at Bromsgrove Golf Centre were residents and councillors.

A total of 12 teams went head-to-head. Many were formed from local businesses, two from The Basement Project and even a Court Leet team tested their mettle.

Councillors Rob Hunter, Josh Robinson, Sam Ammar, and

James Clarke along with the Mayor of Redditch and consort and the CEO of The Basement Project were all in the line-up.

A total of £569 was raised to help fund the continued support the Basement Project offers to young people in the district who are homeless or facing homelessness.

The event was organised by Bromsgrove District Council chairman, Coun Sam Evans, who has selected The Basement as his chosen charity for his year of

office. He thanked all involved in making it such a successful evening.

"The Basement Project provides vital care and support Bromsgrove and I am very proud it is my chosen charity for my term as chairman," said Coun Evans.

As well as the quiz, the coffers were boosted further by a raffle which featured prizes kindly donated by town businesses.

CEO of The Basement Project, Caleb Mallard, said he was grate-

ful the chairman had chosen the charity.

He thanked Coun Evans, describing the evening as 'great fun with some challenging quiz rounds', adding: "Our team won't be applying for Mastermind anytime soon."

A team from Ormerod Rutter was crowned as the evening's winners and were awarded chocolates and some House of Commons alcohol kindly donated by Bromsgrove MP Bradley Thomas.

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New lifts are on the way

THE NEW lifts which will improve accessibility at Barnet Green Railway Station will be up-and-running before the end of autumn.

Work began in February on installing the three lifts which will link all four platforms at the station, which is on the Cross City Line.

A Network Rail spokesperson said the project was progressing well.

"We'd like to thank passengers and the local community for their patience while we work to make the station more accessible for everyone."

There have been several incidents in the past where passengers with disabilities or mobility problems have been unable to get to their desired platform due to inaccessibility, leading to a decade-long campaign to get the lifts installed.

Much of the work is being completed

outside operating hours and notice will be given to any disruption caused during the installation.

Of the four platforms at the station, only two are accessible from the ground – the two outer ones on Hewell Road and Fiery Hill Road – it is not possible to get to the central two without using the stairs.

Barnet Green Parish Council's pursuit of lifts was triggered by the installation of a new footbridge in 2015 as part of the electrification of the line which runs to Bromsgrove and Redditch.

The council claimed new structure had more steps than the old footbridge and so should have incorporated disabled access to comply with the Equality Act 2010.

Passengers can visit: nationalrail.co.uk to check for the latest travel updates.

Works set to make hedges and trees safer across town

TREE and hedge maintenance is set to take place across Redditch later this month.

Essential safety management works will be undertaken on sections of the hedge and tree line on the boundaries of Bromsgrove and Warwick Highway.

This is to address issues of Ash Dieback diseased trees and top-heavy hedge lines which are beginning to collapse into the verge or overhang the carriageway, blocking signage, lighting and are getting hit by lorries.

The first part of the work is due to take place on the section of Bromsgrove Highway on the October 21 between the Windmill Drive and Foxlydiate part of the highway.

The council's portfolio holder for climate change and biodiversity, Coun Jen Snape, said: "The safety of our residents, especially when involving vehicle safety, must always take priority over everything else, but decisions to lower trees and hedges are not being taken lightly."

"I am aware trees are an emotive topic for many residents in Redditch and have been listening to residents' concerns about

recent tree works.

"There is always an open offer from senior officers to carry out site visits in order to provide clarity on planned works, whether that be maintenance or replanting trees for the future."

The second part of the works will be carried out on Warwick Highway on October 23 between the Old Forge Drive and Studley Road exits. This will be during the second phase of the annual landscape highway management.

Ash Dieback (or Hymenoscyphus fraxineus) is a serious fungal disease that affects Ash trees. It causes leaf loss, branch dieback, and ultimately tree death.

Infected trees can become structurally weakened, posing a public safety risk due to falling branches or even entire trees. While the disease itself does not affect humans or animals, the council says it is important it takes action to prevent potential safety hazards.

The council added any residents with concerns or questions regarding the tree removals could email: enquiries@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk for more information.

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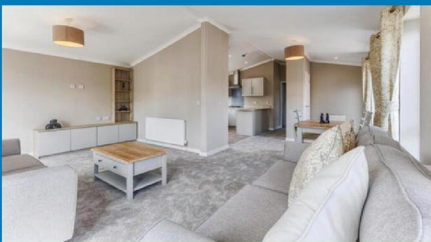
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Bromsgrove MP feels the district's green belt needs saving.



Appeal on green belt

A CALL has been made for the Government to introduce a scheme to help 'save the green belt' in Bromsgrove.

Bromsgrove MP Bradley Thomas wants the Government to allow councils to count empty long-term properties brought back into use towards their housing target.

And in the House of Commons on Monday, Mr Thomas questioned the Government on its long-term empty homes policy.

The MP has claimed the district's greenbelt is under threat as a result of the Government's decision to increase the district's housing target by 85 per cent.

He said: "Bringing long-term properties back into use should count towards a council's housing target, therefore reducing Government pressure to build on the green belt."

"Bringing a property back into use is no different from a new home being built, but frustratingly Government doesn't see it this way."

"It's a common-sense approach that would see houses brought back into use in the right locations. I urge the Government to get on and to implement this policy."

Mr Thomas has previously launched a petition calling for the Government to scrap the increase in Bromsgrove's housing target.

The Minister for Building Safety, Fire and Democracy, Samantha Dixon MP, said: "Local authorities have a number of powers to deal with empty homes."

"The Honourable Member raises an interesting point, which I will take away and consider with officials."

Visit: bradleythomas.org.uk to sign Mr Thomas' petition on the issue.

MP joins celebration of those graduating

REDDITCH MP Chris Bloore joined graduates, families and staff at the Heart of Worcestershire College's annual Higher Education Graduation Ceremony, held at the historic Worcester Cathedral.

The ceremony marked the achievements of students completing Higher National Diplomas (HNDs), Higher National Certificates (HNCs) and Foundation Degrees across a wide range of subjects.

Many of those graduating are local students from Redditch and surrounding areas, who have been able to access higher education close to home thanks to the opportunities offered by Heart of Worcestershire College.

The qualifications represent important stepping stones for students with many graduates going directly into employment or professional qualifications, while others continue their studies at university by entering directly into the third year of a degree programme.

Speaking after the ceremony, Mr Bloore said: "It was a real honour to join students, their families and staff from the Heart of Worcestershire College to celebrate such an important milestone in their lives."

"These graduates represent the talent, ambition and determination of young people in our region."

"Further and Higher Education institutions like HOW College provide opportunities that make a real difference for local families."



Former English first-class cricketer Ashley Giles, two representatives from the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Chambers of Commerce, principal Michelle Dowse and Chris Bloore and Tom Collins MP.

"Being able to study close to home not only makes higher education more accessible but also ensures that our communities benefit directly from the skills and knowledge these graduates bring."

"The graduates are building brighter futures for themselves, while contributing to the success of Redditch, the Villages and the wider Worcestershire economy."

The ceremony was followed by a reception at the College's All Saints' building in Worcester, where Mr Bloore met with staff and students to hear more about their courses, experiences and ambitions for the future.

He added: "I want to congratulate every single graduate on their incredible achievements."

"Their success is a testament to their resilience and hard work, and I look forward to seeing how they go on to shape the future of our communities."

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Conference sets out first policies for Tory return

PARLIAMENT returned this week after conference recess.

However, I want to take this opportunity to reflect on my time at Conservative Party Conference last week.

People have busy lives and so understandably they don't follow the twists and turns of a party's conference, which is why I want to highlight a number of significant announcements that were made which, if we win the next election, will be implemented by a Conservative government.

Firstly, we have said we will abolish stamp duty on your family home. This means that first-time buyers and those buying a new home or downsizing will be able to do so without paying a single penny of stamp duty to the Government.

This will help mobility as stamp duty is a tax that prohibits people from moving as their family grows and prevents people from downsizing later in life.



Westminster Diary

Bradley Thomas MP writes for The Standard



Secondly, we have said we will give young people a £5,000 tax rebate in their first job towards their first house deposit. This will mean National Insurance contributions by young people diverted into a pot for the deposit on their first home and allows a couple to save £10,000.

Thirdly, I have campaigned for a long-time on high streets and we have committed to abolishing business rates for high street shops, pubs and hospitality businesses.

This would give a much-needed boost to entrepreneurs who work hard to provide local goods and services.

Finally, my party has concluded that the only way to protect our country's borders is to leave the European Convention of Human Rights (ECHR) and repeal the Human Rights Act (HRA) in a way that

is orderly and well thought-out.

Our approach starts with a detailed legal analysis of the impact of the ECHR on key policy areas, written by the leading barrister, Lord Wolfson KC. This is only the first step. But it is essential so we can change the whole broken system and restore control of our country's borders, while continuing to protect human rights in a way that is faithful to our democratic heritage.

We will also implement our BORDERS Plan. This includes banning asylum claims for illegal entrants and establishing a Removals Force to remove 150,000 per year, deporting all new illegal arrivals within a week, and all foreign criminals.

Our new approach will put more money back in the pockets of families, so they have more to spend on what matters, and support British industry to create jobs, expand and create a stronger economy.

Salt King visits care home for scarecrow event

RESIDENTS and staff at Rashwood Care Home in Droitwich have been getting creative to pay tribute to local industrialist and philanthropist John Corbett.

by James Reid

They have constructed a scarecrow in his image as part of the Elizabeth Finn Homes' inter-home Scarecrow Challenge.

Mr Corbett - locally referred to as the Salt King - was a figurehead of the salt industry during the Victorian period and is recognised for revolutionising salt production. His works were among the largest in Europe.

Beyond salt, Mr Corbett was heralded for his philanthropy and was credited with establishing the Corbett Hospital and other charitable projects.

The Rashwood property is deeply ingrained

in local history and, like Corbett, has long been at the heart of the Droitwich community.

Residents at Rashwood felt Corbett offered fitting inspiration for their scarecrow and wanted to celebrate local history by paying tribute to the prominent figure.

Plenty of fun was had and stories shared as the straw figure was brought into being with a variety of materials - the care home said the fitting autumnal activity was a wonderful collaboration which celebrated local heritage.

Rashwood Care Home is rated Good by the CQC and welcomes anyone who might want to stop by for a cup of tea and a chat and, of course, to admire John Corbett, who leisurely resides in the home's reception area.



Residents and staff created this scarecrow tribute to Salt King John Corbett. s



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GRAND OPENING ON 23RD OCTOBER 2025



Following 2 successful play areas in Dudley Port, Sandwell and Star City, Birmingham, Monster Mayhem have now turned to Redditch. Having taken on the lease at the now closed Joe Jungles Soft play in Meadow Lane Redditch, they have set about ambitious plans to make the location the go to place in Redditch.

The Redditch branch shall operate under a franchise operation. The Director Mr. Mehmood explained that the Redditch location has a long history of use as a soft play area and previously has been well received. However with Monster Mayhem they are bringing an established brand with over a decade of experience and with a refreshing approach to this sector.

The new look has added more space by the addition of nearly 4000 square feet taking the unit to just over 9500 Square feet. The company has added a huge fun filled 3000 Square feet inflatable park that will keep children and adults entertained for hours.

From assault courses to battle arena to slides, this is likely to prove extremely popular amongst families. In addition to this, the soft play element includes a quad bike track and a drop slide and ball pit to add fun and entertainment. The party rooms have been transformed with Monster Mayhem quietly confident this will be the go to place for parties in and around Redditch.

Opening on 23rd October 2025 just in time for the October half term holidays, this is likely to be a popular choice amongst families. The prices have been kept competitive and Mr Mehmood explained that they had already made contact with the Council to participate in the next round of the HAF programme as their way of giving back to the community and ensuring everyone is able to enjoy the facilities and the fantastic venue filled with vibrant colours.

Customers can choose between Soft play or Inflatable or pay for the "double trouble" entry and enjoy all facilities in a safe and fun filled environment. The play area opening times and prices are available on the website.



Contact details:
Tel- 01527375554
Mobile -07424960739
Monster Mayhem Redditch
Unit4, New meadow Road
Lakeside industrial estate
Redditch
B98 8YW

Website: <https://monster-mayhem.co.uk>



A road trip filled with memories and charity

A MAN from Solihull has finished his epic drive through Europe - all in memory of his beloved dog Alma.

Nigel Patterson, who lives in Monkspath, spent two weeks driving through Europe alongside his friend John Arthur in two old Peugeots to raise funds for Wythall Animal Sanctuary.

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

He got chatting to the staff and asked how the sanctuary operated.

He said he was shocked to find out it survived only on donations.

To channel his grief, he decided to redo the fundraising challenge he did for a children's cancer ward in Birmingham in 2010.

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

"She filled three doggy passports and they were just the happiest of times."

"We loved her very much and she us."

Wythall Animal Sanctuary is a non destruct Sanctuary and has been helping rescue and reha-



Regency Hotels waitress Eilyn Carty-Jones and manager Nick Windsor lend support to Nigel Patterson and his fundraiser. Picture by Marcus Mingins 3625007MMR

bilite animals since 1968. It assists animals who need it most by giving them a second chance at a forever home or, where this is not possible due to behavioural or medical reasons, the Sanctuary is their forever home. Nigel is hoping to raise £5,000 so the sanctuary can create a specialised quiet area for the dogs which are more sensitive and get easily overwhelmed and

stressed with the comings and goings of daily life. He has so far raised £3,305. Nigel added: "By creating these quiet spaces, we can give the sensitive souls of the sanctuary a relaxing haven for them to enjoy the peaceful life they so deserve. "We want to help so other animals don't have to suffer like she did, give their residents tranquility and help to find their

rescue animals good and loving homes." Nigel used Springfield Pet Crematorium to handle Alma's passing and said the service they provided was amazing. It donated £400 to get the fund off the ground, and Nigel said he was so thankful. Visit justgiving.com/crowdfunding/almas-trust to donate to Nigel's fundraising page or scan the QR code.

Boardwalk restored

A RECENTLY revamped boardwalk in Alvechurch is due to reopen today (Friday) after being restored to its former glory.

The Wiggin Boardwalk has undergone improvement works after the parish council was successful in securing funding for the project.

The parish received £30,000 from the Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) in order to carry out the upgrades, with the council contributing a further £38,000 match-funding itself.

Work was undertaken by local contractor, PGE Landscaping Ltd, throughout August and September and the boardwalk is now ready for the community to enjoy.

Leader of Bromsgrove District Council, Coun Karen May, said: "We really take pride in our local communities and it's wonderful to see this funding brought to life on the ground in Alvechurch."

"The Boardwalk is an invaluable feature that provides accessibility for many and will continue to do so now for many future years."

Visitors can enjoy walks alongside the stream, wilding areas and green corridors to appreciate the biodiversity of the area.

Chairman of Alvechurch Parish Council, Coun Worrall, said: "Alvechurch Parish Council would very much like to thank those at Bromsgrove District Council for facilitating and administering the funding without whom this project would not have been possible."

"We would also like to thank district councillor, Coun Rachael Bailes, for her support of the project and we would also like to extend our sincere thanks to PGE Landscaping Ltd for completing the project in a professional and timely manner."

The Boardwalk was due to be opened this morning by Coun Worrall.

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LEFT: Redditch Mayor Coun Kane alongside Mayor of Kidderminster Coun Hine. MIDDLE: The procession set to enter. RIGHT: Mayors from across the county were in attendance.

Cathedral setting for civic event

THE HIGH Sheriff of Worcestershire and His Majesty's Judges attended a special Evensong service at Worcester Cathedral.

The evening featured a Shrieval Service, a traditional ceremony which marked the High Sheriff's year in office, offering prayers for those who served in the justice system and upheld the rule of law.

The theme of this year's ceremony was 'law and order and crime prevention'.

Also in attendance were the Lord Lieutenant and the Mayors of Worcester, Redditch, Kidderminster, Bewdley, Stourport and Droitwich, along with the Bromsgrove District Council Chairman, alongside visiting High Sheriffs and many other civic leaders and dignitaries.

The theme of the service was Law and Order and Crime Prevention, reflecting on the vital role of justice, community safety, and civic responsibility.

Redditch Mayor, Coun Joanna Kane, said it was an honour to attend the event alongside her fellow councillors.

Bromsgrove District Council Chairman, Coun Sam Evans, thanked the High Sheriff of Worcestershire for the invitation to the annual Shrievalty Service.

"The service was wonderful and raised money for the High Sheriff's Fund Charity and for Worcester Cathedral."

As Chairman I am looking forward to the High Sheriff's visit to Bromsgrove next year to introduce him to some of our fantastic local charities."

Mayor of Kidderminster, Coun Doug Hine, said: "It was a very moving and sombre event."

"It was good to see it supported by the members of the Judiciary, local mayors and the public."

RIGHT: The choir singing in the cathedral.





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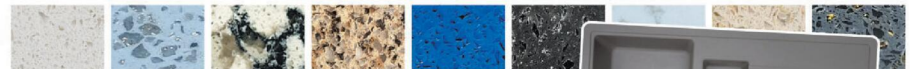


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Memorable day to mark anniversary

DROITWICH Netball Club celebrated its 10th anniversary, as members took to the court for their inter-club tournament and awards day.

The club was founded by Karen Lowe who is also the chair.

It was started as a project with Wychavon District Council, Droitwich Leisure Centre, Droitwich High School and England Netball to get more girls into sport.

At the start, members met every Wednesday for 12 weeks at Droitwich Leisure Centre after school hours.

At the end of the project, the girls asked if 'that was that' - it was agreed it would be a shame to stop it and the club was born.

Since then the club has grown to include an adult section and now has a combined membership of over 200 members

Droitwich Netball Club also supports two local walking netball groups with the oldest player being 82.

Karen said: "It just shows you never need to stop playing."

The club offers five training sessions per week and has five junior teams and five adult teams which play in England Netball affiliated leagues. There are also six teams which play in local fun leagues.

The club makes sure people can join via the Droitwich Netball Club Facebook page and find out more via email and the club's website.

There are three Level 2 coaches and two who are working their way

Droitwich Netball Club has celebrated its tenth anniversary. s



towards coaching qualifications, six umpires and a number in training to become umpires.

Karen added: "We are extremely grateful for all our supporters over the years - Spire Hospital, CIC, Droitwich Leisure Centre and PSS which sponsors our fabulous dresses."

"A real joy is seeing girls, who started years ago, saying hello if they see us or going off to university and coming back to play in their holidays."

"We are extremely proud of supporting dozens of girls with their Duke of Edinburgh awards."

"And we love seeing our adult players return after maternity with their little ones - we look forward to them joining in the fun when old enough."

"The past ten years have been amazing, fun, challenging and hugely rewarding - thanks to everyone

involved. "We will be celebrating 20 years in the blink of an eye and would love to meet you if you'd like to join in the fun."

The club runs a number of sessions - these include 'Back to Netball from 7pm to 8.30pm on Mondays, sessions for years nine and ten from 4pm to 5pm on Tuesdays and for year 11s between 5pm and 6pm on Tuesdays.

Sessions run on Wednesdays for years four and five between 4pm and 5pm and for years seven and eight from 5pm to 6pm.

All sessions take place at Droitwich Spa High School.

Visit: [facebook.com/DroitwichNetballClub](https://www.facebook.com/DroitwichNetballClub) or [droitwichnetballclub.co.uk](https://www.droitwichnetballclub.co.uk) or email: Droitwichnetballclub@outlook.com for more information.

The winner posing with their trophies. s

REIGNING men's champion Ian Humphrey landed two key trophies in one afternoon when Inkberrow Bowls Club staged its annual finals weekend.

He beat John Bradley 23-4 to retain his men's singles title.

Then later in the same afternoon, he outplayed Andy Merrick by 21-13 to help take the mixed singles trophy.

That deprived Andy of a third successive victory in that competition.

But Ian wasn't finished. The following day, he teamed up with Liz Yeates and Michael Chappell to beat Richard Roberts, Geri Slater

and Andy in the mixed triples final. Earlier, Liz had taken the ladies' singles title for a second successive year with Kay Merrick in second place.

Other winners were mixed pairs, Andy and Kay Merrick and runners-up Geri and Alan Slater.

The trophy for new bowlers went to Judith Marston, with Tony Perryman runner-up.

A pairs competition award for all club members went to Angela Webster and Liz Yeates, giving Liz her fourth honour of the season.

Awards will be presented at the club's annual lunch on November 2.



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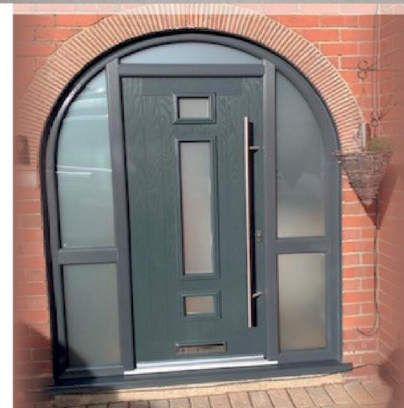
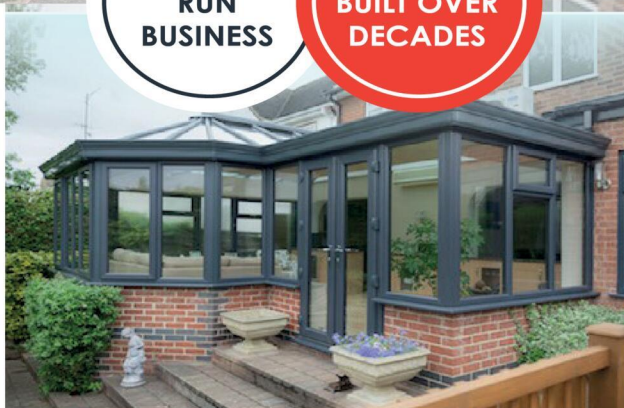


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Latest figures point to rise in sex offences but drop in charges

STATISTICS show an increase in rape and sexual offences reported to West Mercia Police but a drop in the number of charges made against offenders.

The figures were obtained through a Freedom of Information request by Sexual Abuse Compensation Advice.

The data reveals, despite police recording rising sexual offences year-on-year, only four per cent of these reported crimes resulted in a charge or summons by West Mercia Police in the past year.

The findings highlight a trend where reported sexual assault and rape cases in the UK are increasingly being dropped or offenders are acquitted, despite a general increase in reported sexual offences nationwide.

In the 2022/23 period, West Mercia Police recorded 4,057 rape and sexual offences - a decline to 3,517 the following year.

However, the most recent figures show reported offences have risen again to 3,736, along with an annual drop in the number of offenders charged.

The number of charges fell from 258 two years ago to just 134 in the past year. South Worcestershire has been identified as the area with the highest number of sexual offences over the past three years,

with 2,700 reported, followed by North Worcestershire with 2,358.

The study's compilers say the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA) figures corroborate a 'systemic failure', revealing a steady increase in sexual assault and abuse applications - from 10,309 in 2022/23 to 14,665 in 2024/25.

Paradoxically, it adds, the number of settled claims and the total compensation paid out by the CICA had decreased year-on-year.

In 2022/23, 5,703 claims were settled with £65,275,451 in compensation, but by 2024/25, these numbers had dropped to only 2,217 settled claims and £23,482,590 in compensation.

Lucy Duckworth, a policy advisor at The Survivors Trust, said: "This isn't a system that needs reforming, but rather one that simply isn't working and isn't delivering for victims."

She claimed there was a prevailing 'victim-blaming' culture and the trauma survivors experienced when reporting. This, she added, disincentivised them from seeking justice.

In the first quarter of this year, 98 rape prosecutions were abandoned across the country, with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) being accused of neglecting victims due to a lack of support and prolonged waiting times.

An inspection into the CPS fur-



West Mercia Police said its positive outcome rate had increased from 6.8 per cent to 10.4 per cent in the 12 months up to June 2023. s

ther concluded too much emphasis was placed on 'victim credibility' rather than the accused.

Ms Duckworth is now calling for a 'huge cultural and societal shift' and mandatory training for police and frontline staff on handling sexual violence cases.

"We have got to stop trying to address the symptoms of abuse rather than the actual abuse itself."

In West Mercia, sexual assault on a female over 13 was the most commonly reported sexual offence since 2022, totaling 2,824 offences.

to 10.4 per cent in the 12 months to March 2025. Our conviction rate remains above the national average.

"We work closely with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) throughout investigations and have recently introduced dedicated RASSO (Rape and Serious Sexual Offences) officers to strengthen that partnership and increase the likelihood of charges being brought where appropriate.

"Due to the nature of these offences, it is also not uncommon for a single suspect to be charged with multiple offences arising from one investigation.

"Victim care remains at the heart of our approach.

"We have specially trained officers and commissioned services to provide tailored support to survivors working alongside our protecting vulnerable people teams bringing together an expertise needed to manage these investigations with sensitivity and rigour.

"As a force we are committed to continuing to listen and adapt our approach ensuring victims feel confident in coming forward, and that offenders are held to account."

Positive outcomes include sanctioned detections and community resolutions where perpetrators are identified between parties involved, rather than go through the justice system.

West Mercia Police's response

Det Inspector Jordan Baker, from West Mercia Police's vulnerability and safeguarding department, said: "Rape and serious sexual offences are among some of the most complex and sensitive cases officers investigate and we remain absolutely committed to delivering justice for victims.

"The positive outcome rate, which includes out of court settlements, for adult rape for West Mercia Police has increased from 6.8 per cent in the 12 months to June 2023

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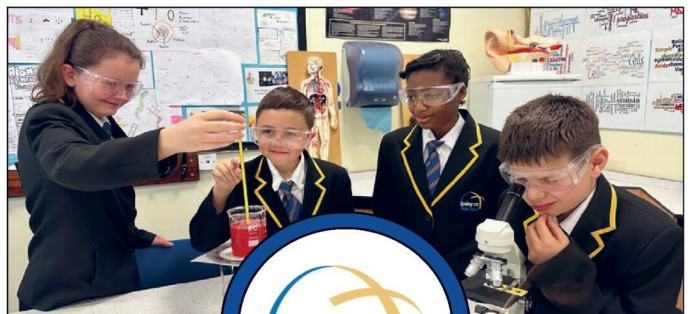


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THE EDUCATION GUIDE



Attend an Open Day

Every UK school has its own unique atmosphere and facilities.

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

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

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

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THE EDUCATION GUIDE



Applying to a School

For independent schools, you will need to apply directly to the school. There are around 2,500 independent schools in the UK, which educate around 615,000 children, some 7 per cent of all British children and 18 per cent of pupils over the

age of 16. Look on the school's website or contact them to ask about the application process. Here in the Midlands we have some exceptional Independent boarding and day schools.

For state schools, applications are usually handled by the

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

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



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THE EDUCATION GUIDE



School Uniforms

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Nowadays most schools in the UK have some sort of school uniform, however, each school decides its uniform and must not discriminate based on gender, race, disability, sexual orientation or belief.

Remember your child can be disciplined for not wearing the school uniform and even suspended or expelled if they repeatedly ignore the uniform rules. If you're a low income family, talk to the head teacher if your child isn't wearing the uniform, including PE kit, because you can't afford it. The school should give you time to buy the right clothes and you may even get financial help from your local council.



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Don't ignore your breast screening

NHS HEREFORDSHIRE and Worcestershire is urging women to check for symptoms during Breast Cancer Awareness Month this October.

Breast cancer is the most common type of cancer in women in the UK, and the chance of getting breast cancer increases as you get older.

It's important for women to check their breasts and be aware of any unusual changes, including: a lump or swelling in the breast, upper chest, or armpit, changes in the size, shape, or feel of the breast and nipple discharge or inversion.

Breast screening can detect cancer before symptoms become apparent.

Anyone registered with a GP as female aged from 50 up to their 71st birthday will be invited for NHS a screening every three years.

Residents will automatically get their first invite for breast screening between the ages of 50 and 53.

Finding cancer early can make it more likely that treatment will be successful, so check yourself regularly, and if you are invited for a breast screening it's important that

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

you attend. Search 'NHS breast screening' to find out more Breast screening.

Dr Louise Bramble, GP and Women's Health Lead for NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire, said: "Like all cancers, breast cancer is much easier to treat if it's caught early. That's why you should check yourself regularly for symptoms such as lumps or swellings, skin changes, nipple discharge or inversion.

"The screenings could even detect cancer before any symptoms become apparent.

"The risk of breast cancer increases when you get older, so women from 50 to their 71st birthday are invited for a breast screening every three years as a preventative measure. The screenings could even detect cancer before any symptoms become apparent, so it's important that you attend them.

"If you haven't been called yet, but think you should have been, please contact you GP surgery. It only takes a few minutes and could save your life."



PCC John Campion, Dave Newbold, transport and fleet manager of West Mercia Police, workshop supervisor and Chief Constable Richard Cooper.

Police on road to more electric vehicles

WEST MERCIA Police has increased its number of electric vehicles by 35 to 55, thanks to funding from Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) John Campion.

By replacing costly diesel models, the EVs deliver £30,000 in annual savings, improved reliability, and significantly reduce emissions by 80 tonnes of CO annually, equivalent to more than 360,000 miles of driving. Mr Campion said: "With the

financial pressures facing West Mercia Police, it's important we are doing all we can to drive greater value for money.

"By moving away from expensive diesel vehicles to cheaper and more reliable electric vehicles, West Mercia Police will continue to deliver a service communities expect, whilst reducing costs and carbon emissions."

Chief Constable Richard Cooper added: "I welcome this

investment from the PCC which provides fit-for-purpose vehicles for our teams to use whilst being environmentally responsible and delivering an overall saving."

As part of the journey to reach Net Zero by 2050, which is a shared commitment between the PCC and the force, around 200 diesel vehicles have already been replaced by petrol and petrol-hybrid alternatives since July 2024.



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IN MEMORIAM

ROSE HARTISS 

October 16th 2006

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Love Rod

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DEATHS

ELVINS Pat

Aged 87 years

Pat very sadly passed away on Saturday 27th September 2025. A dearly loved Mother to Graham and Anita. A cherished Grandma.

A service to celebrate Pat's life will be held at Redditch Crematorium on Tuesday 4th November 2025 at 11:45am. Following the service, everyone is warmly invited to join the family for refreshments at: The Abbey Hotel, Hither Green Lane.

Family flowers only, please. Donations if so desired, may be made to Parkinson's UK, or via Thomas Brothers at: Thomas Brothers, The Funeral Directors, Birchfield House, 494 Evesham Road, Redditch, B97 5JF. 01527 547777 Thank you

DEATHS

CHAMBERS John Meredith

Aged 90 years

Passed away peacefully on Saturday 4th October 2025 at the Alexandra Hospital

A much-loved Husband to Jennifer A devoted Dad to Charlotte and Father-in-law to Gary, and Grandfather to William & Toby

John will be greatly missed by all his family and friends

A service to celebrate John's life will take place at St Leonards Church Beoley on Wednesday 22nd October 2025 at 12.30pm followed by a Committal at Studley Parish Cemetery

Family flowers only, donations if so desired to Cancer Research UK & British Heart Foundation can be made via Thomas Brothers The Funeral Directors 494 Evesham Road Redditch B97 5JF 01527 547777 Thank you

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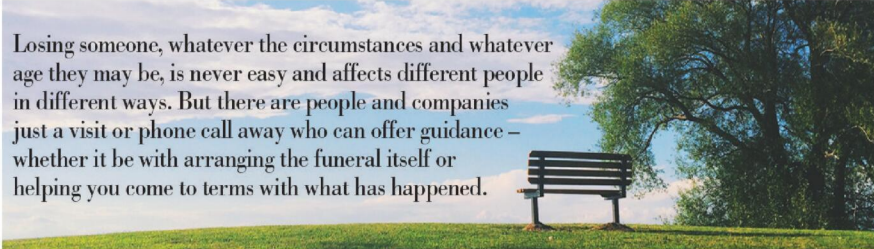
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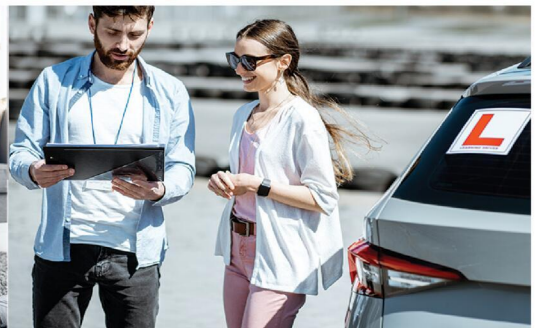
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MP Wood Groundworks Ltd of Dowercroft, Holbroer Green, Nr Redditch, Worcestershire B96 6SF is applying for a licence to use Dowercroft, Holbroer Green, Nr Redditch, Worcestershire B96 6SF as an operating centre for 2 goods vehicles and 1 trailer.

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

Warwickshire County Council

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

Warwickshire County Council has made 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.

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

D5354 COUGHTON FIELDS LANE, COUGHTON/ KINWARTON

Order Effect: Road closed between A435 Birmingham Road, Coughton and the B4089 Captain's Hill/School Road, Kinwarton.

Reason for Order: Drainage and associated works.

Order Commences: 3 November 2025 for up to 18 months.

Anticipated Completion: 24 December 2025.

Access & Diversion: A435 Birmingham Road, Arden Road, Tything Road West, Kinwarton Farm Road, Kinwarton Road, Captain's Hill and vice versa.

Access/Egress: to be maintained where possible to businesses and residents only.

Contractor: Balfour Beatty, Tel: 03452 415 302.

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

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

S Duxbury, Director of Strategy, Planning & Governance, Shire Hall, Warwick CV34 4RL Date 17 Oct 2025

PUBLIC NOTICES

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL & REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Advertisement Key: ADVSTD = Wider Publicity, FPS = Footpath Setting, LBS = Listed Building Setting.

25/01039/PIP ADVSTD FPS LBS Site: Land Adjacent To The White House, Ashwood Lane, Astwood Bank, Worcestershire B96 6PT.

Proposal: Planning in Principle for 3x dwellings.

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: FPS = Footpath Setting, MAJ = Major Development.

25/00751/FUL MAJ FPS Site: Land At Stonehouse Lane, Hopwood, Worcestershire.

Proposal: Change of use from Agriculture to a mixed Education/Agricultural use; Siting of a Temporary Rural Workers Dwelling; Erection of Barn, Erection of 3 No. buildings to be used as Learning Zones; 4 No. polytunnels, 2 No. Pods, 6 No. Shipping Containers, Field Shelters and Creation of Track, Access and a Car Park (part retrospective), Worcestershire.

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.

JEAN GOULDING Deceased

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 anyone with a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the deceased, late of Burcot Lodge, Greenhill, Burcot, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, B60 1B, who died on 28/05/2024, must send written details to the address below by 18/12/2025, after which the Estate will be distributed with regard only to claims and interests notified.

James Hadley c/o Kingsguard Legal, The Manse, 33 New Road, Scourbridge, DY8 1PA. Ref: 10036

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MISCELLANEOUS

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New hybrid model comes to UK

KGM Motors UK, formerly SsangYong, has introduced the Torres Hybrid, a new addition to the brand's award-winning SUV line-up.

Completing the Torres family alongside the petrol and electric models, it combines authentic SUV styling with advanced hybrid technology.

Developed in collaboration with BYD, a global leader in eco-friendly vehicles, the Dual Tech Hybrid System is a full hybrid that maximises the efficiency and advantages of both electric and internal combustion engines.

The system combines a 1.5-litre turbocharged petrol engine with in-series dual motors for a total output of 177hp through a 6-speed automatic e-DHT transmission, which significantly improves real-world fuel economy.

This hybrid-specific dual-motor transmission also supports nine different driving modes, including EV mode, HEV mode, and engine drive mode to deliver smooth, versatile, and quiet performance.

Kevin Griffin, Managing Director of KGM Motors UK, said: "The Torres Hybrid is the brand's first hybrid vehicle and has been developed to meet customer demand for greater efficiency without compromise."

supported by new products and advanced powertrain options in the near future."

In the city, the Torres Hybrid runs in EV mode up to 95 per cent of the time for smooth and silent performance.

On the motorway, the system blends engine and motor power for confident acceleration and efficiency, with all-electric driving possible up to 62mph, supported by a three-level regenerative braking system with smart traffic-adaptive control.

The design projects

strength and confidence with bold proportions, muscular lines, and a wide stance. At the front, a vertical grille, integrated skid-plate bumper, and distinctive LED headlights with big dipper-inspired DRLs give it an unmistakable identity.

Cultural details such as Li-pattern brake lights and a side-mounted tail-gate latch underscore its authentic Korean SUV character.

From the side, straight character lines and angular wheel arches create a robust profile, complemented by 20-inch diamond-cut alloy wheels, while at the rear, a hexagonal design inspired by classic spare wheel covers reinforces its tough nature.

The KGM Torres Hybrid is priced at £35,995 and is available in five colours: Space Black, Dandy Blue, Iron Silver, Grand White, and Forest Green.

Visit www.kgm-motors.co.uk for more information.

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Woodhall Spa joy for Ombersley's Augousti as golfer wins Captains title

by Aaron Sutcliffe
aaron.sutcliffe@bullivantmedia.com

GOLF: A GOLFER from Droitwich has won the England Captains Grand Final at Woodhall Spa Golf Club.

Chris Augousti, who plays out of Ombersley Golf Club, shot 75 points across two rounds to win the title at the home of England Golf.

He scored six pars on the Hotchkiss Course to reach 40 points while four pars and a birdie on the Bracken Course helped him to a narrow victory and the title.

Augousti finished one point clear of second-placed Bryan Banham while Stuart Rivett finished third on count-back.

Augousti, who captains Forest of Arden in Warwickshire, said: "Two rounds against some fierce competition - I couldn't imagine this particular scenario, so it's going to take a couple of days to sink in."

"I'm never entering a competition without thinking I'm going to win it. That's always the aim. But after the first day and being within touching distance, and to play alongside two other poten-



Chris Augousti poses with the trophy. Picture courtesy of England Golf.

tial winners, was very interesting.

"My aim for the second round was to just get around in 36 points. It was a course [Bracken] I hadn't played before, so my attention was on that rather than the outcome, so I was just trying to figure out where to place the ball each hole.

"As captains, we've all had to face being a figurehead of a club and that

makes us a company of select people who have gone through the same process, so to celebrate with these competitors is fantastic.

"It's basically a fellowship, you get to see the same faces year after year and it provides you with the potential to play courses you wouldn't normally play, where you meet in that fantastic social environment."

Spa defender Jamie Sauntson sees red. Picture by Mathew Mason.



Stalemate for Spa despite Sauntson red at Cinderford

FOOTBALL: DROITWICH Spa played out a goalless draw at Cinderford Town despite Jamie Sauntson seeing red just past the hour mark.

Spa lost defender Sauntson to a red card on 65 minutes at Edge Hills Road with the game still goalless.

However, neither team could make the breakthrough as the Saltmen stretched their unbeaten run to 10 matches in all competitions.

The result means Droitwich slip to second in the Hellenic League Premier Division table, behind leaders Roman Glass St George on goal difference.

Spa created the best chance of the first half as Cinderford goalkeeper Lewis Adams kept out Perry Moss's shot after good work from Jack Brighton.

Droitwich midfielder Nathan Binner then fired wide from the edge of the penalty area in a half of few clear-cut chances.

Cinderford also created openings to score as Owen Taylor and McCauley Power both failed to seriously trouble Dom Rogerson in the Spa net.

The half ended with Reiss Taylor-Randle seeing his header deflected into the path of Adams who held on to the ball well.

Andy Crowther's side struggled after the break although Binner forced Adams into a simple save at the beginning of the second period.

Cinderford responded with a chance of their own as Rogerson tipped Power's effort from distance over the crossbar.

And Power then blazed a volley over the crossbar from close range from the resulting set-piece.

The Saltmen lost Sauntson to a straight red card on 65 minutes after he tangled with Cinderford's Kian Davies.

However, Spa carved out the better chances late on as Charlie Tilley and James Lemon both went close to breaking the deadlock.

The visitors should have snatched the points at the death when Lemon took the ball around Adams and looked to square the ball to Joe Hurdman.

However, the substitute scuffed an effort into the ground from close range with the goal at his mercy.

And Hurdman went close again in injury time as Adams kept out his goalbound effort which seemed destined for the bottom corner.

Droitwich are next in action against Radford in the FA Vase on Saturday, October 18 with kick-off at 3pm at Selhurst Street.

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