

DROITWICH Standard

TREE & LANDSCAPE Specialists

Contact us today
FREEPHONE: 0800 747 1704
LANDLINE: 01905 886 566
treeandlandscapespecialists@gmail.com
www.treeandlandscapespecialists.co.uk

Friday, November 28th 2025 Week 48

[f droitwichstandard](https://www.facebook.com/droitwichstandard)

www.droitwichstandard.co.uk

[@DroitStand](https://twitter.com/DroitStand)

Your **FREE** edition - just pick one up and keep up with the news



MOT TEST CENTRE

THE HOME OF £30 MOT'S IN DROITWICH

Berry Hill MOT Centre Ltd

Unit 8 Northbank Berry Hill Ind Est
 Droitwich WR9 9AU Tel: 01905 771831

Professional DPF Reconditioning



Diesel Particulate Filter

‘Help with Beatle dad tribute would be Fab’

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

WHEELS are in motion for a town tribute to former Droitwich Spa High School teacher Chas Newby, 65 years after he performed bass for The Beatles.

Chas, who died in 2023 aged 81, stepped in for several Fab Four gigs in December 1960.

It came after the band's first visit to Hamburg because fellow bassist Stuart Sutcliffe had stayed in Germany for Christmas when the band returned to Liverpool.

To mark the 65th anniversary of this, Chas' son Steve spoke exclusively to the Standard about his father's time with The Beatles and his love of teaching at Droitwich Spa High.

He said it would be lovely for his 'diamond' of a father to be remembered in Droitwich and have his remarkable story more widely recognised.

"I still get people even today telling me they remember dad when he was a maths teacher, it's lovely.

"It's a wonderful thing when people find out the story about dad and The Beatles and are taken aback by it - it



really is quite funny when they realise what my dad did.

"As I understand, my dad's performances with The Beatles were the first time he ever remembered people weren't sitting down while watching the show - they were just getting out of their seats, dancing.

"It was different to anything he ever felt before.

"There was a vibe in the room, and that was the spark that became

Beatlemania.

"He got on well with all of the Beatles - it was all quite harmonious.

"To say the Beatles were ahead of their time was an understatement, but he wasn't particularly bothered by it - to him, it wasn't a major thing, just a chapter in his story.

"It's a good thing people are remembered - it would be a great idea to have some sort of memorial or tribute in Droitwich, as it will allow Dad's

story and what he did to become more widely known."

Chas returned to college and work after his eventful Christmas on stage with John Lennon, Paul McCartney and George Harrison, building his own life with his future wife Margaret, whom he married in 1968.

Droitwich Spa Town Councillor Bob Brookes said Chas' story was a fascinating one he had never heard before, adding there would be many people willing to help

Steve pay tribute to his father in the town.

He added he would be happy to talk to Steve and discuss potential options with him.

* Did you know Chas Newby, and do you have any suggestions on how he could be honoured in Droitwich? Email: editor@droitwichstandard.co.uk with your thoughts.

CELEBRATION: This year's three-day tribute to Droitwich-born Edward Winslow began in the town yesterday and continues today and tomorrow (Friday and Saturday).

It follows last year's successful inaugural Edward Winslow Day to pay tribute to the New World Pioneer.

As one of the first English Pilgrims to land in what would become America, the event coincides with Thanksgiving.

Yesterday, there was an American flag raising ceremony at St Richard's House, followed by a Thanksgiving Service at St Peter's Church.

The American flag will be lowered at 2pm tomorrow and there will be music and entertainment at St Andrews Shopping Centre between 10am and 4pm.

This will include line dancers and performances from the Salties Folk Trio, Voices Unlimited, and the Worcestershire Folk Players.

A themed market in Victoria Square will take place at the same time.

Avery | Droitwich Mews CARE HOME

Christmas Fair

Saturday 20 December | 2pm - 4.30pm

Celebrate the festive season with us at our Christmas Fair. Enjoy a wonderful selection of stalls, festive food and drinks, entertainment, games, and plenty of seasonal cheer. It's the perfect chance to come together, meet the team, and share in the holiday spirit with our residents and community.

01905 934182 averyhealthcare.co.uk
 Mulberry Tree Hill | Droitwich Spa | Worcestershire | WR9 7SS

SUPERVALUE FURNITURE & BED CENTRE
 YOUR LOCAL DROITWICH INDEPENDENT TRADER

BLACK FRIDAY SALE NOW ON

FREE DELIVERY WITH EVERY FABRIC ORDER

black friday deals

DUAL MOTOR / CLOUD ZERO RISER RECLINERS AVAILABLE IN 3 SIZES

Sleeperlight

save up to **20%**

black friday deals

HYPNOS

AUTUMN SALE

LARGE RANGE OF MODELS IN STORE

SEE OUR MAIN ADVERT ON PAGES 10 & 11

For all the latest news and features: bromsgrovestandard.co.uk and droitwichstandard.co.uk

Kia stolen in car-key theft

A BLUE Kia Picanto was stolen in a car-key burglary in Redditch.

The raiders struck at the property on Lyndenwood, Webtheath, between 10.30pm on Saturday and 7.30am on Sunday, November 22 and 23.

Police said they entered the property through a back door, located the keys to the vehicle parked outside and then stole it. Witnesses or anyone with information should call police on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Close evacuated after UXB find

POLICE and army bomb disposal experts had to deal with an unexploded device in Churchfields Close in Bromsgrove last Friday.

The find - believed to be memorabilia - led to the road being closed, a 100-metre cordon being put in place and the area being evacuated.

Experts from Explosive Ordnance Disposal attended and then moved the device to a safe location so a controlled explosion could be carried out.

A West Mercia Police spokesperson thanked the public for their patience and understanding while the incident was dealt with.



The Wythall Fun Run returns for 2026 and tickets have now gone on sale.

Countdown to fun run

THE COUNTDOWN has begun for The Wythall and Hollywood Fun Run which is back for 2026 and tickets have now gone on sale.

The event is bringing a festival of fitness, fun, and community spirit to Wythall Park on Sunday

June 7 and the Standard is, once again, the official media partner.

With Black Friday upon us, while people are searching for deals, potential participants are urged to sign up and set themselves a fresh fitness goal for the new year.

A Super Early Bird rate is available before

the Christmas distractions which will be the lowest registration price.

Now in its third year, the event has quickly become a highlight of the local calendar - for both seasoned runners and for those wanting to get moving, laugh with friends and celebrate health together.

There are 5k and 10k runs on traffic-free routes and in 2026 there will be staggered start times to give runners more space and a relaxed send-off.

The Families on Track 5K relay race is perfect for parents, carers, grandparents and children to enjoy together.

Every runner will get a bespoke medal and there will be a family fun day with food stalls, entertainment, and activity taster sessions.

World and Olympic medalist Steve Cram is once again lending his support, alongside the Events of the North team.

Steve said: "The Wythall and Hollywood Fun Run is truly something special. Being part of this event is always a pleasure. With traffic-free routes, a course that suits all abilities and a fun, family-friendly atmosphere, it's a standout grassroots festival of running."

This 2026 event's charity partner is Acorns Children's Hospice, which provides vital care for seriously ill children and their families.

Sophie Boreham, events manager at Acorns, said: "Acorns is thrilled to return as the Official Charity Partner for the Wythall and Hollywood Fun Run for a second year."

"The 2025 event was full of energy, and the support for our #TeamAcorns runners was absolutely brilliant."

"We look forward to working with the organisers to make the 2026 run even bigger, better, and even more memorable for everyone involved."

"Every penny raised through the incredible dedication of those taking part helps us provide vital care for seriously ill children when they need us most."

"This generosity means everything to us and to the children and families we support."

Bromsgrove, Droitwich, Redditch and Kidderminster Standards editor Tristan Harris said: "It's great to, once again, be the official media partner of the Wythall and Hollywood Fun Run."

"The atmosphere at last year's event was phenomenal and it was amazing to see the communities of Wythall, Hollywood, Bromsgrove, Redditch, Solihull and beyond come together for the event."

"Runners came from far and wide to take part in this summer run and we are expecting the same this year. It is a fan-

tastic community event which promotes healthy lifestyles, fitness and bringing people together and we are hoping as many people as possible will come and line-up to make it even bigger and better than its record year last year."

Wythall and Hollywood fun run is organised by Wythall Community Association with support from Worcestershire County Council and Events of the North.

Coun Satinder Bell, Worcestershire County Council's cabinet member for health and wellbeing, said: "The Wythall and Hollywood Fun Run isn't just about running - it's about bringing people together, fostering community spirit, and encouraging healthier lifestyles."

Sue Baxter, the chair of Wythall Community Association, added: "We're really excited for next year's Fun Run."

"The 2025 event was incredibly popular, so we're planning to welcome even more people to Wythall while still keeping that friendly, intimate atmosphere."

"This includes introducing staggered start times for the 5K and 10K races and expanding the event village to make it bigger and better than ever."

Visit wythallhollywoodfun.run.org.uk for more details.



Elgar Coaches Tours

GET AWAY THE ELGAR WAY

DAY TRIPS

Saturday 13th December Longleaf Festival of Light - Explore iconic sights as you embark on a grand day out this Christmas as The Festival of Light presents British Icons with Wallace and Gromit and friends!£79 Adult £69 Child

Saturday 20th December National Memorial Illuminated Arboretum. Memorials illuminated with sound telling their stories.£45

2026

Sunday 10th January Cotswold Designer Outlet for January Sales.....£25

Sunday 25th January Strictly Come Dancing Live at Utilita Arena, Birmingham matinee performance.....£99

Sunday 15th February Birmingham International Tattoo Matinee performance.....£65

Saturday 18th April Clarks Village & Wells.....£28

Saturday 9th May Harry Potter Studio Tour.....£95 Adult £90 Child

Sunday 17th May RHS Garden Bridgewater with Cream Tea.....£58

Sunday 2nd August Liverpool - The Beatles Story.....£46

Monday 10th August Highclere Castle.....£58

Saturday 19th September Andre Rieu.....£135

Sunday 18th October Westlife 25 The Anniversary World Tour bp pulse LIVE Birmingham.....£129

Thursday 10th December Waterloo A Tribute to Abba Utilita Arena Birmingham.....£69

Plus many more including Seaside, Markets and Cities. We also do gift vouchers. We regularly update our Day trips brochure throughout the year.

NEW EARLY 2026

20th February Winter Weekender in Exmouth Staying at the lovely seafront Cavendish Hotel, Dinner Bed & Breakfast. Also includes a day excursion to Torquay and time to explore Exmouth at your leisure.....4 Days from £235

6th March PRICE HELD ! Tribute Weekend at The Riviera Hotel Torquay Dinner Bed & Breakfast. Entertainment Acts are Lionel Richie, Gary Barlow and their resident tribute act.....4 Days from £205

13th March Springtime in Bognor Regis for Mothers Day Staying at the Royal Norfolk Hotel, Dinner Bed & Breakfast. Also includes excursion to Worthing.....4 Days from £245

27th March Spring Weekender in Tenby Staying at Cliffe Norton Hotel, Dinner Bed & Breakfast. Also includes excursion to Laugharne & Saundersfoot!.....4 Days from £289

3rd April Easter at the Seabank Hotel, Porthcawl Dinner Bed & Breakfast. Also includes excursion to the Mumbles and Swansea.....4 Days from £255

23rd April Coastal Escape to Cornwall Staying at The Falmouth Hotel, Dinner Bed & Breakfast. Also includes a Peninsula Tour and a half day excursion to Truro.....5 Days from £599

8th May May on the English Riviera Staying at the Belgrave Sands, Dinner Bed & Breakfast. Also includes an excursion to Plymouth.....4 Days from £395

24th May Wester Ross Explorer part of Scotland's 500 route.....7 days from £999

5th June Northumbria Coast with Puffin Cruise & Seabirds Staying at the Copthorne Hotel, Newcastle, Dinner Bed & Breakfast. Includes Boat Cruise.....4 Days from £355

12th June Potters - Hopton on Sea Fully Inclusive. Also includes day excursion to Cromer and Sheringham.....4 Days from £545

For our 2026 Brochure please phone and we will post a copy to you or check out our website.

01905 333349

We also do private hire phone us for your bespoke price.

Safe travels



News online:
www.redditchstandard.co.uk

ANTIQUE & VINTAGE FAIR
SUNDAY 30TH NOVEMBER
UP TO 100 STALLS ENTRY 9AM - 2PM
Sky Blue Sports Connection Ryton on Dunsmore CV8 3FL
Free parking & café - Entry £3, under 16's FREE
Dogs are welcome
Contact 07939 445024 www.gjfair.co.uk

VINYL RECORD & CD FAIR
BROMSGROVE
SUNDAY 30TH NOVEMBER
9am - 3pm
BROMSGROVE HOTEL & SPA
B61 0JB
45+ Table Event / Cafe / Free Parking*
WE BUY VINYL & HI-FI STEREO EQUIPMENT
CALL BEN ON 01527 873014 / 07832 247109
*www.midlandsrecordfairs.co.uk

PUBLIC NOTICES

For all your latest information on
Planning Proposals, Traffic Notices,
Goods Vehicle Operator Licences,
Licences To Sell Alcohol and Probate Notices...

See page

36




700 people sign up to Leo's quest for stem cell donor

by Ryan Smith
ryan.smith@bullivantmedia.com

THE BROMSGROVE community has rallied behind teenager Leo Spronson as hundreds turned out to help him in his fight against leukaemia and find a stem cell transplant.

After his devastating diagnosis, the family of Leo Spronson, aged 16, have been working with blood cancer charity DKMS to get more people on the stem cell donor register to improve his chances of finding a match.

The family organised a donor registration day at St Godwald's Church Hall on Sunday, and 718 people signed up to the stem cell register on the day, with many more registering for online kits in response to Leo's story.

The event also raised more than \$4,000 for DKMS, which will help the charity with processing the swab kits.

Leo was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukaemia, a form of blood cancer, and his medical team said he would need a stem cell transplant to treat his leukaemia.

For patients with blood cancer, a stem cell transplant from a matching donor could be their only opportunity for recovery.

Only one in three patients will find a match in their family, and, unfortunately for Leo, his odds of a family match are very low, as he has no siblings.

This means that he is relying on finding a match from a complete stranger who has signed up to the stem cell donor register, but just seven per cent of the eligible population in the UK are registered.

At Sunday's event, the local community were able to com-



Hundreds turn out to Leo's stem cell register event. s

plete some quick swabs with DKMS, to find out if they are a match for Leo, or another patient in urgent need of a stem cell transplant.

DKMS spokesperson, Bronagh Hughes, said: "We were delighted with the outcome from Sunday's event.

"It is a testament to the hard work of Leo's family and the spirit of the people of Bromsgrove that so many people came down to support us and join the stem cell register.

"At any one time there are around 2,000 people in the UK waiting for a match, so they can have a potentially lifesaving transplant, and everyone who joined the register is offering hope to those patients, including Leo.

"If you want to sign up, it's not too late - you can still join the register by ordering a swab kit from the DKMS website."

Leo's aunt Kate Best told the Standard: "It was a fantastic day. All of Leo's fam-

ily are so overwhelmed with how many people showed up to support Leo.

"Bromsgrove really came together as a community. For those that didn't make it I am hoping to do another drive in the future."

Leo's dad Warren, added: "Leo is my whole world.

"He's my mini me, my greatest joy, and he deserves a second chance at life.

"Watching him face this fight with such courage breaks my heart, but it also fills me with pride.

"He deserves so much more than this struggle - he deserves a future.

"If you could be the one to give him that chance you wouldn't just be saving a life, you'd be giving my boy a chance to grow up, chase his dreams and live the full life he deserves.

"Your support means more than words can ever say."

Visit dkms.org.uk to find out more, or order a swab kit.

For your latest news and sports, go online to: www.bromsgrovestandard.co.uk

**JC
GLAZING
& REPAIRS
LTD**

*A FRIENDLY, HONEST &
RELIABLE SERVICE...*

Have your double glazed units misted up?

Don't despair help is here!

WE CAN REPLACE THEM

Call us for a free quote



- Locks
- Hinges
- Mirrors
- Misted Glass
- Safety Glass
- Decorative Glass
- Cat Flaps in Glass
- Conservatory Repairs
- Fascias, Soffits & Guttering
- UPVC Windows, Doors & Conservatories
- Log Burner Glass Supplied

ALL WORK GUARANTEED



**UPGRADE
YOUR OLD
U.P.V.C.
WINDOWS**

**ANYTHING
TO DO WITH
GLASS &
WINDOWS**

**A-RATED
WINDOWS
SUPPLIED
& FITTED**

Patio Doors French Doors
Front Doors Back Doors
Composite Doors

Card payments accepted  

**Call Jon on 01527 857 786
or 07931 198 152**

We can replace your existing glass with Energy Saving Glass & refurbish your frames at half the cost of new.



**Longbridge
Cladding & Roofing Ltd**
A local team you can trust

**SPECIALISTS IN
ALL ASPECTS
OF ROOFING**



New Roofs - Roof Repairs - Flat Roofing
Fascia, Soffits & Guttering - Cladding
Moss Removal Chimney / Ridge Tile Repointing
Local References Available - Free Quotations

For a FREE quote, contact the local company you can trust

Birmingham - 0121 667 8938
Redditch - 01527 906 586

Park House, Bristol Rd South, Rednal,
Birmingham B45 9AH

www.longbridgecladdingandroofingltd.co.uk
sales@longbridgecladdingandroofingltd.co.uk



There was plenty of live entertainment, including choirs, on the High Street. Pictures by Geoff Hawkesworth. s



LEFT: Street entertainers mingled with the crowds as the beams of light from the laser show filled the sky along the High Street. s

RIGHT: Vintage Class Singers performed some Christmas classics. s



The beams of light from the laser show wowed the crowds. Picture by Tristan Harris. © Bullivant Media Group Ltd.

Laser show a massive hit

BROMSGROVE'S Christmas lights switch-on was back in dramatic fashion with a 'stunning' laser show which wowed the crowds.

Last year's event was cancelled due to Storm Bert bringing high winds and it was announced this year's event may not go ahead because of safety concerns, due to its increase in popularity and the rising number of people attending each year.

But Bromsgrove District Council reneged and vowed to put on a Christmas lights switch-on, along with a count-down. And the event returned to much acclaim.

As well as the usual festive displays above the High

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

Street, Christmas Market and day of entertainment, there was also a colourful laser show which filled the sky with beams of light.

The council wanted to prevent a 'bottleneck' where crowds converged, as one big stage had caused in previous years. Instead, the laser show concept was chosen so everyone on the High Street could see the spectacle from wherever they were.

On our Facebook page, Amanda Britten wrote: "The lasers were amazing. It was great to see the high street busy and the businesses seemed to be doing well."

Sarah Bailey added: "Made the sky look pretty cool from over by Lidl."

Bernadette Clews-Brazier wrote: "Well done - it was lovely". And Helen Healy said: "It was good to see it go ahead, and a nice change. Well done all."

Michelle Holsey-Sheppard, co-owner of Butcher's Block, said: "What a day. Well done Bromsgrove District Council."

Others described it as 'stunning' and said they 'loved it'.

A delighted Bromsgrove District Council leader Coun Karen May told the Standard: "What a fantastic response from the public - it has been a wonderful evening and the laser show has been brilliant."

"We wanted to do something totally different that was not seen in other towns and would draw everyone in, right across the age spectrum, and I think we have achieved that."

"It was so atmospheric when you looked up. I heard a little boy earlier say 'look daddy, look at all the colours' and it is great and the laser lights could be seen from some distance away."

The Christmas Market opened last Friday and there was a variety of entertainment, including performers from local choirs, panto stars, Stourport Brass Band and wandering street entertainers.

Visit this story at: bromsgrovestandard.co.uk for more pictures.

So much more than self storage

Wellesbourne, Shipston-on-Stour, Mickleton & Long Marston

We can help you move house, build an extension or start a new hobby

Call Lindsey 0800 772 0200
hello@beyondstorage.co.uk
Wimpstone Fields, Wimpstone
Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 8NN

Beyond Storage

ssa self storage association United Kingdom

THE FOX INN
CHADDESLEY CORBETT

Bookings now being taken for **Christmas**

Christmas Fayre Menu (excludes Sundays)
Adults: £20 / Children: £15
Single course festive carvery - Adults: £15 / Children: £12

Christmas Day
FULLY BOOKED
Adults: £30 / Children: £50

Boxing Day Menu
Adults: 3 courses, £25 /
Children: 3 courses, £25

New Years Day Menu
Adults: 3 courses, £25 /
Children: 3 courses, £25

The Fox Inn Lower Chaddesley, Kidderminster DY10 4QN
Tel 01562 777247 | thefoxinnchaddesley.co.uk

Three town centre shops shut down for selling illegal products

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

THREE shops in Bromsgrove were ordered to close by magistrates after investigators found they were selling illegal products.

The closures have been funded by Worcestershire County Council Public Health, Bromsgrove District Council, Redditch Borough Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner.

They were carried out by Worcestershire Trading Standards officers and were supported by West

Mercia Police and Worcestershire Regulatory Services (WRS).

The three premises closed include European Mini-Market on The Strand, Zam Zam Shop on the High Street and WK Groceries on New Road.

Following court hearings, magistrates issued orders to extend the closures for European Mini Market and Zam Zam Shop for three months.

WK Groceries' court proceedings have been adjourned but the shop will remain closed until a future date is set.

At Kidderminster Magistrates Court, it was heard how test purchasing and inspections at the three

premises identified ongoing illegal activities.

The value of the illicit products totalled around £23,000, but if the equivalent compliant items had been sold lawfully the total would be over £45,000.

Bromsgrove District Councillor Kit Taylor, whose portfolio covers licensing and Worcestershire Regulatory Services, said: "This is a great example of partners working together to support their communities."

"Residents can be reassured that we are listening to their concerns and acting on their behalf."

Coun Ian Cresswell, Worcestershire County Council's

Cabinet Member for Environment and Communities, thanked his Bromsgrove colleagues for their support.

He added: "Not only are these organised criminal activities but, at less than \$5-a-pack, the presence of these products in our communities undermines the work of our Public Health team in continuing to drive down smoking rates."

"Tobacco use continues to be a huge part in the difference in life outcomes for our different communities, so our Trading Standards Officers will continue to tackle illicit tobacco wherever it appears across Worcestershire."

Sgt Sonny Wright of Bromsgrove

Police said: "The black market of illegal products takes revenue away from the legitimate sales of legal tobacco and vapes by law-abiding retailers."

"We will continue working with partners to visit stores suspected of selling counterfeit products to shield our communities from harm and act where appropriate."

West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner John Campion said: "Local communities deserve businesses that operate legally and responsibly and I share their frustration when that trust is broken."

"These latest closures send a clear message that crime will not be tolerated in West Mercia."

Volunteer drivers needed to save service

BROMSGROVE'S 'EDDIE Bus' which provides a lifeline - taking elderly people on trips and days out - has launched an urgent appeal to find more drivers.

The service, which celebrated its 40th anniversary this year, may be forced to cease if more drivers cannot be found.

The EDDIE Bus takes older residents to a variety of places, including to the shops, garden centres, places of interest, museums, theatres, pubs, restaurants, other towns and villages and the seaside.

A similar appeal in June saw one

driver come forward but the charity desperately needs more.

The situation for the service is desperate as it had to cancel 20 per cent of its bookings this year as it did not have anyone to drive the bus.

An EDDIE Bus spokesperson said: "No drivers mean no service, no EDDIE Bus and no charity and this unique service for the elderly of Bromsgrove will be lost."

"If that happened, elderly residents would struggle to get out which would lead to more loneliness and isolation."

"If anyone can help, please come forward."

Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer driver or groups fitting the criteria who want to use the bus should email Geoff Kearn at: geoffkearn@hotmail.co.uk or call him on 07805 400180.

Alternatively, email: eddiebus@gmail.com for more on the bus and those wanting to use it pay a per-mile hire charge for their journeys.

The minibus can be driven on a normal car licence and full training and support will be given.



An urgent appeal has been launched to find drivers for Bromsgrove's EDDIE Bus which may be forced to fold if none are found.

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

Sunday 30th November & Sunday 7th December
10am - 3pm

- A range of craft stalls
- Traditional music
- Children's craft activities

A truly traditional Christmas event for all ages!

FREE entry

RUBICON LEISURE
FORGE MILL
NEEDLE MUSEUM

Needle Mill Lane, Riverside, Redditch, B98 8HY
www.forgemill.org.uk 01527 62509

Finlay anniversary sees parents learn of research hopes



THE PARENTS of Finlay Church, from Alvechurch, who died 10 years ago from an incurable brain tumour have visited a memorial plaque in his name which recognises nearly £200,000 raised towards helping find a cure for the devastating disease.

The family is working with the charity Brain Tumour Research to raise awareness of the need to invest more funds into innovative new treatments for children with brain tumours.

Fin was diagnosed with an aggressive glioblastoma when he was just 10 years old. Over 17 months, Finlay endured neurosurgery, chemotherapy, radiotherapy and trials testing the efficacy of re-purposed drugs.

Monday (November 25) marked 10 years since Finlay's death.

His parents, Penny and Wayne, were invited to the Brain Tumour Research Centre of Excellence at The Institute of Cancer Research (ICR) to find out how their fundraising is helping support scientists working to find, test and validate new treatment options for high-grade gliomas in children. For some types of these tumours, less than five per cent of patients survive more than two years.

To improve outcomes for brain tumour patients, the centre acts as an international hub for the development of new treatments, accelerating more therapies into clinical trials for children.

The goal is to get treatments into trials within the next four years.



Penny and Wayne visited the Brain Tumour Research Centre of Excellence at The Institute of Cancer Research to see the work being done. Finlay Church (LEFT) died on November 25, 2015, after a brave battle. s

Penny said: "Visiting the ICR and seeing the incredible work being led by Prof Chris Jones was deeply moving, especially in such a poignant year, as we mark what would have been Fin's 21st birthday and 10 years since we lost him.

"Although the progress being made comes too late for Fin, and for so many other children taken by this devastating disease, we will never stop fighting.

"We will continue to support Brain Tumour Research, because no child should ever be diagnosed with a cancer that is effectively a death sentence.

"Seeing Fin's plaque in place in the lab was incredibly emotional.

"Knowing researchers will pass it every day and perhaps feel inspired by our gorgeous boy to drive change, means more than we can express.

"We are forever grateful to our community, friends, family, and supporters for helping us raise the funds that allow us to try to make a difference."

Since Finlay's death, Penny and her family have worked tirelessly alongside Brain Tumour Research, campaigning for more cash to fund research to find a cure and better treatment for people diagnosed with the disease.

As well as the plaque, which recognises the more than £180,000

raised in Finlay's name, Penny and Wayne placed 56 tiles at the centre's Wall of Hope. Each tile represents a day of funded research.

Letty Greenfield, community development manager for Brain Tumour Research, said the charity was really grateful to Finlay's family for their support and generosity.

"We hope their visit to our Centre of Excellence at ICR offered a useful insight into all we're doing to improve treatment options for patients and, ultimately, find a cure."

She added brain tumours continued to kill more children and adults under the age of 40 than any other cancer but just one per cent of the cash for cancer research was allocated to the devastating disease.

Brain Tumour Research funds sustainable research at dedicated UK centres and campaigns for the Government and larger cancer charities to invest more in research into brain tumours to speed up new treatments and, ultimately, to find a cure.

The charity is the driving force behind the call for a national annual spend of £35million to improve survival rates and patient outcomes in line with other cancers such as breast cancer and leukaemia.

Visit braintumourresearch.org/donate-now to donate to the cause.

Ely International
 Brass Band **WINTER** School
 Celebration Concert
 Friday, December 19th, 7pm
 Routh Hall
 Bromsgrove School B61 7HP
 Tickets £5
 Visit www.eibbws.org.uk for more info.

Countdown to *Christmas*

Get into the spirit by checking out **EVERYTHING CHRISTMASSY!!** on our Festive Pages!

Log on to:
redditchstandard.co.uk
bromsgrovestandard.co.uk
droitwichstandard.co.uk
 then click **Countdown to Christmas** and all will be revealed

Standard **Standard** **Standard**

Town's Christmas lights event offers festive fun for everyone



The Droitwich Spa Community Choir sang in St Andrews Church as part of the event. s

by Ryan Smith
ryan.smith@bullivantmedia.com

DROITWICH got into the festive spirit last weekend with the annual Christmas lights switch-on.

Hundreds turned out for the annual switch-on as well as a day full of entertainment at St Andrew's Shopping Centre.

Entertainment included performances from The Salvation Army

Band, The Star Project, the Sing Choir and the Westacre Middle School Choir.

The Droitwich Spa Community Choir sang in St Andrews Church as part of the event with the repertoire including carols and Christmas songs.

The church was full with those watching joining in with the singing.

The Norbury Theatre treated people to a performance from its panto, Jack and the Beanstalk.

People were able to watch dance performances from SB Danceworks and the ENTW9 dance academy and youngsters could visit Father Christmas in his grotto in the Heritage Centre.

Other attractions included fairground rides and market stalls in Victoria Square all afternoon.

The day culminated with the countdown and switch on at 6pm, which was carried out by the Mayor, Coun Chris Bowden, and Father Christmas himself.

Coun Dan Birch, who was at the event, said: "Christmas is here in Droitwich Spa.

"It was another great Christmas light switch-on.

"Thank you to everyone involved in organising, and of course to everyone in Droitwich for coming out and showing what our community is made of."

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas in Droitwich. s

Dog is hurt after attack

A DOG was deliberately hit by a golf club at Lickey Hills Country Park, leading to extensive injuries.

Police are appealing for information on the attack which happened around 1pm on Saturday, November 8.

A woman was walking her dog near to the Lickey Hills Country Park and Visitor Centre when a man hit the dog with a golf club he was carrying.

The dog was seen by a vet, and it suffered swelling to the face and dislodged teeth.

PC Fiona Bonehill said: "This was a distressing and unprovoked act of violence against a defenceless animal in a public space.

"We are keen to speak with anyone who may have been in the area at the time or who may have seen a man carrying a golf club in or around the park."

Witnesses or anyone with information should email PC Bonehill at: fiona.bonehill@westmercia.police.uk or call her on 101.



Local councillors and MP Nigel Huddleston were among those who enjoyed the lights. s



ADVERTISEMENT

Standing tall and walking in confidence – Casey and Mikaela's scoliosis journey

When 17-year-old student, Casey, from Lichfield first noticed her shoulder blade sticking out with discomfort, she knew something wasn't right and alerted her parents.

Her sister, Mikaela, 16, experienced similar issues. A visit to the doctor and x-ray results confirmed that both sisters had scoliosis – a three-dimensional curvature of the spine. They were referred for treatment and both required spinal surgery.

"The hardest thing before surgery" Casey remembers, "was sitting up for a long period during exams – it was a struggle." Her sister, Mikaela added, "my shoulder blade just wouldn't sit comfortably on a chair."

The family opted for private healthcare, and their consultant introduced them to The Woodlands Suite – Private Care at The Royal Orthopaedic Hospital in Birmingham. What felt overwhelming at first soon became manageable. From the start, the team at The Woodlands Suite went out of their way to make the experience less daunting. "They treated us royally and even nicknamed us 'The Scolio Sisters' during our hospital stay," Casey remembers with a smile.

The Woodlands Suite at The Royal Orthopaedic Hospital offers dual consultant operating for complex spinal deformity, where two Consultant Surgeons work together to deliver the safest and best possible outcome for patients. This is performed in combination with skilled specialised Anaesthetic Consultants. All of this made it possible for Casey and Mikaela to have their surgeries on the same day. Consultant Surgeons, Mr Jones and Mr McKay performed the surgeries, and Consultant Anaesthetist, Dr Da Silva provided medical care and optimised post-operative pain control.



Sisters Casey (left) and Mikaela (right) in The Royal Orthopaedic Hospital gardens.

Recovery was quicker than the family expected. Older sister, Casey, was back at sixth form college in just two weeks, sitting A-level exams just eight weeks after surgery. Both sisters noticed positive changes post-surgery too. "I have fewer aches, and I'm much taller now. I grew three inches after surgery!" said Casey. "Our clothes fit so much better now," added Mikaela.

The sisters' mum, Kerry summed up the family's experience: "We honestly couldn't have asked for more than what we received at The Woodlands Suite."

Read more about Casey and Mikaela's journey and find out about our services at rohprivatecare.co.uk or call 0121 685 4010.



The Woodlands Suite
Private Care at The Royal Orthopaedic Hospital



The Royal Orthopaedic Hospital
NHS Foundation Trust

STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

CAROL SERVICE

The Parish Council would like to invite you to their Carol Service being held on

Saturday 13th December 2025 starting at 5.00pm
at The Main Hall, Avoncroft Arts Society, Redditch Road, Bromsgrove.

The Service will be conducted by the Revd Alan Conant and will be followed by free hot drinks and refreshments provided by the Parish Council.



Tesco store in campaign to help foodbank

AS FOODBANKS continue to support high levels of people facing hunger and hardship this winter, Redditch Foodbank is urging shoppers to donate to this year's Tesco Winter Food Collection.

From yesterday (Thursday) until tomorrow (Saturday November 29), customers at Tesco Extra in Oakenshaw will be encouraged to pick up an extra item or two as part of their weekly shop to drop into special donation trolleys on the way out of store.

Last year, more than 2.9million emergency food parcels were distributed by foodbanks in Trussell's community, a 51 per cent increase over the past five years.

Anyone who makes a donation at the Tesco Winter Food Collection, will be helping ensure Redditch

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

Foodbank can continue to provide warm, compassionate, practical support and advice this winter.

Customers are being asked to donate essential items of long life food such as tinned meat, long life milk, tinned fruit, microwave rice, mashed potato, and jams.

Emma Marshall, manager of Redditch Foodbank, is urging local people across the borough to give generously.

She said: "This winter is going to be difficult for many families in Redditch who are having to choose between heating and eating."

"Your donation will be put to good use, helping others across our town."

"Having struggled financially myself in the past I know first hand how impor-

tant having access to food is.

"Thank you to Tesco and the generosity of its customers, it's only due to your help and support that we will be able to continue to ensure no-one need go hungry this winter."

"Please give what you can, your support means everything"

Trussell, which supports more than 1,400 food banks across the UK, including Redditch Foodbank, says that last year 567,000 people accessed a foodbank in the Trussell community for the first time.

The foodbank says at the heart of its work is creating space to offer a cup of tea and a chat alongside providing practical support.

As the need for support increases, finding the physical space and time to do this is becoming harder and harder.



Jake Butler receives his award from Professor David Green, the University of Worcester's Vice Chancellor. s

Law student earns scholarship award

A LAW student from Redditch has been rewarded for his success before arriving at university with an Academic Scholarship award.

Jake Butler was allocated £1,000 by the University of Worcester for academic excellence during his time studying at Heart of Worcestershire College.

Jake said: "This prize will help massively. With the cost of living being such a huge struggle for most people, moments like these really do offer some relief. The money will go towards purchasing the resources I need for my

studies, but with the festive season around the corner, some will be used for celebrating with friends and family."

Jake said his family was delighted to hear about his success.

He added: "It was as much a shock to them as it was to me. They were extremely happy."

"As a mature student my spare time between work and studying is quite limited, so they were very much in the dark about how my studies were going."

Prof Sally Moyle, deputy vice chancellor at the uni-

versity, said: "We are incredibly proud of the students who have received academic scholarships."

The scholarships are funded by generous philanthropists, including the university's distinguished Honorary Fellows, local employers and many successful graduates.

University staff have also been raising funds for scholarship and hardship support as part of its two-year Anniversaries Campaign, which marks 20 years since gaining full university status in 2005 and 80 years since its founding as an emergency teacher training college.

News & sport online: www.redditchstandard.co.uk

OFTEN IMITATED BUT NEVER EQUALLED

While all costs are going up - OURS ARE STAYING DOWN

Due to our customer friendly services of No Door Salesmen, No Showroom and little overheads

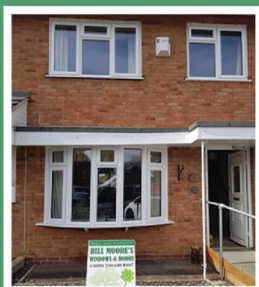


NEW FLUSH WINDOWS

BEAUTIFUL COMPOSITE DOORS
Fully fitted
Competitive Prices



UPTO 30% OFF ALL WINDOWS



ALL PRODUCTS HAVE A 10 YEAR INSURANCE BACKED WARRANTY

BILL MOORE'S WINDOWS AND DOORS
A NAME YOU CAN TRUST

1 Brookside Close, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire CV37 9PL

01789 415171 • 07729 689239 • www.billmooreswindowsanddoors.co.uk



Every day in December, a single bus journey will cost no more than £1 on any route across Worcestershire.

Whether you're dashing into town for last minute gifts, visiting loved ones, or travelling to work, let the bus take you there for less this festive season.



www.worcestershire.gov.uk

 **worcestershire**
county council

SUPERVALUE FURNITURE & BED CENTRE BLACK FRIDAY SALE NOW ON

Who Are We?

OVER 35 YEARS OF LOCAL SERVICE - Caring for Droitwich homes with comfort, quality, and a personal touch

COMMITTED TO "COMFORT FOR EVERY CUSTOMER" - Supportive, stylish, and affordable mobility furniture from trusted British brands.

FAMILY-RUN, FRIENDLY ADVICE - Guiding you to the perfect Rise & Recline Chair or Adjustable Bed for your home.

MORE THAN FURNITURE - helping make life at home easier, more comfortable, and more enjoyable for you and your loved ones.



FREE ARM CAPS WITH EVERY FABRIC ORDER



Riser Recliner Chairs

Enjoy comfort, support, and style with our wide range of quality recliner chairs and matching sofas.

- Choose from a huge selection of fabrics, leathers, and colours
- Find sizes to suit your home and personal comfort
- Take advantage of excellent Pre- and After-Sales Service
- Enjoy discounted prices & VAT exemption available

Adjustable Beds

Experience effortless comfort and independence with our range of adjustable beds - designed for quality sleep and everyday ease.

- Simple, one-touch control
- Available in Single, Double, and Dual models
- Fantastic fabric and headboard options
- Discounted prices & VAT exemption available



Why Choose Us?

FRIENDLY, PERSONAL SERVICE - offering honest advice and personal attention you can trust.

QUALITY PRODUCTS FOR COMFORT & STYLE - Furniture, beds, and mobility items chosen for quality and lasting comfort.

TRUSTED & RELIABLE - Built on honesty, value, and a reputation you can rely on.

FAST, HASSLE-FREE DELIVERY - Delivery often within 24 hours, with free setup and installation.

PROUD BRITISH BRANDS - Supplying trusted names like Celebrity, Sherborne, Highgrove, and Adjust-A-Bed.

WE COME TO YOU - Home visits available by appointment - we bring our service to your door.

"Another Great Experience - Fantastic Service starting in the Showroom, right through to delivery and installation. Five Star Service! Fantastic Products!"
(L.H. Sept 2025)



"Fabulous Products. Lovely and Helpful Staff and Good prices - what more could you ask for!"
(CB August 2025)



"First Class Service again. Very reasonable prices for good quality furniture. Quick delivery. Very Helpful and Friendly Staff. Highly Recommend them!"
(MQ July 2025)



Free parking | Free local Delivery, Installation & Disposal Available | Family-run for over 35 years

Open 7 days! Monday to Saturday 9:00am – 5:30pm | Sundays 10:30am – 4:30pm



01905 796507 | info@svfonline.co.uk
21-29 HIGH STREET, DROITWICH SPA WR9 8EJ

SUPERVALUE FURNITURE & BED CENTRE BLACK FRIDAY SALE NOW ON

LARGE RANGE OF SUITES, SOFAS & CHAIRS UP TO 50% OFF TO CLEAR

HYPNOS AUTUMN SALE
KING SIZE MATTRESS FOR THE PRICE OF A DOUBLE



LARGE RANGE OF MODELS IN STORE



IN STOCK FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY

Sleeppeeze Super King for the price of a King King for the price of a Double 5% discount on a Double



Applies to mattress only purchase, mattress and divan purchases and mattress, divan and headboard purchases

MODELS IN STORE



LUXURIOUS HANDCRAFTED BESPOKE BEDS & MATTRESSES

FREE ARMCHAIRS WITH EVERY FABRIC ORDER



CELEBRITY

DUAL MOTOR / CLOUD ZERO RISER RECLINERS AVAILABLE IN 3 SIZES



RANGES OF OAK BEDROOM FURNITURE IN STORE

LAZBOY Live life comfortably



LARGE RANGE OF MODELS IN STORE

HIGHGROVE



4'0" / 4'6" DIVAN SET PACKAGE DEALS FROM £399

Silentnight snooze more, spend less.

save up to **20%** on selected Silentnight beds, mattresses & headboards

black friday deals



MASSIVE 20% OFF ALL SILENTNIGHT BEDS, MATTRESSES & HEADBOARDS LIMITED PERIOD

SALE £4495 NOW £995



UK MADE CORNER GROUP, MANAGERS SPECIAL WAS £4495 NOW £995 !! LIMITED STOCK

FROM **£495** OFROM **£399**



RISER RECLINERS LARGE RANGE IN STORE

MADE IN THE UK



NEW GPLAN MODELS INSTORE

Harrison Spinks The True Bedmakers



NEW RANGE NOW IN STORE

LAZBOY Live life comfortably



MORE LAZBOY MODELS IN STORE



LUXURY SOFA BEDS IN STORE



NEW MANGO LIVING ROOM RANGE IN STORE



BEDROOM RANGE AVAILABLE IN GREY MIST OR WHITE WITH SOLID OAK LIGHT TOPS



OAK LIVING ROOM/DINING ROOM RANGE



BESPOKE UK MADE SUITES, SOFAS & CHAIRS INSTORE

MADE IN THE UK



CUSTOM SIZES AVAILABLE TO ORDER

MADE IN THE UK



UK MADE FULLY ASSEMBLED BEDROOM RANGES

EX SHOWROOM DISPLAY BED MODELS, SAVE UP TO 50% OFF TO CLEAR



Free parking | Free local Delivery, Installation & Disposal Available | Family-run for over 35 years

Open 7 days! Monday to Saturday 9:00am – 5:30pm | Sundays 10:30am – 4:30pm



01905 796507 | info@svfonline.co.uk
21-29 HIGH STREET, DROITWICH SPA WR9 8EJ

Share opinions on spending

RESIDENTS across Redditch and Bromsgrove are being invited to tell the borough and district councils about the services which are important to them as part of the budget setting process for the year ahead.

In this latest round of budget consultation, Redditch Borough Council wants to know how important its three priorities - economy and regeneration, green, clean and safe area and community and housing - are to residents and which other areas it should invest in.

As well as the survey being available online, with paper copies available in the library and customer services centre, a focus group will also be held from 6pm until 8pm on December 10.

People can email: r.green@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk and put 'Redditch Budget Focus Group' in the subject line to register their interest for the session.

Coun Harvey added: "We want our residents to be involved in how their money works for them so are reaching out to as many people as possible. Please take a few minutes to take part."

Bromsgrove residents are being asked to comment on economic development (including supporting businesses, skills and town and district centres), environment (such as waste and recycling, biodiversity and wildlife, air quality and climate change mitigation), housing and infrastructure - the latter includes delivering the Local Plan, parks and open spaces and active travel.

The survey is available online, with paper copies available in the library and customer services centre from this week.

A budget focus group takes place from 7pm until 8.30pm on December 11.

Residents can email r.green@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk and put 'Bromsgrove Budget Focus Group' in the subject line to register their interest for the session.

The Redditch budget survey is available at www.redditchbc.gov.uk/budgetsurvey and runs until December 29 and the Bromsgrove survey is available at bromsgrove.gov.uk/council/strategy/consultations/bromsgrove-budget-consultation-2026-2027/ and runs until January 2 2026.

Goal is to keep up help for community

THE charitable arm of Alvechurch Football Club - the Alvechurch Foundation - values its social impact on the village and surrounding areas at £2.9million.

Founded in 2022 by a group of football enthusiasts, the Foundation runs a number of programmes which support players from as young as five years old to over-65s.

The Foundation quantified its social value through a number of different metrics including volunteer hours (£1.1m), player wellbeing value (180k) and hours of social interaction (£145k).

Alvechurch's sporting director, Mark Fogarty, said: "We are absolutely delighted to be able to show the impact our work in the community has achieved.

"To provide clarity, this is in relation to the Foundation only.

"We haven't taken into account the men's first team at Lye Meadow or the women's team or indeed our facility at the Hayes which are integral to the whole club.

"We have in excess of 50 junior teams which includes a large disability session plus the mental health provision.

"Walking football is also included, as is our 46-player strong full-time football and education programme for male and female 16 to 19-year-old players.

"Allied to this is our work with our partner 'Birmingham Pathfinder' - a collaborative programme supporting children and families facing adversity.

"We are doing a lot of work in local schools with the sessions run by some of our men's first team players.



The Alvechurch Foundation has over 100 adult players. Picture courtesy of the Alvechurch Foundation.

"We have many funded projects on the go which include, female-only sessions and work on the Hawkesley estate which is in one of the 'left behind communities' in the UK and several projects involving disability.

"We are very proud of this achievement."

Some 296 volunteers and paid staff look after the Foundation's 106 adult

players and 532 youth players. And a total of 7,386 people participate in the Foundation's various community programmes.

The Foundation calculates this generates £1.7million of total economic value for the local area.

This includes total wellbeing value (£974k), total health value (202k) and total social value (£24k).



The New Ocean Hotel WESTON-SUPER-MARE

Winter Offers up to 20% Off

Turkey & Tinsel Holidays

All Holidays Include

All include Breakfast, Evening Meal, Themed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Years Eve, FREE BAR 6pm-10pm, Live Festive Entertainment, Optional Coach Travel & Visit from Santa.

Monday 1st December - Friday 5th December	Was £335	NOW £275pp
Friday 5th December - Monday 8th December	Was £295	NOW £249pp
Monday 8th December - Friday 12th December	Was £335	NOW £275pp
Friday 12th December - Monday 15th December	Was £295	NOW £249pp
Monday 15th December - Friday 19th December	Was £335	NOW £251pp

2026 Winter Warmers

All Holidays Include

All include Breakfast, Evening Meal, Live Nightly Entertainment, Optional Coach Travel (Weekends also include FREE BAR 6pm-10pm)

Five Day Holidays

Monday 26th January - Friday 30th January	Was £239	NOW £199pp
Monday 2nd February - Friday 6th February	Was £239	NOW £199pp
Monday 9th February - Friday 13th February	Was £249	NOW £204pp

Four Day Holidays With Free Bar 6pm-10pm

Friday 30th January - Monday 2nd February	Was £235	NOW £199pp
Friday 6th February - Monday 9th February	Was £249	NOW £204pp
Friday 27th February - Monday 2nd March	Was £259	NOW £219pp



To book or for further information please call us on

01934 621 839 or 01934 621 829 • www.newoceanhotel.co.uk

**CHRISTMAS JUST ISN'T CHRISTMAS WITHOUT
A TRIP TO THE PALACE PANTO!**



PHA
paul holman associates

PAUL HOLMAN ASSOCIATES PRESENT

**Children's TV Legend
& Masterchef
DAVE BENSON PHILLIPS**

**Emmerdale &
Coronation Street
BILL WARD**

**SIMON
BASHFORD**

**Britain's Got Talent
TONY RUDD**



Aladdin

**THE MAGICAL
PANTOMIME ADVENTURE**

INDIYA PAYNE

NIALL GRAY

LAURA-DENE PERRYMAN

Director JEREMY TUSTIN Choreographer JORDAN LANGFORD



**PALACE
THEATRE**

8 DEC '25 - 4 JAN '26

BOX OFFICE 01527 65203

REDDITCHPALACETHEATRE.CO.UK

SCAN FOR
TICKETS



**Festive fun for all the family!
HURRY TICKETS SELLING FAST!**



Remember lost loved ones on this year's Mortons Tree of Light in Northfield. s

CHANCE TO REMEMBER: MORTONS is inviting members of the community to write their memorial stars for the annual Tree of Light.

Sessions for people to write the stars will take place at the funeral directors' in Northfield from 4.30pm to 7.30pm on Tuesday, December 2, and between 10am and 4pm next Saturday, December 6.

The stars will then be hung on the illuminated tree outside Mortons in Northfield.

Mortons' annual Tree of Light Memorial Service, an online service that brings families together in a shared moment of reflection at this meaningful time of year, will be available to watch online from Sunday, December 14.

The service is open to everyone and not only to those Mortons has cared for in the past - it will include reflections from the Mortons team, contributions from clergy and a civil celebrant, performances from a local choir and traditional Christmas carols performed by The Salvation

Army Band.

While there is no charge to place a star, the Tree of Light Memorial Service supports Birmingham Mind and Mortons will also make a donation to the Salvation Army, Droitwich Corps, in recognition of their contribution to the service.

Sarah Case, the managing director of Mortons Funeral Directors, said: "Christmas can be a difficult time for anyone who has experienced loss, no matter how much time has passed.

"We hope by writing a star, and the service itself, offer families an opportunity to come together to reflect and celebrate the lives of those they have loved and lost."

Anyone unable to attend in person can submit their memorial messages online by visiting: mortonstreeoflight.co.uk - the Tree of Light website where the service will be available to view from December 14.

Every message is carefully handwritten by a member of the Mortons team.

Blueprint aims to improve council services

AN AMBITIOUS blueprint to radically overhaul and improve council services for residents, businesses and visitors across Worcestershire was approved by Wychavon District Council last Wednesday.

Councillors overwhelmingly backed submitting the "Transforming Worcestershire Plan" as Wychavon's preferred local government reorganisation proposal which would see two new unitary councils created covering north and south, each separately running all services in its area.

The plan follows this summer's Shape Worcestershire consultation, which revealed people wanted their local council to continue to focus on local needs, remain close to communities and be responsive.

Overall, 62.5 per cent of people who expressed a preferred option for local government reorganisation during the engagement backed the two council plan with 57 per cent of Wychavon residents supporting the South Worcestershire Council option.

Wychavon District Council leader, Coun Richard Morris, said: "As the Government is imposing this change, it is our duty to ensure we get the right outcome for our residents.

"During the extensive public engagement the district councils carried out, people were clear they felt one Worcestershire Council would be too large, remote, bureaucratic, risk inefficiency and lead to weaker community engagement.

"They also told us the two-council model would be the least disruptive, more reflective

of local identities and priorities and allow for collaboration on countywide services while delivering more effectively at a local level.

"We've listened to that feedback and developed a proposal that works for people, is powered by place and is built for the future."

Changes will be delivered through several measures, including shifting public services from crisis response to a prevention-focused approach and providing young people with better access to skills and jobs.

Both new councils would collaborate where it made sense on parts of adult social care and children's services but deliver separately on key services focusing on local needs.

The plan is estimated to create about £9million of ongoing savings a year and, although less than the estimated £21million-a-year under the alternative one council option being put forward by Worcestershire County Council and Wyre Forest District Council, the transformation of services could deliver extra savings over time and be more sustainable.

Plans for local government reorganisation in Worcestershire were jointly developed by Bromsgrove, Wychavon and Malvern Hills District, Worcester City, and Redditch Borough councils.

After submission, the Government will hold a formal consultation on the proposals in the new year with a final decision expected by July 2026.

Visit wychavon.gov.uk/lgr to read proposal in full.

Redditch Cat Rescue

Invites you to our
Christmas Fayre
At Beoley Village Hall
Near Redditch, B98 9AN

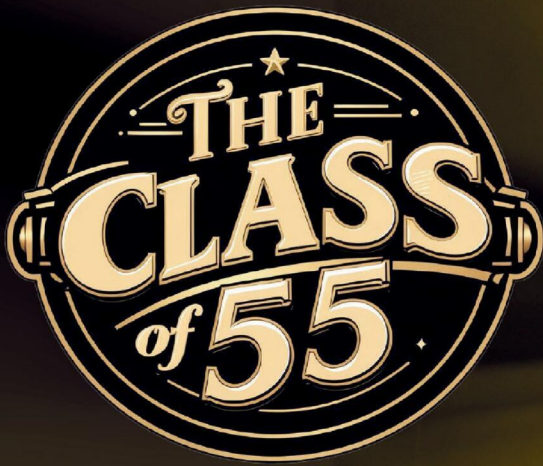
Sunday 7th December 2025
12.00 – 3.00pm

Entrance: a donation of cat food!
Tombola, Raffle, Homemade Cakes,
Bottle Stall, Gifts,
Tea and coffee shop,
Lots of Christmas Bargains!

Come and support your local rescue centre

www.redditchcatrescue.co.uk
Charity Number 1163874

Very Reasonably Priced Christmas Gifts Available !!



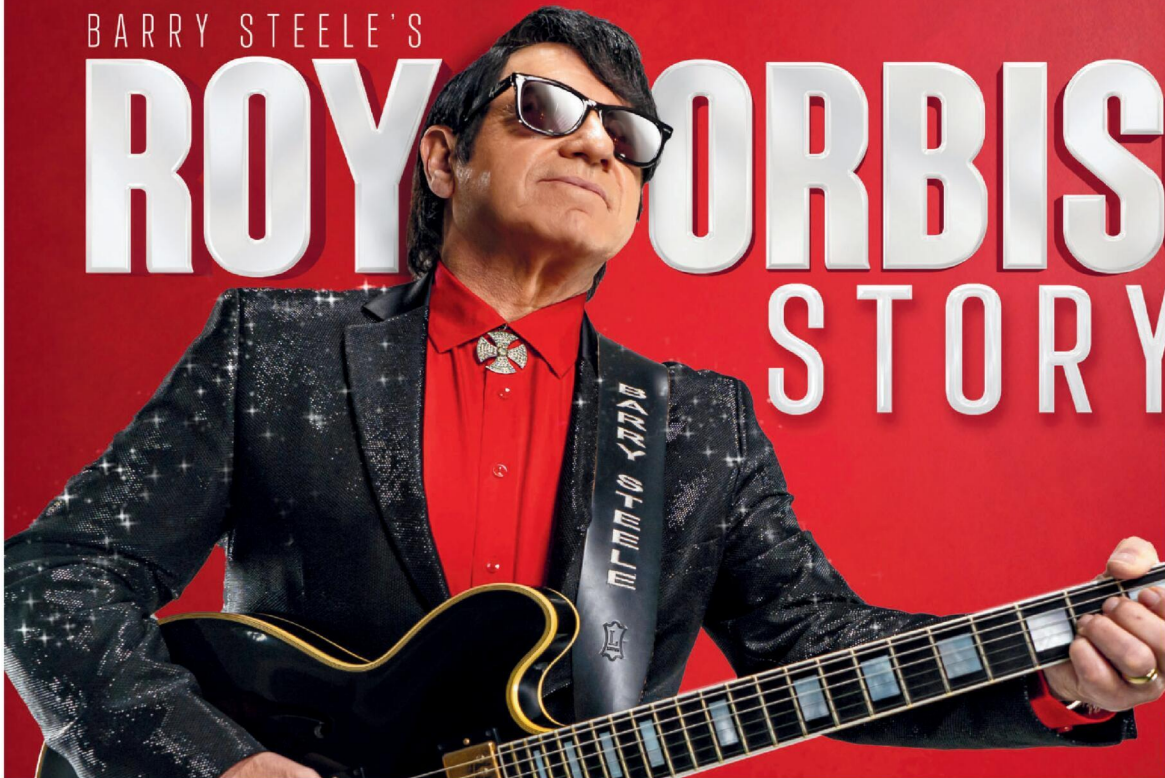
A ROCK N ROLL REWIND - 100% LIVE - WITH BIG SCREEN, LIVE BAND & TOP TRIBUTES TO BUDDY HOLLY & JERRY LEE LEWIS

THE CORE THEATRE SOLIHULL 29 JAN - 0121 704 6962

STOURPORT CIVIC - 7 FEBRUARY - 01299 823339

BARRY STEELE'S

ROY ORBISON STORY



SCAN ME

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre - 4 Feb - 01902 42 92 12
 lmsworldwide.org - "Feel-Good Hits, First-Class Fun!"



LEFT: University Energy Centre manager Chris Gell with Year 4 pupils Noah, Harry, Paige and Layla with one of the hydrogen-powered minicabs.



RIGHT: Year 4 pupils Sophia and Layla with just some of the treats created in the hydrogen kitchen.

Hydrogen park wows youngsters

YOUNGSTERS from Redditch got a glimpse of tomorrow's world today when they visited the Birmingham Hydrogen Energy Park in Tyseley.

by Ross Crawford

and dangerous exhaust fumes, but pure clean water.

Not only that but the pupils from Woodrow First School also discovered it was the most abundant chemical element in the universe.

The park, run by the University of Birmingham and backed by 17 partners Europe-wide, is a dedicated research and development centre but through its Hydrogen Academy, aims to father education on the new technology.

The youngsters were there as part of their year-long enrichment lessons in a visit organised by The Bertz Associates.

Hydrogen is a clean fuel which, when used in a fuel cell, not only produces energy efficiently but has a by-product not of smelly

This term they have been tasked with investigating a clean, green energy on a fictional tropical island after the existing

power source - solar panels - are destroyed in a storm.

Led by university scientist Jon Wood, an Outreach Fellow in Chemical Engineering, they discovered just how hydrogen works in a fuel cell, powering everything from lights bulbs to car engines.

They got to grips with hydrogen cabs and cars and saw one of Birmingham's hydrogen-powered buses. They also got cooking in a hydrogen gas-powered kitchen.

In a working laboratory, the pupils learnt how artificial intelligence was 'taught' to machines, came face to face with giant

robots that could pick up the equivalent of eight people at a time, and gazed awestruck at an artificial tree which enables scientists to measure its take up of carbon dioxide and in turn how much oxygen is released back into the atmosphere.

Jon added: "We really hope to inspire these children to consider chemical engineering or something similar in the future having careers in something that maybe their parents did not have the opportunity to do."

Science fiction? Well, Earth moving giant JCB, in collabora-

tion with the Energy Park, has developed its own hydrogen-powered motor by modifying a diesel engine, which produces not fumes, but water out of its exhaust.

Japanese giant Kawasaki is developing a hydrogen-powered motorbike and in Europe the technology is expected to create tens of thousands of clean energy jobs.

And the verdict from the children? "It's been the best day ever" said one, while another added: "We have learnt so much, it has been great."

INTERNATIONAL METALS & CABLE RECYCLING LTD

We purchase all Ferrous and Non Ferrous Metal Batteries and Cables

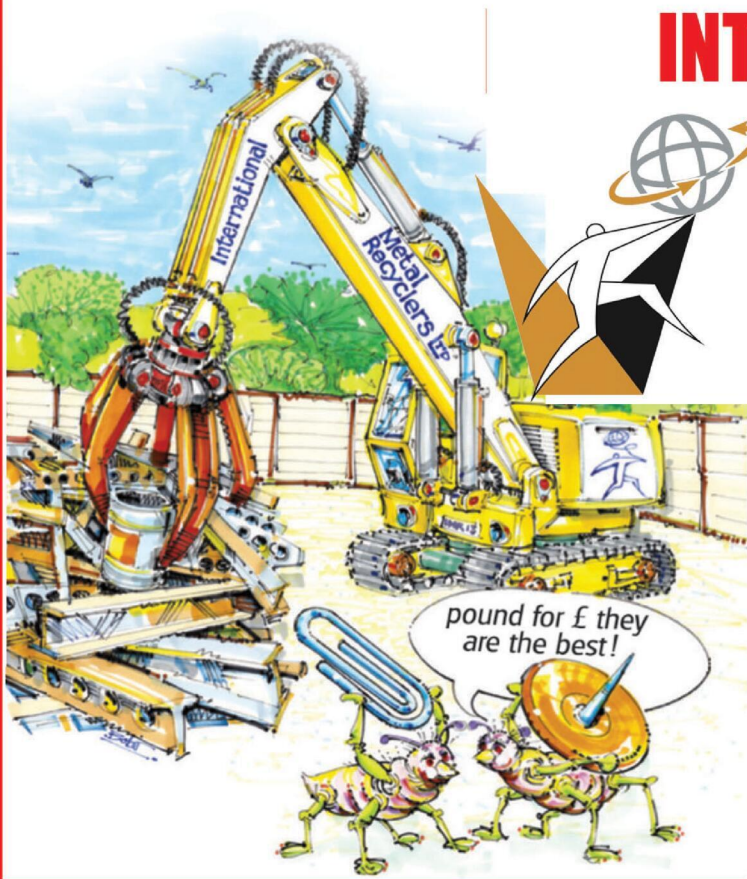
Collection Service Available

Long Marston Road, Long Marston, Stratford Upon Avon, Warwickshire, CV37 8AQ

01789 721 288

david@imrltd.co.uk

Open Mon/Fri - 8am - 5pm





**GREAT ALNE
PARK**

Inspired in Warwickshire

“It’s like a *holiday* that never ends”

Bob, Inspired Villages Resident

This Christmas, experience retirement the Great Alne Park way – where every day feels like a getaway.

Enjoy beautiful homes, exceptional facilities, and a welcoming community with clubs, activities and spaces to connect, relax and explore at your own pace.

Because here, life doesn’t slow down – it just gets better.

Ready to move? Call us to find out more

One and two-bedroom apartments and cottages available from £357,500

01789 868 164 | grealnepark.co.uk

Henley Road, Alcester, Warwickshire, B49 6HX



Councils back two-authority split in government shake-up

THE PROPOSAL to create a north unitary council to run services, alongside another for the south of Worcestershire, has been backed by Redditch and Bromsgrove councillors.

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

Members voted overwhelmingly in favour at both their respective full council meetings of submitting the document over future governance to the Government. It needed to be submitted by today (Friday, November 28).

The 158-page document has been put together in collaboration with Bromsgrove District, Malvern Hills District, Wychavon District, and Worcester City coun-

cils, which will also be taking it to their chambers over the next couple of weeks, and consultants KPMG and Mutual Ventures.

It sets out a two-council proposal for Worcestershire – the areas of Bromsgrove, Redditch and Wyre Forest to the north, and Malvern, Worcester and Wychavon in the south.

Some services, like elements of social care, will be run across the whole two-council area.

It is designed to avoid significant service disruption whilst delivering transformational

change based on the needs of local people.

Redditch Borough Council was the first of the five collaborating authorities to vote on the proposal, followed by Bromsgrove.

Redditch Council leader Coun Sharon Harvey said: "All five of the councils have worked really well together to develop this exciting shared vision which puts our residents at its heart.

"We have come together through true collaboration to demonstrate to government why two unitary councils is right for Worcestershire, in order to ensure we meet the needs of our communities."

The proposal has been com-

pleted in response to the government's requirement for Local Government Reorganisation, that is due to bring in major changes to local councils from April 2028.

Bromsgrove District Council leader, Coun Karen May, said: "We have not only engaged with our communities on how they see the future of Worcestershire, but we listened and so created this proposal for north and south unitary councils to operate in our county.

The final submission comes after the five authorities considered an objective, evidence-based appraisal, which explored factors including costs, population distri-

bution, economy democracy, and local identity, back in September.

It has been developed following June's 'Shape Worcestershire' public engagement exercise, when 62.5 per cent of respondents who stated a preference favouring a two-council model.

In response, the five councils agreed to work together to submit a proposal based on that option.

A separate alternative proposal, which would create a single unitary council for the whole of Worcestershire, is also due to be submitted to the government by the supporters of that particular model – Worcestershire County Council and Wyre Forest District Council.



Final vinyl record fair of the year

THE final Bromsgrove vinyl record fair of 2025 will take place this Sunday (November 30).

The event will run from 9am to 3pm at the Bromsgrove Hotel and Spa.

There will be a selection of more than 20 traders across 50 tables, selling thousands of new and used vinyl records on

the day. Whether people are looking for 90s Brit Pop, 80s pop classics, classic rock, punk, 2000s collectables, reggae, hip hop, dance, soul, rock 'n' roll or new vinyl, there will be something for everyone with most genres for sale.

There is free on-site car parking when registering inside the hotel and there

is also a cafe and restaurant on site.

Call Ben on 07832 247109 or 01527 873014 for more information.

Alternatively, visit the website at midlandsrecordfairs.co.uk for further details.

The final vinyl record fair of 2025 will take place this Sunday, November 30. s



Direct Floors
Home service

Carpets | Vinyls | Laminates | Wood

Shop at home for your new carpet and flooring and receive up to 30% off shop prices. We are COVID SAFE with 1,000's to choose from with our mobile showroom!

- ◆ Mobile showroom to your home
- ◆ 1000's Samples to your door
- ◆ Fully qualified insured fitters
- ◆ Family run business since 1999
- ◆ Furniture moved & carpets uplifted for OAP'S & disabled free of charge



Find us on **facebook**




Happy to help!

Call 7 days a week 8am-9pm
01527-894777
www.direct-floors.co.uk



ROWBERRYS

The Growing Nursery, Farm Shop, Butchery, Deli and Restaurant

Christmas @ Rowberrys

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

Mon-Wed: 8.30am-5.00pm

Thurs-Sat: 8.30am-5.30pm

Sunday: 8.30am-4.30pm

Lower Chaddesley Corbett,
Kidderminster DY10 4QN

Tel: **01562 777 003**

Home-Grown Poinsettia's
£5.99 each or 2 for £10



Home-Grown Cyclamen
XL £4.99 each,
mini £2.49 each or 5 for £10



Visit us for all your essentials this Christmas! More choice than ever before in our deli, farm shop and giftware ranges.
Bespoke hampers, cards and sweet treats all under one roof!



MORE CHOICE THAN EVER BEFORE!

Rowberrys Farm Butchery

Now taking orders for Christmas. English beef, English Lamb & Pork. Farm reared classic white Turkeys from a 2nd generation farm in the Theme Valley.

All enquiries via telephone or in store.

Our Farm Shop & Deli

Now taking orders for Christmas for pork pies, samosas, scotch eggs, sausage rolls and all the savoury treats you could want for. Cheese hampers & orders also taken



Have you visited our new **Chocolate Counter?**

Over 45 hand finished Belgian chocolates including vegan, vegetarian and reduced sugar.



Premium low needle drop Nordman Christmas Trees.



Quality hand made Holly Wreaths.



Over 30 years experience
Prices start at £8.99

HOME GROWN QUALITY POTATOES
PRICES FROM
£7.99 FOR 25KG



Panto's a real treat... oh yes, it is!

REVIEW

THERE was plenty of family-friendly entertainment (and a sack-load of jokes for the adults) when Jigsaw Players staged its annual panto Dick Whittington at the Trinity Centre in Lickey.

The story centres on Dick who heads to London to find fame and fortune but his plans – and the livelihoods of those living there – are in danger of being scuppered by the evil King Rat.

Accompanied by his trusty companion Tommy the cat, Dick battles to ensure good triumphs over evil.

The show had everything you want from a traditional pantomime - colourful costumes, cracking choreography and songs from the ensemble laying the foundations, great corny one-liners and lots of good visual gags.

The cast did a tremendous job across the board.

Maggie Stone was solid as Fairy Bow Bells, ensuring the magic



The Jigsaw Players' Dick Whittington generated lots of laughs at The Trinity Centre in Lickey. s

reached Dick and his friends and, likewise, Keelan Pavitt and Roma Bradley worked well as the hapless Captain Slog and Bosun. Georgia Kesterton was suitably cute as the heroic Tommy the Cat, meowing her way through and conversing with Dick in a feline-variation of Lassie kind of way.

Harrison Daley earned a plethora of boos and hisses every time he entered

the fray as King Rat - probably the suavest suited-and-booted villain in the panto world. He also performed his solo well.

Hannah Price as Dick and Naomi Waldron as Alice Fitzwarren made a lovely pairing the audience took to their hearts straight away and had, arguably, the vocal highlight of the evening with their duet in the first act.

It deservedly led to a massive cheer and rapturous applause.

Glyn Diggett was a commanding Alderman Fitzwarren as he strutted across the stage and his solo in the second half was also among the musical highlights – he hit every note. He also showed his comedic side when the chance presented itself.

Talking of comedy, Libby Barrett

was excellent as Idle Jack. She got plenty of laughs throughout with perfectly delivered one-liners – this was epitomised in the shop scene when various villagers rocked up to buy different items.

There were many humorous scenes in this fantastic production, including one centring on the football pools, the cake-making scene (for the slapstick fans out there) and the pick of them - the 'If I Were Not on Board this Ship' song. That featured six of the principals all singing their own lines and performing their own actions simultaneously while avoiding 'taking each other out'. It would have taken a lot of concentration and certainly generated lots of laughter and applause.

The performance of the night went to Stephen Levett as dame Sarah Stewpot – he/she had a magnificent stage presence – the bulk of the (mostly adult) jokes were brilliantly delivered the audience were in the palm of his/her hand. Levett led from the front and you could tell he/she enjoyed every minute.

Tristan Harris

The Palace Theatre is staging Aladdin.



Aladdin makes wishes come true at Palace

THE Palace Theatre is granting wishes this Christmas as this year's panto takes centre stage.

PHA Associates in conjunction with the Palace Theatre is staging Aladdin.

Coronation Street and Emmerdale Star, Bill Ward, is featuring as the panto villain Abanazar, starring opposite Children's TV

Legend Dave Benson Phillips as The Emperor, and BGT Star and Comedy Impressionist, Tony Rudd as Wishee Washee.

Experienced panto dame, Simon Bashford, will be treading the boards at the Palace for the very first time as Widow Twankey, whilst Indiya Payne joins as the Spirit of the Ring, Laura, Dene

Perryman as the Princess and Niall Gray as the hero, Aladdin.

Tickets range from £17 to £36, including a £2 booking fee. The show starts its run at 10am on December 8 and finishes on January 4 2026.

Visit redditchpalacetheatre.co.uk/whats-on/all-shows/aladdin-pantomime-2526 for more details.

Tis the Season for Adventures

JOHNSONS

Part of the Coach Travel Group

SPARKLING MARKETS... SHORT ESCAPES... MAGICAL HOLIDAYS... ENTERTAINMENT & MORE

Claim your FREE Festive Brochure today!

The most magical time of the year is nearly here... It's time to discover **Johnsons Coaches'** top departures and start planning your fabulous festive escape!

• **FESTIVE DAY TRIPS** - Our day trips are the perfect way to create cherished memories with friends and family.

• **FESTIVE BREAKS** - Looking for a festive getaway that's not too far? Christmas Markets, Stately Homes, Seasonal Entertainment. Try a short escape with big festive cheer!

• **FESTIVE HOLIDAYS** - Our fabulous coach holidays include door-to-door pickups, cosy hotels, delicious dinners, and all the seasonal highlights, full with festive sparkle.

TRAVEL WITH JOHNSONS - TRAVEL WITH FRIENDS

BOOKING YOUR TRIP IS SIMPLE

Choose your festive favourites from our **NEW BROCHURE** and secure your spot today



CALL

01564 510 027

www.johnsonskoaches.co.uk

JOHNSONS

Part of the Coach Travel Group



Coach Holidays • Day Trips • Cruises • City Breaks • Theatre Trips • Attractions • Coach Hire & More!

AUTUMN SALE

01789 299446
www.carpetwise.net

PLUS SAVE up to an EXTRA £200 T&Cs apply*

MUST END 29th NOVEMBER '25

CLEARANCE SUITES AVAILABLE
For quick delivery

RELAX IN COMFORT

Amtico First

15 YEAR WARRANTY

FREE estimating & quotations
EXPERIENCED flooring fitters

GREAT BRITISH FURNITURE

BIG SAVINGS on corner and chaise sofas

PLUS SAVE up to £200

THERE'S MORE RANGES FOR LESS
across all our departments

Stock Carpets more than 50% off

10 YEAR WARRANTY

EASY CLEAN CARPET

MADE TO MEASURE
Curtains, Blinds & Soft Furnishings

SAVE up to £200 on designer fabrics

HYPNOS

Interest free finance now available

Ask a member of the team for details

FANTASTIC SAVINGS
Ask about our KING for the price of a DOUBLE

EXTRA SAVINGS on selected ranges

0% APR

CARPETWISE
CURTAINWISE · FURNITUREWISE

2-4 Wharf Road
Stratford upon Avon
CV37 0AD

Visit our Showroom:
Monday - Saturday 9.00 - 17.00

FREE Parking right outside

*For Extra Discount Terms & Conditions, please visit:
www.carpetwise.net/extra-discount-october-2025



Rebekah Thacker and Mayor of Redditch, Coun Joanna Kane, at Saturday's recital. s

Bel Canto set to sing the festive spirit



A CONCERT was held by The Bel Canto Singers to celebrate the group's 35th anniversary and members are now tuning up ready for its Christmas event.

The four-part harmony choir from Redditch held its celebratory concert in September which was expertly led by new musical director Ollie Neale.

The evening featured music to showcase the group's full range of musical genres - from the choral piece, Ave Verum Corpus and tributes to The Everley Brothers and Neil Young to a rousing medley from Phantom of the Opera and much more.

The 200 strong audience was also treated to some amazing solos from The Bel Canto pianist, Wendy Quirk and her husband John.

The concert was held in Routh Hall, Bromsgrove School which was a beautiful venue and made for a joyous occasion celebrating the milestone anniversary.

Next Saturday, December 6, Bel Canto will be holding its Christmas Concert in All Saints Church Bromsgrove.

As usual there will be a wide variety of Christmas music, something

for everyone and a chance to sing along with the choir.

Tickets will be £10 each, including a glass of wine or a soft drink and a seasonal mince pie.

Tickets can be obtained from any choir member, by contacting the choir via its website: belcantosingers.org.uk or by calling 07985 238334.

The choir will guarantee attendees a wonderful pre-Christmas evening of delights and would love to see as many people as possible there.

Each year the choir nominates a chosen charity to support, which it feels is very important and the charity nominated for support in 2024/25 was Redditch Find Your Voice, Parkinsons UK - an activity group helping Parkinsons sufferers to improve their vocal skills in a relaxed friendly environment.

Bel Canto was able to present them with a cheque for £650.

This coming year, 2025/26, the choir will be supporting Where Next, a Redditch based charity providing work experience for people with learning disabilities.

All of the choir's performances, including the 35th anniversary concert, can also be heard on the Bel Canto website.

KEY PERFORMERS: MUSIC lovers were treated to an afternoon of exquisite piano music which also raised £1,000 towards the refurbishment of the parish hall at Our Lady of Mount Carmel (OLMC) Church.

The event took place on Saturday at St John Fisher and St Thomas More Church in Feckenham.

The church, part of the Parish of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Redditch, was packed full and extra chairs had to be brought in to accommodate the huge audience, which included Redditch Mayor, Coun Joanna Kane.

Local pianist and teacher, Rebekah Thacker, took the audience on a very personal journey through some of her favourite piano music and spoke about her connections to each piece.

The recital included works by Mozart, Schubert, Mendelssohn, Chopin, Debussy and Rachmaninov. Many listeners were moved to tears by Rebekah's beautiful playing and her deep relation-

ship to the music.

Rebekah declared Chopin to be her 'musical hero' and her interpretations of the Chopin pieces were especially memorable.

She finished the concert with a glittering performance of Chopin's fiendishly difficult Fantaisie-Improptu, which was met with rapturous applause and a standing ovation.

The Mayor spoke of her delight at the experience and described how she felt she had been 'transported to another world'.

Rebekah thanked all those who helped organise the concert. These included John Tyrrell who tuned the piano free of charge.

An OLMC Church spokesperson said: "Rebekah is a cherished member of our parish.

"She sings in the church choir and often plays piano in our services.

"We thank her gratefully for her generosity in sharing her wonderful talent for the benefit of our church community."



Lunchtime Specials and Under 60s Menu £10.25

Tuesday to Saturday
12 noon to 5pm

Golden Oldies Only £9.75

Golden Oldies also available
Tuesday to Saturday
12 noon - 5pm

Mid Week Roast on a Thursday £12.25

3 course Sunday Lunch £19.25 - Sunday 12 noon - 4pm

Full Main Menu Tuesday - Saturday 12 noon - 9pm, Sunday 12 noon - 4pm

Evesham Road, Astwood Bank, B96 6AX Tel: 01527 894213

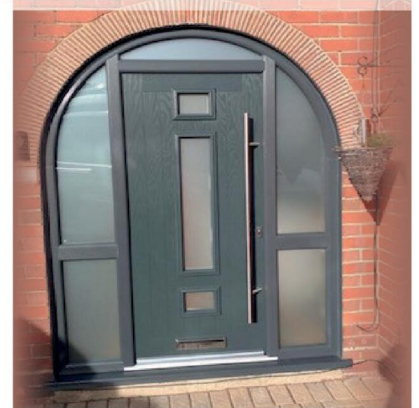


BIRMINGHAM GLASS SERVICES LTD



**FAMILY
RUN
BUSINESS**

**EXPERTISE
BUILT OVER
DECADES**



WE MANUFACTURE & INSTALL

- Flush Casement Windows ***NEW***
- Composite doors
- **Windows:** UPVC casement, bow, bay & shaped
- **Doors:** UPVC sliding, French, bi-fold, patio, aluminium
- Secondary and triple glazing
- Conservatories and bespoke orangeries
- Soffits, fascias and guttering
- Skypods and roof lanterns
- Aluminium windows and doors

WE ALSO PROVIDE A FULL GLAZING SERVICE!

- ✓ Replacements of broken or misted units
- ✓ Window & door repairs
- ✓ Mirrors & glass cut to size
- ✓ In-house trade counter

CALL TODAY FOR A FREE QUOTATION
TEL: 0121 4779799

www.birminghamglass.co.uk | enquiries@birminghamglass.co.uk



Avon ROOFING

PROFESSIONAL RELIABLE TRUSTED

avonroofing6@gmail.com • www.avon-roofing.co.uk

PROFESSIONAL • RELIABLE • TRUSTED

- ◆ New roofs
- ◆ Re-roofs
- ◆ Roof repairs
- ◆ Tiles/slates replaced
- UPVC ROOFLINE PRODUCTS**
- ◆ Fascias
- ◆ Cladding
- ◆ Soffits
- ◆ Guttering
- ◆ Down pipes

15% OFF
when mentioning this advert

- ◆ Flat roof solutions
- ◆ EPDM rubber roofs
- ◆ Chimneys rebuilt
- ◆ Re-pointing
- ◆ Re-bedding
- DRY VERGES**
- DRY RIDGES**
- EAVES PROTECTION SYSTEMS (EPS)**

Commercial roof projects undertaken

Free Quotations - All Work Guaranteed

Call Jake on 07389 844 856 or 01789 507 131 for a free quotation

Find us on Google

Festive effort to help children

THE FEEDING Trust, which is based in Alvechurch, is launching its '12 Days of Christmas Challenge' to support children who struggle to eat.

From Monday, December 1, to December 12, the team from the charity - staff, volunteers and trustees - will take part in the new fundraising drive to raise vital funds for children with complex feeding challenges.

Christmas is a time often associated with celebration and food but for many of the families supported by the Feeding Trust, festive occasions can bring stress, anxiety and isolation.

Children with Paediatric Feeding Disorder (PFD) or developmental feeding differences may find mealtimes frightening, overwhelming or physically difficult, and specialist support is not always available locally.

Each morning during the 12-day campaign, the team will open a 'mystery challenge' door, advent-calendar style, revealing a daily task which highlights one of the many hurdles children and families face during food-centred occasions.

The team will take on each challenge with curiosity and festive spirit while raising awareness of the wide-ranging needs of children with feeding difficulties.

Natalie Raven Morris, the CEO and founder of The Feeding Trust, said: "Many of the families we support travel long distances or face long waits to access the specialist therapy their child needs. "This campaign is an opportunity to increase understanding of what mealtimes can look like for these children, while raising



funds to help us reach more families." Funds raised will help the charity provide specialist feeding therapy for children who struggle to eat, support parents who feel overwhelmed or isolated and give access to highly trained therapists not available in many local areas.

There will also be opportunities for children to participate more fully in mealtimes and celebrations.

Supporters can follow each daily challenge on the charity's social media channels by searching for "The Feeding Trust" on Facebook and Instagram.


Visit: feedingtrust.org for more information on the charity.

Specialist therapists Danni Riley, Nicola Nicolaou and Charlotte Sireshek from the Feeding Trust are looking forward to the start of 'The 12 Days of Christmas'.

MEGA BLACK FRIDAY DEALS

BUY NOW PAY 2026

or 6 months after installation, spread the cost at **19.9% APR REPRESENTATIVE***



LIVING SPACES
Orangeries, Conservatories & Glass Rooms



WINDOWS
Exclusive UPVC & Aluminium Range



FRONT & BACK DOORS
Composite, UPVC, Solid Core & Aluminium



DOORS
French, Patio & Bi-Folding Doors

MIDLANDS' LARGEST SHOWROOMS

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

Kidderminster Showroom
Worcester Road
Kidderminster DY10 1JR
Tel: **01562 814868**

Worcester Showroom
36 Garden Street
Worcester WR1 2AT
Tel: **01905 886930**

5STARWINDOWS.CO.UK



*Credit is subject to application and affordability. Terms and conditions apply. £1000 minimum order value applies to all finance plans, with a maximum loan value of £50,000 and a minimum deposit of £99. £99 deposit option is only applicable to orders up to the value of £5,000 including VAT. Balance can be repaid within 6 months with a £29 exit charge. 5 Star Construction Services Limited, Worcester Road, Kidderminster DY10 1JR (FRN 730066) trading as 5 Star Windows & Conservatories is a credit broker and is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Credit provided by Novuna Personal Finance, a trading style of Mitsubishi HC Capital (UK) PLC, authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (Register no. 704348).



Heading for new places

THE POPULAR Worcestershire On Demand Bus is expanding to more areas, giving more people across the county access to flexible, convenient ways to travel.

From Monday, two brand-new zones launched and one existing zone has expanded, building on the success of the current Worcestershire on Demand services.

A new North Central zone will bring on demand buses to communities including Harvington, Belbroughton, Hagley, Clent, Romsley and Frankley.

A new North Malvern zone has also been introduced, serving areas such as Leigh Sinton, Rushwick, Knightwick, Martley and Hallow.

And the existing Wychavon zone has been extended to include Hanbury, Ombersley and Hartlebury plus others.

To ensure smooth and efficient operations across these areas, the new and expanded zones will operate with journeys capped at 15km - around nine miles - as the crow flies.

Coun Karl Perks, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport at Worcestershire County Council, said: "It's fantastic to see Worcestershire's on-demand bus service going from strength to strength."

"This expansion means even more residents will be able to enjoy flexible, reliable transport that fits around their lives."

"It's another step forward in making sustainable travel an easy and convenient choice for everyone across the county."

To celebrate the launch of the new and expanded zones, travel across all Worcestershire on Demand zones is free between now and Saturday, November 29.

Following this, all journeys will cost £1 throughout December, in line with the ticket scheme running on the fixed route bus network.

A further North West zone will follow in January, predominantly serving the district of Wyre Forest, including Bewdley, Stourport, and Tenbury Wells.

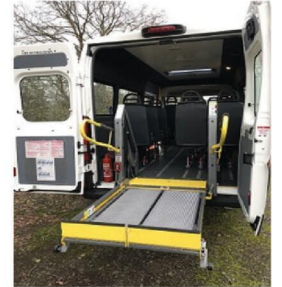
Passengers can book journeys easily through the free Worcestershire on Demand app, available from the Apple App Store and Google Play.

The app guides users to nearby 'virtual bus stops', provides real-time updates, and ensures efficient shared travel.

Visit: worcestershires.gov.uk/WOD for more information, including maps of the new and expanded zones.

The EDDIEbus needs YOU!

Volunteer drivers required



The EDDIEbus is a Bromsgrove based Charity which was established in 1985 and recently celebrated this year 40 years of service.

We are urgently looking for additional volunteer drivers to drive the EDDIEbus.

The EDDIEbus takes groups of elderly people in the Bromsgrove District for days out. The bus can be driven with a normal car driving licence.

For details and more info contact

☎ GEOFF on 07805 400180 or

✉ ROBERT at theeddiebus@gmail.com

🌐 Website theeddiebus.org.uk

Everyday Drives for Disabled Independent and Elderly.

STOKE PRIOR

SPORTS & COUNTRY CLUB

MARKET OPEN 12PM - 6PM



- STALLS
- FOOD VANS
- LIVE MUSIC: CLARE PORTMAN
- CAROLS: GOT TO SING CHOIR
- SANTA ARRIVAL
- CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS SWITCH-ON

FREE ENTRY

HO-HO-HO! DECEMBER FUN FOR EVERYONE



FRIDAY 5TH DECEMBER
FROM 7.30PM

HB9 HB9

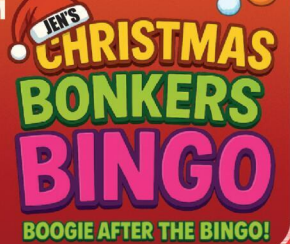
FREE ENTRY



FRIDAY 12TH DECEMBER
EYES DOWN 8PM

17 35 11 70

18+ TICKETS £20



SUNDAY 21ST DECEMBER
2PM - 4PM



Magic Al's
CHRISTMAS SHOW

£6 PER CHILD

FUN | GAMES | WIN PRIZES | SINGING | DANCING

WEDNESDAY 31ST DECEMBER
7.30PM - 1.30AM



DISCO & BUFFET
TICKETS £10

Cheers To
2025!
NYE PARTY NIGHT



FOR TICKETS SCAN QR CODE OR EMAIL
info@stokeprior.club

Stoke Prior Sports & Country Club, Westonhall Road, Stoke Prior, Bromsgrove B60 4AL | stokeprior.club | facebook.com/StokePriorClub/

REDDLIGHT CHRISTMAS SHOP Open To The Public



Home Decor, Ornaments, Noma Indoor/Outdoor Lights & more!
All prices now reduced



ReddiLight

Reddilight are a Manufacturer and Supplier of Fluorescent and LED lighting.

Reddilight Ltd - Front Entrance
Unit 40 Crossgate Road
Park Farm Industrial Estate
B98 7SN

Open 09:30 - 15:30 Monday - Thursday

| 01527 502670

| www.reddilight.co.uk

Group launches to help clean up rivers



RAAR directors Elisabeth Sandbrook and Lauren Matheson, with Councillor Susan Juned, CIC founder Ellie Cooke and Manuela Perteghella MP. Picture by Lise Evans.

MORE than 90 people from Alcester packed out a community centre to attend the launch of a new action group aiming to clean up the rivers Arrow and Alne.

by **Lise Evans**
lise.evans@bullivantmedia.com

Attendees at the Eric Payne Community Centre heard keynote talks from four expert speakers to celebrate the start of the River Arrow and Alne Revival CIC (RAAR), a voluntary group which aims to make local waterways healthier, accessible and more biodiverse.

These were Ed Noyes, from the Wild Trout Trust, Dr Geoff Sallis, founder of the SafeAvon Network, Pershore's Michael Chapman-Pincher, founder of the Sister

Rivers Initiative and anthropologist, Dr Mary Manandhar, of River Hope, which focuses on the water catchments of the Avon, Arrow and Stour.

Stratford MP Manuela Perteghella and district councillor Susan Juned (Alcester East) also had a chance to address the audience.

RAAR joins the growing number of community groups across the UK which are being formed to take direct action to protect rivers from raw sewage discharges, chemical pollution, drought, flooding and habitat loss.

Ellie Cooke, director and founder of RAAR, said: "Seeing the room so full confirmed how much these rivers mean to people.

"There is a shared commitment to restoring the Arrow and the Alne and to working together across the communities that live along them.

"This really feels like the beginning of something we can grow together."

Over winter, volunteers are forming small local groups for water testing, habitat work and planning community activities.

"There will be opportunities for everyone to take part, with practical river work beginning in spring," added Ellie.

Ellie and fellow directors are currently recruiting volunteers to help RAAR's mission in a number of

ways, from practical river work to fundraising. Email riverarrowvolunteers@gmail.com for more details.



Johnsons Coaches wins the Coach Tourism Programme of the Year award.

Coach firm on the right road to collect tourism award

A HENLEY In Arden coach company has proved it is a smooth operator.

Johnsons Coaches has been handed Coach Tourism Programme of the Year at the 2025 routeone Awards.

Recognised across the industry as a benchmark for outstanding performance, innovation and achievement, the routeone Awards celebrate the very best in coach and bus operations.

Ashley Brown, managing direc-

tor of Johnsons Coaches, said "This award is a testament to our team's passion and the continued investment we make in developing high-quality products. We take pride in pushing forward our tourism offering and delivering experiences that truly stand out.

"This award reflects our ongoing commitment to delivering exceptional coach tourism experiences and the hard work of our entire team from our drivers and

operations staff to the people behind the scenes who shape our products and customer experience."

Over the past year, the company has welcomed 27,789 passengers, generating £10,036,539.20 in revenue on coach holidays and trips.

Tom Stables, chief executive of The Coach Travel Group, said "Trust is at the heart of The Coach Travel Group, and Johnsons perfectly exemplifies

this through years of hard work developing a coach tourism programme that truly serves its customers.

"Backed by the strength of the group, their commitment to people, fleet and product has earned them the well-deserved title of Coach Tourism Programme of the Year 2025.

"This achievement reflects the strength of that trust and sets a foundation that will only continue to grow stronger."

DON'T MISS A NIGHT OF TIMELESS HITS

Experience the magic of soul music as Roy G. Hemmings, formerly of The Drifters, brings you The Sounds of Philadelphia and Motown! This electrifying live show features over two hours of iconic hits performed with a full live band and sensational singers. From the smooth grooves of Philly soul to the unforgettable Motown classics, it's a musical journey that will have you dancing in your seat and singing along to every word.

BOOK YOUR TICKETS NOW!

The Artrix Theatre | Bromsgrove
Friday 6th February 2026
Start time 7:30pm

Box office: £29 | Online: £29 (+ fee: £2.50)

Box Office: 01527 361 324
artrixbromsgrove.co.uk



Roy G. Hemmings

THE SOUNDS OF PHILADELPHIA AND MOTOWN
Over 2 hours of classic hits in a 100% live show

QUASAR PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS



Featuring hits by:

Including Hits By The Drifters, The Temptations, The Four Tops, The Supremes, Martha & The Vandellas, Stevie Wonder, Lionel Richie & more.

Hit after hit:

Dancing In The Street, I Can't Help Myself, Get Ready, All Night Long, My Girl, How Sweet It Is, Ain't No Mountain High Enough, Saturday Night At The Movies, Me & Mrs Jones, You'll Never Find Another Love Like Mine & many more!

Starring:
The Fabulous
Roy G. Hemmings

Former Drifters member Roy G. Hemmings brings you the Hits of Motown, in one live action packed Show.



For more information visit royghemmings.com

Prepare your car for **WINTER!**

Get your car winter-ready:

Preparing your car for the winter is crucial to ensure safe and trouble-free driving during the cold and often challenging weather conditions. Taking a few proactive steps can make a significant difference in how your vehicle performs and keeps you and your passengers safe. Here are some essential tips to get your car ready for winter:



- **Check Your Tyres:** Your tyres are your car's only contact with the road, so they need to be in excellent condition. Ensure your tyres have adequate tread depth and are properly inflated. Consider switching to winter tyres for enhanced traction on snow and ice.
- **Battery Inspection:** Cold weather can put additional strain on your car's battery. Have it tested to ensure it can handle the cold temperatures. Replace it if it's old or showing signs of weakness.
- **Fluids:** Check and top off all essential fluids, including engine oil, transmission fluid, coolant, and windscreen washer fluid. Consider using



winter-grade windscreen washer fluid to prevent freezing.

- **Brakes and Lights:** Ensure your brakes are in good condition and that all your lights (headlights, taillights, brake lights, and indicators) are working

correctly. Visibility is crucial during winter driving.

- **Heater and Defroster:** Test your car's heater and defroster to make sure they work efficiently. You'll need them to keep the interior warm and maintain clear visibility.

AVANCER

TRANSPORT & MAINTENANCE LTD

A GARAGE YOU CAN TRUST
TO MAKE SURE YOU & YOUR FAMILY ARE SAFE DRIVING THIS WINTER !

SERVICES OFFERED

- MOT Testing, Class IV, V & VII
- Brakes, Exhausts and Tyres
- Servicing
- Air Conditioning
- Fleet Contracts
- HGV & PSV Annual Test Preparation

For the very best personal service, give us a call today on

01527 523456

Unit 2 Upper Crossgate Road,
Park Farm, Redditch B98 7SR
Email: info@avancertransport.co.uk

Martin Floyd Motor Services

45 years experience locally

- All Aspects of Motor Servicing
- Repairs • Diagnostics
- MOTs @£50 (plus a free retest)
- Brakes • Clutches • Cam Belts

SAFE DRIVING THIS WINTER

Competitive Prices

“ ...and a few comments from very satisfied customers:
Such Helpful and Friendly service...
Kate and Martin were really accommodating in working around my work commitments
Polite and fast service, and... good price
Will return and recommend to friends - Thanks ”

Martin Floyd Motor Services

Units 4 & 5, Woodrow Farm,
Woodrow Lane, Catshill,
Bromsgrove, B61 0PL

TO BOOK CALL 0121 453 7667

Prepare your car for **WINTER**

Essential preparation tips

• **Antifreeze:** Ensure your vehicle's cooling system has the right concentration of antifreeze to prevent freezing. A 50/50 mixture of coolant and water is typically recommended.

• **Inspect Belts and Hoses:** Cold temperatures can weaken belts and hoses. Look for signs of wear, cracks, or leaks and replace them if necessary.

• **Wiper Blades:** Replace

old or worn wiper blades with winter blades designed to handle snow and ice. Clean your windscreen thoroughly to improve visibility.

- **Emergency Kit:** Equip your car with a winter emergency kit, including items like a torch, blanket, shovel, ice scraper, jump cables, and non-perishable snacks. Also, keep a fully charged phone and charger in the car.
- **Four-Wheel Drive/AWD:** If your car has four-wheel drive or all-wheel drive, make sure it's in good working order. Understand how to engage and disengage it properly.
- **Tyre Chains:** If you live in an area with heavy snowfall, it's a good idea to keep tyre



chains in your boot and know how to install them.

- **Tune-Up:** Consider getting a professional tune-up before winter hits. Mechanics can identify and address any potential issues that might worsen in cold weather.
- **Plan for Emergencies:**

Familiarise yourself with the winter driving conditions in your area, and always check weather forecasts before heading out. Be prepared to change your travel plans if necessary.

By taking these steps to prepare your car for winter, you'll increase your safety and minimise the risk of breakdowns during the coldest months. Remember that good maintenance practices should be a year-round commitment, but they become even more critical as winter approaches. Stay safe on the roads and enjoy a trouble-free winter driving season.





CHARLES KENWARD MOTORS LTD

With over 35 years of trading locally

Charles Kenward Motors Ltd offers a safe and good pair of hands

Friendly, Reliable and Honest Advice and Servicing for your car or commercial vehicle to ensure safe motoring this winter

- *MOT * Service
- * Diagnostics
- *General Repairs

at affordable rates

14 SHERWOOD ROAD, ASTON FIELDS INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, BROMSGROVE B60 3DR

01527 875432/837070



Make sure you and your family are safe driving this winter



Abacus

auto services

to prepare your car for **Winter Motoring**

Abacus have been established in Redditch for over 30 years employing generations of family members, to look after generations of their customers family cars.

Skilled at working on all makes and models of cars, vans and motorhomes. Offering a first class, honest and transparent service at a fair and affordable price. You can talk to us about spreading the payment of any work done on your car.

Be Safe Driving this Winter

Abacus Auto Services

4-6 Orchard St, Redditch, B98 7DP

Tel: 01527 60047

abacusautoservices.com



Research funds secured for ROH

THE ROYAL Orthopaedic Hospital in Northfield is leading groundbreaking research that will help treat bone cancer patients.

Biomedical Technologies for Regenerative Orthopaedics is a new joint research group that brings together the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital, Aston University and the Brazilian Aeronautics Institute of Technology (ITA).

It aims to advance research in novel biomaterials for bone regeneration and bone cancer applications.

The three organisations have been collaborating for several years to explore the use of gallium in treating bone cancer patients, and their new alliance will make it easier to secure funding to further this ground-breaking research.

Dr Lucas Souza, Dubrowsky, the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital's regenerative medicine laboratory manager, said: "It's our understanding that collaboration is the core principle for groundbreaking research and that solving real-world problems requires a multi-disciplinary approach.

"This is the officialisation of a long-term international collaboration between Brazil - and UK-based physicists, chemists, biologists and clinical researchers that has already made significant contributions to the advancement of technologies for the treatment of bone disorders such as critical-sized bone defects and bone tumours.

"This new phase represents the first step to establishing a strategic partnership that aims to facilitate the flow of researchers, materials and data between the participating institutions to foster an even richer research environment to accelerate discoveries in the field of biomaterials for bone regeneration and bone cancer."



The new research group has now secured funding to further the development of an injectable paste for use in bone cancer surgeries.

The funding includes a PhD scholarship with a 12-month international placement.

The PhD student will be based in Brazil and will spend a year in the UK at Aston University.

Prof Dr Joao Lopes, Aeronautics Institute of Brazil, added: "This partnership between institutions in Brazil and the UK not only enhances the development of novel biomaterials and advanced therapies, but also significantly increases our ability to secure funding from agencies that offer exclusive calls for international collaborative projects.

"In addition to enabling the exchange of researchers and knowledge, this alliance fosters a more dynamic innovation ecosystem that supports the development of high-impact clinical and technological solutions."

Dr Lucas Souza of the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital works to help bone cancer treatment. Picture by Edward Moss Photography.



SPECIALISTS IN ALL ASPECTS OF ROOFING



New Roofs - Roof Repairs - Flat Roofing
Fascia, Soffits & Guttering - Cladding
Moss Removal Chimney / Ridge Tile Repointing
Local References Available - Free Quotations

For a FREE quote, contact the local company you can trust

Birmingham - 0121 667 8938
Redditch - 01527 906 586

Park House, Bristol Rd South, Rednal,
Birmingham B45 9AH

www.longbridgecladdingandroofingltd.co.uk
sales@longbridgecladdingandroofingltd.co.uk



WILSON SECURITY SYSTEMS

KEEPING YOUR FAMILY HOME SAFE & SECURE

Wilson Security Systems is a family owned business based in Worcester.

Stay Secure This Autumn & Winter!

- **New Customers Welcome!** Experience personalised service from our dedicated family team.
- **Existing Systems Serviced:** We provide expert maintenance and upgrades for your current setup.
- **Autumn & Winter Solutions:** Make your home safe before the longer nights arrive.

Why Choose Us?

Experience personalised service from our dedicated family team.
We provide expert maintenance and upgrades for your current setup.
Make your home safe before the longer nights arrive.



WSS Ltd are a SSAIB Registered firm

Get in touch for **FREE** advice & a no obligation quote

01905 864182 - 24hrs

wilsonsecuritysystems.co.uk



HIKVISION LIVE GUARD TECHNOLOGY

Commercial Fire Alarm Systems

Expertly designed, installed and maintained to safeguard your business. Trust our experience for reliable, customised fire protection.



INTRUDER ALARMS • CCTV • SECURITY LIGHTING
• INSTALLATIONS • SOLUTIONS • MAINTENANCE & SERVICING •



UNCOMPLICATED SECURITY FOR COMPLETE PEACE OF MIND



Bainbridge

Bespoke Opticians

**WE
HAVE
MOVED**



We are a family-run opticians with over 40 years of experience.

We are a small and friendly team dedicated to consistently providing the highest level of service.



Look out for the big orange glasses on Evesham Road!

After 35 amazing years in the Kingfisher Shopping Centre, we have finally found a place to call home! We are ready and waiting to welcome you at 679 Evesham Road, Redditch, Worcestershire, B97 5LJ.

Want to see what we are all about?

We would love to meet you and show you why we are multi-award-winning opticians and eyewear stylists.

Reasons to visit us:

- 45 minute eye examinations as standard
- Advanced technology and equipment
- Relaxed and homely environment
- Refreshments including our famous 'specucchino'
- Complimentary styling with colour analysis
- Beautiful niche frames sourced world-wide
- A 60 day 'love your glasses' guarantee
- Eyecare plan with 10% off all eyewear
- Flexible interest-free payment plans
- 400 5 star google reviews across both practices
- FREE parking, a disabled space and a bike shelter



Book your eye examination or styling consultation

NOW!

Redditch: **01527 64691** Harborne: **0121 4278201**

info@bainbridgebespokeopticians.co.uk

www.bainbridgebespokeopticians.co.uk



SUDOKU

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

EASY

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

HARD

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

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.

Scottish writers

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

Solutions opposite

CROSSWORD

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

ACROSS

- 4. Narration (7)
- 8. Aviator (6)
- 9. Blow up (7)
- 10. Shrewd (6)
- 11. Look upon (6)
- 12. Surround (8)
- 18. Definite (8)
- 20. Obvious (6)
- 21. Nuptial (6)
- 22. Clique (7)
- 23. Gusto (6)
- 24. Keep under (7)

DOWN

- 1. Discussion (7)
- 2. Shield (7)
- 3. Subject (6)
- 5. Meeting (8)
- 6. Constrain (6)
- 7. Disposition (6)
- 13. Hypercritical (8)
- 14. Scorn (7)
- 15. Rich (7)
- 16. Control (6)
- 17. Superior (6)
- 19. Country of the Middle East (6)

Scribble pad

LADDER

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

- Locate
- Affectionate
- Nourishment
- Jester
- Wicked



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.

- 32156 gives a tree;
- 47453 gives a second tree;
- 956128 gives a fertile spot.

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

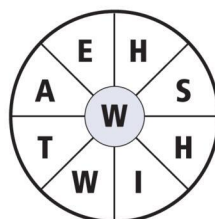
CODEWORD

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.

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

WORDWHEEL

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

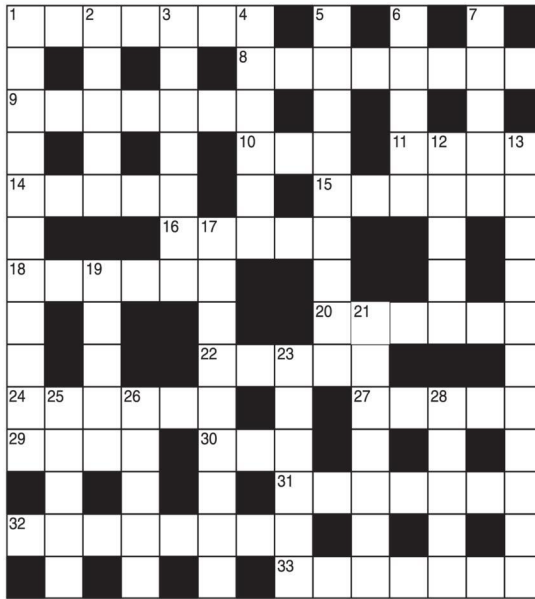


How you rate
 10 words: average 20 words: very good
 15 words: good 25 or more: excellent.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Half-back positioned at some distance from the scrum in rugby football (3-4)
- 8 Bishop of Antioch, martyred at Rome about AD 115-17 (8)
- 9 Musical performance by a soloist or small group (7)
- 10 Poetically, a meadow or grassland (3)
- 11 Norwegian explorer called 'the Red' (4)
- 14 A pair of pheasants, for example (5)
- 15 Pungent root vegetable used in salads (6)
- 16 Savoury meat jelly (5)
- 18, 26 and 17 Author whose books include The Master of Ballantrae (6,5,9)
- 20 Assyrian and Babylonian goddess identified with Astarte (6)
- 22 Leguminous plant also known as tare (5)
- 24 A young salmon that has been once to the sea (6)
- 27 Fabulist of antiquity (5)
- 29 Disc of light surrounding a saint's head (4)
- 30 Soft or downy surface of cloth (3)
- 31 In football, a free kick allowed for certain infringements of rules (7)
- 32 Male voice between tenor and bass (8)
- 33 Slender, thread-like appendage of a plant, used for support (7)



DOWN

- 1 Hampshire town that was home to the Royal Aircraft Establishment (11)
- 2 Liliaceous plant with sword-shaped leaves and white bell-shaped flowers (5)
- 3 The aardvark of South Africa (3,4)
- 4 A stimulant or incentive (6)
- 5 Regions round the South Pole (9)
- 6 A trusty horse (5)
- 7 Capital of Tunisia (5)
- 12 Nail or bolt for holding metal plates together (5)
- 13 Colouring-matter of leaves and other green parts of plants (11)
- 17 See 18
- 19 Aromatic flavouring herb (5)
- 21 Longest river of Ireland (7)
- 23 Arm or lever used in machinery to impart intermittent motion (6)
- 25 Morocco's capital, on the Atlantic coast (5)
- 26 See 18
- 28 Henry Williamson's salmon, in his well-known book (5)

SOLUTIONS

ACROSS: 1 Fly-half; 8 Ignatius; 9 Rectal; 10 Lea; 11 Eric; 14 Brace; 15 Radish; 16 Aspic; 18 Robert; 20 Ishar; 22 Vetch; 24 Grist; 27 Mesop; 29 Halo; 30 Nap; 31 Penalty; 32 Bartone; 33 Tendril. DOWN: 1 Farnborough; 2 Yucca; 3 Ant Bear; 4 Filipp; 5 Antaretic; 6 Steed; 7 Tuns; 12 River; 13 Chlorophyll; 17 Stevenson; 19 Basil; 21 Shannon; 23 Tappet; 25 Rabat; 26 Louis; 28 Salar.

General Knowledge Crossword

ACROSS: 4 Account; 8 Airman; 9 Inflation; 10 Astute; 11 Regard; 12 Encircle; 18 Positive; 20 Patent; 21 Bridal; 22 Faction; 23 Reishi; 24 Repress; Down: 1 Palaver; 2 Protect; 3 Matter; 5 Congress; 6 Oblige; 7 Nature; 13 Captions; 14 Disdain; 15 Wealthy; 16 Manage; 17 Better; 19 Israel.

Crossword

DECLARING: Smith, Thomas Macaulay, Jackie Kay. NINE: Banks, Thomas Carlyle, Al Kennedy, William Macconagall, David Welsh, Nan Shepherd, Ian Rankin, Arthur Conan Doyle, Iain M. WHITWASH: Robert Burns, Muriel Spark, Walter Scott, Val McDermid, Irvine.

Wordwheel Pathfinder

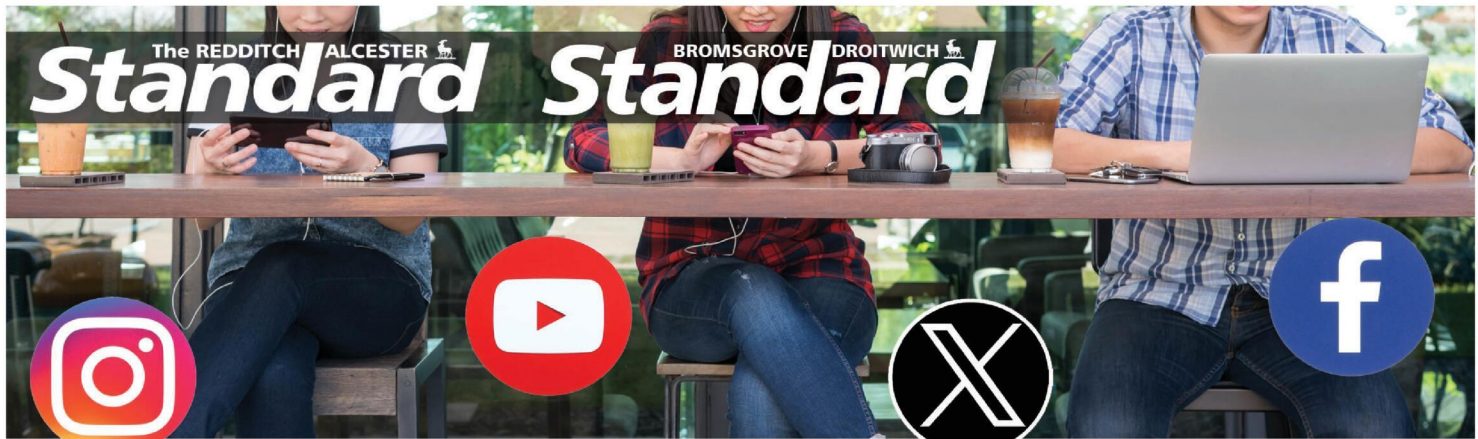
1=Q, 2=M, 3=Y, 4=N, 5=A, 6=T, 7=R, 8=D, 9=G, 10=H, 11=Z, 12=L, 13=F, 14=O, 15=B, 16=P, 17=W, 18=S, 19=X, 20=E, 21=K, 22=Y, 23=C, 24=I, 25=J, 26=U.

Ladder Codeword

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

Easy

Hard



It's time to Like, Follow & Subscribe

BREAKING NEWS
WHAT'S ON
SPORT
INTERVIEWS

Don't be LEFT BEHIND.....

- RedditchStandard
- TheRedditchStandard
- @RedStand
- TheRedditchStandard2
- bromsgrovestandard
- Bromsgrove Standard
- @BromStand
- TheBromsgroveStandard



Learn from yesterday,
live for today,
hope for tomorrow.
Anonymous



Family Notices

Tel: 01527 588688 Email: reception@bullivantmedia.com

DEATHS

FOWKES Dudley

Passed away on the 9th November 2025
The funeral service will take place at
St John The Baptist Church, Feckenham on
Wednesday 10th December 2025 at 11.00 a.m.

Black attire please.

Flowers welcome, donations if desired to a
charity yet to be decided may be sent to

Thomas Brothers
01527 547777
Thank you



If you have a message
for a loved one,
call our team
on
**01527
588688**

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Huntleys Funeral Services Over 140 years of service to families in Redditch

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

01527 906 553

58 Ipsley Street, Smallwood B98 7AE

Call us 24 hours a day for support, help and advice,
or to find out more about our prepaid funeral plans.

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

www.huntleysfunerals.co.uk

MEMORIAL SERVICES

As Time Goes By

YOUR LOCAL FAMILY RUN
MEMORIAL SUPPLIER

Headstones, Cremation Tablets,
Additional Inscriptions and
Renovation Work

Web: www.astimegoesby.org.uk
Email: kfporter@blueyonder.co.uk

Please call 01527 550505

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

Unit 5, Dunlop Road, Hunt End Industrial Estate
Redditch B97 5XP

"MEMORIALS THAT REFLECT A LIFETIME"



FLORAL TRIBUTES

TNS THE NURSERY SHOP

519 Evesham Road,
Crabbs Cross,
Redditch, B97 5JP

Bespoke funeral flowers personally
designed for your loved one

flowers@nurseryshopredditch.co.uk
www.nurseryshopredditch.co.uk

Tel: 01527 550 700



FUNERAL DIRECTORS

James Giles and Sons Ltd
Est. 1916
The Complete Funeral Directors

Allow our family
to care for your family

www.jamesgilesandsonsltd.co.uk

BROMSGROVE 01527 872318	DROITWICH 01905 783188	STUDLEY 01527 852213	PRE-PAID FUNERAL PLANS AVAILABLE	
-----------------------------------	----------------------------------	--------------------------------	--	--

If you have a
message for a
loved one, call our
team on
01527 588688

An Independent Family Owned Funeral Directors

THOMAS BROTHERS

Family owned funeral homes in Redditch, Wythall, Alvechurch, Bromsgrove & Alcester.
We provide a friendly, dignified service paying special attention to detail.

REDDITCH • BROMSGROVE
01527 547777 01527 831700

WYTHALL • ALVECHURCH • ALCESTER
01564 822001 0121 445 3422 01789 330939

"A family concern"

www.thomasbrothers.co.uk
email: admin@thomasbrothers.co.uk



Learn from yesterday,
live for today,
hope for tomorrow.
Anonymous



Family Notices

Tel: 01527 588688 Email: reception@bullivantmedia.com

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Professionally qualified independent funeral directors
For more information, visit mortonfunerals.co.uk



Say goodbye your way

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

Arrange an appointment today

0121 459 9111

Offices in Northfield, Cotteridge and Rubery

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

R.L. Rea Funeral Directors Ltd



Create the perfect Funeral for your loved one

R L Rea Funeral Directors Ltd
Complete Funeral Directors and Memorial Masons



- * Independent Funeral Directors in Bromsgrove, established in 1967
- * 24 Hour Personal Service
- * Private Chapel of Rest
- * Pre-arranged Funeral Plan with Perfect Choice.
- * We offer a Professional, Friendly and Caring Service.

www.rlreafuneraldirectorsltd.co.uk

T: 01527 831723

info@rlreafuneraldirectorsltd.co.uk

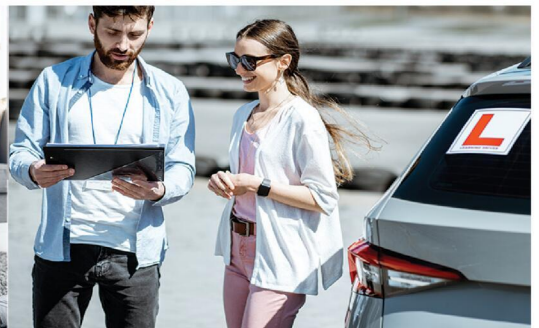
17 Rock Hill, Bromsgrove, Worcs B61 7LL

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



Whatever the occasion, why not send your loved ones a message....

Call our team on **01527 588688**



Classified

www.directory247.co.uk

TELEPHONE 01527 588688 FACSIMILE 01527 584371

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICES

Warwickshire County Council

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic on the junction of Pelham Lane.

D5436 CHURCH LANE, HASELOR
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic on the junction of Pelham Lane.

Reason for Order: Carriageway patching and associated works, 08.00hrs - 16.00hrs.
Order Commences: 17 December 2025 for up to 18 months.

Anticipated Completion: 17 December 2025.
Access & Diversion: No diversion required.
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 28 Nov 2025

PUBLIC NOTICES

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL & REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Advertisement Key: FPS = Footpath Setting, LB = Listed Building.

25/01231/FUL **LB FPS**
 Site: Old Berrow Hill Farm, Berrowhill Lane, Feckenham, Worcestershire, B96 6QL

Proposal: Single-storey rear extension
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

HAZEL DANW BAGLEY (otherwise Hazel Dawn Westbrook) (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 37 Stratford Gardens Bromsgrove, B60 1EU, who died on 12/05/2025, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 29/01/2026, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

Eric Bowes & Co,
 139 Stratford Road Shirley Solihull, B90 3AY

PUBLIC NOTICES

GEORGINA MAY HOLDEN (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 132 The Ridgeway, New End, Astwood Bank, Redditch, Worcestershire, who died on 11/04/2025, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 29/01/2026, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

Joshua Holden, 17 Marlon Close, Redditch, B97 6AX

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHRISTINE ELIZABETH LEWIS (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 The Bracken, 63 Twilling Road, Bart Green, Worcestershire, B45 8HS, who died on 13/10/2025, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 29/01/2026, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

Lloyds Bank Plc, Po Box 5005, Lancing, BN19 8AZ

PUBLIC NOTICES

Keeping you up to date with all the latest information on Planning Proposals, Traffic Notices, Goods Vehicle Operator Licences, Licences To Sell Alcohol, Probate Notices....

MISCELLANEOUS

'Desperately Seeker' 'LAURA'
 Number Plate XL17 URA (Laura) **£2000**
 Great investment or personal use
079631 43727

RECLINER CHAIR electric rise & recline £169 Manual recline chair £60 High seated chair £40 Can deliver 07703 925662

BEDS NEW Doubles £95 Singles £59 King size £159. Second hand doubles £49 Singles £29 Fridges £49 Freezers £59 Can deliver 07703 925662

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

BABY COT Wooden with sliding side, ideal spare for grandparents, no mattress £20 Tel 07925170951

SQUARE Cane table with glass top 46 x 46 x 54cm £15 Tel 07925170951

JOHN Lewis, air fryer still boxed, £20 Redditch 01527542507

MISCELLANEOUS

MOBILITY SCOOTER
Pride Go Go Elite Traveller
 Easily comes apart for car boot Charger New batteries Could deliver **£340**
01789 778174

POWAKADDY Electric Golf Trolley with battery and winter wheels £45 **TEL FOOT STOOL** green fabric 39 x 26 x 20cm £10 Tel 07925170951

TRAILER Chassis, 2 wheel, steel frame, fair condition, 6'x42"x14" deep, drive away. Warwickshire 07967401319

KIDNEY shaped dressing table with curtains and stool. Beautiful condition. £75 07743929558

NESCAFE Dolce Gusto Coffee machine with pods (used) £20 07743929558

WHITE Dressing Table - free to collect from Solihull Old 50s style, solid wood construction, good overall condition 07890570990

MISCELLANEOUS

MAMAS & PAPAS, large retro style rocking horse on wooden frame (collection only) £65.00. tel: 07934132759

BLACK wrought iron ornate slimline wall mirror, decorative frame with glass / wrought iron leaves. 39" long x 12" wide approx: £7.00. tel: 07934132759

FIVE minton belemade salad plates (8") blue flowers, bone china, very good clean condition. £5.00 for all. Tel: 07934132759

CARPET offcut - brand new, berber, hard wearing, felt backed, mid brown / cream mixture, no matching pattern so could cut & piece together. size 6 foot 8 inches long x 2 foot 1 inch wide. £3.00. Tel: 07934132759

LADIES M & S classic fully lined lightweight jacket with detachable hood. light turquoise. hardly worn. size 12. £3.00. (I can forward photos if interested) Tel: 07934132759

MANUAL Singer vintage sewing machine. Good and working condition with new belt. £60 / O.N.O. Tel: 07721197331

MISCELLANEOUS

REVELATION durable travel suit / garment bag, with shoulder strap & carry handle. two hangers, multiple pockets, zip closure, colour black. £5.00. Tel: 07934132759

THREE piece suite, plain mauve / pink, good condition £100 07938309792 Stourport

CUGGL travel cot for sale grey with mattress. G / c. 100 x 74x74 m £20 01788840581

BROTHER A50 Sewing Machine with all accessories plus extension cable. Excellent condition, almost 4 years old. Genuine reasons for selling. Cost £420 new - will sell for £180.00. Telephone 01675 464592

TWO abbey light oak, double door wardrobe with three drawers

MEASUREMENTS: height - 180 cms width - 72 cms depth - 52 cms

D R A W E R measurements: 65 cms for one drawer 32 cms for two small drawers 52 cms depth each wardrobe for £25 or two for £45 07721197331 33" Panasonic TV £30 07780511800

MISCELLANEOUS

COMPUTER desk in dark walnut with keyboard tray, home / office furniture with wheels, height 72 cms, width 55 cms, depth 45 cms. £15 07721197331

LEFT hand chaise longue plush grey sofa brand new. £250 / - o.n.o. tel: 07721197331

BLACK glass coffee table with shelf. length - 99cms, width- 49 cms, height-45cms. £20 tel: 07721197331

BLACK glass tv table with two shelves. length- 60 cms, width- 42cms, height- 56cms. £15 tel: 07721197331

E L E C T R O N I C piano keyboard. njs800 keyboard. 100 timbres, 100 rhythms, 61 keys. £15 07721197331

INFRARED foam massager, magnetic health, vibration massage, infrared therapy. £5 07721197331

NEW Fine Elements Small 2000w fan heater. Flat / upright. 2 heat settings. Fan only mode. White. Boxed. £12. 0121 430 3880

2 Drawer airfryer, never used, plus recipe books £70 02475094942

MISCELLANEOUS

NEW Dimplex 7 0 0 - 1 5 0 0 watt electric radiator. White. 3 Heat settings. E c o n o m i c a l. Instructions. £40. may deliver. 0121 430 3880

DINING room table & 6 chairs (inc 2 carvers). Size 3' 2" wide by 4'6" long Wrought iron legs with rosewood top table and wrought iron chairs / with burgandy / gold padded seats / back £285.00 (cost £1995.00) 07887 803556

SONY Smart Engine VHS Recorder gwo £20.00. 5 tread wooden step ladder £10.00 07941298266

BABY cot wooden with sliding side, ideal spare for grandparents, no mattress £20 tel 07925170951

33" Panasonic TV £30 07780511800

MISCELLANEOUS

DISPLAY (butchers block) stand Wrought iron with shelves, 2 drawers and wine rack. Size 3'0" wide by 1'7" deep by 6' 0" tall. - £75.00 07887 803556

SUN Lounger. Curving body shaped garden lounge - £25.00 07887 803556

POWAKADDY electric golf trolley with battery and winter wheels £45 tel 07925170951

POWAKADDY golf trolley transit bag £10 tel 07925170951

FOOT stool green fabric 39 x 26 x 20cm £10 tel 07925170951

6 genuine Oral-B precision clean replacement rotating toothbrush heads £12 01527853345

MISCELLANEOUS

MAKE a Christmas cake loads of shape tins, turntable, wedding stand all stainless steel £50 01527 550342

SQUARE cane table with glass top 46 x 46 x 54cm £15 tel 07925170951

POWAKADDY electric golf trolley with battery and winter wheels £45 tel 07925170951

FOOT stool green fabric 39 x 26 x 20cm £10 tel 07925170951

6 genuine Oral-B precision clean replacement rotating toothbrush heads £12 01527853345

WANTED

****WANTED: Vinyl Records CDs Cassettes**
Vintage or New **
 Seeking classic rock, jazz, indie and rare finds. Cash paid
 Call or text: 07765 142354 Or 01527 893992
 Or email: welston@live.com
 Paul (Albatross & Doomed Records)

3 PIECE SUITE brown leather, perfect condition as new **£550** can deliver Telephone 10234 567890

(£5.75 inc VAT example boxed advertisement)

SOMETHING to sell?
 You Can Raise Some Extra Cash and make someone else's Day
 By SELLING Your Wonderful but Unwanted Gifts or Private Items
 Simply by advertising them in The **Observer** or **Standard**
 And...if your item is valued at £500 or less - its FREE of charge in lineage (max 15 words)
 But if you want your advertisement to really stand out or if your item is valued at over £500, you can place details in a boxed advertisement for just £5.75 (inc Vat)
 Simply fill in the coupon below, tick the appropriate box, enclose your cheque or credit card details if required, and we'll do the rest - **Or alternatively email your free ad to: freeads@bullivantmedia.com**

Free Lineage (Items upto value £500) Paid for Boxed Ad (Items of any value)
 Details of Item For Sale for Publication (No Pets or Livestock or Firearms please): (MAX 15 WORDS)
 Telephone Number
 Details (Not for Publication):
 Mr/Ms/Ms..... Initials..... Surname.....
 Address.....
 Postcode..... Telephone..... Mobile.....
 Email address.....
 I enclose cheque, payable to Bullivant Media Ltd, value £.....
 or alternatively
 Please debit my card for £..... Visa/Mastercard/Maestro/Delta
 Credit Card Number.....
 Exp Date..... Start Date..... Security Number..... (Last 3 digits) Issue Number..... (if applicable)
 Send to Bullivant Media, Webb House, Church Green East, Redditch, Worcestershire, B98 8BP
 or email your advertisement to freeads@bullivantmedia.com

Classified

www.directory247.co.uk

TELEPHONE 01527 588688 FACSIMILE 01527 584371

SERVICES

BUILDERS

BRICKWORK H.Boot

All Types
Garages
Garden Walls
Extensions
Fully Qualified Tradesman
Call
07778 705570
07789 064138
WhatsApp Email: hanstheboot@hotmail.com

CARPENTRY/ JOINERY



AJB CARPENTRY

EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE
AND QUALITY WORKMANSHIP
Covering: kitchen fitting, roofs, doors,
stairs and much more to help with
your carpentry based home
improvements.
Call today for your free quote!
Call Ant on
07827 324754
AJB Carpentry

DECORATING & PAINTING

C&M Decorators

Father and Son • Interior and Exterior
32 years experience • Fully Insured
Tel **01527 576136**
Mob **07850 380162**

FENCING

FENCING & FENCE REPAIRS

All types undertaken
20yrs exp.
No JOB TOO SMALL
Contact Daryl
01527 526990 • 07847 898079
For a free quote

**BEST LEAVE
IT TO THE
EXPERTS**



Check out our
Classified pages!

GARDENING SERVICES

JFS Garden Services

Fencing, Turfing, Hedge Cutting, Tree Surgery,
Stump Grinding, Jungles Cleared,
Grass Cutting/Regular Mowing,
Domestic, Commercial enquiries welcome.
For a free Competitive Quote
07977 497 440 • 01527 458 104
www.jfslandscapes.co.uk

HAIRDRESSERS

Hair by Sharon

in the comfort of your own home
Care Home Visits Available
Over 20 years
experience
310A Birchfield Road,
Webheath,
Worcestershire
07772994654
sharon_campion@yahoo.com

KITCHENS

S.W INSTALLATIONS

Kitchens & Bathrooms FREE DESIGN & QUOTATION

QUALITY KITCHENS & BATHROOMS SUPPLIED & FITTED

PLUMBING, CARPENTRY, TILING, WORKTOP & DOOR REPLACEMENT

(Supply & fit, supply only or fit only)
LOCAL TRADESMAN
20YRS EXPERIENCE
NO JOB TOO SMALL
07971 684 353

LANDSCAPING

D.A. TAYLOR

LANDSCAPING
Fencing • Slabbing • Conifers
Hedge Work
CLEARANCE
Gardens • Rubbish • Sheds • Large
& Small Trees Felled, Lopped and
Shaped • Turfing • Shed Base
FREE QUOTATIONS
01527 870914 - 0771 768 2816



PLASTERING

LCJ PLASTERING SERVICES

General Property
Maintenance
All Aspects of Plastering
30 Years Exp
Call Craig Berrows
0777 1875865

PLUMBING

SB 4 Plumbing & Heating

- Gas Fires
- Gas Cookers
- Gas Central Heating and Maintenance.
- Gas Appliance Landlord/home
- Safety Checks.
- Plumbing faults/installation.

Email: stuart4heating@gmail.com
www.sb4plumbing.co.uk
Call me for domestic work
MOBILE
07951 485 329

REMOVALS/ STORAGE

MAN WITH A VAN REMOVALS

House moves local & long distance
Collection and delivery
Single items to full van loads
House Clearances
Collection of unwanted household items
Waste Carrier No: CBDU69635
T:01527 514 666 M:07843 854 289
ManWithaVanRemovalsRedditch.co.uk

SKIP HIRE

A&S SKIPS

A Division of A&S Developments (Redditch) LTD
• 2, 4 & 7 yard skips
• Skips with drop front doors guaranteed
• Prompt and reliable service
• Competitive rates
Tel **01527 459 238 • Mob 07788 112028**
VISA www.asskips.co.uk
Waste carrier No. CBDU 169 207

Redditch Skip Hire Ltd

For all your domestic and
commercial skip requirements



4-40 yard skips available • Drop fronts -
please ask when ordering
Open or enclosed 90% of waste recycled

- No room for a skip. Book our man with a van service
- Prompt, reliable service
- 2 hour arrival slot
- Next day service

Call **01527 63644**

Or visit us at:
www.redditchskiphire.com
Waste Carrier No. CBDU122354

TREE SURGEONS

Call within 48 hours & receive a 20% Discount

TREE & LANDSCAPE Specialists

Tree & Landscape Specialists is a trusted, professional company with
a great reputation to uphold and have over 20 years experience in the trade.
• Tree Work • Paving • Fencing • Artificial Grass • Astro Turf • Patios
No job is too big or too small • Fully Insured



Contact us today FREEPHONE: 0800 747 1704 • LANDLINE: 01527 906 577
treeandlandscapespecialists@gmail.com
www.treeandlandscapespecialists.co.uk
FIND US ON Google

ROOFING

WEATHER GUARD ROOFING PROFESSIONALS

**10% OFF
ALL ROOFING
REPAIRS**
No job too big or
too small
Fully guaranteed
and insured
Written quotes
available

Specialists in all types of Roofing,
Complete Roofs, Ridge Tiles,
Lead Work, Chimneys, Fascias,
Soffits, Guttering, Gutter Cleaning

Mobile: **07467 159012**
Office: **01527 962 972**

info@weatherguardservices.co.uk
weatherguardservices.co.uk

ROOFING

POWELLS ROOFERS & BUILDING SERVICES

- Roof Tiling • Garage Roofs • Flat Roofs
- Chimneys rebuilt and re-pointed
- Garage Conversions • Driveways
- Building Maintenance • Extensions

Powells Roofing & Building Services are a local
Redditch based company
C&G Qualified with over 15 years local roofing and
building services experience

For more details, please call
07952 797 973 or 01527 454325

Appointments

www.careerfinder247.co.uk

TELEPHONE 01527 588688 FACSIMILE 01527 584371



www.taurustaxis.co.uk

Are you Looking To Top Up Your Salary or Pension?

Then we could Help !!

DRIVERS REQUIRED

With or without Taxi Badge / Vehicle Clean Licence Essential

Holiday pay will be accrued and paid

We also require **PSV DRIVERS**

with valid CPC card & training, part time hours, very good rates of pay.

**For Further Details Please Call
07773 022 239**



DRIVERS

Full and part time drivers required for home to school contracted transport. Competitive rates of pay and flexible working hours.

Company vehicle provided, and full assistance obtaining your private hire licence will be given.

For further details please call

01527 60000

or email accounts@a2b60k.co.uk

Gold Crest

Require the following in the Redditch, Bromsgrove, Droitwich and Kidderminster areas

Part Time Drivers

Transporting children to school. Vehicle provided.

– ALSO –

Passenger Assistants

Part time hours with or without experience.

Contact 07483 171666



GOT A VACANCY TO FILL?
Contact Caroline or Kelly on
01527 588625 • 01527 588749

caroline.birkenhead@bullivantmedia.com | kelly.taylor@bullivantmedia.com

Motoring

www.carfinder247.co.uk

TELEPHONE 01527 588688 FACSIMILE 01527 584371



BMW crowned as winner

THE all-new BMW iX3 has been crowned Top Gear Magazine's 2026 Car of the Year.

The prestigious accolade was presented to the first Neue Klasse model at the publication's annual awards ceremony, which celebrates the best cars launched over the past twelve months.

The BMW iX3 impressed judges with its all-new design, class-leading driving dynamics and the multitude of innovations it ushers for the brand.

Handing over the trophy, Paul Horrell, Consultant Editor of Top Gear Magazine said: "The iX3 is wholly new. Above and beneath. Bumper to bumper. Ground to

cloud.

"It has the magic 500-mile claimed range, an entirely new interior concept, but most importantly it drives like a BMW ought to - not like a bulky EV crossover, or soulless digital first zombiemobile.

"BMW's cars have always strived to be at the tip of mainstream excellence"

The BMW iX3 once again raises the bar - setting new benchmarks in performance, range and technology while introducing a cutting-edge design language.

Its advancements will shape the entire future BMW product portfolio and will be incorporated into a total of 40 new models and model updates between now and 2027, starting with the BMW i3 Saloon,

which begins production in the second half of 2026.

On receiving the award, David George, CEO, BMW Group UK and Ireland said: "The launch of the new BMW iX3 represents more than just the debut of an exceptional new model - it signals the start of an exciting and transformative chapter for our brand."

At the ceremony at White City House in London, other winners included the new Mercedes-Benz CLA which was crowned 'Saloon of the Year', the Kia PV5 Passenger which was named 'Family Car of the Year', and the Renault 4 E-Tech electric, which claimed the 'Crossover of the Year' award.

Ferrari walked away with two coveted titles, with the F80 crowned

Hypercar of the Year and the class-leading 296 Speciale recognised as Supercar of the Year.

Renault Group was named 'Manufacturer of the Year' after a stand-out 12 months in which the company delivered some of the most talked-about, best-received and most characterful new cars on the road.

And the Dacia Hipster Concept was named Design of the Year, beating a field of supercars and SUVs.

WANTED

THE VERY BEST CARS & VANS

WE PAY MORE FOR LOW MILES,
LOW OWNER &
FULL SERVICE HISTORY

PLEASE CALL DOMINIC
07581 566064

HAGLEY CARS

EST. 40 YEARS

**USED CARS WANTED
TOP PRICES PAID!**

Older cars considered.
We can visit you and pay on the spot.
ALAN REED CARS (1976) LTD
07831 245 313

Dragonfly
GARDENING
Specialists in plant care and pruning
Your local expert plantsman
CRB CHECKED • FULLY INSURED
07814 510797 | 01527 878965
Reliable Friendly Service
Garden Clearance Undertaken

Standard SPORT



9 772040 128006
Published by Bullivant Media Group Ltd, Webb House,
Church Green East, Redditch, Worcestershire B98 8BP
Printed by Newsquest, Newspaper House, Osney Mead,
Oxford, Oxfordshire OX2 0EJ

LANDMARK
LANDSCAPING & DRIVEWAYS
FREEPHONE 0800 191 0282
www.landmarkdriveways.co.uk
Honey Orchard, Doverdale, Droitwich, WR9 0QB
• Block Paving • Patio's • Slabbing • Driveways
• Tarmacadam • Brickwork • Turfing • Graveling
• Resin Bond • Paths • Forecourts • Fencing
All Work Guaranteed for 5 Years - No Deposit Required
ebark Checkatrade.co Google

www.droitwichstandard.co.uk/sport BRINGING YOU ALL THE LATEST SPORTS NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE AREA

Saltmen miss chance to move top after second-half collapse

by Aaron Sutcliffe
aaron.sutcliffe@bullivantmedia.com

FOOTBALL: DROITWICH Spa suffered a heavy 5-1 defeat away at Cirencester Town as the Saltmen missed the chance to move top of the table.

Andy Crowther's side suffered a second-half collapse as Spa shipped five goals after the break at the Corinium Stadium.

That came after Sam Hurdman's strike put the Saltmen ahead at the break only for Cirencester to stun the visitors in the second period.

The result means Droitwich sit third in the Hellenic League Premier Division table, four points behind leaders Roman Glass St George with two games in-hand.

Spa went close early on as Cory Rudd saw his effort from distance travel over the cross-bar.

And Cirencester's Ed Scott then produced a crucial goal-line clearance to prevent Josh Hurdman's inswinging corner from finding the net.

The home side spurned a golden chance to open the scoring at the other end when George Peare blazed the ball over the bar from close range.

That came after Dom Rogerson parried Harlie Price's

free-kick into Peare's path only for the latter to somehow miss the target.

And Spa broke the deadlock on 24 minutes when S Hurdman fired a low drive through a crowd of bodies and into the net from 25-yards out.

Cirencester almost drew level soon after as Price saw his effort come back off the wood-work.

The Saltmen almost doubled their lead at the end of the first period as Cirencester's Kyle Pitts made a last-ditch tackle to deny Alex Dugmore a shot on goal.

However, the home side equalised moments after the break when Price tapped in Theo Jeremy's low ball into the box from the left.

Spa goalkeeper Rogerson then denied Jonty Welch before Price fired wide from a promising position in the box.

Droitwich thought they had reclaimed the lead against the run of play when Dugmore headed Perry Moss's cross into the bottom corner only for the referee to disallow the goal for an infringement.

And Cirencester made the most of that reprieve to complete the turnaround on 71 minutes as Price headed in Fraser Bell's deep free-kick.

The home side struck again just five minutes later when Aidan Bennett turned another Jeremy cross into the net.

Price completed his hat-trick



on 85 minutes with a finish at the near post to all but end the game as a contest.

And Cirencester added a fifth goal three minutes later as Pitts completed the scoring two minutes from time.

To add to Spa's misery, goalkeeper Rogerson received lengthy treatment towards the end of the game and had to be carried from the field.

Droitwich are next in action against Tuffley Rovers on

Saturday, November 29 with kick-off at 3pm at the King George Playing Fields.

Droitwich goalkeeper Dom Rogerson suffered an injury against Cirencester Town. Picture by Mathew Mason.

EDWARDS CAR REPAIRS

- Engine tuning
- MOT preparation and submission for final MOT
- Cam belt replacement
- Clutch Replacement
- General repairs
- Welding
- Servicing
- Insurance work welcome
- Supply and fit all parts for all makes & models

All types of work undertaken, why not give us a call or just drop in



Rear of 8 Hewell Road, Barnt Green, Birmingham, B45 8NE
0121 445 5414
Email - enquiries@edwards-car-repairs.co.uk

Yokohama Authorised Tyre Dealer

JEFFERIES TYRES
Est 1988



TRADE TYRE PRICES TO THE PUBLIC

OVER 3,000 NEW & PART USED TYRES IN STOCK

Serving Trade & Public for over 35 Years
Alloy Refurbishment & Alloy Repair Service
Hunter Alignment & Wheel Balancing Available

01527 831829

Unit 4 - 22 Sherwood Road - Bromsgrove - B60 3DR

