

DROITWICH Standard

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Five 'forgotten' heroes set to be remembered

by **Ryan Smith**
ryan.smith@bullivantmedia.com

THE NAMES of five heroes who served in the Second World War have been immortalised in Droitwich ahead of Remembrance Sunday.

The five names missing from the town's war memorial have now been added as part of the town's plans to mark the 80th anniversary of the end of the conflict against Nazi Germany.

Among them is RAF Flying Officer Bernard Belcher, who, according to online records, was born in 1911, just three years before the outbreak of the First World War, and was killed in a flying incident in July 1941.

Records also indicate Mr Belcher was the husband of Winifred Belcher, who lived in Worcester, and was the son of Albert and Kate Belcher.

RAF Captain HJ Jeffcoat is the other air force serviceman to be added to the memorial.

The names of Sgt Robert Hall, of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, Jack Haslam, who served in the Royal Artillery, and the Worcestershire Regiment Flying Officer, Pte Douglas Patrick McDornell, have also been



The names of five heroes will be added to Droitwich war memorial. Picture by Sonny Rackham.

added.

The names were found by Droitwich resident Peter Kennedy, who has an MA in War Studies and is passionate about the town's heritage, in particular the memorial.

Mr Kennedy discovered the names of five servicemen who were listed in the former Droitwich Guardian newspaper between 1939 and 1947 were not on the town's war memorial.

Mr Kennedy contacted Coun

Richard Morris to see if Droitwich Spa Town Council could assist in adding the additional names.

At a meeting of the authority's community and amenities committee in February, councillors agreed

to sort the arrangements to include these names on the war memorial.

Coun Morris, on behalf of Droitwich Town Council, told the Standard: "I would like to thank the terrific work of Droitwich resident, Peter Kennedy, for looking into this and researching all the details and our Town Clerk for helping and facilitating everything."

"It's terrific we can add these remarkable individuals to the memorial and pay our respect as a town as Droitwich does so brilliantly."

Town Clerk Mark Keld also thanked Mayoral Chaplain Rev Laura Handy, Remembrance Parade Commander, Flt Lt Paul Wilde, and the Droitwich Spa Branch of the Royal British Legion for their efforts.

Mr Keld said: "The co-ordination achieved during this special 80th anniversary year, marking the end of the Second World War conflict, resonates strongly with community spirit and poignancy."

Droitwich will hold its annual Remembrance Sunday commemoration at the War Memorial in Victoria Square this weekend.

The service will get under way at 10.45am, with the traditional two-minute silence taking place 15 minutes later, followed by the wreath laying.

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Showcasing town's creativity

BROMSGROVE'S variety of artistic talent will be on display for all to see at a special event at Artrix this weekend.

The Creative Arts Showcase 25 will take place from 10am to 4.30pm tomorrow (Saturday) and Sunday (November 9).

Local groups will be showcasing what they do, including drama groups and a variety of performers.

Among them will be a Samba Band, Rock Chor, Salties Folk, youth acting, Ukrainian dance and much more.

And there will be the chance for people to get involved and undertake taster sessions to see what art genres suit them.

Taking technology to a new level, there will also be Virtual Reality Taster

Sessions where people will be able to visit anywhere in the world with National Geographic or create their own unique art with Tilt Brush or enjoy Meta gaming.

Florence Nightingale the lady with the hammer will put on a theatre performance and there will be the lively and engaging Worcester Words Open Mic (hosted by Dave James, aka The Coach).

People will also be able to view Creative Arts Showcase's exhibition on the walls of Artrix.

Other activities include free art and craft for families, a free silent disco, make and take mini seasonal workshops and artisan food, including the Ukrainian Cafe and Pizza Heaven.

The Saturday will be compered by

Bromsgrove Standard editor Tristan Harris and local comedian Fat Theo will be the master of ceremonies on the Sunday.

The Showcase's Community Outreach has continued to grow throughout 2025, reaching even more people with its popular 'Creative Friends' community project.

This low and no-cost programme for arts, crafts and well-being has been a huge success in Bromsgrove.

Project manager Annmarie Hulley said everyone was thrilled to see how quickly it took off.

"Thanks to funding from the National Lottery Community Fund, we are able to offer creative opportunities to people who may not

have the resources to access them otherwise.

"Showcase 25 is more than just an event - it's a community movement that celebrates the creative spirit in and around Bromsgrove and the villages."

Bromsgrove MP, Bradley Thomas, said: "It's heartening to see what a difference grassroots organisations really can make to improve community and cohesion in these unsettling times."

Visit: creativeartshowcase.org or go to: facebook.com/creativeartshowcase for more on this mass celebration of the arts in Bromsgrove.

Dee Hirst and the Creative Art Showcase Team. Picture by Keith Woolford. s



HEART of Worcestershire (HoW) College has unveiled a street art mural after partnering with Reimagine Redditch and Arts in Redditch.

The college welcomed the Mayor of Redditch, Coun Joanna Kane, and members of community groups from across the borough.

The artwork is the single largest piece of street art in the town and the organisers said it communicated an inspirational vision for Redditch's future and responded to themes identified through a consultation phase in 2024. The artwork was created with fund-

ing from Arts Council England's Creative People and Places Programme and Arts in Redditch.

The installation's artist, Andy Dice - who goes by Dice67 - is founder and director of Cheltenham Paint Festival.

He said: "I was deeply honoured to create this mural.

"At its heart, the murmuration embodies the poetry unity - a reminder of the extraordinary beauty that can arise when countless small movements come together in harmony. "The starling, graceful and iridescent, is a marvel up close.

"Through this work, I hope to draw attention to its fragility - once abundant, the species is now on the red list, its population having fallen by more than 80 per cent since the 1970s."

The design of the piece was inspired by the starling murmuration in Redditch and represents the possibilities of art and education for young people and that they have the power to shape their futures.

Dr Richard Bromhall, Coun Joanna Kane, Michelle Dowse, Julia Breakwell unveil the artwork. s



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Travel back to wartime years

PEOPLE can step back in time and discover what Bromsgrove was like on the Home Front during the Second World War.

The Bromsgrove Society will be holding a free event next Saturday, November 15, to mark 80 years since the end of the conflict against Nazi Germany.

It will take place between 10am and 4pm at the Methodist Church Centre on Stratford Road and will feature fascinating insights and displays on what life was like in and around Bromsgrove between 1939 and 1945.

The Bromsgrove Society's illustrated displays will include the results of research by Vice-Chairman Pat Tansell, who has organised the event.

Visitors to the free event will be able to read and hear extracts from audio recordings made twenty years ago for the 'Bromsgrove's War'

project.

Items of memorabilia collected by a local couple will be exhibited along with 'Dig for Victory' and 'Make Do and Mend' displays created by Bromsgrove Society volunteers.

All Saints Church will be providing information from its archive about how the war affected members and residents of the parish at home and overseas.

The Lemon Tree Cafe will be making a Woolton Pie using an authentic wartime recipe, and it will be on show next to information about rationing and wartime cookery.

And the Methodist Centre's Coffee Bar will be open for refreshments during the morning.

Bromsgrove Society Chair, Jo Slade, said: "I am enormously grateful to all the individuals and organisations who are contributing to this

Home Front remembrance event.

"It is so important we keep alive the stories of the past and remember how life was for the residents of our town during the war.

"Pat has worked tirelessly to bring everyone together, and I hope many people attend."

Age UK North Worcestershire will also be gathering memories from people who remember the War and what life was like in Bromsgrove during that time.

To share copies of written memories, documents, or pictures, please drop them off at the Age UK Shop, 140 High Street, in a sealed envelope marked 'Home Front event'.

Memories can also be shared on the day or by emailing newsletter@bsoc.co.uk to message Pat Tansell in advance.



This picture shows Bromsgrove children trying on gas masks during the war. s



The poppy display will be on show at Droitwich Library until next Friday, November 14. s

REMEMBRANCE: This eye-catching poppy cascade display has been installed at Droitwich Library ahead of Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day.

The poppies were all created by the town's community.

The display will be on show until next Friday, November 14.

Cue up a night with Jimmy White

SNOOKER players in Bromsgrove can have themselves a 'Whirlwind' of an evening when Jimmy White comes to Lickey End Social Club to give people the chance to take him on.

Players can get their big break on December 5 with tickets priced at £40 to go along and £60 for a match with him.

Jimmy - known on the circuit as 'The Whirlwind' because of his quick attacking style of play - has reached six World Snooker Championship finals during his career but finished runner-up on each occasion. Call Glyn Thomas on 07713 433315 or Steve Venn on 07815 097515 for more and to book places.

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All roads (still) lead to the fair

MEMBERS of the Avoncroft Arts Society want people to know their annual Arts and Crafts Fair is going ahead next Saturday, November 15, despite all the roadworks going on around Bromsgrove.

There are various lane and road closures taking place along the A38 as part of Worcestershire County Council's BREP scheme but the Avoncroft Arts Centre on Redditch Road, where the event is being held, will be open.

The organisers say Worcestershire Highways has assured them stallholders and visitors will have access to the centre.

The vibrant showcase of unique work by local artists and crafters takes place from 10am to 4pm.

Visitors will be able to browse these creations and buy one-of-a-kind handmade gifts, artworks and crafts.

There will be a wide range of arts and crafts, including pottery, handmade cards, stained glass, jewellery, and much more.

There will also be home-made cakes and freshly brewed tea and coffee.

Avoncroft Arts Society offers weekly arts classes, such as painting, drawing, mixed media and more.

The group said regular weekend workshops also offered the opportunity for creativity,



bringing the inner artists out in everyone.

The event, which is taking place after months of planning, was under threat of cancellation when BREP works meant the closure of Redditch Road.

Chair of Avoncroft Arts Society, Gary Crooks, said: "We would like to thank Worcestershire County Council Highways which has been working with us to ensure there will be access to Avoncroft Arts Society that weekend."

The Avoncroft Arts Society's annual arts and crafts fair will go ahead next Saturday after help from Worcestershire Highways. s



Authorities in Redditch are on the lookout for doorstep criminals. s

Targeting rogue traders

POLICE officers joined forces with other local agencies to crack down on rogue traders in the borough.

Officers from West Mercia Police, Worcestershire Trading Standards, and Redditch Borough Council Community Safety carried out checks across the town, visiting sites where tradespeople were working to verify their legitimacy and ensure residents had received proper documentation and quotes.

The operation followed a rise in doorstep scams and aimed to reassure the public while deterring criminal activity.

Insp Richard Field, from Redditch Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT), said: "Operations like this are vital in protecting our communities. We're pleased to report that all traders we spoke to were genuine, but we'll continue these checks to keep rogue traders out of Redditch."

Residents were also engaged during the visits to confirm satisfaction with the work and paperwork provided.

The Safer Redditch Partnership is urging residents to remain vigilant and follow key safety advice including do not buy from doorstep traders or open the door to unknown callers, use a door chain and display 'no doorstep callers' signage. People are also being advised to always check ID and note vehicle or business details.

Coun Monica Stringfellow, Redditch Borough Council's portfolio holder for community services, said: "Doorstep scammers should know that Redditch is onto them.

"Our community and agencies are united in keeping residents safe."

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Lib Dems take by-election seat from Reform

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

LIBERAL Democrat Sam Ammar took the Bromsgrove South seat in the Worcestershire County Council by-election.

Ms Ammar came second in May behind Reform UK's Gaynor Jean-Louis by just 89 votes on the same day that Reform UK took control of the county council.

Ms Jean-Louis has since stood down due to ill health, triggering this by-election.

Then last Thursday, at a dramatic count, Coun Ammar, who is already a Bromsgrove District Councillor and a former chairman of the authority, came out victorious with 1,416 votes – 505 more than Reform UK's Philip Hingley.

In truth, like in May, this was a two-horse race. The Conservatives – who had Coun Matt Dormer, the



Liberal Democrat Councillor Sam Ammar.

current Redditch Borough Councillor and former leader of that authority standing – finished with 309 votes. Labour's candidate Laura Rollins polled 92.

The turn-out for the poll was 30 per cent and 2,735 votes were cast in total.

Speaking to the Standard afterwards, Coun Ammar thanked everyone who voted for her.

She said: "I'm very humbled with the way so many people came out to vote for me.

"I think people have looked at my work and the work of the Liberal Democrats and liked what they saw and I feel privileged they have put their trust in me.

"Bromsgrove is a beautiful community and I am honoured to now be able to serve more people through this county council seat, as well as those I serve through my role as a district councillor."

Ms Ammar thanked everyone who had supported her and campaigned with her.

"We had 50 people from the West Midlands Liberal Democrats, the Worcestershire branch and the national party – it really was a mobilisation for the campaign and we have so much passion for the work we do," she added.

"And we have been rewarded for all our efforts."

She concluded by thanking the other candidates and wished them well for the future.

"Without them, we would not have a true working democracy," she added.



Club secretary Ellen Aindow bowling against husband Andy in the Rubery Sheldon John Connolly Club Championships.

Teams bowled over by promotion

RUBERY Sheldon John Connolly (RSJC) Crown Green Bowls Club is celebrating after three of its teams secured promotion at the end of the 2025 season.

A trio of the club's 15 teams ended the season in style as RSJC's South West Birmingham League over-60s A team, Heart of England League over-60s B team and Yardley Wood Superleague A team all achieved promotion.

The over-60s A team won Division Four of the South West Birmingham League as club stalwart Roy Phillips topped the division averages.

And RSJC's Heart of England League over-60s B team claimed the Division Six title to secure promotion for the first time.

The B team only formed in 2023 and includes a number of new bowlers to the sport.

RSJC's Yardley Wood Superleague A team won their division for the second year in a row.

The team pipped Northfield's Black Horse to top spot by a single point and will play in Division One next year.

The club's women's team finished as runners-up to Rowley Labour

in Division One of the Dudley and District Ladies League.

RSJC players Ellen Aindow, Amy Dandy and Charlotte Richards all appeared in the top-10 of the division averages.

Club secretary, Ellen Aindow, said: "We are really proud of our achievements this year at RSJC, especially as the hot summer meant our green was very quick and challenging for most of the season.

"Thanks go out to all our bowlers, volunteers, and supporters who put their time in. May it continue in 2026."

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LEFT: Spooky decorations were installed. MIDDLE: The light trail guided visitors through the park. RIGHT: The witching hour.

Some frightful fun in the park



MORTON Stanley Park was transformed into a haunted haven as a Halloween Light Trail drew in hundreds of spooky visitors.

From tiny trick-or-treaters to grown-up ghouls, the park was packed with families enjoying a night of frights.

Live actors brought the trail to life and there was fancy dress galore in the park last Friday.

The Morton Stanley event was organised by Redditch Borough Council, while a similar Halloween Trail was held the Saturday before in Sanders Park by Bromsgrove District Council.

The council is now asking visitors for their feedback, to help make next years event better.

Redditch Borough Council's port-

folio holder for Leisure, Coun Juliet Barker Smith, said: "It was wonderful to see Morton Stanley buzzing with friends and families enjoying the Halloween trail."

"We're proud to host a free community event that brings people together in a fun and spooky way."

"Your feedback is vital to help us keep improving and surprising you each year."

Visit this story on our website for the link to the survey.



LEFT: Skeletons around the graveyard.

RIGHT: Jack-o'-lantern scares the children.

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Store is to close

THE CLOSURE of Poundland should not be seen as a loss of confidence in Droitwich Town Centre, insist council chiefs.

And, after frustration grew with the current state of the high street following the announcement, Wychavon's leader, Coun Richard Morris, has vowed to help make the town centre an even more attractive place for visitors.

It was announced last week that Poundland on St Andrews Square would close for the final time on December 9.

A spokesperson for the firm said the Droitwich closure was happening due to a lease expiry, with Poundland continuing a programme to 'simplify its retail network' around its 'best-performing sites'.

It is one of 10 Poundland stores across the country shutting its doors before the end of the year.

Poundland's UK country

manager, Darren MacDonald, said: "We know how disappointing it is when we leave a store, but before we close our doors for a final time, we're determined to say goodbye by offering even more amazing value to customers."

Droitwich Poundland opened in October 2023, replacing the former Wilko store, with roles being prioritised for those made redundant by the previous shop's closure.

On hearing about Poundland's departure, readers took to Facebook to express sorrow for the staff, many of who were at Wilko when it closed.

Others aired their frustration with what they felt was a lack of variety in the shops in Droitwich town centre and asked for answers on what could be done to ensure other retailers are attracted to the town.

Coun Morris, who is also Wychavon's Executive Board Member for Economic

Growth and Tourism, told the Standard: "Our sympathies go out to all the staff affected by the closure of Poundland and we wish them well for the future."

"This closure is part of a national restructuring decision and should not be seen as a loss of confidence in Droitwich Spa Town Centre."

"Since 2020, we have been regularly monitoring occupancy levels and there are currently as many occupied units as at any point in the last five years."

"This demonstrates businesses and entrepreneurs continue to see Droitwich Spa as a great place to trade and invest."

"We are committed to working with the private owners of St Andrews Shopping Centre and Droitwich Spa Place Board to make the town centre an even more attractive destination for visitors and investors, creating more opportunities for local businesses to thrive."



Deputy Mayor of Droitwich, Coun Sue Brazier, helped cut the celebratory cake at the launch of the new SARAM Sizzler Indian grill. Picture by Tristan Harris. Copyright Bullivant Media Group Ltd.

THE NEW owner of Droitwich's St Andrews Hotel and Spa has spoken about his ambitious plans for the venue.

Sunny Sanger from SARAM Hotels, which took over the venue in April last year, spoke to the Standard on Saturday at the official launch of the SARAM Sizzler - an Indian grill restaurant and bar.

Over recent months, the building has been transformed including the addition of a spa and further upgrades across the hotel.

The SARAM Sizzler is the latest next phase in the hotel's commitment to enhancing what the town has to offer hospitality-wise.

Sunny said: "When we arrived, the hotel was dark, dingy and quiet - there were not many people here."

"As a group we had a vision and wanted to bring something new to Droitwich and make this the hotel for everyone."

"This hotel has potential and we knew we

could do something different."

A new meeting room, sports bar and fine dining has been added - along with the new Indian grill.

The company also added a dry spa and next year it plans to put in eight treatment rooms, sauna, steam room, hot tubs and more.

Sunny was full of praise for Droitwich as a town, adding 'it too had a lot of potential'.

He spoke about the importance of creating new jobs by drawing footfall into Droitwich, supporting local businesses and boosting the town's economy.

The Deputy Mayor of Droitwich, Coun Sue Brazier, was the special guest on the grill launch night and helped cut a celebratory cake.

There was also live entertainment, including fire eaters, who performed as guests sampled what the new grill had to offer.

Visit: standreshotelandspa.com for more on Saram Hotels' St Andrews Hotel and Spa.

Take a stroll into the town's past

THE FINAL guided history walk around Droitwich Spa of the year will take place tomorrow (Saturday, November 8), starting at 11am 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 wanting to go on the tour needs to book in advance at the Droitwich Spa Heritage Centre.

Tickets for the walk cost £4 per person.

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The talented Jigsaw Players cast are ready to perform Dick Whittington - a traditional fun for all the family panto - at the Trinity Centre in Lickey. s

Classic panto fun is promised as Jigsaw Players tackle tale of Dick Whittington

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THERE will be plenty of festive fun for all the family this month when Jigsaw Players Theatre Company brings its annual panto to the stage.

The classic rags-to-riches tale of Dick Whittington, by the popular theatre group, will take place at The Trinity Centre, Old Birmingham Road, Lickey from November 19 to 23.

Audiences can expect all the traditional pantomime magic - hilarious comedy, lively dance routines, toe-tapping songs, and, of course, plenty of audience participation.

Dick Whittington promises a fast-paced, laugh-out-loud show packed with

madcap characters and mischievous fun.

The story follows main character Dick's journey to London in search of fame, fortune and 'streets paved with gold'.

He is accompanied by his clever cat who stays by his side as he vyes to be a great success.

Performances take place at 7.15pm on November 19 and 21 with two shows on the Saturday and Sunday - November 22 and 23 - they will be at 1.30pm and 7pm.

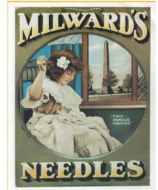
Tickets, at £14 each, are available by emailing: jigsawplayers15@gmail.com or by calling Su Fletcher on 07772 645722 or 07919 505764.

Sharp talking

THE LATEST talk in Redditch History Society's annual programme takes place this Monday, November 10, and focuses on the town's needle making history.

The subject of the presentation is a history of needle making, the trade that gave the area around Redditch on the Worcestershire and Warwickshire border the name of 'the Needle District' and was the main reason for the growth of Redditch from an insignificant hamlet to a prosperous and famous industrial town.

The speaker will be Richard Churchley, an experienced historian who will guide listeners through the development of needle making locally over four centuries - from 1640 to 1940 - through slides and his research for which he was awarded a doctorate from the University of Birmingham.



The talk will bring back many memories of family members who were employed in needle making, either in local factories or as 'outworkers', as well as introducing the trade to those not familiar with its many fascinating processes.

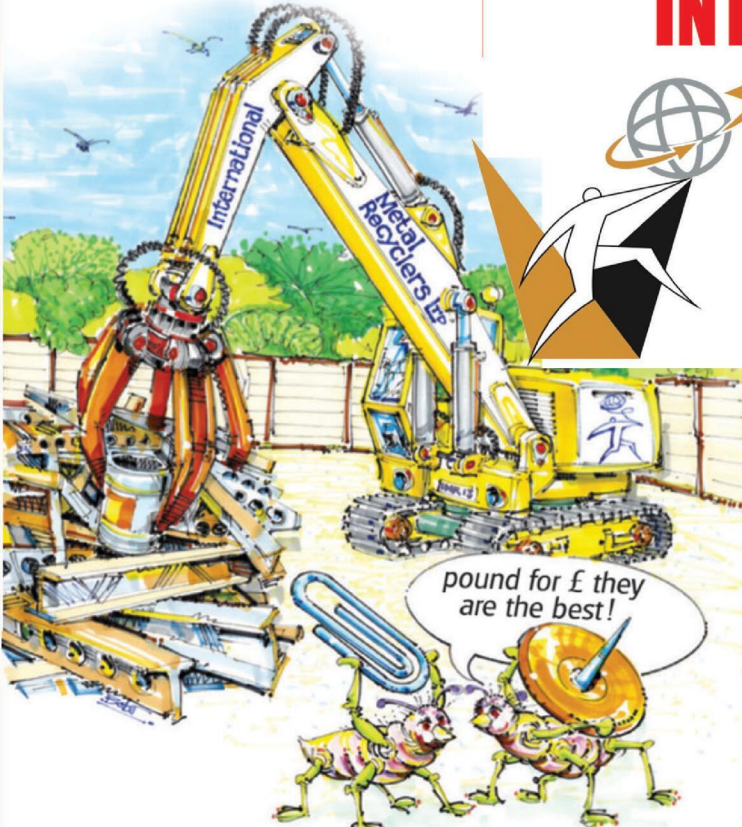
The society meets from 2pm to 4pm on the second Monday of every month.

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 December 8 - will be another costumed presentation by the inimitable historian Max Keen, who will pose the question: 'Richard III: Hero, Murderer or Loyal Brother?'

Mince pies will also be available at the December meeting.

Further details on Redditch History Society's 2025 season of talks is available at: redditch-historysociety.org.uk or on the society's leaflet, available at Redditch Library and The Palace Theatre.



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Tips to keep our homes warm as energy bills rise

AS THE weather has turned noticeably colder on my daily stroll with the dog, my thoughts have turned to the prospect myself and most people are facing – much higher energy bills that will inevitably come as a result of keeping homes adequately heated.

What remedies can be taken to ensure that heat is not wasted?

It is important to have adequate loft insulation for starters and there are schemes for lower income families – check with your energy company.

Draught strips can be put round both door and window frames.

Another solution I have found helpful is the purchase of insulated black out linings for behind curtains and also making sure curtains are tucked behind the radiators preventing heat escaping through the windows, which has certainly kept the house warmer.

It also has the added bonus in summer months to make the bedrooms dark at night and by keeping them closed



Eco Action



Column written by Extinction Rebellion Bromsgrove

during the day kept the rooms cooler.

Check central heating settings as well to keep costs down and install thermostatic valves on radiators so you can control the heat in individual rooms.

Obviously for those with young children and also the elderly, it is very important they have adequate warmth over the winter months and wearing warmer appropriate clothing can also help reduce the need for turning the heating up that extra one degree.

Winter and energy demands put a strain also on the energy companies so think about where your energy is coming from.

Drax – one of the biggest producers of energy in North Yorkshire – for instance, produces energy by burning mind-blowing quantities of tim-

ber (that comes in pelleted form from North America, Canada, Baltic States and other European nations) to produce electricity.

They supply electricity to energy companies on the wholesale market – these include British Gas, EDF, Eon and Octopus.

It emits about 12million tonnes of carbon dioxide each year but, under international law, the UK doesn't have to count these emissions.

This really leaves me with the question: 'Why?'

The BBC programme in early 2024 was a shocking revelation – 50 per cent of our gas comes from the North Sea and the rest from Norway with some also from the US.

Heating our homes accounts for around 20 per cent of our country's carbon emissions.

Do we think where exactly our energy is coming from and at what cost to the environment every time we turn our heating on and what steps are we all prepared to take to reduce our consumption?

Just food for thought.

Hannah earns spot in world's best players

by Aaron Sutcliffe
aaron.sutcliffe@bullivantmedia.com

STUDLEY'S Hannah Hampton has earned a place in the FIFPRO women's World 11 voted for by her fellow professionals.

Hampton features in the squad for the first time and is one of six England players to make the XI.

She is joined by compatriots Millie Bright, Lucy Bronze, Leah Williamson, Chloe Kelly and Alessia Russo.

The rest of the squad is made up by Spain trio Ona Batlle, Aitana Bonmati and Alexia Putellas, Morocco's Ghizlane Chebbak and Zambia's Barbra Banda.

Hampton won the best goalkeeper prize – the Yashin Trophy – at the Ballon d'Or awards earlier this year.

The 24-year-old saved two penalties in the shoot-out as England beat world champions Spain to lift the UEFA



Hannah Hampton played a starring role as England won the UEFA Euro 2025 title.

Euro 2025 title in the summer in Switzerland.

The Chelsea goalkeeper also won a domestic treble of Women's Super League, FA Cup and League Cup last season.

Professional footballers from 68 countries voted via a secure digital platform distributed by FIFPRO and its affiliated player unions with more than 6,000 votes cast.

For the Women's World 11, votes covered performances from August 11, 2024, to August 3, 2025, with a minimum of 20 official appearances.

Each player selected three standout performers in the four positional categories: goalkeeper, defender, midfielder, and forward.

The goalkeeper, three defenders, three midfielders, and three forwards with the most votes earned selection, while the 11th spot went to the next highest-ranked outfield player overall.

The World 11 remains the only global football award decided exclusively by the players.

England were also represented in the men's squad as Real Madrid's Jude Bellingham and Chelsea's Cole Palmer earned selection in the team.



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Staff celebrate the new Royal Warrant. 4325010MMR2 Pictures by Marcus Mingins



CEO Vicky Philemon unveils the new Royal Warrant. 4325010MMR4

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RENOWNED Bromsgrove firm LG Harris and Co marked a special moment when it unveiled the Royal Coat of Arms, which is now proudly displayed at the front of the building.

It represents the continued recognition for the company – commonly known as ‘Harris Brush’ – as manufacturers of paint brushes and painters’ tools under the Royal Warrant of Appointment to His Majesty King Charles III.

The unveiling was led by Vicky Philemon, CEO of Orkla House Care, who reflected on Harris’ long association with the Royal Warrant.



The new Royal Warrant. 4325010MMR3

said: “Holding a Royal Warrant is something for everyone here to be proud of.

“It recognises not just the quality of our products, but the integrity, responsibility and dedication that sit at the heart of everything we do.”

The whole UK team joined together for a toast to mark the occasion – a simple but special celebration of the people who keep the Harris legacy alive.

LG Harris and Co, which employs 186 people, thanked everyone who continues to make the company what it is today.

The prestigious accolade was first awarded to the Stoke Prior firm in 1961 by Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and has been maintained ever since. Speaking at the event, Vicky

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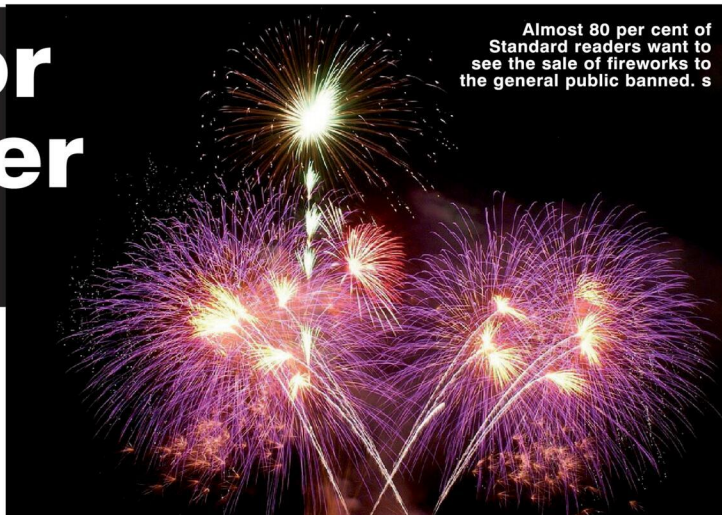
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Majority call for law change over firework sales



Almost 80 per cent of Standard readers want to see the sale of fireworks to the general public banned. s

THE SALE of fireworks to the general public should be banned - that's the view of almost 80 per cent of Standard readers who took part in our online poll.

With Bonfire Night taking place this week and displays being held across the country, we asked whether the sale of rockets and other fireworks should just be confined to those putting on organised displays.

The survey went across our newspapers' Facebook pages in Bromsgrove, Redditch, Kidderminster and Droitwich.

Almost 1,700 people responded and 79.8 per cent of them (1,349 out of 1,691) said they would like to see firework sales to the general public banned. A total of 16.7 per cent of people (278) said the law should be left how it was and fireworks should continue to be on general sale and 3.8 per cent (64) said they did not mind either way.

There were some variations in the different towns - Bromsgrove had the highest percentage of people wanting the general sale of fireworks banned with 83 per cent, Redditch was next with 81 per cent. In those two towns, the number who wanted the law to stay the same was 13 per cent and 17 per cent with the 'don't mind either ways' at four and two per cent respectively.

A total of 76 per cent of Droitwich Standard readers and 71 per cent in Kidderminster wanted fireworks only to be sold for organised displays only. The highest percentage

against banning the sale and leaving the law how it is now was in Kidderminster (26 per cent of people).

When the post containing the poll was put up on our Facebook pages, the top reason people gave in the comments for their decision was because of the impact on their pets and other animals.

Animal charities, including the RSPCA and The Dogs Trust, put out information to help people lessen the stressful impact fireworks have on pets and animals.

As well as Bonfire night, fireworks are set off around this time of year for other celebrations, such as Diwali, and again on New Year's Eve.

According to research by the Dog's Trust, almost two thirds of people (65 per cent) surveyed by YouGov on its behalf said they would back greater regulation of fireworks and, of those, 94 per cent said they would like to see restrictions on the dates and times fireworks could be used.

Of the same group, 89 per cent said that they would support fireworks being limited to licensed public displays only, while 77 per cent supported limiting sales to low-noise fireworks for both public and private events.

Figures highlighted by the RSPCA show more than one in five households (22 per cent) would be holding back garden displays and this caused concern to 66 per cent of the nation's pet owners.

Carrie Stones, campaign manager at the

RSPCA said: "Thousands of animals suffer every year due to fireworks, sometimes with devastating consequences.

"With more than 6million households set to let off fireworks this season, animals face a really tough time again."

Ahead of Bonfire Night, the RSPCA urged the public to think about its displays and the impact on pets and animals and has called on people to sign its petition for a change in legislation.

The public can contact their local MP to advocate for stronger firework laws and protect all animals - from pets and horses to livestock and wildlife.

The charity's recommendations include reducing the noise level of all traditional fireworks from 120dB to 90dB and limiting the sale of consumer fireworks to category F1 and F2 (the quieter ones) and only then to

specialised/licensed shops.

The charity feels there should be designated 'firework free zones' in areas where fireworks are likely to have a greater impact on animals, the environment, and vulnerable people.

And, where firework-free zones are in place, local councils would be encouraged to organise their own alternative displays instead.

The RSPCA also wants to reviewing regulations surrounding alternatives to fireworks, such as drone displays, given their economic potential and benefits to wildlife and the environment.

Visit: rspca.org.uk/getinvolved/campaign/fireworks for more on the RSPCA's campaign.

■ WHAT do you think about fireworks and the way they are legislated? Email us with your views.



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Every Mondays Barnt Green Fish Bar is offering gluten free fish and chips and other items. This will be between 4.30pm and 8.30pm. We try to cater to the needs of our customers. So if you're interested pop down!! Some new things we'll be offering are masala cod marinated in a beautiful blend of light spices, halloumi burgers and southern fried chicken! We operate 6 days a week open from 11.45am- 1.45pm and then 4.30pm-8.30pm (winter opening times).

We don't offer a personal delivery service but we have got just eat and uber for those who want to order food for delivery and collection. We have our own website and app called Barnt Green Fish Bar where you can explore the menu and order for collection. You can also choose specific times and we will try our best to have it ready for you! It can be quite busy in the shop so if we don't answer the phone please order through our website! Finally, we're thrilled to serve the wonderful community of Barnt Green, a traditional English village with traditional fish and chips, and the surrounding areas. If you love what we do, we'd really appreciate it if you could leave us a review on Google!



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Opening Times: Mon-Sat 11.45am-1.45pm (Lunchtime) and 4.30pm-9pm (Evenings). Sun CLOSED

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Ready to fire the festive imagination



Oakland International's Technology Team (back row) - Wojtek Biernat, Harsh Deru, William Hourigan, Clive Harrison, Alex Cullen, Steve Naylor, Richard Hickman, Patrick Giordan and (front Row) Amy Finch and Tia Lam. s

WEBBS Garden Centres are celebrating the launch of their brand new toy emporium.

Families from across the region flocked to the official opening of the new space at the flagship Wychbold site to explore a world of storytelling, creativity, and imaginative play.

The Toy Emporium has been designed as more than just a shopping space - it is inspired by children's stories, such as Willy Wonka, Rapunzel, Mary Poppins and James and the Giant Peach.

The department features interactive play zones, dress-up areas, and imaginative corners which brought magic among the first visitors. Children enjoyed the giant rocket, castle, tree nook, and Willy Wonka-style wall, while the 'Mirror, Mirror on the Wall' area encouraged little ones to try on costumes inspired by Snow White.

Visitors were delighted to discover an extensive range of toys from LEGO, Jellycat, Brio, and other fan favourites including Paw Patrol, Pokémon, Disney Stitch, Hot Wheels, and Tonies.

The Emporium combines educational, sustainable, and trending toys, encouraging creativity, problem-solving and imaginative play across all age groups.

Store manager Nick Forde said: "It's been an incredible first day - the excitement has been palpable, with visitors queuing before the doors even opened at 9am.

"Families turned out in fantastic



Webbs' Toy Emporium opens up a world of storytelling, creativity, and imaginative play in the run up to Christmas. s

numbers and loved exploring the new space and the wide range of toys on offer.

"Children were especially captivated by the live demonstrations and interactive features, including the tree nook and space rocket.

"Great Pretenders, Crazy Aarons and plush soft toys proved instant hits, and toys that encourage creative play have also been hugely popular. T

"There's something to delight every child and seeing the mix and variety across the department has been wonderful to see."

He added the visitors show the toy emporium was already proving extremely popular and was sec-

ond only to the Christmas department which was also drawing in the crowds.

Sarah Houghton, mum of Isla, 10, and Isabella, four, added they all had a fantastic time.

"Isla loved the sensory toys, especially Crazy Aaron's Thinking Putty, as well as the soft plush toys, and was captivated by the demos and slime. Isabella loved everything - from princess dresses from Great Pretenders to Magik Snow and scooters.

"It's such a treat for children - we all left with huge smiles."

The opening day also featured live demonstrations and hands-on experiences.

Promoting growth

MEMBERS of the technology team from Oakland International has come together in support of November.

The annual November charity campaign is dedicated to men's health, in particular, prostate cancer, testicular cancer, mental health and suicide prevention.

To encourage open conversations about men's health, the technology team from the Redditch-based firm is making an impact across the company - not only by growing moustaches but also by completing 60km through walking, biking, swimming or rowing for a worth-

while cause. This is to honour the 60 men lost to suicide every hour globally.

Throughout November, participants are welcome to Grow a Mo (sport a moustache to spark conversations and raise awareness), move for November (walk or run 60km) and donate or share.

Oakland International will share the team's photos and progress throughout November to celebrate their success and inspire others to participate.

Visit: movember.com/t/oakland-international-ltd to support their campaign.



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The College also offers several professional qualifications such as Accounting, HR and Leadership as well as a whole range of Community Education courses on offer at the College's campuses and in centres across the borough. Community courses available include Languages, Art, Floristry and many more!

At the event tutors will be available to offer help and guidance. The College's careers team and representatives from student finance will be on hand to give advice, plus the enrolment team will be in attendance for those wishing to enrol onto a part-time course at the event.

For more information and to pre-register for the event, please visit www.solihull.ac.uk



The next Adult & University Level Open Event will be taking place at Blossomfield Campus on Tuesday 11th November, 5.00-7.00pm.

 Solihull College & University Centre

ADULT & UNIVERSITY LEVEL OPEN EVENT

Tuesday 11th November
5pm-7pm
Blossomfield Campus

Enrolment available on the evening for our part-time adult courses starting in January 2026!



Pre-register now at ww.solihull.ac.uk





LEFT TO RIGHT: Dignitaries and fundraisers are thrilled with the upgraded Strensham Airbase; Julian Spiers welcomes people to the airbase; and visitors are shown around the site. Pictures by Ryan Smith. © Bullivant Media Group Ltd.

Air ambulance flying high with upgrade

by **Ryan Smith**
ryan.smith@bullivantmedia.com

A MAJOR multi-million pound revamp of Strensham Airbase is set to help save many more lives across the Midlands.

Upgrades to the airbase on the M5 Strensham Services, which houses the Midlands Air Ambulance Charity, included a new hangar for the air ambulance, as well as a new visitors centre where potential fundraisers will be able to come and see what the charity is able to offer.

Bedrooms have also been added at the back of the site for staff to use before and after shifts and



Karen Baker arrives back from a air ambulance mission.

other new features include a new administration office for engineers, changing facilities, and a gym.

For the official opening of the

revamped airbase, paramedics and doctors were joined by dignitaries, fundraisers and many of those whose lives had been saved by the organisation's work.

Julian Spiers has been at the Midlands Air Ambulance since 2006 and now works as the associate clinical operations director as well as a critical care paramedic.

He said: "This is a fantastic change - we're now able to reach more patients."

"It's fantastic we are now able to use this facility to allow us to save more lives."

"We have the ability to provide better training and to take even better care of our staff to allow them to be able to provide

excellence when they meet their patients."

"Because we are charity-funded, you have to start small, so when the first site at Strensham opened in the late 1990s, it was basic facilities for a crew of three people for eight hours a day."

"Last year, we then went to 24-hour operations from the site and the facilities have been expanded to meet that change."

"We've now got a team that comes from further afield, so we have doctors that live as far away as Lincolnshire, so they need places to stop over, and we can provide that."

Midlands Air Ambulance Charity operates and funds three air ambulances covering six coun-

ties, including Worcestershire and the West Midlands.

The upgrades were funded through a £2million donation from the HELP appeal.

HELP chairman, Michael Henriques, said: "This is such a wonderful upgrade."

"The crew works under incredibly hard conditions - they never know what they are going to find when they set off on their mission."

"Some of the accidents are absolutely horrific, and it's very traumatic and stressful."

"When they come back here, they need to be able to relax and get ready for the next mission, and that is why this upgrade is so important and wonderful."

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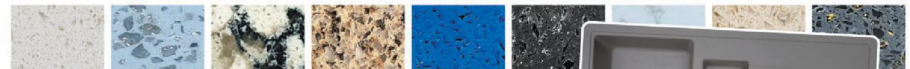


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County will back single authority

by Taneesha Arora

WORCESTERSHIRE County Council has announced it would be backing a plan for a single unitary authority to serve the whole county.

It comes as councils across the county are submitting their proposals for how local government should be structured by the end of November.

The government plans to reorganise local government so district and county councils (of which Worcestershire has seven) are going to be replaced with larger, unitary councils. The final decision on the future structure of local

government will be made next year.

The reasoning behind these changes is to create a simpler, more sustainable local government structure. It is hoped it will improve access to services for residents, help councils withstand financial shocks, support the local economy and save taxpayers cash.

Worcestershire County Council says a single unitary authority would retain the current and long-established county boundary to keep the county together.

This proposal hopes to create simpler and more efficient access to services and a community-focused way of delivering services. It also claims maintaining services currently

provided at a countywide level, such as highways, adult and children's social care, education, and public health, will prevent the task of separating them - an outcome, it said, which could impact the residents who rely on these services.

The county council argues this, along with new links with housing and homelessness services, will create opportunities for earlier support.

The decision of whether to have 'One Worcestershire' - a single unitary authority for the whole county - or a two-unitary system - one for the north and one for the south - has divided opinion.

Malvern Hills District Council, Worcester

City Council and Wychavon District Council all favour two unitary councils - and the three of them would make up a South Worcestershire Council.

Bromsgrove District and Redditch Borough Councils also both support a two-unitary authority system which would probably serve both areas and Wyre Forest. However, Wyre Forest District Council has come out in support of a single-unitary authority.

People can visit worcestershire.gov.uk/LGR for more on Worcestershire County Council's draft proposal document which was set to go before the authority yesterday (Thursday).

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January

13 ROBIN HOOD Birmingham Hippodrome.....£53

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



Helen Gilthero, Simon Murphy, Dr Munir Ahmed, Reena Rane and Ali Koeltgen open the Wudu facility at Worcestershire Royal Hospital.

A WUDU facility has been officially opened at Worcestershire Royal Hospital.

There is a thriving Muslim community working, being treated at and visiting the hospital.

And the new Wudu facility, located near to the multi-faith prayer room, offers them a dedicated space in which to prepare for prayers.

Worcestershire Royal welcomes new Wudu

Funding was provided by Worcestershire Acute Hospitals Charity.

Sophie Burt, head of fundraising and community development, said: "As a charity we aim to be there for our whole community, providing enhancements that make a real difference.

"We have delighted to fund this project of improving facilities for our community. The space provides a dedicated Wudu space, an important step in ensuring our community feels welcomed and respected in our hospitals."

Dr Munir Ahmed added: "Seeing the facility be officially opened today was a real celebratory moment, the project was a real community collaboration seeing multi faiths, hospital departments and the charity come together to enhance the experience of our community. Being able to provide the community with this dedicated Wudu really represents the trust's values of ensuring our community feels cared for and respected. It has made a real difference for our practising Muslim community."



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Entry Requirements

Students must achieve a grade 4 or above in either GCSE English or GCSE Mathematics to be considered for Sixth Form entry. Students will be supported in resitting one of these options if suitable when they progress into Year 12. Students must then meet the individual entrance criteria for each subject they are applying for. Details of these subject specific entry requirements can be found on our website along with detailed information about what each course has to offer.

State of the Art Facilities:

Students who join us in 2026 will be amongst the first to make use of our new state of the art facilities. Our brand new Sixth Form facilities, including study room, break out seminar rooms and common room opened in September 2025 as part of our whole school new build project. An additional building is set to be completed during 2026, bringing the whole school project to completion. This will be the most up to date facility in the local area and will provide our students with an outstanding space to work and study.

Open Evening: Thursday 20th November 5pm – 7pm.

Join us on Thursday 20th November to hear about the range of courses on offer and meet our fantastic subject specialists. Explore our enhanced enrichment programme including EPQ, DofE, Young Enterprise and meet our amazing Sixth Form students. Head of Sixth Form Presentation will start at 5pm.



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DISCOVER STRATFORD-UPON-AVON COLLEGE'S NEW CAMPUS AT OPEN EVENT



Stratford-upon-Avon College will be welcoming visitors to its next open event on Saturday 15th November, 10am-2pm.

School leaver courses will be of interest to those seeking a practical route towards either university or the workplace. Level 3 courses - which can be worth up to the equivalent of 3 A-Levels - allow students to progress to university directly on completion. Courses also provide students with the necessary skills, knowledge and practical experience to head directly into the world of work.

The event will give local people the opportunity to explore the College's newly redeveloped campus. Visitors can experience the College's brand-new TV & Radio Studios where Digital Media Production students will

be demonstrating use of the industry-standard equipment, explore the refurbished theatre spaces, discover the new library, gym, construction workshops and more. The College's freshly landscaped 'green heart' will also be on display.

College Principal, Dr Rebecca Gater, comments: "This is an exciting time to be joining Stratford-upon-Avon College with our £13 million investment project now complete. It's always a pleasure to welcome prospective students to our open events and we look forward to showing visitors our brand-new state-of-the-art facilities!"

Open Event
Saturday 15th November
10am-2pm
Pre-register now!

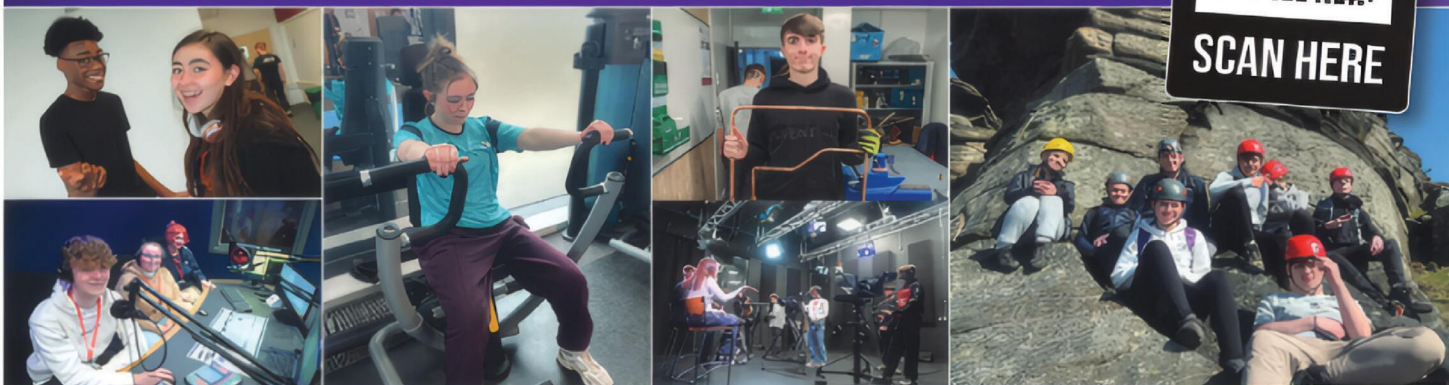
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OPEN EVENT:
Saturday 15th November
10am-2pm

PRE-REGISTER NOW!

Stratford-upon-Avon College



Use MIUs for your weekend injuries

by Taneesha Arora

RESIDENTS are being urged to make use of Worcestershire's Minor Injury Units (MIUs) over weekends.

The county's NHS trusts are encouraging people not to wait until Monday for minor injury care.

Staff at the Minor Injury Units can help with cuts, grazes, wounds, sprains, minor eye injuries, strains and minor burns.

According to Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust and Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust, there are increases in the number of people unnecessarily delaying treatment in both MIUs and Emergency Departments, potentially worsening their injuries.



The team at Evesham Community Hospital MIU. s

Chief Nursing Officer at Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust, Hayley Flavell, said: "Attendances at our Emergency Departments (ED) are at their highest on Monday mornings, but many of these patients could have been seen and treated at a Minor Injury Unit over the weekend.

"Visiting an MIU means they can receive the quality care that they need earlier, while helping to ease the pressure in our EDs so that patients requiring emergency care can be seen quicker."

The trusts are trying to increase awareness that MIUs open throughout weekends and want to remind people of the six-day-service they provide.

This is so patients can get the support and medical attention they need at the right time and this will also help ease pressure on stretched emergency services.



The new Minor Injury Unit has recently opened at Bromsgrove's Princess of Wales Community Hospital. s

Dan Marshall, Modern Matron and Minor Injury Unit lead, said: "Our Minor Injury Units in Worcestershire are open on weekends and are ready to help.

"We often see people waiting until Monday to seek help for minor injuries, but there's no need to delay care."

Patients who require treatment for minor injuries can walk into

any of Worcestershire's MIUs or contact NHS111 which will assess their symptoms and direct them to the most suitable healthcare service. They will also book an appointment for people to attend an MIU for treatment if required.

People can visit hacw.nhs.uk/ MIU for details on the MIU closest to them, the opening times and services available.

Number of burglaries drop as overall crime figures fall again

CRIME continues to fall in West Mercia, according to the latest figures from the Office for National Statistics.

Total recorded crime fell by four per cent between July 2024 and June 2025, following a six per cent drop recorded earlier in the year.

Some of the biggest fallers

include burglary at 19 per cent, incidents of serious violence at nine per cent, overall theft at eight per cent, and shoplifting at five per cent.

In contrast, sexual offences have increased by nine per cent, in line with the national average, and theft from a person has risen by 69 to

382 (22 per cent).

John Campion, Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia, said: "A reduction in crime is always welcome, with this long-term trend a testament to the dedication of the hardworking men and women who make up West Mercia's thin blue line. In my role,

I regularly engage with the public to understand their lived experiences as it cannot only be about the data, but also how safe they feel.

"Those conversations make it clear that there's still more to do to ensure they feel the benefits of less crime, and at the same time,

ensuring the resources are available to address some concerning upward trends. That's why I will continue to use my voice to support and challenge the Chief Constable to ensure crime rates are not just statistics, but a reflection of safer, more confident communities."



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- ✓ Excursion to Chester & guided city tour of Liverpool



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Special kits help victims fleeing abuse

EMERGENCY kits full of essentials have been packed and delivered to West Mercia Police by Amazon to help people fleeing domestic abuse.

The bags will be issued by officers to people who have had to leave their homes at short notice.

The items were provided by Amazon in Droitwich in partnership with The Multibank. The kits will contain new mobile phones with credit, toiletries, non-perishable snacks, children's items, stationary, a whistle and a mini torch.

Det Supt Emma Whitworth, said: "Having to leave home to avoid abuse is a reality that many people may face. During that time people will come to police as their first port of call and we want to assure them that they are safe, supported and heard."

"By offering out these kits to victims of domestic abuse we can give people back some independence while we investigate the abuse."

"A key essential in these kits is being able to offer a

mobile phone, as phones are often required as evidence in these cases, so having a back-up is incredibly important for helping people keep in touch with their support networks during stressful circumstances.

"We would like to thank the Amazon team for taking the initiative to put together the emergency kits."

Andy Reeve, from Amazon in Droitwich, added: "Being a positive presence in the community means meeting the needs of the people living there. Providing emergency essentials kits for people impacted by domestic abuse in our area is our way of saying that we are standing with our neighbours when they're in need. When you live securely, it's easy to take the items in the kits for granted. But in such challenging circumstances, they become essential items to help people make it through a tough time."

"We'd like to thank The Multibank and West Mercia Police for helping with this

The items were provided by Amazon in Droitwich in partnership with The Multibank. s



initiative." Police and Crime Commissioner John Campion added: "Domestic abuse is a devastating crime that traps victims in fear and isolation. That's why I'm proud to support

this initiative, which offers immediate, practical help to those fleeing abuse."

"These emergency kits are more than just supplies - they're a message to victims that they are not

alone, and that help is available. I'm incredibly grateful to Amazon and The Multibank for their partnership in making this possible."

"Tackling domestic abuse requires a united effort."

Severn Trent invites community groups to apply for extra funding

SEVERN Trent is once again offering crucial financial support to charities and not-for-profit organisations through its Community Fund.

Core funding is being made available for charities across the Severn Trent region to support them with their day-to-day running costs in the latest round of funding.

Eligible not-for-profit organisations will have a month to apply for funding, with applications being open from November 1 to November 30.

They can apply for a restricted grant of between £5,000 and £20,000 to support their core costs for one year and it is expected around 28 organisations from across the Severn Trent region will be supported in this round.

Natalie Cunningham, Severn Trent Community Fund manager, said: "Core funding is the lifeblood of many community organisations as it keeps the lights on, pays the bills, and ensures staff and volunteers can continue delivering vital services day and day out."

"We understand that many charities are facing unprecedented financial pressures, and while project funding is important, it doesn't always cover the everyday essentials."

"That's why we're proud to offer this dedicated round of core funding to help organisations stay resilient, maintain their operations, and continue making a meaningful impact in the communities they serve."

In Worcestershire, organisations that have previously been successful with funding and support include Bromsgrove Youth and Community Hub and Jacts Place Care CIC in Malvern.

Visit the website at www.stwater.co.uk/core-funding for more information.

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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

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

HARD

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

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.

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

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

- 6. Protection (7)
- 7. Sham (5)
- 9. Lukewarm (5)
- 10. Child's room (7)
- 12. Slow down (6,5)
- 14. Moulded paper pulp (6-5)
- 18. Stupid (7)
- 19. Yet (5)
- 21. Sky-blue (5)
- 22. Contrary (7)

DOWN

- 1. Crowbar (5)
- 2. Edit (6)
- 3. Perform (3)
- 4. Idle talk (6)
- 5. Dispute (7)
- 8. Burial procession (7)
- 11. Stream (7)
- 13. To upset (7)
- 15. Disregard (6)
- 16. Loathing (6)
- 17. Near (5)
- 20. Uneven (3)

Scribble pad

LADDER

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

- Musical group
- Prohibitions
- Fish
- Party
- English city



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.

- 5285673** gives a hostile outburst;
- 41679** gives a hostile gesture;
- 52785** gives a hostile comment.

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

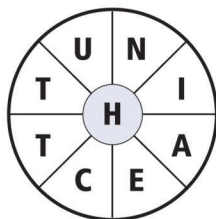
CODEWORD

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.

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

WORDWHEEL

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

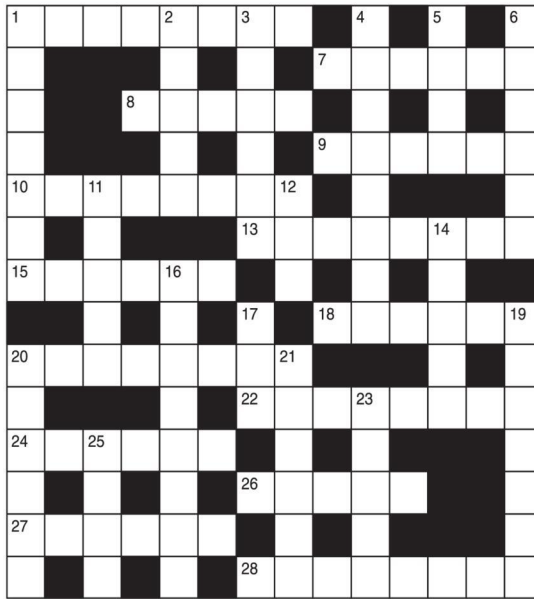


How you rate
 15 words: average 25 words: very good
 20 words: good 30 or more: excellent.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 The Diaghilev ballet for which Stravinsky wrote the music, produced in 1910 (8)
- 7 Hunnish king called the 'Scourge of God' (6)
- 8 and 10 One of the 13 original states of the USA, capital Raleigh (5,8)
- 9 Member of the predominant ethnic group in Hungary (6)
- 10 See 8
- 13 In Goethe's play, the lower-class girl seduced by Faust (8)
- 15 Son of Manoh, famous for his prodigious strength (6)
- 18 Town in Greater Manchester famous for its cakes (6)
- 20 Youngest and favourite son of Jacob (8)
- 22 Tropical tree or shrub with, usually, large, white, sweetly-fragrant flowers (8)
- 24 Plague, or swarm over (6)
- 26, 1 Down and 16 Italian monk, originally Giovanni Francesco Bernardone, canonised in 1228 (5,7,2,6)
- 27 Unorthodox religious belief (6)
- 28 and 20 Down A pest of apple trees, also called woolly aphis (8,6)



DOWN

- 1 See 26
- 2 In the USA and Canada, a word meaning to grill (5)
- 3 Sailor who is not an officer (6)
- 4 and 5 Pleasure resort on the coast of New Jersey, USA (8,4)
- 5 See 4
- 6 A colony of rabbits (6)
- 11 Upright type or lettering, as distinct from italic (5)
- 12 A part of the circumference of a circle (3)
- 14 and 19 The first British astronaut, on board spacecraft Soyuz TM-II (5,7)
- 16 See 26
- 17 Pear-shaped fruit eaten fresh or dried (3)
- 19 See 14
- 20 See 28
- 21 Highly inflammable substance used in flamethrowers (6)
- 23 Monetary unit of various countries in the Middle East and North Africa (5)
- 25 Surname of the 38th president of the USA, succeeding Nixon (4)

SOLUTIONS

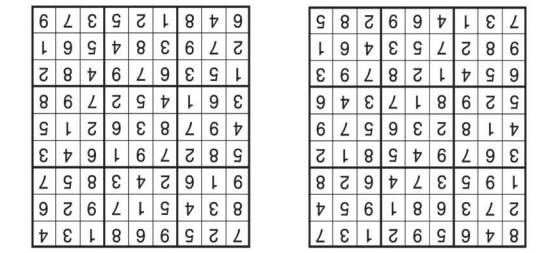
14 Helen; 16 Of Assisi; 17 Fig; 19 Sherman; 20 Blight; 21 Napalm; 23 Dinar; 25 Ford.
 DOWN: 1 Francis; 2 Broil; 3 Rating; 4 Atlanta; 5 City; 6 Warren; 11 Roman; 12 Arc.
 18 Eccles; 20 Benjamin; 22 Gardenia; 24 Incest; 26 Saint; 27 Heresy; 28 American.

General Knowledge Crossword

ACROSS: 1 Firebird; 7 Attila; 8 North; 9 Magyar; 10 Carolina; 13 Gretchen; 15 Samson.
 DOWN: 1 Francis; 2 Broil; 3 Rating; 4 Atlanta; 5 City; 6 Warren; 11 Roman; 12 Arc.
 18 Eccles; 20 Benjamin; 22 Gardenia; 24 Incest; 26 Saint; 27 Heresy; 28 American.

ACROSS: 6 Delancey; 7 Bogus; 9 Teard; 10 Nursery; 12 Reduce speed; 14 Paper-mache;
 18 Asinine; 19 Still; 21 Azure; 22 Adverse; Down: 1 Lever; 2 Reverse; 3 Act; 4 Gossip;
 5 Quarrel; 8 Funeral; 11 Current; 13 Capsize; 15 Ignore; 16 Hatred; 17 Close; 20 Odd.

Wives and Daughters, The Lady Vanishes.
 Tipping the Velvet, Our Mutual Friend, The Blonde Bombshell,
 Crown, Line of Duty, The Casual Vacancy, Ashes to Ashes, Spooks,
 Bodyguard, Identity, Mutual Friends, The Durrells, The Hollow
 AUTHEMATIC
 Bodyguard, The Missing, Upstairs Downstairs, Fungus the
 Wordwheel Pathfinder
 24=F, 25=P, 26=M
 17=Q, 18=K, 19=A, 20=S, 21=B, 22=W, 23=N,
 10=Z, 11=Y, 12=L, 13=U, 14=C, 15=V, 16=L,
 1=T, 2=G, 3=R, 4=I, 5=D, 6=E, 7=X, 8=H, 9=O,
 Bord, Band, Bans, Bass, Bash,
 Bath, Oath.
 CODWORD
 Ladder
 Bord, Band, Bans, Bass, Bash,
 Bath, Oath.



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 Departing Mon 16 Mar '26
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Suzuki to go all electric

SUZUKI has released an advertising campaign to launch its first-ever electric car, the all-new e Vitara.

The TMW-created campaign targets a large section of the UK car-buying market: the nearly five million Brits who have been on the fence about switching to electric.

Hesitant to jump too soon, this group has been prudently keeping an eye out for 'the one' to convince them.

'Finally, the EV you've been looking for' presents the all-new e Vitara as the reward for their patience.

Much like their audience, Suzuki has been sure to get things right, resulting in an unrivalled 10-year warranty, impressive styling and tech as standard, all wrapped up in a rugged SUV at a surprisingly low price.

Set to the sultry tones of Dusty Springfield's *The Look of Love*, the TV commercial, directed by Traktor of Stink Films, sees a family man repeatedly trying to get a proper look at the new e Vitara.

His every attempt to see more is frustrated by 'sod's law'.

Whether it's a glimpse from a café unceremoniously blocked by the soapy sponge of a window cleaner or an untimely opened parasol spoiling his view at the seaside, things always seem to get in the way of his

perfect view of the e Vitara.

With all frustrations resolved, we see him contentedly pulling into his driveway, before looking lovingly at his new car unobscured. The voiceover then reveals the campaign's key line, "Finally, the EV you've been looking for", before playing out with one final visual gag.

Out-of-home, radio and social executions capture soon-to-be owners at the exact moment they clamp eyes on the e Vitara for the first time.

A hapless barber spots one parked outside, consequently mowing a wide furrow across his customer's hair, whilst a dog walker stops in her tracks and drops her lead as her pooch bolts out of picture.

This is TMW's second new model launch campaign for Suzuki.

The first, 'Best Kept Secret on the Road', saw an integrated campaign for the new Swift, depicting proud Suzuki owners going to cunning lengths to keep their beloved cars under wraps.

This campaign evolves the theme of intriguing audiences who are proud to be 'Good Different' by going against the grain of category conventions.

Its in-house production team, Move Studio, produced the campaign in collaboration with Stink Films and Traktor.

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Alan

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**Albert
Andrew
Ainge**
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in the battle of the
Somme
16th September
1916
*Love, Jennifer
and Family*

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DEATHS

LINFORD

Joyce Mary

Date of Birth 14/01/1943
Date of Death 24/10/2025
Joyce sadly passed away on the
24th October 2025, aged 82 years.
She will be dearly missed by her
husband Martin, sons Mark and Karl,
by all of her extended family, friends
and by everyone who had the
pleasure of knowing her.
Funeral Service will take place on
Monday 17th November 2025,
10:00am at Waseley Hills
Crematorium.
Family flowers only, donations if
desired can be gifted to
Acorns Children's Hospice, Selly Oak
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DEATHS

DEMPSEY

Catrin Ann

Aged 68 years.
Passed away peacefully at the Alexandra
Hospital on Saturday 25th October 2025.
A devoted Wife to Jack, a much-loved
Mum to Dawn and Karen, a beloved Nan
and Great Nanny.
Catrin will be greatly missed by all of her
family and friends.
A service to celebrate Catrin's life will take
place at Redditch Crematorium
on Friday 28th November 2025, at 1.15pm.
Family flowers only please, donations if so
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Warwickshire County Council

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Warwickshire County Council has made the following Temporary Traffic Orders:

D51390 HALL END FARM ROAD, ULLENHALL
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic from its junction with Deans Green.
Reason for Order: Carriageway patching and associated works, 08.00hrs - 16.00hrs.
Order Commences: 13 November 2025 for up to 18 months.

Anticipated Completion: 13 November 2025.
Access & Diversion: No diversion available.
Contractor: Balfour Beatty, Tel: 03452 415 202.

GREEN LANE, STUDLEY
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.
Reason for Order: Gas mains replacement works.
Order Commences: 10 November 2025 for up to 18 months.

Anticipated Completion: 28 November 2025.
Access & Diversion: Redditch Road, U33257 Green Lane and vice versa.
Contractor: Headway Traffic Management, Tel: 0800 0086 590.

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

ALCESTER ROAD, STUDLEY
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic between Needle Close and Castle Road.

Reason for Order: To enable works to repair/replace a defective manhole cover and frame, overnight 20.00hrs - 06.00hrs.
Order Commences: 14 November 2025 for up to 18 months.

Anticipated Completion: 15 November 2025.
Access & Diversion: Alcester Road, Priory Square, Birmingham Road, Warwick Highway, Alcester Highway, Rough Hill Drive, Evesham Road, The Slough, Node Hill, Bromsgrove Road and vice versa.
Contractor: CSP, Tel: 07918 298 599

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 01928 412515.

S Duxbury, Director of Strategy, Planning & Governance,
 Shire Hall, Warwick CV34 4RL Date 07 Nov 2025

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHERYL ANN MCKENNA (Deceased)
 Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of 85 Other Road, Redditch, Warwickshire, CV38 0DP, who died on 11/11/2024, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 08/01/2026, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.
Star Legal Limited, Strand House
 70 The Strand Bromsgrove,
 Worcestershire B61 8DQ

PUBLIC NOTICES

SUSAN JANE BREWSTER (Deceased)
 Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of 44 Chestnut Road, Ashwood Bank, Redditch, Worcestershire, CV38 6AF, who died on 29/08/2025, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 08/01/2026, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.
FBC MANNING BOWDLER (MIDLANDS) LIMITED,
 7 Church Road, Redditch, B97 4AD

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Bromsgrove Logistics Ltd of 14a Saxon Business Park, Bromsgrove B60 4AD is applying to for a licence to use the rear compound at Warren Exhibition Centre, Worcester Road, Upton Warren, Bromsgrove, B61 7EU as an operating centre for 10 goods vehicles and 0 trailers and to use H Citrus Transport Services, 27 Aston Road, Aston Fields Industrial Estate, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, B60 3EX as an operating centre for 5 goods vehicles and 0 trailers.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Quarry House, Quarry Hill, Leeds, LS2 7UE, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representatives must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available 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 to be granted under the Licensing Act 2003
 Name of Applicant: Mr Gurjit Singh Gurjit. Postal Address of premises: Stalls Farm News & Off Licence, 61 Stalls Farm Road, Droitwich Spa, WR9 9JL. The applicant proposes to carry out the following licensable activities on or from the above premises: The Retail Sale of Alcohol (Off Sales). Monday - Saturday: 08:00 - 23:00, Sunday: 10:00 - 23:00. Representations by interested parties or responsible authorities should be made in writing to Worcestershire Regulatory Services, Wire Forest House, Fingerprint Way, Kidderminster, DY11 7WF or enquiries@worcesterservices.gov.uk by 25/11/2025. The record of the application is available for inspection by appointment. Please call us on 01905 82279 for an appointment. It is an offence, liable on conviction to an unlimited fine, under section 178 of the licensing act 2003 to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in, or in connection with, an application.

PUBLIC NOTICES

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 BASS electric guitar as new with Amplifier £100 ono 07780511800

LADIES zip ankle boots brand new size 4 £10 ono 01527 52163

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3 Xmas teapots £2 each Xmas cookie jar £2 01527 52163

MUG with lid plus coffee pot & teapot £3 Letter holder box £1 01527 52163

FATHER Xmas plaque with flashing light £2 brand new 2 snow globes battery £3 each 01527 52163

CRYSTAL drinks decanter and 2 whisky glasses, glasses have never been used. Excellent condition £12. Tel: 01527 500217

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SKY-WATCHER Complete Astronomical black white Telescope Explorer OVL D = 200 mm F = 1000mm = like new! £495 For details & photos call 07936568004

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SAMSUNG Surround Sound Speaker Set (6 in total) - £60 ono (Whitnash) 07879015716

LADIES Next mustard jumper, size medium, good condition. £4. Tel: 07813 706 158 (Shirley area)

MEN'S long jacket / three quarter coat, suede look, size medium, new! £20. Tel: 07813 706 158 (Shirley area)

LADIES Atmosphere khaki coat, size 10, cost £35. Label off but never worn. £15. Tel: 07813 706 158 (Shirley area)

LITTLE girl's navy coat, age 12 / 18 months, beautiful detail. £4. Tel: 07813 706 158 (Shirley area)

NANNY State turquoise coat, size medium, freshly laundered. £12. Tel: 07813 706 158 (Shirley area)

BUCKET of golf balls. 130 good quality clean and unmarked. £20. Tel: 07415322794

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Fighters impress as club stage first home show of year

by Aaron Sutcliffe
aaron.sutcliffe@bullivantmedia.com

BOXING: DROITWICH Amateur Boxing Club packed a punch with their first home show for more than two years at Stoke Prior Sports and Country Club.

A packed card featured 12 bouts which included boxers from Droitwich, Kidderminster and Stourport. The show included three skills bouts as promising fighters John Dunne, Theo Perry and Rhys McGinley showcased their potential.

And the rest of the card also saw nine competitive bouts take place, all overseen by England Boxing officials.

Droitwich won five of the nine bouts with each contest closely fought.

Home boxers George Howard, Harry Yeomans, Harry Press, Ellis Furnival, Leo Jones, Meme Hobday, Tom Dunne, Mason Jones and Danny Jones represented Droitwich at the home show.

And Furnival also featured in the 'bout of the night' as he entertained the crowd with a



standout performance in just his fourth fight.

Droitwich coaches Billy Jones, Michael 'Bulla' Pardoe and Ikey Hall all worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the event was a success.

Team members Russ Howard, Ann Hiles, Michelle Beddoes and Nikki Furnival also played their part in helping to stage a successful home show. Coaches Jones and Pardoe

now lead the charge in inspiring and developing the next generation of Droitwich talent.

The duo look to continue the legacy established by Chris Andrews who coached both Jones and Pardoe during their careers as boxers.

The fighters who represented Droitwich Amateur Boxing Club at the club's home show. s



Dream return for Morris as Spa advance in Cup

FOOTBALL: DROITWICH Spa returned to winning ways with a 2-1 victory against FC Stratford in the third round of the Marsh Challenge Cup.

The returning Haydn Morris scored a late winner for the Saltmen after Sam Hurdman put the home side ahead at the King George Playing Fields.

And the victory brings an end to Spa's three-game winless run in all competitions.

With the match referee stuck in traffic on the motorway, the game kicked-off after a 40-minute delay.

The two teams traded early chance before Hurdman opened his account for the season on 19 minutes with a clinical first-time finish from James Lemon's pass.

However, lower-division Stratford equalised on 27 minutes as Dan Atkins headed in

Dan Baldwin's corner.

A torrential downpour early in the second half made conditions difficult for both sets of players.

Spa boss Andy Crowther introduced Morris from the bench just before the hour mark as he made his return to the club following his departure in 2023.

And the substitute enjoyed a fairytale return to the pitch when he popped up with the winning goal two minutes from time.

Spa will play either Tuffley Rovers or Eversley and California Reserves in the fourth round of the competition.

Droitwich are next in action against Pershore Town on Saturday, November 8 with kick-off at 3pm at the King George Playing Fields.

Haydn Morris celebrates after scoring the winning goal. Picture by Mathew Mason.

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