

# DROITWICH Standard

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Friday, January 9th 2026 Week 2

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## Wheels are set in motion for town club

DROITWICH will once again have a Rotary Club nearly three years after the last one folded and an appeal has gone out for new members to join.

News of the relaunch has spread on social media this week, with the new Rotary Club looking to pick up the mantle of supporting local community groups and projects.

Those spearheading the relaunch have said that, given the current climate, coming together to support the community was 'more important than ever.'

A special launch event and fundraiser will now take place at Gurkha Majestic Dining on Thursday, January 22, and anyone in the town is invited.

The original Rotary Club held its last-ever meeting in June 2023 after more than 84 years of service to the town.

The Rotary Club was perhaps best known as the committed group that organised the town's hugely popular Santa Sleigh each year alongside the Droitwich Lions.

However, the club decided to close down due to the age of many of its members, meaning they were unable to be as active within the community.

It was instrumental in opening the Rotary House in 1958, while other activities included donating cash to local charities, including the Droitwich Spa foodbank and St Richard's Hospice, and handing out 'Good Citizen' awards to extraordinary members of the local community.

Coun Dan Birch is one of the people looking to aid the Rotary Clubs' relaunch and will act as its new secretary.

He said: "We're delighted to announce the return of the Rotary Club in Droitwich Spa, with a renewed focus on supporting local community groups and projects.

"For many years, alongside Droitwich Lions, the Rotary Club raised thousands of pounds for local causes.

"In the current climate, we believe coming together to support our com-

munity is more important than ever.

"To mark the relaunch, we're hosting a Droitwich Curry Night at Gurkha Majestic Dining and this relaxed buffet evening is open to everyone.

"This event is not just about raising funds, but also about raising awareness and we are actively looking to welcome new members.

"We'd love as many people from the local community as possible to join us - Rotary is open to everyone."

All funds raised from the curry evening will support the relaunch of Droitwich Rotary Club and help enable further fundraising across the town.

The curry evening will take place between 7pm and 9pm on January 22, and entry will cost £17.50 per person.

Visit: [buytickets.at/droitwichandevsham/2007579](http://buytickets.at/droitwichandevsham/2007579) for tickets and email [Dbirch@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:Dbirch@worcestershire.gov.uk) for more on the event, dietary requirements and general enquiries about the Rotary Club.



An appeal has been made for volunteers at Droitwich CVS. Picture by Marcus Mingins 1425001MMR

## Could you be a trustee?

DROITWICH CVS is looking for new volunteer trustees to help support the charity in the new year.

Those who become trustees will need to commit to attending quarterly board meetings, an annual general meeting and a development day.

Trustees will also be asked to offer additional time if they have a particular interest in the charity.

Droitwich CVS was formed in 1985 and looks to provide services which focus on the needs of the community.

It organises community transport, regular trips and events, training courses, information and guidance.

And it runs a community cafe and fridge.

A Droitwich CVS spokesperson said: "If giving a bit of time to support our work sounds appealing, or if you know someone who might be interested, we'd love to hear from you."

Email: [admin@droitwichcv.org.uk](mailto:admin@droitwichcv.org.uk) or call 01905 779115 for more information or to register interest.



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Dan Brennan, general manager of the Brockencote Hall Hotel, with Hannah Isaac from the Primrose Hospice and two of the hampers. s

## Hotel helps out with hospice funds

THE PRIMROSE Hospice was handed a fundraising boost after a local hotel donated 24 luxury hampers collectively worth £500 to aid its fundraising drive.

The charity received the hampers from the 4 AA Red Star Brockencote Hall Hotel in Chaddesley Corbett.

Some of the hampers will be used as raffle prizes to help the hospice's annual £1.95million fundraising drive to fund its work supporting patients with life-limiting illnesses and bereaved families while others were given to those facing a difficult time in the build-up to Christmas.

Items included festive treats and gifts, pre-

sented in a gift-wrapped wicker basket.

Dan Brennan, Brockencote Hall Hotel's general manager, said: "We know Primrose Hospice well through our engagement with the local community and are aware of the priceless work they do to help those in need, which is why we wanted to do our bit to give something back to say thank you."

The number '24' was chosen as it corresponds with the number of luxury bedrooms the hotel has.

Mr Brennan added: "We hope they put a smile on people's faces, whilst also helping to generate funds for a vital cause."

# Support at hand for town drivers

**HGV DRIVERS based at Oakland International have immediate access to mental health resources to help ease the psychological pressures associated with long journeys behind the wheel.**

Staff at the firm, which is based in Redditch, are being offered sessions with qualified therapists from Swift Psychology, as well as bespoke booklets tailored to provide guidance and reassurance in drivers' rest periods.

The move comes at a crucial time for the sector, with research indicating 44 per cent of HGV drivers suffer from depression.

Many drivers face long periods away from home, irregular sleep patterns and time pressures, which can lead to increased emotional strain and reduced wellbeing.

Lynne Pearson, distribution general manager at Oakland International, said: "Our drivers are the backbone of our business and their wellbeing is non-negotiable."

"By partnering with Swift Psychology, we're making sure support is available when and where it's needed most - whether that's on the road or during a quiet moment in the cab."

"This initiative reflects our commitment to creating a culture where mental health is valued as much as physical safety."

Dr Michael Swift, founder of Swift Psychology, said: "These booklets provide support in the moments that matter - when a driver is alone, under pressure, or simply in need of reassurance."

"Partnering with Oakland International allows us to not only provide reassuring resources at drivers' fingertips, but also real, human access to psychological expertise."

"It's a vital step toward improving mental health in the transport sector."

"Employees in unsupportive environments are more likely to experience mental-health issues and loneliness, whereas those working for empathetic employers report higher morale, better wellbeing, and lower stress levels."



To this end, Swift Psychology is currently working on adapting the booklets for use by Oakland International's non-driving workforce too.

On a wider scale, the UK Government estimates loneliness costs employ-

ers £2.5billion annually, through factors such as higher staff turnover, reduced productivity, and sickness absence.

**Oakland International staff are being offered sessions with qualified therapists. s**

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# Tributes follow passing of key figure from town's community

TRIBUTES have been paid to a former Bromsgrove councillor and community champion who has died at the age of 90.

Glenys Blackmoor lived in Catshill and was well-known by many in Bromsgrove.

She represented Labour as the Worcestershire County Councillor for Bromsgrove South - from 2005 to 2009 - and was a member of Catshill and North Marlbrook Parish Council for 20 years.

She was also involved with Bromsgrove International Link (formerly the Bromsgrove and District Twinning Association), hosting visitors from Saint-Sauveur-Lendelin in Normandy, France, and Gronau in Germany. And, as part of the link, she also visited Bromsgrove's twin towns on several occasions.

Glenys was also the social secretary of the Catshill branch of the Labour Party for more than 30 years.

Glenys was born in Birmingham in 1936 but moved to Catshill at an early age with her parents Frank and Eva.

Many of her family were active in trade unions and politics with several serving as councillors in Birmingham.

Her parents were also very politically involved with both serving on councils in Bromsgrove and Worcestershire.

As well as politics, the other family pas-

Community champion and former councillor Glenys Blackmoor. s



sion was cycling and Glenys was involved as an organiser and volunteer with local clubs from an early age, only stopping in her 70s because of ill-health.

Famously, she used to cycle from Bromsgrove to county council meetings in Worcester to promote sustainable transport. Work-wise, she helped with the family mar-

ket gardening business and later ran a small flower shop.

Her funeral will be held at 11am on January 22 at Waseley Hills Crematorium.

Glenys is survived by her three children, seven grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

## New deal helps to secure future of popular pharmacy

THE FUTURE of a Bromsgrove Pharmacy has been secured after part of the Jhoots Pharmacy and Chemist chain entered administration.

The BHI Parkside Medical Centre Pharmacy on Stourbridge Road is one of 68 sites bought out by Allied Pharmacies.

The newly acquired sites, temporarily closed at the time of sale, are spread across England and Wales, including London, Birmingham, Kent, Derbyshire, and Glamorgan.

Allied said it is focused on bringing all locations back to full operational capacity.

The move follows growing concern over Jhoots' financial stability, with reports of unpaid staff wages.

In November, 22 Jhoots-linked businesses controlled by Nilam Patel entered administration.

Suhail Abdullah, group chief executive of Allied Pharmacies, said: "We are delighted to welcome Jhoots sites into the Allied family. This acquisition reflects our core values of patient care and community service, and we look forward to driving innovation in pharmacy services."

Jonathan Board, director and head of pharmacy at Christie & Co, who handled the sale, added: "We are very happy to have facilitated this important transaction, ensuring that a large number of much-needed front-line healthcare settings are reopened to patients who rely on them."

"This deal highlights the strength and resilience of the UK pharmacy sector and the opportunities for growth through strategic partnerships."

Allied has also committed to supporting former Jhoots staff during the transition.

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The first vinyl records and CD fair will take place this Sunday, January 11. s

## All music lovers welcome to fair

THE FIRST Bromsgrove vinyl record and CD fair of the year takes place between 9am and 3pm this Sunday, January 11.

The event at the Bromsgrove Hotel and Spa will boast a wide range of more than 20 traders across 50 tables, selling thousands of new and used vinyl records which cater for all budgets.

Whether shoppers are looking for 90s Brit Pop, 80s pop classics, classic rock, punk, 00s collectables, reggae, hip-hop, dance,

soul, rock 'n' roll or new works, there will be something for everyone.

There is free on site car parking when registering inside the hotel and there is also a cafe and restaurant on site.

Anyone wanting more information should contact Ben or Call on 07832 247109 or 01527 873014.

Visit: [midlandsrecordfairs.co.uk](http://midlandsrecordfairs.co.uk) for further information.

**JOIN THE FUN:** A traditional Wassail will take place at Lickey Hills Country Park on Saturday, January 17.

The annual event has been organised by the Lickey Hills Society to celebrate the orchard by 'waking up the trees' with pots and pans and to ensure an abundant harvest for the year ahead.

Everyone is welcome and those wanting to participate should meet at the Visitor Centre in Warren Lane at 4pm.

The event includes star performances by the Black Adder Morris Dancers and Musicians, followed by a Mummers Play.

After the performances, everyone will

head towards the Heritage Community Orchard where the Wassail song will commence.

People are encouraged to make as much noise as possible and enjoy any apple based beverage of choice to toast the trees - they can either bring their own drinks or a cup to sample the orchard's offerings.

The society advises everyone to bring a torch, wear suitable footwear and wrap up warm given the current low, icy temperatures.

Visit: [thelickeyhills.uk/wassail](http://thelickeyhills.uk/wassail) for more details.

# Raising cash for vital volunteers

by **Ashleigh Osborne**  
ashleigh.osborne@bullivant-media.com

**RESIDENTS, colleagues and visitors at Haywood Lodge care home have been fundraising for Studley First Responders, a team of dedicated volunteers trained by West Midlands Ambulance Service.**

The group operates on a self-funded basis, relying entirely on donations and fundraising events to support their essential work in the community.

The fundraising efforts began at Haywood Lodge's summer fete in August, which was attended by members of Studley First Responders.

On the day, volunteers gave members of the public the opportunity to try CPR techniques using resuscitation dummies, helping to raise awareness of the importance of emergency response skills.

The fete also included a raffle and a barbecue, with all proceeds going towards the charity.



In total, Haywood Lodge raised £314, to help support the responders in continuing to provide rapid, life-saving assistance to those in need.

Luke Barry, volunteer with Studley First Responders, thanked everyone involved.

Home manager Georgia Cooney added: "We are incredibly proud to support such a worthy cause that makes a real difference in

our local community.

"Studley First Responders provide an invaluable service and we're delighted to have been able to contribute to their work."

"We're looking forward to raising even more funds in the new year."

**Residents and first responders are celebrating the funding. s**



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# Emilia needs stem cell match in leukaemia fight

**A BROMSGROVE nurse, mum-of-two and community champion who is suffering from leukaemia, has issued a desperate plea for help to find a stem cell match to give her a second chance at life.**

Emilia Shaw has worked in the NHS for 20 years and also gives her time up as a volunteer and scout leader, as well as running a group for new mums in the local area.

Emilia has recently been diagnosed with acute myeloid leukaemia and will need a stem cell transplant.

She and her family are now working with the blood cancer charity DKMS to call on people to register as stem cell donors.

Over the summer, Emilia began to notice she was consistently exhausted, but initially she put this down to early starts for work and taking care of her two young boys - Henry, aged six, and four-year-old Felix.

However, this got worse in the following few months and she also developed pounding headaches.

In December, she decided to go for a blood test at her GP practice and was diagnosed with leukaemia.

Emilia said: "I was just so tired all the time.

"I would feel tired at the wheel and I'd even fallen asleep watching panto with my boys.

"So I went in and got my blood checked on a Monday morning.



"By tea time, I was in hospital having a blood transfusion, and the very next day I found out I had acute myeloid 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.

Emilia has been undergoing treatment since she was diagnosed and has missed key celebrations, including her birthday, Christmas, New Year's Eve and her son's nativity

play. She added: "It's been tough for my husband Ben and our boys.

"Ben's mum passed away three years ago after a very short battle with cancer and then, in January 2025, my mum was diagnosed with breast cancer for the second time and had a mastectomy and reconstruction surgery.

"Also, Ben's dad has chronic leukaemia, so it feels like our whole family has been affected.

"My youngest doesn't really understand, other than 'mummy's blood isn't working', whereas my

six-year-old has more of an idea of what's going on."

Emilia reached out to DKMS after hearing the story of Leo Sproson, 16 and also from Bromsgrove, who was also diagnosed with acute myeloid leukaemia this year but has now found a match and is preparing to have a lifesaving transplant.

Visit: [dkms.org.uk](http://dkms.org.uk) for more information on how to register.

**Emilia said her diagnosis has been tough on her two boys, Henry, aged six, and four-year-old Felix. s**



**AVAILABLE:** The building housing one of Bromsgrove's bars has been placed onto the market.

The property - at 126 to 130 High Street - is currently being used as The Slug and Lettuce.

In the listing on its website, estate agent Right Move describes it as a 'vibrant busy late-night bar/restaurant on the busy Bromsgrove High Street'. It also states the venue has a 4am late licence on Fridays and Saturdays and an annual forecasted turnover of £996,312 (£699,291 on drinks and £265,682 on food with £11,339 from other funding sources. It points out these are predicted revenues and it did not have any trading figures.

The Slug and Lettuce at Bromsgrove is available on a turnover tenancy agreement with the Stonegate Group. This includes a 'wet tie' to Stonegate for drinks. The agreement is free of tie for all machines.

Rent in year one would be £55,270 inclusive of a turnover based rent. And the headline rent in year two is £68,270 inclusive of a turnover based rent.

Visit this story at [bromsgrove-standard.co.uk](http://bromsgrove-standard.co.uk) for more information.

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# MP adds voice to calls for bailiff action

REDDITCH MP Chris Bloore has joined MPs from across the political spectrum in urging the Prime Minister to prioritise legislation to introduce a statutory regulator for the bailiff sector, warning that vulnerable constituents continue to face unacceptable and harmful practices.

In a joint letter to Prime Minister Keir Starmer, Mr Bloore and parliamentary colleagues highlighted the lack of statutory oversight in the enforcement industry, despite the fact that bailiffs interact daily with people experiencing financial difficulty.

While welcoming recent work by the Ministry of Justice and the Government's commitment in the Financial Inclusion Strategy, MPs stressed that urgent action is now required.

The letter draws on evidence from debt charity StepChange, which found that more than half (54 per cent) of people subject to bailiff enforcement experienced intimidating or aggressive contact, including threatening phone calls, texts or letters.

MPs also referenced serious cases raised in Parliament, including disabled people subjected to aggressive enforcement action and the wrongful

removal of essential equipment.

Mr Bloore said: "For too long, vulnerable people have been left exposed to intimidating and aggressive bailiff behaviour."

"In Redditch, as elsewhere, people facing debt deserve protection, fairness and dignity - not fear."

"I am proud to have joined MPs from across parties in calling for a statutory regulator for bailiffs. This is a long-overdue reform that would bring the enforcement sector into line with industries such as energy and financial services, where proper regulation already exists."

The MPs also pointed to the Enforcement Conduct Board (ECB) - the current voluntary oversight body for the sector - which has itself called to be placed on a statutory footing to ensure all bailiff firms and agents are held to consistent standards and subject to effective monitoring and complaints processes.

The MP added: "There is strong cross-party support, clear backing from charities and stakeholders and minimal cost to introducing statutory regulation."

"The longer we delay, the longer vulnerable constituents remain at risk. I urge the Government to bring forward the necessary legislation at the earliest possible opportunity."

Blue light staff enjoyed breakfast at the care home. s

A CARE home in Redditch is showing its appreciation for the tireless efforts of local emergency service workers with its weekly Blue Light Breakfast Club.

Held every Friday from 8:00am until 11:00am, the scheme offers a warm and welcoming start to the day, complete with tea, coffee, freshly baked cakes, and hearty bacon baps. Each week, a member

of Millcroft's dedicated staff hosts the event, providing a chance for local heroes to relax, recharge, and enjoy a moment of community.

The Blue Light Breakfast Club is Millcroft's way of saying thank you to the local emergency services for their hard work, dedication, and commitment.

Lyndsay Sard, home manager at Millcroft Care Home said:

"Everyone at Millcroft Care Home is delighted to welcome our local emergency service teams every Friday."

"This is a small way of showing our gratitude for the incredible work they do day in and day out. It's wonderful to be able to provide a space where they can enjoy a relaxing breakfast and feel appreciated."

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# Councillor backs event after heart attack

by Ryan Smith  
ryan.smith@bullivantmedia.com

A TOWN councillor who recently suffered a heart attack is backing this year's Droitwich Soccer Aid, which will be raising vital funds to help those who have had similar experiences.

Councillor Richard Morris, who had a near-fatal heart attack in October, will be a special guest at this year's charity football match, which will raise cash for the British Heart Foundation.

The first Droitwich Soccer Aid was held in 2022 and each year the event has looked to raise cash for a good cause.

This year's match will take place at Droitwich Rugby Club on Saturday, June 27.

In October, Coun Morris (pictured, below) woke up early and went on his usual dog walk but began to feel unwell and started sweating.

When he arrived home, he stood in the kitchen and reached for an orange juice - the next thing he knew, he woke up in hospital.

He had collapsed in the kitchen as his heart had stopped but, luckily, his brother was on hand to call 999 and give him CPR.

He is now on the road to recovery and is looking to set up a local



Droitwich Soccer Aid will be supporting the British Heart Foundation. s

support group for anyone who has experienced or is experiencing cardio issues.

A spokesperson for Droitwich Soccer Aid said they were pleased Coun Morris would be joining the event in support of Soccer Aid Droitwich this year.

"Following his recent heart attack - a story many in the community may have read about in the *Droitwich*



*Standard* - raising funds for the British Heart Foundation has become particularly close to home for Coun Morris.

"This year's Soccer Aid event is about more than just football," said the spokesperson. "We are grateful for Coun Morris' support and involvement and look forward to working together to deliver an

event that brings people together for our community, for our children, and with purpose."

Coun Morris said he appreciated the invitation and was really pleased to support the event.

As well as supporting the British Heart Foundation, this year's match will look to set up a foundation to support local children who may want to join a Droitwich Spa FC team but are unable to afford subscriptions.

## Bus service put on hold

PASSENGERS ARE being warned a popular bus service is temporarily being diverted away from its timetabled route due to a road closure caused by a gas leak.

The 318 Bromsgrove to Stourbridge service, operated by Kev's Cars and Coaches, is currently unable to serve Belbroughton due to a gas leak on High Street.

A spokesperson for the bus company apologised for any inconvenience caused and added they expect the closure to be lifted.

The 318 service is expected to recommence serving Belbroughton again by Friday, January 16.

## Road open

A MAJOR road in Bromsgrove re-opened on Tuesday after being shut for three days because of concerns about ice.

Wildmoor Lane, in Catshill, was shut between the A491 Sandy Lane and Top Road on Sunday, due to ice.

Wildmoor Lane was one of three emergency road closures listed by Worcestershire County Council, along with two others, in Hanley Castle, Malvern; and Drakes Broughton, Evesham.

The move followed snowfall across much of Worcestershire at the start of the week.



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# Alan's football passion has inspired him to write

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

**THE MAN behind Bromsgrove's Walking Sports Hub is writing his first novella: *A Symphony with the City*, which centres on Sevilla FC, in Spain.**

Various factors inspired Alan Gormley to write the piece, including a love of football and history and, as a Birmingham City fan, Jude Bellingham's move from the club Alan supports to play abroad.

Alan told the *Standard*: "When Jude went off to Dortmund, I started speaking to a lot of people in Germany about their football clubs and then, when he moved to Madrid, I did the same with people in Spain.

"We holiday in Spain anyway so I've always had an interest in the place."

Alan started reading histories of both football clubs and the cities and countries they are based in.

He said: "I follow 15 clubs around the world and, on one flight to Spain, read up on their histories - one of them was Sevilla."

Alan said he became fascinated by

both the club and the history of the city.

"It was where the Spanish conquest of America began and I know a lot about the city - I love the history, the music, the buildings, the food and the beer there," he added.

"It was just as we were leaving Seville to go elsewhere in Spain that they beat Barcelona 4-1 - it was the first time in years they had won against them. It was almost as if it was a sign, so I stuck with Sevilla as the subject for my novella."

The way Alan has written the manuscript has been 'like a symphony' which, he said, inspired the title.

**History and hope**

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Alan has given the book to several people for feedback and will redraft his novella in the coming weeks.

He said he did not think it would make much money but added any proceeds will go to charity.

"Our Walking Sports Centre has a partnership with Primrose Hospice so that's one option but I'd love to hear from other local causes," said Alan.

"The next stage of the plan is to tidy up the manuscript and get three or four people to read it before I press the publish button (by 'publish', I'm thinking ebook and pdf)."

The book's blurb states: "In Seville, the game is not a pastime; it is pulse, poetry and prayer.

"Its anthem rises like a hymn from the whitewashed streets, its rhythm echoes in the tap of a dancer's heel, its heart beats in the roar of the Ramon Sanchez-Pizjuan.

"This is the story of a club born of fire and faith, shaped by artisans and dreamers, sustained by a city that sings, even in silence."

Anyone wanting to find out more about the novella, to give it a read or put forward a good cause to benefit can email Alan at: alan@sport-edge.co.uk or call him on 07731 369942.



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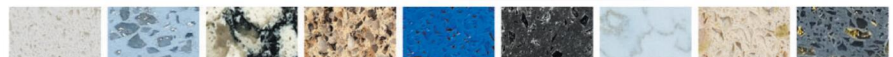
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The swap shop has returned after the successful inaugural one held at the Windmill Community Centre in June of last year. s

## A new look for nothing

A FREE Clothing Swap Shop will return to the town later in the month.

The event will take place at Redditch United Football Club from 1pm to 4pm on January 24 and is aimed at promoting sustainable fashion and reducing waste and offers residents a great opportunity to refresh their wardrobes without spending a penny.

The swap shop has returned after the successful inaugural one held at the Windmill Community Centre in June last year.

This event encourages residents to bring their unwanted, previously loved items of

clothing, shoes, and accessories, including children's items, to swap with others.

The organisers said it was a wonderful way to give clothes a new home and find amazing pre-loved pieces.

"We are aiming to promote sustainable fashion and reduce waste within our community."

Attendees should take along a maximum of 10 items. The group is focusing on winter-wear only.

Visit: [facebook.com/events/s/free-event-clothing-swap-shop](https://facebook.com/events/s/free-event-clothing-swap-shop) for more information.

# Final departure for railtour firm after long haul

by Neil Gordon

THE END OF the line has arrived for a much respected railtour company after it ceased operations after more than half a century of service.

Pathfinder Railtours ran its final charter last month after the owner decided to retire following 30 years spent running the business.

The popular Stroud-based company began life as F&W Railtours in 1973 with an excursion from Gloucester to Pwllheli, before being rebranded as Pathfinder Railtours in 1987 by Peter Watts.

Under Mr Watts' guidance Pathfinders became a trustworthy operator with excursions to destinations including Penzance and Scotland, with many tours calling at Northfield, Barnet Green, Bromsgrove and Droitwich.

However, Pathfinder's chief executive, Barry Cordell, decided to retire last year resulting in the final charter train being run and the company closing down.

Mr Cordell said: "We have achieved so much, but I now feel it is the right time to step back and retire."

The final excursion saw Western locomotive D1015 hauling the 'Pathfinders Finale' through Bromsgrove, Barnet Green and Longbridge as it headed from Salisbury to Manchester and back, on December 20.

Many rail enthusiasts and former Pathfinder's customers lined the route to see the final train.

And founder Peter Watts said: "50 years of continued operation is truly remarkable, and something that I am incredibly privileged to have undertaken."

"I extend my sincere thanks to our loyal passengers who have enjoyed numerous excursions, and hopefully travelled to many places they may not, otherwise, have visited."

The 'Pathfinders Finale' charter train approaching Stoke Works last month, hauled by Western D1015. Picture by David Gorton. s



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# Testing the water led to some key discoveries

IN AUTUMN we took part in the Water Blitz - this is where people can sign up both in the spring and autumn and are sent a small water testing kit to check water quality near them.



## Eco Action



We tested water from Battlefield Brook - just where the public footpath across playing field goes over the bridge.

High levels of phosphates and nitrates were recorded and a sample was also sent to Imperial College in London.

With it being the time of year farmers spread muck and other fertilisers and the amount of rain we experienced, the high levels were slightly expected due to run-off from fields the brook passed through. The phone call from Imperial College some weeks later however was not.

They informed me there was also very high levels of insecticides in the separate sample I had sent which I had not expected. This was indicative of flea treatment used on dogs which is washed off when dogs are let off leads to play in the brook.

Further research showed this is causing major problems in rivers across the country - a Google search highlights these.

The insecticides used to kill not only fleas on dogs but also aquatic organisms which in turn feed fish and is consumed by wildlife.

It also applies to dogs regularly bathed at home or at groomers where

the water running off their coats runs into the sewage system. A system which regularly discharges into rivers to add to the problem - the River Wye has also highlighted this.

Each time a dog enters the water or even walks in the rain without a coat, it reduces the efficacy of the treatment owners are expecting to last for six to eight weeks.

Depending how often the dog goes in the brook, this is reduced dramatically.

And the dog will leave a trail across grass/field where water is shook off or just drips off so, in turn, that area is additionally being treated with insecticide that will also kill microbes and organisms in the soil indiscriminately.

We have learned over the last couple of weeks there is a tablet form vets can prescribe rather than the 'spot on' variety which goes into the animal's blood stream.

We all know picking dog poo up when out is a must, then perhaps we can help nature and the environment more by switching to a more environmentally safe flea treatment for our pets as well.

Column by Edwina Evans, Chair, Bromsgrove Climate Action.

This is what the Tagwell Road site could look like. s



# New homes aim to be more affordable

THE FIRM behind a project which will see 100 affordable homes built in Droitwich said the new development would look to combat the challenges aspiring homeowners are facing in the area.

Bromford Housing Association was permitted to build the properties on a field off Tagwell Road back in November under delegated powers from Wychavon District Council.

The project includes 60 homes for social rent and 40 for shared ownership.

The development will also include wildflower meadows, new hedgerows and trees to boost

biodiversity, plus safe walking and cycling routes connecting to the wider area.

The development will include a mix of one and two-bedroom flats alongside two, three and four-bedroom houses.

Alastair Bird, planning manager at Bromford, said the firm was thrilled the plans had been approved for what were much-needed homes for Droitwich Spa.

"With house prices running at 12 times the average local income, finding an affordable place to live here has become a challenge for many families.

"This development changes that for 100 households.

"The mix of social rent and

shared ownership means we're opening doors for people at different stages of their housing journey, and we're making sure these homes work for the planet too."

Outline approval for the development of up to 100 new homes on the site was granted on appeal back in 2022.

The application site is located on the east side of Tagwell Road, south of Tagwell Grange and west of the M5.

After Bromford bought the 12-acre site from land promoters St Philips Land back in April, the firm announced the development would be 100 per cent affordable housing.

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# Youth activity levels are on the rise across Worcestershire

## But results fell in Redditch and Worcester

by Ashleigh Osborne  
ashleigh.osborne@bullivantmedia.com

**CHILDREN and young people across four county districts are more active than they were last year, according to new data.**

Sport England's Active Lives Children and Young People Survey results for 2024-2025 showed Bromsgrove, Malvern Hills, Wychavon and Wyre Forest all experienced growth in activity rates from those surveyed over the last 12 months for five- to 16-year-olds.

Bromsgrove rose 49.3 per cent to 52.8 per cent, Malvern Hills from 44 to 49.7 per cent, Wychavon from 42.8 to 48.6 per cent and Wyre Forest from 46.1 to 47.3 per cent.

To count as active, children

should aim for around 60 minutes or more of moderate physical activity daily, which is enough to raise their heart rate and leave them a little out of breath.

The data revealed a slight decline in Worcester, from 52.9 to 52.3 per cent, and a decline in Redditch, from 47.9 to 42.3 per cent.

The total active rate percentage for the county, for 2024-25, was 48.83 per cent, higher than the average rate of 46.45 per cent in the eight years since the survey began.

Dr Lisa McNally, director of public health at Worcestershire County Council, said: "It is brilliant to see a lot of positive figures across the county in the latest Active Lives Survey Data. Ensuring children have the very best start in life is a key priority for us."

"Through our Public Health Community Grant Programme, we

work closely with organisations, schools and community groups to support them with expanding access to sports, creative activities and wellbeing initiatives.

### Ambition

"We want the best for our residents so by working with our partners, we will continue to strive for a happy, healthy and active county."

Active Herefordshire and Worcestershire is committed to tackling inequality-related obstacles to physical activity in Worcestershire and is working with partners to try and ensure that the county's youth can be active for life.

Through their place-based working, they will be on the ground in

Redditch as well as working with School Games organisers and other delivery partners to continue the School Games, Worcs Girls Can programmes and more initiatives which help to target those who are not currently engaging with physical activity.

This is one of the reasons why public health is currently investing significant resources into the Redditch area to create more opportunities for children to become more active.

Stephen Brewster, chief executive officer at Active Herefordshire and Worcestershire, added: "There are a lot of positives to take away from this year's survey data across the county but there is also still work to be done."

Data has found that, overall, children are more active than ever in Worcestershire. s





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# Ambulance fleet set to be bolstered by new units

by Sarah Mason  
sarah.mason@bullivantmedia.com

## WEST Midlands Ambulance Service Trust (WMAS) is set to get an extra 23 vehicles.

The trust said it was set to benefit from a multi-million pound investment which would see the number of ambulances on the frontline rise by five per cent, helping crews reach patients faster and deliver life-saving care when it matters most.

The additional funding, from the Department of Health and Social Care, will see the trust's frontline fleet rise by 23 to 500 vehicles, in total.

In addition to the diesel ambulances, the trust will also receive eight fully electric ambulances by the end of March.

The expansion forms part of a wider investment that will see 142 vehicles added to the fleet by the end of March.

Of those, 87 have already been delivered and are supporting communities across the West Midlands.

Chief executive officer, Anthony Marsh, said: "This investment means more ambulances on the road, more capacity for our crews and faster help for patients when they need us most.

"Every vehicle plays a part in saving lives, and increasing our fleet strengthens our ability to respond to emergencies across the West Midlands.

### Greener

"We're also proud to continue investing in modern and electric vehicles, supporting both our staff and our commitment to a greener NHS."

Alongside increasing capacity, the investment also supports WMAS' commitment to sustainability. The service operates one of the most modern ambulance fleets in the UK.

The additional vehicles support the trust's long-standing five-year replacement cycle for frontline ambulances, helping crews have access to reliable, modern vehicles



West Midlands Ambulance Service is set to get an extra 23 vehicles to help its frontline responses. s

equipped to provide high-quality patient care.

WMAS was the first ambulance service in the country to trial electric ambulances, in 2020.

The trust is just one of several set to benefit from a new fleet of more than 500 ambulances nationally.

The government says the vehicles - replacing old ambulances across England - represent one of the biggest upgrades to the NHS fleet in recent years and have been rolled out to every region of England, helping emergency services respond faster and more reliably through winter.

Health and social care secretary Wes Streeting said: "In an emergency, every minute matters.

"When someone dials 999, they should get help fast - not be left

waiting because of creaking kit or preventable delays.

"These new ambulances are already helping to cut response times and keep more vehicles on the road, just as the NHS is facing a tidal wave of 'flu and the ongoing disruption of strikes.

"I want to thank NHS staff for their extraordinary dedication this winter.

"They are going above and beyond for patients, often in incredibly tough conditions, and this government is backing them with the modern equipment they need to do their jobs safely and effectively.

"Modernising our ambulance fleet means better care for patients and stronger emergency services - while backing British jobs and driving economic growth."

## Number of 999 calls is on the rise

THE NUMBER of emergency calls to West Midlands Ambulance Service has risen by nine per cent, from the same period of 2025.

Call assessors in Stafford and Brierley Hill took 1,510 calls between midnight and 7am on New Years Day - up from 1,386 the previous year. It is the second busiest new year for the service in recent times.

Over the two days (December 31 and January 1), the trust took a total of 9,289 calls, slightly down on the 9,965 calls the previous year.

West Midlands Ambulance Service chief executive, Anthony Marsh, said: "A massive thank you to the hundreds of staff and volunteers who worked over this period, many giving up time with their family and friends to work additional shifts and support the service through these notoriously busy periods.

"It's not just those on the road but the team in our control rooms and also the staff who support these colleagues in areas such as vehicle preparation, mechanics, stores, distribution and IT - it is a real team effort and I am immensely grateful for all that you have done to help the people of the West Midlands in their hour of need."



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# MP opts to put his voice behind single authority

BROMSGROVE'S MP has gone against his local council in plans for the future of local authorities as he 'fights to keep Worcestershire together'.

Bradley Thomas (pictured) held a Westminster Hall debate on Wednesday during which he backed a single unitary authority to be formed for the whole of Worcestershire.

He claimed the stakes could not be higher and expressed fears North Worcestershire could become an extension of Birmingham if the county was split into a north and a south unitary authority.

The proposal to create a north unitary council to run services, alongside another for the south of Worcestershire, was backed overwhelmingly by Bromsgrove District Council last year.

In his speech, Mr Thomas said the required aims of the new council organisation were to ensure financial sustainability, good value for money, high-quality services and an ambition of continued improvement and that the only viable option for Worcestershire is a single unitary authority.

He said: "Thereorganisation of Worcestershire Councils represents a defining moment for our county, one that offers either the opportunity to deliver better value for money to residents or, conversely, the risk of seeing parts of the county pushed involuntarily into becoming an

extension of an urban city.

"The stakes could not be higher. We need a single, united structure which provides the clarity, efficiency, and strategic strength necessary to meet the challenges that lie ahead."

Most district and borough councils, including Bromsgrove, Redditch, Wychavon and Malvern, along with Worcester City Council, have put forward a proposal for two unitary authorities with only Wyre Forest District and Worcestershire County councils agreeing with Mr Thomas.

Bromsgrove District Council leader, Coun Karen May, said at the time of the two unitary authorities proposal being submitted: "We believe we have created a proposal which takes into account the unique identities and geographies of our County and demonstrates that two unitary councils, a north and a south, is the right solution for Worcestershire and its people."

"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."

She added feedback to create the north south proposal came after engagement and feedback from our residents, customers, stakeholder and partners.



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**Wednesdays**

**7pm.**  
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**7pm**  
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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
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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
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3rd July	Norfolk – The Magical Waterland and Royal Retreat. Staying at Wensum Valley Golf and Country Club Hotel, Norwich. Includes Dinner Bed & Breakfast and an exclusive tour of Sandringham House, a trip on the Bure Valley steam railway and a leisurely Broads Cruise.....	4 Days from £525

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Chris Bloore with headteacher Laura Jarvis and Church Hill Middle School Council and Head Pupils. s

# School gets a visit from MP

by Ashleigh Osborne  
ashleigh.osborne@bullivantmedia.com

**REDDITCH MP Chris Bloore visited Church Hill Middle School to meet pupils, staff and school leaders and hear more about the school's journey of improvement and priorities.**

The visit followed an invitation from principal Laura Jarvis, who took up her role earlier this year and is leading the school through a period of positive change.

Mr Bloore met Mrs Jarvis to discuss progress at the school, its ambitions and how best to support pupils and the wider Church Hill community.

During the visit, Mr Bloore also took part in an in-depth, student-led question-and-answer session with members of the school council and head pupils.

Students asked confident and thoughtful questions about life as a Member of Parliament, how decisions made in Westminster affect Redditch and how young people can make their voice

heard in their communities. The MP said: "Their questions were smart, challenging and rooted in real concerns about their community, and they were a real credit to the school."

"It's clear that Church Hill is on a positive journey and that comes from the commitment of the leadership team, staff and pupils."

"Visits like this are invaluable in helping me understand the priorities of local schools and the issues that matter most to young people so I can represent them effectively in parliament."

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# Page-turners

WORCESTERSHIRE Libraries have released their top reads, highlighting the county's most borrowed books of 2025.

Worcestershire's libraries have generated more than two million issues in 2025, of which just over 1,350,000 have been issues of books, with another 220,000 relating to e-books and e-audiobooks.

Bob Mortimer was the new author to enter the list of popular page-turners, with entries in both fiction and non-fiction. *The Hotel Avocado* was the fiction entry, with nearly 400 loans, and *And Away* appeared for non-fiction, with 135.

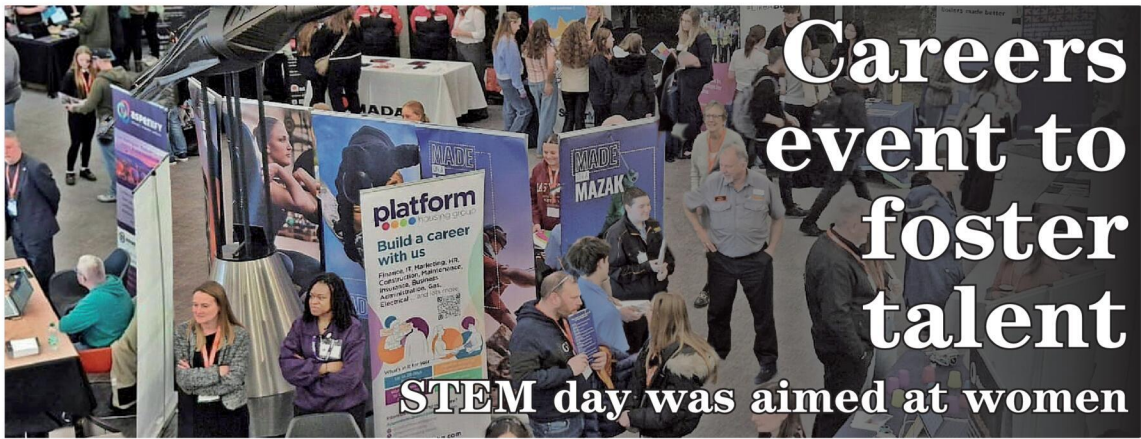
The most popular non-fiction book for adults was *The Salt Path*, by Raynor Winn, with just over 250 loans.

Miranda Hart is a new entry for this year's most borrowed books with her autobiography, *I Haven't Been Entirely Honest With You*, taking second place as readers borrowed the book just over 160 times.

Rounding out the top three was *Nuclear War: A Scenario*, by Annie Jacobsen.

Jeff Kinney was clearly the most popular children's author among the county's youngest readers, with two entries in the top three: *Diper Overlode* came top, with last year's number one read *Wrecking Ball* coming second. *Dog Man and Cat Kid*, by Dav Pilkey, was a new entry for this year and rounded out the top three.

Richard Osman continues to be the favourite adult fiction author for library customers, taking three of the top four spots, with *The Last Devil To Die* proving the most popular last year, with nearly 550 loans.



# Careers event to foster talent

## STEM day was aimed at women

The Generation STEM event. s

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

**WORCESTERSHIRE school-girls had the chance to learn more about future careers in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) recently, at a new, Worcestershire County Council event (WCC) aimed at inspiring them.**

Called Generation STEM and run by the council's Early Careers Worcestershire programme, more than 100 female school students were invited to attend, with the event showcasing the wide range of STEM careers open to them.

Held at the Worcester headquarters of Mazak, Generation STEM enabled attendees to explore inter-

active workshops, engage directly with women forging successful careers in engineering, manufacturing, technology and scientific research, and gain insight into the opportunities available across Worcestershire's growing STEM sectors.

The project is part of WCC's campaign to inspire the county's future workforce, helping young people understand career pathways from an early age and strengthening links between education and industry.

Councillor Alan Amos, WCC's cabinet member for business and skills, said: "Encouraging more girls to consider STEM pathways is vital for Worcestershire's future workforce and economic strength."

"Events like Generation STEM give young women the opportunity to see what is possible, to meet

real role models and to understand the careers that are open to them. Worcestershire needs home-grown talent in engineering, technology and science, and we will continue to support initiatives that help young women take those first steps."

### Statement of intent

Judy Gibbs, head of skills & employability at WCC, added: "Generation STEM was more than an event – it was a statement of intent. We want every girl in Worcestershire to feel informed, supported and confident when exploring the full range of STEM opportunities available to them."

"Working with employers, partners and schools, we're committed to widening access to STEM pathways and ensuring young people

can see a future for themselves within these industries."

Building on the momentum of the event, a cross-council Women in STEM Week campaign will soon be launched.

Taking place in April, the campaign will highlight the contributions of women working in STEM roles within the council and across the county.

It will champion local female talent, challenge outdated perceptions about women in STEM, and encourage more girls and women to pursue careers in those fields.

Worcestershire businesses are invited to support the campaign by showcasing their own female role models and helping to promote the breadth of opportunities available in the county's STEM sectors. Visit [worcestershire.gov.uk/skills](http://worcestershire.gov.uk/skills) for more information.

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### SO MUCH INCLUDED...

- ✓ Return coach travel from Redditch
- ✓ 4 nights at the Britannia Hotel, Leeds Bradford Airport (JG2 rating) with dinner & breakfast
- ✓ 2 for 1 bar (6pm-9pm) on selected drinks
- ✓ Excursions to York, Skipton Market & Haworth

Optional excursion to Harrogate (£12pp)

▶ **SAVE £10 - Quote OSG**  
- Book by 16 Jan 2026



## ISLE OF WIGHT WEEKEND

Departing Fri 6 Mar '26

A long weekend by the sea beckons on this lovely escape to the Isle of Wight. Beloved since Queen Victoria's reign, follow in the footsteps of royalty and relax at our base in a popular seaside resort and discover other highlights during an optional trip!

### SO MUCH INCLUDED...

- ✓ Return coach travel & ferry crossings from Bromsgrove
- ✓ 3 nights at the Shanklin Beach Hotel, Shanklin (JG2+ rating) with dinner & breakfast
- ✓ Entertainment some evenings
- ✓ Excursion to Newport

Optional Island Highlights tour (£15pp)

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### SO MUCH INCLUDED...

- ✓ Return coach travel from Redditch, Bromsgrove
- ✓ Overnight stay at a selected hotel outside London (JG3 or JG4 rating) with full English breakfast
- ✓ Stalls or Dress Circle ticket (evening performance)

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Departing Mon 16 Mar '26

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- ✓ Return coach travel from Bromsgrove
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hope for tomorrow.  
Anonymous



# Family Notices

Tel: 01527 588688 Email: reception@bullivantmedia.com

### DEATHS

## ALLCOCK

### Peter

Aged 78 Years

Passed away peacefully at The Alexandra Hospital on Wednesday 17th December 2025. Peter will be greatly missed by all his family and friends.

A service to celebrate Peter's life will take place at Redditch Crematorium on Wednesday 14th January 2026 at 10.15a.m. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to Myeloma UK to

Thomas Brothers  
Birchfield House  
494 Evesham Road  
Redditch  
B97 5JF  
01527 547777  
Thank You

### DEATHS

## SMALL

### Douglas Arthur

Sadly passed away on the 30th October 2025, aged 88 years. He was dearly loved by his wife, all his family and will be deeply missed by all his friends

The funeral will be held at The Vale Crematorium at 11am on 14th January 2026.

Family flowers only, donations if so desired can be left in the donation box provided to the British Heart foundation

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[www.nurseryshopredditch.co.uk](http://www.nurseryshopredditch.co.uk)

**Tel: 01527 550 700**



### DEATHS

## DAVIES

### Delia "Dee"

Passed away December 2025.

Sadly missed by all.

A service to celebrate the life of Delia will take place at Redditch Crematorium, Tuesday 20th January 2026 at 10.15am.

Family flowers only please. Donations if so desired to Cancer Research UK.

Thomas Brothers  
Birchfield House  
494 Evesham Road  
Redditch  
B97 5JF  
01527 547777  
Thank you

### DEATHS

## MURPHY

### Colin Michael

29/05/1956 – 24/12/2025

Sadly passed away on 24th December 2025, aged 69 years.

He will be very dearly missed by his wife Lorraine, his son Edward, daughters Kristina and Philippa, and his 9 grandchildren.

Colin's funeral service will take place at Waseley Hills Crematorium on Tuesday 20th January 2026 at 11:00am.

No flowers please, as donations are preferred.

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### GATEKEEPER

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Full details and application forms are available on the School website:

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**Closing date for all applications 19 January 2026**

*The School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. Applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening including checks with past employers and the DBS.*

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Tuesday 3rd February 2026 at the Holy Trinity Parish Centre

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PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICES

Warwickshire County Council

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
Warwickshire County Council has made the following Temporary Traffic Orders:

C47 WELFORD ROAD, BARTON
Order Effect: Road Closed to vehicular traffic between its junction with Honeybourne Road and the entrance to Cottage of Content Public House.

Anticipated Completion: 12 January 2026.
Access & Diversion: Welford Road, Barton Road, Long Marston Road, Welford Road, Main Street, Welford Road, Long Marston Road, B4632 (Stratford Road), High Street, Broadway Road, Stratford Road, B4035 Evesham Road, Honeybourne Road, Weston Road, Station Road, Buckle Street, Honeybourne Road and vice versa.

D5128 LEA CLOSE, ALCESTER
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic from its junction with Hertford Road.

Anticipated Completion: 19 January 2026.
Access & Diversion: No suitable diversion.
Contractor: Balfour Beatty, Tel: 03452 415 302.

LITTLE LAWFORD LANE, LITTLE LAWFORD
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.

Reason for Order: To safely enable tree trimming works.

Order Commences: 12 January 2026 for up to 18 months.

Anticipated Completion: 12 January 2026.
Access & Diversion: Harborough Road, Rugby Road, Pailton Road, Coventry Road, Stretton Road, Main Street, Luttermorh Road, The Crescent, Broad Street, Fosse Way, Newnham Lane, Bretford Road, Little Lawford Road, Little Lawford Lane and vice versa.

Contractor: Environmental Solutions, Tel: 07824 014 740.

CROOKS LANE, STUDLEY
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.

Reason for Order: To safely enable works to lay new gas main.

Order Commences: 10 January 2026 for up to 18 months.

Anticipated Completion: 11 January 2026.

Access & Diversion: Crooks Lane, Toms Town Lane, Foster Avenue and vice versa.

Contractor: Cadent Gas, Tel: 07831 706 512.

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

COUGHTON FIELDS LANE, COUGHTON
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.

Reason for Order: To safely enable replacement of existing pole.

Order Commences: 29 January 2026 for up to 18 months.

Anticipated Completion: 29 January 2026.

Access & Diversion: Coughton Fields Lane, Captains Hill, Kinwarton Road, Kinwarton Farm Road, Tything Road West, Arden Road, Birmingham Road, Willoughby Close and vice versa.

Contractor: M J QUINN, Tel: 01543 547 118.

WILLOUGHBY CLOSE & KINGS COUGHTON LANE, ALCESTER
Order Effect: Road Closed to vehicular traffic.

Reason for Order: To enable works on manhole sewer linings.

Order Commences: 26 January 2026 for up to 18 months.

Anticipated Completion: 26 January 2026.

Access & Diversion: Kings Coughton Lane, Alcester Health, Birmingham Road and vice versa.

Contractor: Sapphire Utility Solutions, Tel: 08009 992 266.

DUNNINGTON ROAD, SALFORD PRIORS
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.

Reason for Order: To safely enable works for hydrant renewal.

Order Commences: 27 January 2026 for up to 18 months.

Anticipated Completion: 31 January 2026.

Access & Diversion: Broom Lane, Dunnington Road, Salford Road, School Road, Tothall Lane and vice versa.

Contractor: Chevron Traffic Management Ltd, Tel: 03300 080 820.

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 09 Jan 2026

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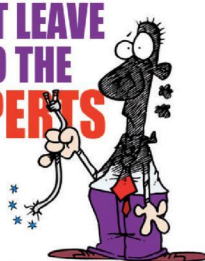
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## Saltmen start New Year with win at Hallen after derby success

by Aaron Sutcliffe  
aaron.sutcliffe@bullivantmedia.com

**FOOTBALL:** JAMES Lemon's goal ensured Droitwich Spa made a winning start to the New Year with a 1-0 victory against struggling Hallen.

Lemon scored the game's only goal in first-half injury time at the Hallen Centre.

The result means Droitwich sit second in the Hellenic League Premier Division table, two points behind Roman Glass St George with three games in hand.

However, Spa sit just two points ahead of Slimbridge in third who have three games in hand on the Saltmen.

Andy Crowther's side made a bright start as Alex Dugmore saw his early header sail over the crossbar.

Hallen goalkeeper Harry Thomas-Barker then denied Josh Hurdman before a defender blocked Jack Brighton's goalbound effort behind.

From the resulting corner, Thomas-Barker also kept out Ben Tilbury's header to keep the game goalless.

Hallen's only chance of the first period saw Harrison Fairman flash a cross-shot across the face of goal.

Droitwich eventually broke the deadlock two minutes

into injury time at the end of the first half when Lemon emphatically fired Brighton's low cross into the roof of the net.

Hallen almost drew level moments after the break as George King's effort from 25-yards out left Joe Stockton rooted to the spot only for the ball to travel inches past the post.

The Saltmen almost sealed the points as Tilbury saw his header at a corner cleared off the line by Jack Busby.

Hallen's only other chance fell to Busby as he sent a backwards header straight at Stockton who held the ball comfortably.

However, Spa comfortably saw out the game to seal back-to-back wins in the league for the first time since November.

That came after the Saltmen claimed a 4-2 derby win against Worcester Raiders in their final game of 2025.

A brace from Dugmore and goals from Tilbury and Hurdman ensured Spa ended 2025 on a high.

Droitwich are next in action against Mangotsfield United on Saturday, January 10 with kick-off at 3pm at Cossham Street.

James Lemon celebrates after putting Spa ahead. Picture by Mathew Mason.



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