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Community shocked by £500 charity shop raid

THE DROITWICH community has been shocked after a burglary at the town's much-loved Salvation Army Charity Shop saw hundreds of pounds stolen.

Those working for the charity told the Standard more than £500 was taken when thieves smashed one of its large windows and forced open a safe overnight between Monday and Tuesday morning.

Police were called to the St Andrews Street shop, and the store had to close for the day.

Mjr Sandra Collins, the leader of the Salvation Army in Droitwich, told the Standard: "It was discovered when the manager arrived for work in the morning.

"One of our large windows was smashed, and our safe was forced open. We have lost over £500, which was the cash taken over the last week.

"It's unbelievable what has happened, it is such a lot of money to lose. We run programmes for all ages at our centre in Ombersley Way and we are so grateful for all the support we receive from the people of Droitwich."

The Salvation Army uses profits from the shop to support community activities in Droitwich.

It runs regular pre-school, mums



Lisa Evans-Lochlin and Major Sandra Collins (Church Leader) have been angered by a break-in at the shop. Picture by Marcus Mingins 0426008MMR

today. Thoughts are with all those who give their time at the shop."

Others said they were 'disgusted and shocked' at the news, while many people offered help to those at the charity shop recoup some of the losses.

Mjr Collins thanked those who offered to help and said anyone who would like to donate could do so by visiting their website and following the JustGiving information on there.

The charity shop is open between 9.30am and 4pm from every Tuesday to Saturday and stocks a selection of good quality clothes, bric-a-brac and furniture.

Donations can be received any time the shop is open.

A spokesperson for West Mercia Police said an investigation into the incident was ongoing.

Visit salvationarmy.org.uk/droitwichfor more information and to donate.

and toddlers and friendship groups, luncheon clubs and Christmas gifts to families which need support.

The Droitwich Salvation Army

church feels the community work is a demonstration of God's love for us all.

The charity shop posted news of

the burglary on social media, leading many people to express their shock.

One said: "So sorry to read this

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Events are just the ticket



The museum is gearing up for the 2026 season. s

TRANSPORT Museum Wythall is gearing up for the 2026 season, with a new range of themed events.

A total of 11 themed events will take place during the year, including the return of the Harrington Owners Gathering and London Comes to Wythall - a tribute to Daimler in its 130th year, a dive into the 1970s and a review of 40 years of Deregulation.

The museum has created a new exhibition for the 2026 season looking at Birmingham's iconic Outer Circle bus route that opened 100 years ago in April.

The number 11 is a 27-mile orbital route with 266 bus stops that encircles the city's outer suburbs and is today operated by National Express West Midlands.

It is a famous 'Brummie' icon and was once Europe's longest urban bus route. The comprehensive exhibition explores the route

and its buses.

2026 follows another successful year for Transport Museum Wythall, maintaining its visitor numbers at circa 18,000 in an ongoing period of cost-of-living challenges.

This year includes the return of the Bristol Owners Gathering when the museum's Bristol buses will mix with visiting examples, presenting the wide range of buses.

The Harrington Gathering is also back this year, now established as a regular event. The sounds of fire engines, police cars and ambulances will ring out on blues and twos, then the museum will celebrate the Coventry built Daimler bus in its 130th year with a display of their own fleet alongside early Daimler cars from the British Motor Museum.

Visit wythall.org.uk/ for more information.

Are you in the running yet?

WITH THE Wythall and Hollywood Fun Run now just over four months away, time for people to sign up for the early bird offer to get cheaper admission to the races is running out.

The event, which offers 5K, 10K and Families on Track races, takes place in Wythall Park on Sunday, June 7.

Anyone wanting to take advantage of the early bird offer needs to do so before midnight on Monday, February 2.

The Wythall and Hollywood Fun Run is for anyone and everyone, whether they are an avid runner or just fancy getting out and soaking up the good vibes - all are welcome to the community fun run.

The site at Wythall Park is relatively flat, so a great course for first time runners who have just completed a Couch to 5K and those who are looking for a personal best time.

The event, supported by world champion and Olympic medalist Steve Cram CBE and the Events of the North team, has courses and distances for runners of all abilities and ages.

Steve said: "It's great to be back supporting the Wythall and Hollywood Fun Run."

"This is a fantastic grassroots event with a brilliant, family-friendly feel. The course works equally well for first-time runners and those chasing a personal best, and it really does feel like a celebration of running for the whole community."



Coun Satinder Bell, Worcestershire County Council's cabinet member for health and well-being, said: "The Wythall and Hollywood Fun Run is about much more than the race itself."

"It brings communities together, promotes wellbeing, and encourages people of all ages to be active."

"We're thankful to all the partners involved who help make this event such a success."

All participants will receive a specially designed bespoke medal to commemorate their achievement at this year's event.

Places are available now at the lowest price they will be offered.

People can visit: wythallhollywoodfunrun.org.uk to register and to watch the June 2025 event video.

The Wythall and Hollywood Fun Run is supported by Worcestershire County Council's Public Health Team and the Bromsgrove Standard is the official media partner.

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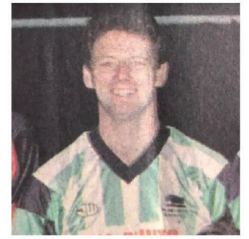
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Special charity match will be in memory of Rovers legend



A CHARITY football match in memory of Bromsgrove Rovers legend Mark Crisp will take place at the Victoria Ground later this year.

Crisp, who made close to 350 appearances for Rovers and scored 91 goals, died at the age of 60 in October 2024.

He memorably scored the opening goal for Rovers against Barnsley in the FA Cup third round back in 1993/94.

Rovers eventually lost the game 2-1 after Barnsley scored two late goals in front of 4,893 fans at the Victoria Ground.

And his son Max has set up a charity game

in his father's memory.

The match will take place on Sunday, March 22 with kick-off at 11am at the Victoria Ground.

A Bromsgrove Rovers XI will take on a Birmingham City All Stars side.

All proceeds from the game will go directly to the Primrose Hospice.

The Rovers XI will feature legends from the club's glory days in the 1990s. And Birmingham's squad will feature former Blues players including ex-Premier League stars.

A raffle with prizes, including matchday shirts from Jack Grealish and Morgan Rogers, will also take place on the day with the bar to

remain open throughout.

Details regarding tickets will be announced in due course but tickets and programmes will be available to purchase on the day.

Max has set up a fundraiser in his dad's memory. Visit justgiving.com/page/markcrisp10 to donate.

Mark Crisp scored for Rovers in the FA Cup third round against Barnsley. s



Droitwich Soccer Aid is back and bigger than ever. s

USEFUL RE-BOOT: A NEW scheme has been launched by the team behind Droitwich Soccer Aid to help recycle used football boots back into the community.

On Saturday, Droitwich Soccer Aid staff and players were joined by Coun Richard Morris and representatives from Droitwich Morrisons to launch Football Rebooted.

It is hoped the scheme will help youngsters from impoverished backgrounds get involved in the beautiful game.

Droitwich Morrisons has helped to provide a new Football Rebooted donation box, which is now in the heart of the town's shopping centre.

A spokesperson for Droitwich Soccer Aid said: "This scheme is fantastic, some of the football boots we receive look brand new, so recirculating them back into the community is not only good on an environmental level, but they get to be reused by children wanting to take up football whose parents can't necessarily afford top-of-the-range football boots."

The new Droitwich Soccer Aid foundation

plans to distribute funds to local sports clubs to help pay the fee for aspiring new members who might not be able to afford annual subscriptions.

The spokesperson added: "It's so important to encourage children to get into sport, but we realise sometimes how expensive keeping up a hobby can be, especially sport."


"Our Foundation, hopefully, will see more youngsters actively getting involved."

Droitwich Soccer Aid will mark its fifth event at Droitwich Rugby Club on June 27.

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

Coun Richard Morris, who had a near-fatal heart attack back in October, has been announced as a special guest at this year's charity football match, which will be looking to raise cash for the British Heart Foundation as well as the Droitwich Soccer Aid Foundation.

Email droitwitsocceraid@hotmail.com for more information.



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Survey gives chance to share stories of delays

BROMSGROVE MP Bradley Thomas has launched a survey on his website so residents in the district can share their experiences of postal delays and failed deliveries.

Mr Thomas wants people to get in touch after he received a number of complaints about unreliable postal deliveries.

He added some people had told him they had missed hospital appointments because letters had not been delivered on time.

The MP (pictured) has raised each case directly with the Royal Mail but he now wants to understand the scale of the issue in the constituency and to do so he has launched a survey so residents can let him know.

Mr Thomas said: "The number of complaints I'm receiving is growing and the service isn't improving - despite raising

every complaint I receive directly with Royal Mail.

"The unreliability of postal deliveries is a real problem and the service residents are receiving just isn't good enough.

"Let me be clear, this is not a criticism of our hardworking postmen and women.

"My issue is with how the Royal Mail is currently being run.

"I want to better understand the scale of the problem across Bromsgrove and the villages.

"Please do complete my survey so I can take the results to Royal Mail, the Government and Ofcom so we can get the improvements we need to see to our postal service."

People can visit: bradleythomas.org.uk/royal-mail-survey for more information and to have their say.



MPs join forces to push for action on postal service crisis



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

REDDITCH MP Chris Bloore and Bromsgrove MP Bradley Thomas have joined forces to apply for a Backbench Business debate in the House of Commons on the growing crisis in postal services.

The application, already backed by 60 MPs from across political parties, reflects widespread concern about delays, missed deliveries and poor service standards affecting communities nationwide.

Rural and semi-rural areas, such as Redditch, Bromsgrove and the surrounding villages, particularly hard hit.

The move follows sustained campaigning by Mr Bloore after residents in Inkberrow and nearby villages reported going days and, in some cases, weeks without receiving post.

Constituents have raised serious concerns about NHS appointment letters arriving late or after scheduled dates, vital documents have gone missing and bills have been delivered after payment deadlines.

Mr Bloore has taken a series of steps locally and nationally, including meetings with Royal Mail, engagement with the Communication Workers Union (CWU), a formal letter to postal regulator Ofcom and support for a local petition demanding urgent improvements to services in Inkberrow.

He said he has received more than 200 complaints from Inkberrow residents alone, despite repeated assurances from Royal Mail that services would improve.

"Week after week, residents are telling me the same thing - no post for days or weeks at a time.

"That means missed NHS appointments, late hospital letters and vital paperwork arriving too late to be useful.

"This is not a minor inconvenience - it is a serious failure of a basic public service people depend on.

"This is no longer just a local problem. MPs from across the country are hearing identical stories from their constituents.

"That is why we are pushing for a full Commons debate to hold Royal Mail and the regulator to account and demand urgent action."

The proposed Backbench Business

debate would allow MPs to press ministers, Royal Mail and Ofcom on how they intend to restore reliable postal services and enforce Royal Mail's universal service obligations.

Issues expected to be raised include the impact on vulnerable residents, enforcement action by Ofcom and how a

dependable service can be guaranteed for villages and harder-to-serve communities.

Droitwich MP Nigel Huddleston also confirmed he had been contacted by his constituents about postal delays.

"I'm very concerned about postal failures in my constituency.

"As a member of the Shadow Cabinet I am unable to participate in the debate, however I have raised this with Royal Mail directly and have written to the Minister to express concerns.

"My constituents deserve better."

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Triumph for town as Rotary Club returns

THE FIRST event for the new Droitwich Rotary Club has been hailed a massive success.

A special launch event and fundraiser took place at Gurkha Majestic Dining, with everyone in the town invited.

Just under 50 kind-hearted members of the community attended the event, which included a meal.

In total, more than £350 was raised for Rotary - that will go towards supporting local charities and organisations.

As part of the launch event, \$200 was presented to the local Girl Guides to improve security on their site and make it safer for those who use their facilities.

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

Coun Dan Birch, the new Rotary Club's secretary, said: "Our first Droitwich Rotary Club event was a massive success.

"Our group's mission is to raise money locally and give money locally so we can support our town.

"If you are interested in getting involved in Rotary or running a local community group or organisation and feel Rotary may be able to support you, then get in touch."

The original 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 active within the community.

Members of the new Droitwich Rotary Club at the launch event. s



It was instrumental in opening the Rotary House in 1958, while other activities included donating cash to local charities, such as the Droitwich Spa Foodbank

and St Richard's Hospice, along with handing out 'Good Citizen' awards to extraordinary members of the local community.

LONGBRIDGE has been named as the most popular place to move to in Birmingham last year.

Figures, taken from Compare My Move, Rightmove and Property Data, show the south west Birmingham suburb - famous for its motor manufacturing history - overtake Birmingham City Centre, despite having a net decline in the number of people moving there.

According to the statistics, the average house price is £232,821 and the average monthly rent is £1,036. The number of Birmingham movers to Longbridge was 6.3 per cent, although that was 12.3 per cent down on the year before.

In second place was Birmingham city centre which has an average house price of £229,164 and average monthly rent of £1,082. The number of Birmingham movers to Longbridge was 6.1 per cent, which was down by 12.3 per cent on the previous year.

The third most popular place in Birmingham to move to was Selly Oak, in fourth was Edgbaston, in fifth was Kings Heath and in sixth was Harborne.

The rest of the top ten included Moseley, Digbeth, Stirchley and Ladywood.

Community champion and campaigner Gemma Cartwright MBE, who organises the Pride Of Longbridge every year, said: "I'm so proud our area is getting the recognition it deserves.

"This shows what me and everyone here has been saying.

"With the investment, regeneration, the town centre, housing and fantastic transport links we have here, Longbridge is a really great place to live in, work in and visit."

THE NEXT Drink and Doodle session to be organised by Droitwich Arts Network (DAN) will take place from 6pm to 8pm on Tuesday, February 3, at the town's library.

Everyone is welcome to the event. People should note there is no drinks machine at the library so people should bring their own.

People need to also take their library card to gain access as the building will be unmanned at that time.

Anyone without a library card can just knock on the window and one of the DAN team will let them in.

DAN's full programme of events for 2026 will be released soon.



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MPs make Holocaust pledge

Members promise to resist intolerance and hatred

by Ashleigh Osborne
ashleigh.osborne@bullivantmedia.com

THE MPs for Bromsgrove, Redditch and Droitwich have signed the Holocaust Educational Trust's Book of Commitment in parliament.

The signings, by Bradley Thomas, Chris Bloore and Nigel Huddleston, respectively, coincided with Holocaust memorial day, on Tuesday.

The trio, and other members of parliament pledged to remember the 6 million Jewish men, women and children murdered during the Holocaust, to honour survivors who have dedicated their lives to education and to speak out against antisemitism.

Holocaust memorial day 2026 marked 81 years since the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp.

This year's memorial day theme, 'bridging generations', highlighted the shared responsibility to ensure remembrance and its lessons are passed from one generation to the next as the number of survivors declines.

Mr Thomas said: "Holocaust memorial day was an important opportunity for people from Bromsgrove to reflect on the darkest times of European history.

He pledged to speak out against all forms of antisemitism.

"This, in recent months, has risen exponentially, and needs to be tackled head on," added the Bromsgrove MP.

Mr Bloore said: "As the voices of survivors grow fewer, and frailer, the responsibility to remember does not disappear – it passes to us. Coming together in Redditch to mark Holocaust memorial day is deeply important. This year's theme, bridging generations, reminds us that remembrance only endures if it is actively passed on – from grandparents to grandchildren, from teachers to pupils and through community events like this"

The Redditch MP added, he was deeply moved by the testimony of Lejla Golos at the Redditch commemoration.

"Her story is a stark reminder that genocide is not just history. It happened in Europe within our lifetimes and it always begins the same way – with hatred tolerated, normalised and ignored. Holocaust memorial day must also be a call to action. Antisemitism is rising again and saying 'never again' only means something if we are prepared to challenge prejudice early and decisively, wherever it appears."

Mr Huddleston said the event was vital to remember the 6 million Jews murdered in the Holocaust and honouring survivors

who worked tirelessly to educate younger generations.

"As the number of survivors sadly declines, it is our responsibility to ensure their stories are never forgotten," said the Droitwich MP.

"When antisemitism has risen sharply, remembrance must go with a renewed commitment to challenge hatred, prejudice and discrimination."



Bradley Thomas said it was time to reflect on the darkest times in Europe's history. s

Nigel Huddleston (below) said, as well as remembrance, there must also be a renewed commitment to challenge hatred, prejudice and discrimination. s

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Memorial day unites community



Bromsgrove District Council chairman, Coun Sam Evans, laid a wreath at the Holocaust Memorial in Sanders Park. s

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

BROMSGROVE came together on Tuesday, for Holocaust memorial day.

A poignant service took place at Bromsgrove Council House, at Parkside.

The day opened with welcomes from Bromsgrove District Council chairman, councillor Sam Evans, and

council leader Karen May. The service was led by Rev Alan Conant and CE John Leach lit the Holocaust Memorial Day candle.

Pradeep Chaudhari said a prayer during the service, which brought together people from different faiths, along with those of no faith.

This year's theme, 'bridging generations' emphasized the importance that remembrance be observed and that knowledge of the tragedy is passed between age groups.

The Bromsgrove service included pupils from several schools including Alvechurch, Aston Fields, Parkside, St John's, and Catshill middle schools, Rigby Hall, Bromsgrove School, and Woodrush and North Bromsgrove high schools. Woodrush High students performed a song.

Sir Nicholas Lechmere Bt, Deputy Lord Lieutenant for Worcestershire, read the act of commitment.

Afterwards, Bromsgrove

District Council chairman Evans laid a wreath at the Holocaust memorial in Sanders Park.

This year marks the 81st anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi concentration camp.

Holocaust memorial day offers the chance to remember the 6 million Jewish people murdered and to honour the survivors who have dedicated their lives to raising awareness of the atrocity.

Shoplifter gets jailed

A PROLIFIC Bromsgrove shoplifter has been jailed after a string of offences.

Brian Alton, of Turntable Avenue, was sentenced to 10 months in prison after being found guilty of five counts of theft from a shop.

The offences related to incidents at shops in Bromsgrove between January 5 and 16.

The 59-year-old was also charged with failing to comply with the community requirements of a suspended sentence.

Alton was handed

the sentence at Kidderminster Magistrates Court.

Sgt Sonny Wright, from the local safer neighbourhood team (SNT) welcomed the custodial sentence handed to Alton, adding a lot of businesses would too.

"Bromsgrove SNT has seen an uplift in officer numbers recently, meaning we are able to dedicate more time to dealing with issues that impact our community, such as this," he said.

"We will continue to robustly tackle shoplifting in the town."

Crash witness appeal

A MOTORCYCLIST aged in his 20s sustained serious injuries after a crash on the A448 between Kidderminster and Bromsgrove.

The emergency services were called to the incident, at around 4.30pm on Sunday, on the main Kidderminster Road between Clattercut Lane and Berry Lane.

A black Honda motorbike collided with a white Volvo EX30.

West Midlands Ambulance Service sent an ambulance, two paramedic officers, a medical emergency response incident team trauma doctor with a critical care para-

medic, and a helicopter from the Midlands Air Ambulance attended.

The motorcyclist suffered serious injuries and received specialist trauma care at the scene before being taken to Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

A second patient was assessed and discharged at the scene.

West Mercia Police have appealed for witnesses and for drivers who have dash cam footage from around the time it happened, to get in touch.

Anyone who can help should email christopher.fowler@westmercia.police.uk with the details.

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Morganisation is coming to Feckenham Village Hall. s

Some vintage rock

ROCKER Dave Scott-Morgan from ELO will perform at Feckenham Village Hall at 7.30pm next Saturday, February 7.

Morganisation is an unmissable evening of classic rock nostalgia, engaging storytelling and feelgood energy.

The night promises a show for music lovers of every generation and will feature ELO favourites, original songs and timeless rock tunes. With Dave's extensive musical legacy - from The Move to Magnum - and the warm presence of his wife Mandy bringing rich harmonies and humour, the performance is as personal as it is powerful.

Those watching can expect soaring melodies, epic guitar moments and stories from behind the scenes of one of the world's

most iconic bands.

Whether people are reliving their vinyl glory days or discovering these classics for the first time, Morganisation is billed as a show full of heart, soul and great tunes and an evening that will people singing all the way home.

The show has been brought to Redditch's rural outpost by Live and Local - the county's performing arts scheme.

The performance is sponsored by Arts Council England, Worcestershire County Council and Redditch Borough Council. Visit: feckhall.org for more information and tickets, which are also on sale at the Village Shop and The Rose and Crown in Feckenham.

Alternatively, call 0333 666 3366.

Music and comedy among offerings

THERE is something for everyone at Bromsgrove's Artrix next month with live music, rock tributes, cinema classics and even some stand-up comedy.

Milton Jones will start the month on February 3, bringing his one-liners, story-telling and rapid-fire wit to the audience.

On February 5, there will be a truly unique event with 'REM X Buster Keaton's Sherlock Jr' - this is a magical fusion of silent film and live music as the cult classic is reimagined with an REM inspired soundtrack.

'Roy G Hemmings TSOP & Motown' will be at the venue on February 6 - timeless hits bound

to have the audience in awe and up and dancing in their seats.

For fans of dance will be in their element on February 9 when 'ROH Live: Woolf Works' brings Royal Ballet live through elegant choreography and surreal storytelling.

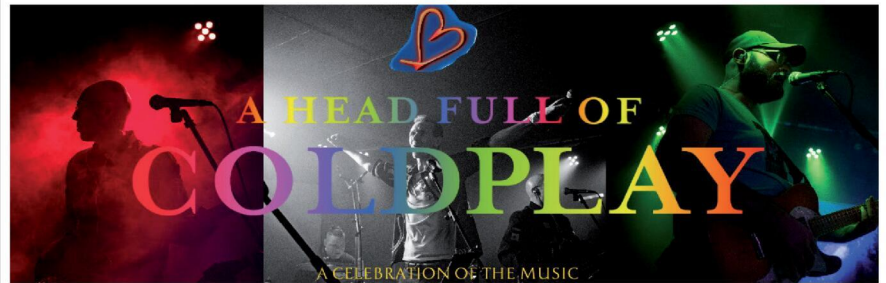
Next up will be a flurry of tribute acts, including 'A Head Full of Coldplay' on February 12, 'Eclipse - The Pink Floyd Experience' on February 13 and 'Let's Hear it for the Girls' on February 14. The latter is a mass tribute to iconic female artists.

John Hindle's 'King of the Road Tour' will come to the venue at on February 20 and, for rock fans, there is 'Mothership: Led Zeppelin' on February 21 and 'Bon Jovi forever' on February 22.

The final music events of the month will take viewers back in time - 'ABBA Gold' on February 27 and 'That Britpop Band' a day later, on February 28.

In between will be popular Bromsgrove comedian Fat Theo - after his debut full-length show The Journeyman last year, he returns with 'The Contender' on February 26. He will be supported by Danny Strachan, Katie Slater, and introducing Suzanne Lane.

Most shows start at 7.30pm. Visit: artrixbromsgrove.co.uk or go to the theatre's box office - between 10am and 12pm on Monday or from 6pm to 8pm Wednesday to Saturday - for times, tickets and more information.



A Head Full of Coldplay is among the top tributes coming to Bromsgrove's Artrix. s

WHAT'S ON AT ARTRIX

Whether you're starting the year with big resolutions or just looking for something fun to look forward to, we've got the lights on, keep an eye on the highlighted events, they are the top picks by our volunteers and tickets are selling fast!

LIVE MUSIC:

- 30TH JAN: **WOMEN IN ROCK**
- 6TH FEB: **ROY G HEMMING'S - TSOP & MOTOWN**
- 12TH FEB: **A HEADFULL OF COLDPLAY**
- 13TH FEB: **ECLIPSE - THE PINK FLOYD EXPERIENCE**
- 20TH FEB: **JOSH HINDLE (KING OF THE ROAD TOUR)**
- 21ST FEB: **MOTHERSHIP LED ZEPPELIN**
- 27TH FEB: **ABBA GOLD**
- 28TH FEB: **THAT BRITPOP BAND**
- 4TH MARCH: **THE TAP CHAPS**
- 6TH MARCH: **BEATLEMANIA**
- 7TH MARCH: **NEARLY DAN - THE SOUND OF STEELY DAN**
- 15TH MARCH: **THE SPICE PARTY - 30 YEARS OF THE SPICEGIRLS**
- 19TH MARCH: **TINA TURNER EXPERIENCE**
- 20TH MARCH: **FLEETWOOD UNCHAINED**
- 21ST MARCH: **FEARLESSLY TAYLOR (TAYLOR SWIFT TRIBUTE)**
- 2ND APRIL: **SMOOTH CRIMINAL - MICHAEL JACKSON EXPERIENCE**
- 4TH APRIL: **ELECTRIK LIVE ORCHESTRA**
- 9TH APRIL: **K-POP SUPERSTARS**
- 10TH APRIL: **THE RADIOHEAD PROJECT**
- 11TH APRIL: **THE ANNIE LENNOX & EURYTHMICS SHOW**
- 12TH APRIL: **SHANIA TWAIN - BY SHANIA LIVE**
- 17TH APRIL: **ONE NIGHT OF ADELE - NAOMI JOHNSON**
- 23RD APRIL: **WILD BOYS OF THE 80S**
- 2ND MAY: **GIVE ME THE NIGHT (GEORGE BENSON TRIBUTE)**
- 3RD MAY: **THE SABRINA CARPENTER TRIBUTE**
- 4TH MAY: **CASSIDY JOHNSON SINGS CAROLE KING**
- 8TH MAY: **AND FINALLY PHIL COLLINS**
- 9TH MAY: **OASISH**
- 14TH MAY: **ELTON'S SONG - BEYOND THE YELLOW BRICK ROAD**



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EVENT CINEMA:

- 5TH FEB: **R.E.M X BUSTER KEATON'S SHERLOCK JR**
- 9TH FEB: **ROYAL OPERA LIVE: WOOLF WORKS**
- 2ND MARCH: **NATIONAL THEATRE LIVE: THE AUDIENCE**
- 3RD MARCH: **ROYAL OPERA LIVE: GISELLE**
- 31ST MARCH: **ROYAL OPERA LIVE: SIEGFRIED**
- 20TH APRIL: **NATIONAL THEATRE LIVE: ALL MY SONS**
- 21ST APRIL: **ROYAL OPERA LIVE: THE MAGIC FLUTE**
- 5TH MAY: **ROYAL OPERA LIVE: EUGENE ONEGIN**
- 28TH MAY: **NT LIVE: LIVE PLAYBOY OF THE WESTERN WORLD**
- 25TH JUNE: **NT LIVE: LES LIAISONS DANGEROUS**



THEATRE:

- 12TH - 14TH MARCH: **THE GREAT BRITISH BAKE OFF MUSICAL**
- 22ND MARCH: **DISNEY NEWSIES JR.**
- 26TH MAY: **WONDERS OF THE UNIVERSE**
- 24TH - 27TH JUNE: **SLEUTH**
- 18TH AUGUST: **WONDERS OF THE UNIVERSE NEXT CHAPTER**
- DECEMBER: **RAPUNZEL THE TANGLED PANTOMIME**

COMEDY:

- 4TH FEB: **MILTON JONES - FUNNY BEESENESS**
- 26TH FEB: **FAT THEO - THE CONTENDER**
- 5TH MARCH: **MATT PARKER GETTING TRIGGY WITH IT**
- 26TH MARCH: **ACAPALYPSE NOW - ALFIE MOORE**
- 14-15TH APRIL: **JONNY COLE ARMAGUDD'N**
- 21ST NOV: **TINY TIM'S FAMILY ADVENTURE**
- 21ST NOV: **TNY TIM'S STAND UP ADVENTURE**



SPOKEN WORD:

- 18TH MARCH: **BIRMINGHAM CITY LEGENDS - AN EVENING WITH CLINTON MORRISON AND MICHAEL JOHNSON**

YOUTH THEATRE:

STARTING FEB 28TH, THE ARTRIX YOUTH THEATRE PROGRAMME BEGINS WORKING TOWARDS A SUMMER PRODUCTION OF HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL JR IN THE MAIN AUDITORIUM. FOR MORE INFO VISIT ARTRIXBROMSGROVE.CO.UK/YOUTHTHEATRE

ELTON'S SONG:

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Needleworks gets a facelift



Ben Truslove, joint managing director at John Truslove; with Richard Clift and Adam Darby, joint owners of FINN Contracts, at Grange Works. s

AN HISTORIC former needle factory in Redditch is on the market.

The Grange Works former factory and brickworks, at 93-95 Bromsgrove Road, has been renovated by FINN Contracts to provide modern office and workshop space.

Adam Darby, a director at FINN Contracts, based in Kidderminster, said the company bought the property, through John Truslove, last year and is now marketing it for use as a leasehold commercial site.

"This Victorian building is very much part of the industrial history of Redditch," he said.

"It is a great example of some of the quality fit-out and renovation work we provide and we think it will prove very attractive to a new business."

He added, the company had worked with Ben Truslove – joint managing director at John Truslove – on various projects over a decade.

"They are very knowledgeable about the local market and were a clear choice when it came to marketing this property," said Mr darby

Grange Works is a detached, two-storey property with first-floor offices and further office space plus a workshop or storage area on the ground floor.

The 1,850sq ft building is on a triangular site of just under half an acre, with a large, securely fenced and gated car park and yard.

Ben Truslove said: "Adam and the FINN Contracts team have done an excellent job refurbishing and redecorating the Grange Works and turning it into a highly attractive property.

"As landlords, they will consider splitting the property and letting the ground floor space only, with a portion of the car park. We believe a quality commercial site like this will secure tenants very quickly."



In-spire-ational

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

MEMBERS of Bromsgrove's St John's Church have celebrated the end of an almost year-long project to restore its spire.

A cake-and-coffee concert on Saturday saw more than 260 people pack the church to celebrate completion of the spire restoration project.

The \$500,000 plan involved the top 2.5m of the spire being taken down and rebuilt, using Locharbriggs sandstone.

The central iron masonry rod, which had rusted and caused the original sandstone to crack, has been replaced by stainless steel.

Some 70 per cent of the spire has been regouted and many of

the ancient tower parapet stones have been replaced with newly-carved sandstone pieces.

All the new work is visible from the ground – it is the crisp red stone atop the tower and spire.

The spire appeal and project was co-ordinated and managed by the Friends of St John's Trustees.

Trustees chair Jo Slade, said: "The success of this important project has been made possible thanks to support from the community and collaboration with many individuals and organisations.

"The Friends of St John's have worked with the cake-and-coffee concerts to hold open days and heritage engagement events, so it was most fitting we celebrated the end of the project at a concert.

"The quality of the music certainly matched the occasion."

As a lasting legacy, the top

section of the spire, which had cracked, has been rebuilt at the base of the church tower.

The rebuilt spire apex will celebrate the many people who have built, added to and restored the grade I listed church building over many centuries.

Chair Jo added: "Friends of St John's Trustees are incredibly grateful to everyone who has supported this important project.

"We had a wonderful team of restoration and heritage professionals working on this project, all bringing their skills, knowledge, understanding and care to ensure the success of this important work.

"Our most sincere thanks really do go out to everyone who has contributed to the important restoration work and engaged with the wonderful heritage on offer in Bromsgrove's landmark church."



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RUBICON LEISURE

Thousands of new homes on latest plans

PLANS for 5,500 new homes and a town centre have been formally submitted for the proposed new settlement around Worcestershire Parkway Railway Station.

A spokesperson for the government's housing and regeneration agency Homes England, confirmed two outline planning applications for Wychavon Town had been received by Wychavon District Council.

The proposals seek consent for several thousand homes alongside schools, community facilities and employment opportunities, integrated transport and active travel connections.

Ben Frodsham, Homes England's head of planning and enabling, said: "The submission of outline planning applications for 5,500 new homes, a new town centre and supporting infrastructure is a significant milestone in the delivery of Wychavon Town."

He added it followed many years of collaboration with partners Summix, local councils and Worcestershire County Council.

"This is an important step towards delivering a high-quality new settlement that will help meet housing needs over the next 40 years."

Wychavon District Council is currently consulting on Wychavon Town until February 17. See wychavontown.co.uk/WTSPD for details.

Important questions have meant a very busy start to the new year

THE NEW year in Parliament has started with a full agenda, from votes on tax policy to debates about digital regulation, culture and national security.

The Conservatives voted to scrap the so-called 'Family Farm Tax' again. Farming is the backbone of rural communities like ours and this policy unfairly penalises those



There has been a busy start to the new year in Parliament. s



Westminster Diary

Nigel Huddleston MP writes for The Standard

trying to pass on family businesses. The Government has now done a partial U-turn, but it is not enough.

I was honoured to sign the Holocaust Educational Trust's Book of Commitment to mark Holocaust Memorial Day. This year's theme, Bridging Generations, is a powerful reminder of our duty to preserve the memory of the 6million Jews murdered during the Holocaust and to confront antisemitism wherever it appears. With survivors becoming fewer, it is more important than ever we remember their stories and stand against hatred.

I used Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) Oral Questions to raise two important issues. First, I called on the Government to act on a loophole in the consumer rights legislation that risks harming cultural and heritage organisations. The current 14-day refund rule could be exploited, allowing people to sign up for memberships, visit venues for free, and then cancel and get a refund.

Second, I asked what conversations took place between DCMS, the Home Office and others before the controversial decision to ban Israeli fans from the Aston Villa v Maccabi Tel Aviv football match. Very little was done to stop the ban and more answers are needed.

I welcome the Government's decision to

row back on its Digital ID cards plan. While technology has an important role to play in improving access to services, any system involving personal data must be approached with care.

The response to a poll on my website was clear with an overwhelming majority against introducing Digital ID. People are rightly concerned about privacy, data security and how such systems could be used. I'm pleased the Government took these views into account.

On the proposal to ban social media access for under-16s - which has also sparked important debate - I generally favour personal responsibility,

I've seen growing evidence of the harm some social media platforms can cause, especially to children. I have launched a short survey on my website to gather views and welcome your thoughts.

Over the festive period, as Shadow Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport I announced the opposition's proposals for restoring the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme in full.

The scheme helps reduce the costs of repairs and renovations for places of worship with listed status but the Government has cut this budget by almost half and imposed a cap on individual claims.

Many places of worship, including in the constituency, have benefited from this scheme. I will continue to hold the Government to account on this policy, both as local MP and as Shadow Secretary of State.

Nigel Huddleston MP
Droitwich and Evesham MP

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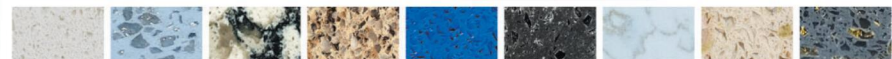


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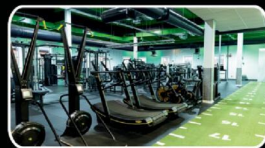
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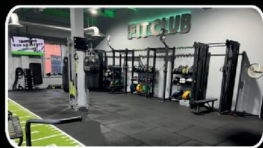
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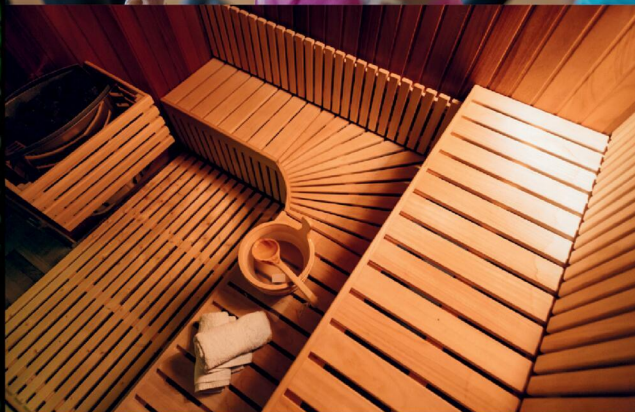
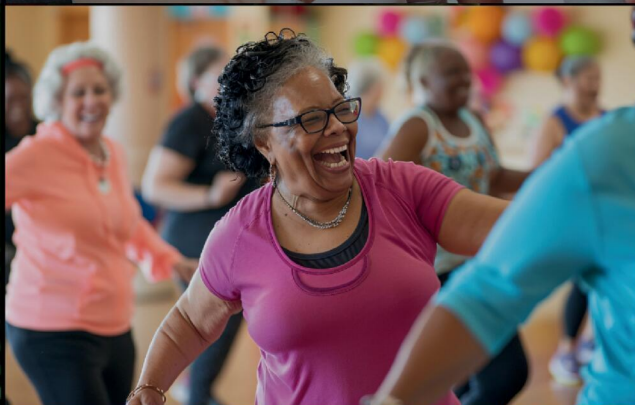


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THE FIT CLUB

Grow weeded out

POLICE have uncovered a cannabis farm in Redditch. The grow was found at a residential property on Larkfield Road after concerns were raised that the location had been left unlocked.

The cannabis plants were spread across multiple rooms in the house and more than 50 mature specimens were confiscated, along with others that had been harvested.

Two men, aged 33 and 50, were later arrested on suspicion of cannabis cultivation. The pair have been bailed and enquiries into the incident are continuing.

Det Con Vince, from West Mercia Police CID, said: "Patrol officers were quickly deployed to the address ... and were able to secure valuable evidence."

"Cannabis grows of this scale and nature are often linked to serious organised crime groups."

"The impact they have on a community and victims can go far beyond the growing and selling of cannabis, and such activity will not be tolerated."

The force has urged anyone who suspects drugs are being cultivated at properties in their area to call police on 101, or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111, to pass the information on.

Time to wassail

A TRADITIONAL wassail will take place in Alvechurch on Saturday, February 7.

The event will begin at 4.30pm at The Crown Inn, in Withybed Lane, with performances from the Aelfgythe Border Morris and five other guest Morris troupes.

There will then be a torchlit procession, at 6.30pm, to The Weighbridge Inn.

Events there will include performances from the Alvechurch Community Choir, wassailing the dedicated apple tree, life firing from The Sealed Knot re-enactment group, and the wassail raffle.



Members of the Pauline Quirke Academy will be performing in Bromsgrove, s

by Ryan Smith
ryan.smith@bullivantmedia.com

A PERFORMING arts academy started by *Birds of a Feather* star Pauline Quirke will be relocating to Bromsgrove's Lickey End First School.

The Pauline Quirke Academy of Performing Arts (PQA) will reopen at the school, in Lickey End, on Saturday, February 28.

It will relaunch under a new name, PQA Bromsgrove and Redditch.

The weekend will showcase the performing arts school, which offers dynamic, confidence-building training for young people.

The academy is currently

based at Arrow Vale Academy, in Redditch.

PQA principal Ariya Amin said: "We are absolutely thrilled to bring PQA to Bromsgrove."

"Our academy has grown so much in Redditch and this move gives us the opportunity to welcome even more families from Bromsgrove, Aston Fields, Lickey, Catshill and surrounding areas."

"PQA is all about building confidence, encouraging creativity and giving children the space to shine. We can't wait to begin this new chapter."

Pauline Quirke MBE, who starred as Sharon Theodopolopodus in the hit BBC sitcom, opened the first academy back in 2007.

There are more than 200



Pauline Quirke, left, with principal Ariya Amin. s

academies in the UK, open on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.

The academy features comedy and drama, musical theatre and film and television.

Alongside the Main Academy - open to people aged six to

18, PQA offers Poppets classes for children aged four and five, introducing them to creativity, confidence, and communication through performing arts.

Students will be part of public performances, filmed projects, screenings, external showcases and have access to industry-experienced teachers.

To celebrate the relaunch, PQA Bromsgrove and Redditch is offering free taster sessions. Ariya added: "Whether a child is outgoing and full of energy or quiet and looking for a safe, creative space, PQA welcomes everyone."

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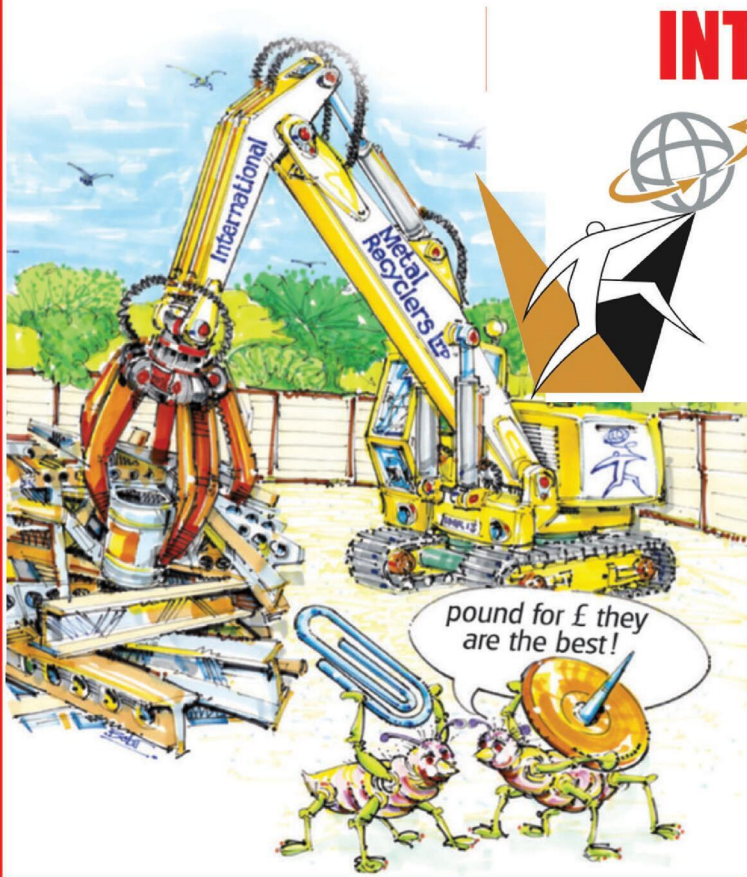
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New screening kits could help thousands get earlier bowel cancer warning



The faecal immunochemical test (FIT) is being offered to all people over 50 years old and the changes will see 600 more bowel cancers detected early each year. Picture courtesy of Bowel Cancer UK. s

WORCESTERSHIRE Acute Hospitals NHS Trust has been piloting a new sensitivity of bowel cancer screening announced by NHS England on Monday.

The NHS estimates this change will detect around 600 additional bowel cancers early each year in England - around an 11 per cent increase. It is also forecast to find 2,000 more people with high-risk polyps in their bowel, allowing patients to have preventative surgery before any cancers develop.

The home-testing kit, known as the faecal immunochemical test (FIT), is offered to all people over 50 years old and checks for blood in a small stool sample, which can be a sign of bowel cancer.

By reducing the level at which

traces of blood in a FIT test would lead to further investigations, from 120micrograms of blood per gram of poo down to 80, the NHS will offer 35 per cent more screening colonoscopies each year to help diagnose or rule out cancer.

Stephen Lake, clinical director and lead colonoscopist of the screening programme at Worcestershire Acute Hospital NHS Trust, said: "For a year we have lowered the threshold for home-screening kits to trigger more referrals for further testing.

"This has meant an increase in the number of people identified with tiny traces of blood in their poo and an increase in the number we see in Worcestershire and Herefordshire for further testing and treatment.

"The entire team is delighted to be at the leading edge of this very important, life-saving expansion."

The move comes as the NHS is set to launch new digital alerts that a screening kit is on its way to people's homes in a bid to boost screening uptake. It is part of a radical new National Cancer Plan to be published by the government next week.

'Major step forward'

Peter Johnson, national clinical director for Cancer at NHS England, said: "This is a major step forward in bowel cancer detection.

"Finding bowel cancer earlier can mean less intensive treatment, a better chance of recovery, and in many cases people can avoid cancer altogether by having dangerous polyps removed before they cause harm.

"Testing at the lower threshold

provides us with a better early-warning system, helping us to spot bowel cancer earlier, often picking up problems before symptoms appear, when treatment works best.

"I would strongly encourage everyone who is sent a bowel screening test to complete it and return it as soon as possible - it really could make all the difference.

Once fully rolled out, testing at the lower threshold is expected to reduce late-stage diagnoses and deaths from bowel cancer by around six per cent, while detecting thousands more cancers earlier. It will prevent more cases and save the NHS over £30million each year in treatment costs.

The Bowel Cancer UK charity has also welcomed the move.

Genevieve Edwards, the charity's chief executive, said it was

great news. "This change marks an important moment for bowel cancer screening in the country.

"Increasing the sensitivity of the test means more cancers will be prevented and found earlier, saving more lives from the UK's fourth most common cancer.

"This change may put extra pressure on already overstretched service, leading to more people waiting for tests that could either confirm a diagnosis or put their minds at rest.

"Therefore, it's vital staff across the screening pathway are fully supported and resourced to meet the extra demand for colonoscopy services."

Visit nhs.uk/tests-and-treatments/bowel-cancer-screening/ for more on the NHS' bowel cancer screening.



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Artists given an open invitation to put themselves in the frame

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

THE ORGANISERS of this year's Worcestershire Open Studios Art Week are looking for new venues across the county to host activities.

The event is Worcestershire's largest free art event and has created a new online platform to connect local businesses, studio spaces and venues with would-be participants.

The popular Art Week will take place from August 22 to 31 and sees local artists, makers and creators open their studios or homes to display their work to the general public.

A completely free 'Venue Match' service has been introduced on the Worcestershire Open Studios website to help more people at more locations than ever before to get involved.

Gemma Griffiths, Art Week's coordinator, said: "Each year there are a number of local artists and makers who would like to take part but who are prohibited from doing so due to the lack of a suitable space in which to show off their work.

"Venue Match has been created to help connect these people with commercial venues, other artists, cafes and indeed anyone with a bit of available wall or cabinet space who is interested in supporting the arts."



Gemma added hosting artists brought real benefits. "Many venues report that collabo-

ration creates a lively, welcoming atmosphere, substantially increased footfall and brings many new peo-

ple through their doors who may not otherwise have visited." She said, in 2025, more than

Award-winning watercolour painter, Sian Thomas, in her studio in Eckington during the 2025 Art Week. s

25,000 printed guides featuring 167 participants were distributed across the county, with over 18,000 visits recorded, over the ten days, to participating studios and venues.

"Visitor feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with people, especially valuing the opportunity to meet the artists and makers in person."

For this reason, all participants are present at the place where they are exhibiting during opening times.

Venue Match is now open for submissions from venues and artist/makers alike.

Once details are uploaded, these appear on an interactive map, allowing all interested parties to browse opportunities and make direct contact with possible partners.

Registration for artists to take part in Art Week starts on February 14 and would-be participants must have a venue in place before they can register to take part.

Both Venue Match and registration close on March 25 and all those who are looking for space, or able to provide it, are encouraged to post listings early to maximise opportunities.

Visit worcestershireopenstudios.org for more information and to access Venue Match.

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By Coach from Bromsgrove, Redditch

Reader Travel

The HISTORY COLLECTION Standard



André Rieu Live in Birmingham

Departing Sat 19 Sep '26

The classical music phenomenon André Rieu returns to the UK with a sensational new show, including a date at Birmingham's bp pulse LIVE! Accompanied by his 60-piece Johann Strauss Orchestra, this evening promises to be filled with thrilling music.

SO MUCH INCLUDED...

- ✓ Return coach travel from Redditch, Bromsgrove
- ✓ Overnight stay at a selected hotel (JG3 or JG4 rating) with breakfast
- ✓ Ticket to André Rieu concert at Birmingham's bp pulse LIVE (rank 4)
- ✓ Return coach transfers from the hotel to the arena
- ✓ En-route visit to a place of interest

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- ✓ Return coach travel from Redditch, Bromsgrove
- ✓ 4 nights at a selected hotel in Bournemouth (JG2 rating) with dinner & breakfast
- ✓ 2 for 1 bar (6pm-9pm) on selected drinks
- ✓ Light entertainment every evening
- ✓ Excursions to Poole & Weymouth

Optional excursion to Salisbury (£15pp)

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Isle of Wight 'Royals & Rails'

Departing Mon 4 May '26

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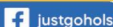
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The Bromsgrove Dilemma: One Spectacular Sale, Two World-Class Showrooms

For homeowners in Bromsgrove, Aston Fields, and the surrounding villages of Stoke Prior and Catshill, making a home improvement decision has never been more exciting, or more difficult.

As the 5 Star Mega January Sale is officially extended until the end of February, residents from Bournheath to Chaddesley Corbett are faced with a unique choice: which 5 Star showroom to visit? Bromsgrove sits perfectly in the "Golden Triangle" between our Worcester and Kidderminster hubs, and while both are close, they offer two very different experiences.

At 5 Star, we believe you shouldn't just "order" a door or a conservatory; you should pre-experience it. Our showrooms are designed for you to "give them some stick", test the weight of our solid-core composite doors, feel the effortless glide of our bi-folds, and see the architectural precision of our full-size living spaces. No



two showrooms are the same. Each is an "interest fest" (yes, we want to get you excited about your home!) of our latest ranges and bespoke displays, upgraded

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Whether you are in the leafy lanes of Cofton Hackett or the historic heart of Bromsgrove, the wise choice is clear: visit both. Spend a morning in Kidderminster and an afternoon in Worcester. Compare the styles, touch the finishes, and see exactly how 5 Star engineering can transform your home.

And while you're there, take the 5 Star Tea Challenge, one customer is currently up to 7 cups!

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More urged to give a thought to volunteering

RESIDENTS across Worcestershire are being urged to consider volunteering as one of their new year, new activities.

And, to help people find a role to suit them, a new Love Volunteering project has been launched.

The free, county-wide volunteering portal platform enables residents to discover a wide range of volunteering opportunities quickly

and easily. Through this programme there will be something of interest for everyone, including NHS and council service opportunities, trustee and committee roles and charity or community work.

Volunteering holds many benefits for people and their areas, including the chance to gain new skills and experience whilst meeting new people, the opportunity to improve personal wellbeing, a sense of purpose in life and keeping Worcestershire safe and growing.

For the scheme, Worcestershire County Council has teamed up with local volunteer centres through the WeCan network and the Citizens Advice Wyre Forest, whose websites feed into the portal.

Love Volunteering means locally shared opportunities are available to view all in one place. Groups offering volunteering opportunities are also welcome to add them to the system - they just register for free and get involved.

Coun Ian Cresswell, Worcestershire County Council's Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Environment and Communities said: "The New Year is a perfect time to try something new, and Love Volunteering opens

the door to so many rewarding opportunities across Worcestershire. "Whether you can give a little time or not, volunteering benefits our communities and those who step forward to help."

Organisations or groups offering volunteering opportunities or people looking for roles can visit LoveVolunteering.co.uk for further information.

Simplifying the message so it's easier to swallow

A HEALTHCARE trust is simplifying its information to ensure it is clearer and easier to understand for patients and families.

Almost four in 10 people - almost half the population of Herefordshire and Worcestershire - have difficulty comprehending health information.

This has prompted Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust to launch an ongoing health literacy project which brings together staff and patient experience volunteers.

So far, the trust has trained 45 patient volunteers who help review content before it reaches patients.

Staff are now creating and reviewing patient information with health literacy in mind.

In 2024, the Trust's Community

Engagement Panel completed an audit of patient letters, websites and leaflets, checking information was simple and ensuring content had a friendly and engaging tone.

It then launched the health literacy project in 2025.

Some of the Trust's most visited web pages have been reviewed and simplified. One example is improvements which have been made to the physiotherapy referral web page - this reduced the reading age from 19.4 to 13 years.

The literacy programme is ongoing, with further training planned over the following months.

Kate Wood, digital and community engagement manager, and project lead at the Trust, said: "We know health information can often feel overwhelming or confusing.

"This project is all about listening

to our communities and working together to make sure information is clear, inclusive and genuinely useful.

"It's not about information losing important clinical meaning, it's about it being easy to understand. Improving health literacy helps people feel more confident, involved and supported in their care."

Barbara, a patient representative involved, said: "Being involved has shown how small changes in language can make a big difference.

"When information is easier to understand, it feels less intimidating and more empowering.

"It helps people understand what they need to do before, during and after their care."

Visit hacw.nhs.uk/ for further information on the Trust.



The Trust's Community Engagement Panel members with chief executive, Ellen Rule, Director of Strategy, People and Culture, Sue Harris, and Kate Wood, the digital and community engagement manager. s

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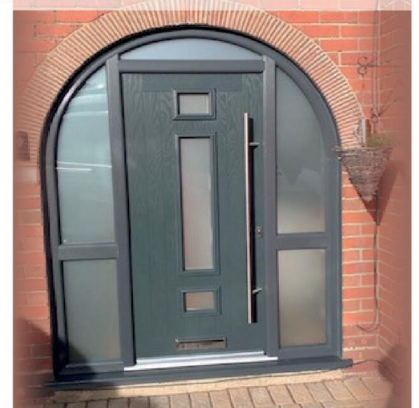
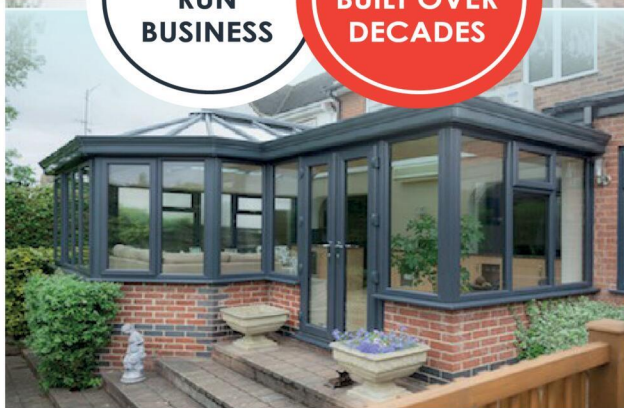


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**Daniel
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PUBLIC NOTICES

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Warwickshire County Council

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

Warwickshire County Council has made the following Temporary Traffic Orders:

WALCOTE ROAD, HASELOR

Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.
Reason for Order: To safely enable works to repair wastewater pipe.
Order Commences: 2 February 2026 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 6 February 2026.
Access & Diversion: Walcote Road, Wood Lane, Pelham Lane and vice versa.
Contractor: Customer Solutions Plus, Tel: 03456 027 723.

D5384 GOLD COMFORT LANE, ALCESTER

Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic from its junction with the A435 Alcester Road.
Reason for Order: Carriageway patching and associated works, 08.00hrs-16.00hrs.
Order Commences: 2 February 2026 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 6 February 2026.
Access & Diversion: No suitable diversion.
Contractor: Balfour Beatty, Tel: 03452 415 302.

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

B4090 ALCESTER HEATH/SALT WAY, ALCESTER

Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic from Coughton Lane to the County Boundary.
Reason for Order: Carriageway patching and associated works, 09.30hrs-15.30hrs.
Order Commences: 20 February 2026 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 21 February 2026.
Access & Diversion: B4090 Salt Way, A441 (The Ridgeway, Evesham Road), A422 (Arrow Lane, Main Street), A435 Alcester Bypass, B4090 Alcester Heath and vice versa.
Contractor: Balfour Beatty, Tel: 03452 415 302.

REDDITCH ROAD, STUDLEY

Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic from Redditch Rd to High St.
Reason for Order: To safely enable gas replacement works.
Order Commences: 16 February 2026 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 2 March 2026.
Access & Diversion: Redditch Road, Studley Road, Washford Drive, Old Forge Drive, Icknield Street Drive, Birmingham Road, Priory Square and vice versa.
Contractor: Headway TM, Tel: 07850 517 067.

GREEN LANE, STUDLEY

Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.
Reason for Order: Lining works to repair defects in sewer line within manhole chamber.
Order Commences: 16 February 2026 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 16 February 2026.
Access & Diversion: Green Lane, Brickyard Lane, Cycleway from Brickyard Lane to County Boundary, Kiln Close, The Slough and vice versa.
Contractor: Sapphire Utility Solutions, Tel: 07775 714 473.

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 30 Jan 2026

PUBLIC NOTICES

LICENSING ACT 2003

APPLICATION FOR A PREMISES LICENCE UNDER THE LICENSING ACT 2003

Name of applicant: Dancy Sherina Stephen

Postal address of premises: Today's News, 104 Rectory Road, Redditch B97 4LJ

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Representations by interested parties or responsible authorities should be made in writing to Worcestershire Regulatory Services, Wyre Forest House, Finepoint Way, Kidderminster, DY11 7WF or enquiries@worsregservices.gov.uk, by 15/02/2026. The record of the application is available for inspection by appointment. Please call us on 01905 822799 for an appointment.

It is an offence, liable on conviction to an unlimited fine, under section 158 of the licensing act 2003 to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in, or in connection with, an application.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Section 123 (1) and (2A) Local Government Act 1972

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Any objections to the proposal must be made in writing and addressed to Victoria Bendall, Property Manager at the above address or by email to victoria.bendall@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk no later than 06.02.26.

The publication of this notice is required by law and does not mean that the transaction will take place.

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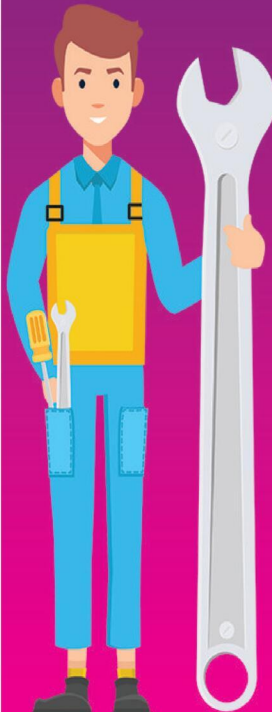
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EVs take home the top prize

THE LIST of winners at the UK Car of the Year Awards 2026, sponsored by Start Rescue, highlights the growing popularity for electric vehicles as well as a continuing interest in practicality and interior space.

Audi leads the way with two category wins. In the Executive Car category, the A6 saloon triumphs, while the best Estate title goes to its sister model, the Audi A6 Avant. Staying within the Volkswagen Group, Skoda emerges victorious from the Medium Crossover class

with the all-electric Elroq.

The Czech brand's model comes out on top of a category containing a giant 19 entries, as the UK's love affair with crossovers and SUVs continues. In the Small Car category, the Renault 5 is a clear winner – with nearly two-thirds of the 33-strong judging panel choosing the French model as their favourite.

The Renault is one of five all-electric models to take a category win, while the remaining three have a battery-powered variant in the range. One of those all-electric models came from Kia – recipient

of the overall UK Car of the Year title in 2024 and 2025 with the EV4.

Small Crossover – Citroën C3/e-C3 Aircross
Medium Crossover – Skoda Elroq
Large Crossover – Hyundai IONIQ 9

Executive Car – Audi A6
Estate Car – Audi A6 Avant
Performance Car – Alpine A290

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of the overall UK Car of the Year title in 2024 and 2025 with the EV9 and EV3 respectively.
This year, the best Family Car is the EV4.
Meanwhile, fellow Korean brand Hyundai claims the Large Crossover title for the second year in a row, after its Santa Fe won the category in 2025.
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Spa held by Corsham in thriller as Tilley rescues point for Saltmen

by **Aaron Sutcliffe**
 aaron.sutcliffe@bullivantmedia.com

FOOTBALL: CHARLIE Tilley's injury-time goal earned Droitwich Spa a point in a thrilling 3-3 draw against play-off rivals Corsham Town.

Tilley levelled the game four minutes into injury time at Lacock Road as Spa came from two goals behind to rescue a point.

An early goal from Pele Koussioue put Corsham ahead before Lewis Gilchrist doubled the home side's lead on the half-hour mark.

Spa halved the deficit early in the second period when David Thompson put the ball through his own net.

However, Gilchrist doubled his tally for the game on 78 minutes to restore Corsham's two-goal advantage.

The Saltmen kept themselves in the contest when James Lemon found the net before Tilley drew Andy Crowther's side level at the death.

And the result means Droitwich sit second in the Hellenic League Premier Division table, one point behind leaders Roman Glass St George but with two games in hand.

However, third-placed Slimbridge sit just three points behind Spa with four games in hand on the Saltmen.

Droitwich made the worst possible start as Koussioue finished



a cross from the right from close range with the game just three minutes old.

Spa spurned a golden chance to draw level soon after when Sam Hurdman played James Baldwin through on goal only for the latter to shoot straight at Corsham goalkeeper Ryan Clarke.

And Clarke came to Corsham's rescue again minutes later as he saved Lemon's shot on the turn.

The home side thought they had doubled their lead just before the half-hour mark when Chris Lines found the bottom corner only for the assistant to flag for offside.

And Droitwich goalkeeper Joe

Stockton then made a sharp reaction save to deny Lines.

However, Corsham doubled their lead on 30 minutes as Gilchrist saw his effort from distance creep into the net at Stockton's near post despite the shot-stopper getting a glove to the strike.

Spa had the final chance of the

first half as Alex Dugmore headed wide to leave the Saltmen two goals behind at the break.

Droitwich halved the deficit five minutes after the interval when Thompson inadvertently turned Jack Brighton's dangerous cross into his own net on the slide.

Spa looked for a leveller when Dugmore raced through on goal only for the striker to collide with Corsham keeper Clarke which left the former needing lengthy treatment before he was substituted.

And the Saltmen almost equalised soon after as Clarke denied Baldwin before Josh Hurdman saw his follow-up attempt come back off the post from a tight angle.

However, Gilchrist extended Corsham's lead 12 minutes from time with a fine effort from range which dipped over Stockton and under the crossbar.

Spa responded two minutes later when Lemon poked home from close range after Corsham failed to deal with a deep cross into the box from the right.

And the Saltmen snatched a point in injury time with Clarke only able to parry Brighton's free-kick into the path of Tilley who finished on the rebound from six-yards out.

Droitwich are next in action against Cribbs on Saturday, January 31 with kick-off at 3pm at the King George Playing Fields.

James Lemon recovers the ball after scoring Spa's second goal. Picture by Mathew Mason.

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