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What should town's new pub be named?

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

RENOWNED brewery and pub chain **Black Country Ales** will take over the former **Droitwich Working Men's Club**, which closed its doors in March.

The club shut after 106 years in the town and the future of the building was uncertain.

Now Black Country Ales has confirmed it has bought the venue and will transform it into one of its popular pubs.

Standard readers can help name the new venue as, through this paper, the company wants to hear people's ideas for what the new pub should be called.

Black Country Ales said: "Droitwich has a strong tradition of community venues and alehouses serving local residents and visitors drawn to the town, with spaces like this central to everyday life over many years.

"Our intention is to respect and celebrate the heritage of the former working men's club by carefully looking after its character while bringing it into use as a traditional real ale pub.

"The aim is to serve local regulars and visitors alike and to ensure the



Droitwich Spa Heritage Centre joint manager Becky Butler with some of the original works.

Picture by Marcus Mingins 1926003MMR2

Celebrating a *Beano* legend

A NEW exhibition exploring the works of talented Black Country cartoonist Charlie 'Chas' Grigg has gone on display at Droitwich Heritage Centre, and will run until June 26.

Charlie is best-known for bringing iconic characters such as Desperate Dan and Korky the Cat, to life.

His work featured in beloved DC Thomson comics including *The Dandy*, *The Beano*, *Topper*, and *Judy* from the 1960s to the 1980s. Charlie also drew nearly 200 post-cards for saucy seaside company Bamfords.

The exhibition showcases Charlie's work, generously loaned from his family archive.

Viewers can explore the legacy of Charlie, who was often described

as the "Black Country's best kept secret".

Despite his success, modest Charlie remained unassuming, rarely speaking of his accomplishments and viewing his passion as his "everyday work".

Copies of the book *Charlie 'Chas' Grigg - The Black Country's Best Kept Secret* will be available to buy from the Heritage Centre, with half of the proceeds from sales going to dementia charities, as Charlie lived with the condition in his later years.

The 'piece of comic history' exhibition coincides with both the Rik Mayall Comedy Festival and the national year of reading. Call Droitwich Heritage Centre on 01905 774312 or email heritage@droitwichspa.gov.uk for more details.

building continues to play an active role in the town's community for years to come."

Graham Manwaring, the managing director of Black Country Ales, said: "We are very excited about Droitwich and are looking forward to delivering a Black Country Ales pub for the local residents and our

customers from further afield. We do not have a name for the premises at the moment, so it would be exciting to hear what locals would like."

Paul Richards, chairman of the Bromsgrove, Redditch and Droitwich branch of the Campaign for Real Ale, welcomed the news.

He said: "It's great to see another

addition to the Droitwich pub scene and it's fantastic to see the venue will continue as a licensed premises.

"We are looking forward to it opening."

"As far as we know, a name has not been chosen yet so it will be interesting to see what they come up with."

Black Country Ales has almost

60 pubs across the West Midlands, including in Worcestershire.

The closest other Black Country Ales hostelry is the Hanbury Turn, in between Bromsgrove and Droitwich.

■ What do you think the new Black Country Ales pub should be called? Email editor@droitwichstandard.co.uk with your ideas.

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Green growth

AS WELL as an eventful week nationally and regionally, the Green Party locally is celebrating doubling its vote share at the Redditch Borough Council elections.

In 2024, the Greens made up 8.7 per cent of the votes in Redditch – this year that figure almost doubled, to 17 per cent.

The trend follows a surge in growth for the Greens, with Bromsgrove and Redditch Green Party growing from 70 to more than 400 members in a year.

Kate van der Plank, chair of Bromsgrove and Redditch Greens, said: "It's an exciting time to be a Green Party member. We've never seen a vote share like this and we're only just getting started."

"This election has not been easy. Our opponents have not always played fair."

"From announcing sensationalist policies designed to frighten people into voting for them to criticising our campaign online, other parties have shown how worried they are about the growing momentum of the Green Party."

"To this, we say: 'we're not going anywhere'."

"In the battle between hope and hate, we know hope will win eventually. Now is a time for building."

"We'll be developing our next election strategy and improving our vision for Bromsgrove, Redditch and villages in North Worcestershire."



Someone at the Door at Birmingham Pride in 2023. s

Samba band aiming to drum up new members

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

RENOWNED Bromsgrove samba band Someone at the Door is looking for new recruits for its 'caixa' drum section.

The popular band, which is due to celebrate its 30th anniversary next year, is particularly keen to invite experienced kit drummers or marching band-style snare play-

ers and feels the skills needed are transferable to playing caixa. The band is just as open to taking on new recruits, it says.

The band practises twice per month at Catshill Social Club, on a Thursday evening.

Someone at the Door performs at events, parades and carnivals around 15 times per year, with instruments, tuition and kit provided.

The group, which has around 40 percussionists and is hoping to fin-

ish the year closer to 50, can next be seen at Birmingham Pride on Saturday, May 23, where they will lead the parade through the streets of the Second City.

Band leader Rory Shannon said: "The caixa is a snare-style drum which provides the drive to the grooves we play. The caixa section in samba is a crucial part of the bateria (full band), often referred to as the 'carpet' of the ensemble."

"It is typically played with a pair of drumsticks and is responsible

for providing the rhythm and energy to the samba.

"The caixa can be played in various techniques, such as 'em baixo' (on the strap in front of the body) and 'em cima' (above the chest), each with its own set of traditional grooves and rhythms. The caixa is tuned high and is usually played with guitar strings on the head, giving it a sharp and high sound."

Visit someoneatthedoor.co.uk for more on the band and how to get involved.



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Coun Sue Brazier is named as Mayor of Droitwich. s

Sue dons Droitwich chain of office

THE ANNUAL mayor making ceremony in Droitwich on Monday saw councillor Sue Brazier take up the chain of office.

Coun Brazier was elected as Mayor of Droitwich at the town's Community Hall. At the annual meeting of Droitwich Spa Town Council, Sue took over from Coun Chris Bowden.

The new mayor represents Copcut on the town council, is a member of the Droitwich Litter Squad and is known for her work with the Droitwich Lions. She has

chosen the Lions as her charity for the year.

Coun Dave Davidson, representative for Central ward on the town council, has been named deputy mayor.

Coun Bowden has just ended her second term as Mayor of Droitwich, having previously been appointed to the role in 2018.

Coun Richard Morris said: "Coun Brazier already serves our community so well, with the Droitwich Spa Litter Squad and Droitwich Lions club, as well as

in so many other ways. I wish Sue a fantastic year.

"It was also good to see Coun Dave Davidson made deputy mayor, and big thanks to Coun Christine Bowden for a year as mayor."

Coun Dan Birch also passed on his heartfelt congratulations to Coun Brazier, adding: "She works incredibly hard and is someone always willing to get stuck in."

"Droitwich are lucky to have Sue and I look forward to continuing to work with you."

Witness appeal after fatal crash on M5 island

by Ryan Smith
ryan.smith@bullivantmedia.com

A PEDESTRIAN died and a man was arrested after a fatal crash near Junction 5 of the M5, in Wychbold.

The emergency services were called to the A38 Rashwood roundabout shortly before 9pm on Thursday, May 7, after a lorry crashed and overturned.

A 63-year-old man – a pedestrian who was struck – died at the scene, despite the best efforts of medics.

The crash occurred on the roundabout, just before the motorway bridge and past the northbound slip road to the M5, prior to it rejoining the A38 towards Bromsgrove.

A 47-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of causing death by careless driving.

He has been released, under investigation.

Det Con Paul Bosley said: "This was a tragic incident in which a 63-year-old man has lost his life and our thoughts are with his loved ones at this very difficult time.

"Our enquiries are ongoing, and we are continuing to ask for the public's help to piece together the circumstances leading up to the collision."

Appealing for any witnesses to come forward, Det Con Bosley said officers particularly wanted to hear from anyone who saw the crash happen, or the pedestrian who was walking along the A38 towards the motorway roundabout or around the island itself.

He added, the force is trying to trace witnesses who saw a lorry before the crash, as it was travelling along the A38 from Droitwich towards the roundabout.

The vehicle in question had a white cab and a green curtain-sided trailer with white writing on the side.

"We would also urge a man who was hitchhiking on the M5 northbound slip road at the time to come forward, as he may have seen the pedestrian shortly beforehand and could hold vital information to assist our investigation," said Det Con Bosley.

Witnesses, or anyone with CCTV or dash-cam footage, should email sciusouth@westmercia.police.uk, or call police on 101.

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Meeting the Royals

THE Mayor of Redditch, councillor Joanna Kane, was joined by Bromsgrove District Council chairman Sam Evans at the first Buckingham Palace garden party of the season.

nity and that being mayor had given me a great insight into this.

"She was very friendly and complimented my son on his kilt.

"It was also lovely to catch up with Coun Evans and to have a look around the beautiful garden."

Around 8,000 guests donned their finery as they gathered to enjoy the party.

The King, Queen, Princess Anne and the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh were in attendance.

Coun Kane said she spoke to Queen Camilla about the town.

"We told her that Redditch has lots of wonderful people doing fantastic work in the commu-

Coun Evans said: "It was both an honour and a privilege to attend the royal garden party and to meet members of the royal family, including The King.

"I was also very humbled to wear the Bromsgrove District Council chain of office, to represent the town at this national event."



Support has surged for the inspiring Redditch siblings, who are fast becoming celebrities, above right. s

Bros smash £1m target

by Ashleigh Osborne
ashleigh.osborne@bullivantmedia.com

REDDITCH'S 'FTD Brothers' have raised more than £200,000 in a week, for Alzheimer's UK, as they continue their All Ireland challenge of running 32 marathons in 32 days.

Jordan and Cian, both diagnosed with the faulty microtubule-associated protein tau (MAPT) gene – that leads to fronto-temporal dementia – lost their mother to the disease when she was just 52.

Despite the devastating reality of their inherited condition, the brothers have dedicated themselves to raising cash and awareness for Alzheimer's Research UK.

Jordan and Cian started their endur-

ance challenge in London, with Jordan running the London Marathon with a 25kg fridge on his back.

He wanted to show people "no matter what they carry, they don't have to carry it alone".

Support has surged for the brothers, helping Jordan and Cian top an ambitious, \$1million fundraising goal far earlier than expected. The pair have now hit \$1.2million.

Jordan said: "We want to thank everyone, both locally in Redditch, where it all started; those who have engaged in our online community; and now supported our latest campaign in Ireland.

"But more than the money, we are proud to have inspired millions of people – and this is just the start."

Cian, who is supporting Jordan as his physio, said: "We are so proud, as a fam-

ily, to have achieved that already, quicker than we could ever have imagined.

"Clearly the devastation of a dementia diagnosis resonates with so many. We are extremely grateful to every single person who has engaged with this campaign.

"Whether that be through a donation, interacting with posts or engaging with us in London or Ireland."

This week, the brothers were set to have covered Longford, Roscommon, Westmeath, Galway and Clare.

Although the \$1million target has been surpassed, the FTD Brothers' campaign continues for the FTD Foundation – dedicated to raising awareness of Alzheimer's and dementia, giving advocacy, and helping families impacted by the conditions – and for Alzheimer's Society Ireland.

Visit gofundme.com/f/theftdbrothers to donate.



Mayor of Redditch, Coun Joanna Kane and Chairman of Bromsgrove District Council, Coun Sam Evans. s

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Event honours those who help Poppy Appeal grow

MEMBERS of the Bromsgrove Royal British Legion (RBL) and organisations which have backed the Poppy Appeal met for an awards evening.

The events are organised every five years to recognise people's dedication to the Poppy Appeal and the RBL.

Present on Monday at the Bromsgrove Conservative and Unionist Club was David Herbert, the vice chairman of the Worcestershire RBL branch, Bromsgrove District Council chairman, Coun Sam Evans, and representatives from Bromsgrove RBL.

Certificates of appreciation were presented to several organisations for supporting the Poppy Appeal, including Chadsgrove First School, Bromsgrove School, Morrisons and the Bromsgrove Standard.

In the long service awards, Poppy Appeal collector Patrick Crumb, standard bearer Dan Charlton, supporter Caroline Khan and bugler Ray Khan were recognised for ten years service.

Highlighted for 15 years were Bromsgrove RBL president Barry Troth, welfare officer Kate Harris-Reynolds and collector Aaliyah Harris.

And long-serving Poppy



Members of the Bromsgrove RBL and organisations backing the Poppy Appeal were recognised for their efforts and years of service. s

Appeal collectors Paul and Sue Vaughan - a husband and wife duo - received their 25-year awards.

Bromsgrove RBL chairman Jeff Evans said: "I always get emotional on these occasions as we recognise the people who are out on the streets making a real difference."

"Bromsgrove is a small branch but we raise around £20,000 each year for the Poppy Appeal."

Coun Evans added: "It is always great to see so many large crowds at the annual Remembrance parades but Remembrance is so much more than that and happens all year round."

He praised the work the RBL did to help veterans and said: "I am honoured and grateful to be here tonight."

Mr Herbert said everyone did an amazing job, particularly the cadets, but added the RBL was

shrinking and more members were needed.

Claire Brookes, Worcestershire's Poppy Appeal manager, praised everyone who helped with the annual drive, including Chadsgrove College, the collectors, cadet forces and other associations.

"When veterans' lives fall apart, the Royal British Legion is there to help them rebuild them. Wearing a poppy shows everyone you care."

NEWS in brief

CONCERNS: PEOPLE concerned about speeding in the Chawson area of Droitwich have been urged to come forward.

West Mercia Police is looking to launch a community speed watch scheme.

But, to run the scheme successfully, at least six volunteers from the local community are needed.

PCSO Denise Bushell, from Droitwich East Safer Neighbourhood Team, said: "If you are passionate about your area and have concerns regarding speeding in Chawson, Droitwich, this is an opportunity to make a difference and improve road safety locally."

"Anyone interested in volunteering is asked to send an email to their local policing team."

People can email droitwicheast.snt@west-mercia.police.uk to register their interest or for more information.

SALE: BROMSGROVE'S former Post Office building was set to go under the hammer yesterday (Thursday).

The property on 121 High Street was part of Bond Wolfe's auction with a £150,000 guide price.

The building, which dates back to the mid-19th century, is in need of full refurbishment.

It is considered suitable for a variety of alternative uses, subject to any necessary planning permission, including being used as a retail, office or leisure space.

The building was most recently used by the Post Office and is situated within a conservation area.

ALERT: HOMES were evacuated and bomb disposal experts were called in during an incident in Northfield on Saturday.

The incident happened in Hollymoor Way when a suspect item was discovered.

The area was cordoned off while officers from West Midlands Police and the EOD (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) dealt with the situation.

After the items were deemed safe by the experts, the cordon was lifted and residents were able to return to their homes.



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To celebrate Val's achievement, senior electoral services officer Melissa Bassett presented Val with a bouquet.

Count marked a half century

by Ashleigh Osborne
 ashleigh.osborne@bullivantmedia.com

ONE MEMBER of Redditch's electoral team was counting more than votes after notching up 50 years in the role.

A cornerstone of Redditch's democratic process since the 1970s, Val Newton, who is 90 years old, has held almost every role in the electoral system.

In her earlier decades, Val served as a presiding officer, running polling stations from 7am to 10pm before heading straight to the count and often working into the early hours.

Over half a century, she has witnessed shock upsets, nailbiting recounts and decisive victories in a town long regarded as a political bellwether.

Reflecting on her extraordinary service,

Val said: "I just love counting and the excitement that every election brings. I've seen every result over the last 50 years. I'm proud my counting has made sure the votes of the people of Redditch are recorded accurately."

Born in Worcester and raised in Redditch from the age of three, Val spent her working life contributing to the town's growth through roles at Abel Morrels, Redditch Development Corporation and Redditch Borough Council.

Her dedication to the community extends far beyond election day.

Val is well known for her warmth, friendship and creative talent – especially when quilting and knitting hats for premature babies. She keeps her mind sharp with daily Sudoku and is a formidable Scrabble opponent. As Redditch hosted another important election, Val's continued service stood as a testament to accuracy, commitment and community spirit.

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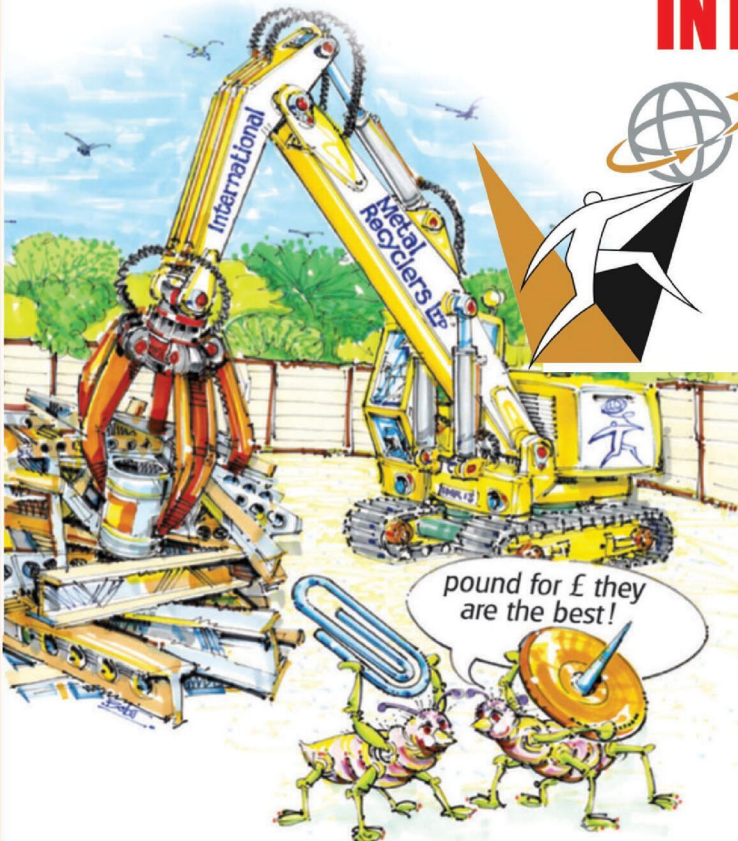
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Reform UK now city council's biggest party after night of gains

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

THERE were big gains for Reform UK on Birmingham City Council after last week's local election.

Nigel Farage's party became the biggest group on the council with 23 seats. The Green Party was second on 19 with Labour and the Conservatives joint third on 16.

The other seats were shared between independent candidates (14), Liberal Democrats (12) and a single seat each was taken by the Labour and Co-operative Party and the Workers' Party.

Reform UK's biggest gains were in the south west Birmingham seats - the party took two in Longbridge and West Heath - Charles Latchford polled 2,325 and his co-candidate Anthony Ward achieved 2,168 to top the poll.

The Conservative candidates finished third and fourth with Jack Dixon polling 1,769 and Ron Storer getting 1,700.

The Northfield seat was taken by George Hall from Reform UK. He notched up 1,317 votes, beating Esther Rai (Labour) into second on 964.

In Allens Cross, Reform UK's Eddie Freeman polled 949 votes, almost 300 more than Paul Smith (Independent) who finished second. In Rubery and Rednal, Reform



The make-up of the council is very different after the city's elections. s

UK's Rebecca Waters polled 943 and edged out long-term Conservative Adrian Delaney who finished on 852.

Gemma Guttridge from Reform UK took Frankley Great Park with

1,192 votes. Simon Morrall, who was a Conservative turned independent, finished second with 691.

Other nearby seats - including Bartley Green and Weoley and Selly Oak - also went to Reform UK.

Reform's other seats came from the party taking two in Oscott, two in Sheldon, two in Kingstanding and one each in Perry Common, Pye Hayes and Shard End.

The two seats in Glebe Farm and

Tile Cross went to Reform UK and the Workers' Party. These were not declared until Monday because recounts on Friday saw organisers run out of time.

They were the last results and ended up being postponed throughout the weekend.

John Cotton, who was the Labour leader of Birmingham City Council before last week's poll, lost his seat in Glebe Farm and Tile Cross following the recounts.

Labour had controlled the council with 65 seats out of 101 but have now been reduced to just 16.

That reflected the results in local authorities across the country but the Birmingham bin strike, which has now been going on for more than 14 months, was also likely a contributory factor.

The new-look Birmingham City Council democracy map was a rainbow of different colours - the north was dark blue where the Conservatives took eight of their seats around Sutton Coldfield, the south east was where most of the Green Party seats were won, including Kings Norton South, Druids Heath and Monyhull, Bournbrook and Selly Park, Stirchley, Brandwood and Kings Heath, Billesley and Hall Green North.

The Liberal Democrats won most of their seats in the East of the city - Acocks Green, Yardley West and Stetchford, South Yardley, Yardley East and Moseley.

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Raising the roof

The Primrose Hospice Choir's concert celebrated friendship, love and support. Picture by Al Haden, from the Bromsgrove Photographic Society. s

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

THE PRIMROSE Hospice Choir took centre stage for a heartfelt performance celebrating friendship, love and support.

A concert at the Ewe and Lamb, in Stoke Heath last week, marked an important milestone for the Bromsgrove-based choir.

It featured songs themed around friendship, compassion and being there for one another.

The evening was particularly poignant for many choir members. Several have personal connections to Primrose Hospice, through its support services for people living with life-limiting illnesses, bereavement, counselling and family services.

The concert was also the first to be led by the choir's new musical director, Kathryn Day, and a large number of new members performed publicly for the first time.

Anita Clayton, the choir's chairwoman, reflected during the evening on the importance of friendship and community, particularly for those facing difficult circumstances.

She spoke of how music could bring people together during challenging times.

The choir said the performance represent-

ed an exciting new chapter, adding there are plans to become more visible within the local community through future performances and events around Bromsgrove.

A choir spokesperson said the concert was a special evening for all involved.

"The theme of friendship and support felt incredibly meaningful, given the work of the Primrose Hospice and Family Support Centre, and the experiences many of our members have shared personally," said the spokesperson.

"We are so proud of our new members who performed for the first time, and excited about the future of the choir under Kathryn's energy and direction."

The choir added, more new members had come forward after the performance and it thanked pianist Lucas Ball; Bromsgrove Photographic Society, for its pictures of the evening; Claire and Neil at the Ewe and Lamb, for generously providing the venue; and the audience, who helped raise £650 through ticket sales and a raffle.

The Primrose Hospice Choir rehearses every Wednesday at the hospice in St Godwald's Road, Bromsgrove, at 7pm.

It welcomes new members of all abilities, with no auditions or requirement to read music. Visit primrosehospice.org for more on the choir, which has the motto: Come for the music, stay for the friendship.

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Latest arrival could prove to be a lifesaver

A BLEED control kit has been installed in Wythall Park, hoping to save lives in an emergency.

This forms part of a scheme the council has been progressing over several months to improve emergency preparedness within the parish.

A bleed control kit is designed to provide immediate first aid in the event of a severe bleeding injury, such as those resulting from accidents or serious trauma.

These kits typically contain specialist dressings, tourniquets, and protective equipment that can be used to help control catastrophic bleeding before emergency services arrive.

Rapid intervention in such situations can be life-saving. The kits are intended to support members of the public in providing essential first aid during the critical minutes before professional medical help is on scene.

The first of two planned kits has now been successfully installed in the park. The kit is located next to the existing defibrillator and is clearly visible on entry to the park, helping to ensure it can be quickly located in the event of an emergency.

The kit is in a locked cabinet that can be accessed by a keypad code. The code can be obtained from the ambulance service by calling 999. Work is continuing to identify a suitable and accessible location for the second kit, which will be installed once final decisions have been confirmed.



The newly installed kit has been registered with ambulance services via Bleed Map. This will ensure the emergency services are aware of its location and can direct members of the public to it quickly if needed in a critical situation.

A spokesperson for the parish said: "We remain committed to improving community safety and resilience and will provide further updates once the location for the second kit has been confirmed and installation completed."

Wythall Park hosts the popular annual Wythall and Hollywood Fun Run which this year is on June 7.

Visit wythallhollywoodfunrun.org.uk/ for more information and to sign up to the event which offers 5k and 10k courses and the Family on Track relay race.

The bleed kit has been installed next to the defib. s

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A little more Rik

FANS of Rik Mayall will be able to experience never-been-seen or heard before material from the comedian during an event at the Norbury Theatre.

Working With Rik and Other Grim Tales will be a question-and-answer session with Bob Baldwin and will take place at 5pm on May 30.

The unique and intimate event will celebrate Rik's life and creative legacy.

Baldwin, who worked closely with Rik on projects including *Grim Tales*, *Horse Opera*, *Tales of Uplift and Moral Improvement* and *Violent Nation*, will share personal stories and insights from their creative partnership and friendship.

Hosted by Elene Hadjidaniel, the session will feature candid conversation, rare clips from past productions and photographs from Baldwin's personal archive.

The event will also raise funds for the charity Headway, adding a meaningful dimension to a heartfelt tribute.

Tickets cost £10 and are available at rikmayallcomedyfestival.com/along with more information on this show and others.



Victoria Wood-Matthews, Jonathan Peberdy and Gill Rawlings from the Rik Mayall Comedy Festival committee outside the new headquarters. Picture by Dave Rawlings. s

Counting down to festival

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

AS THE region gears up for nine days of entertainment, the Rik Mayall Comedy Festival has established its headquarters in Droitwich town centre.

The vacant former M&Co unit in the St Andrews Shopping Centre has been transformed into a festival hub which will offer ticket support, official Rik Mayall Comedy Festival merchandise, fan art and Trevor Rogers' photographic prints plus information including schedules, venues and details of appearances.

The ticket support will see festival volunteers on hand to help visitors book online, check availability and find last-minute shows.

The headquarters will also feature pop-up stalls and community activity, adding to the festival atmosphere in the town centre.

The festival hub will be open when the event begins, on May 29.

The building, which will also be a drop-in site for audiences, performers and volunteers, has a striking window exhibition to give residents and visitors an early glimpse of what is to come, and marking the start of the festival's presence in Droitwich.

Filling the shop window is a large-scale photographic exhibition by the late Trevor Rogers, whose work documented the rise of the alternative comedy scene during the late 1970s and 1980s.

The Comic Strip photos feature Rik Mayall with fellow legends Adrian Edmondson, Dawn French, Jennifer Saunders, Nigel Planer, Peter Richardson and Arnold Brown.

All the black-and-white studio portraits are playful, irreverent and full of character, showing the group at the point they were reshaping British comedy.

Alicia Rogers, daughter of photographer Trevor and curator of the exhibition, said: "My dad was photographing people he genuinely admired, who were doing something new and fearless."

"These images are full of the ener-

gy that was in the room at the time. He said it was a fun shoot with lots of laughs.

"I think he'd have loved the idea of them being seen like this, right in the middle of a town and the heart of the festival."

The festival headquarters has been made possible thanks to support from Wychavon District Council and Droitwich Sign and Print.

Legends

Wychavon District Council leader, councillor Richard Morris, said: "We're proud to support this project, which is not only a fantastic tribute to Rik but also other legends of British comedy."

"Transforming an empty retail unit into a vibrant festival hub and exhibition space is a fantastic example of how arts and culture can help animate our high streets, attract visitors and create opportunities for the community to come together."

Coun Morris added, when he first approached Rik's family with the idea, he never dreamed the festival

would take off the way it had in such a short space of time.

Festival director Stuart Panrucker said: "Having a base right in the centre of Droitwich puts the festival where it belongs."

"Starting with the Trevor Rogers exhibition felt right, as it speaks directly to what made that period of comedy so exciting."

"We're grateful to Alicia for sharing the images and to Wychavon and Droitwich Sign and Print for supporting the project."

The Rik Mayall Comedy Festival 2026 will run until June 6 with the Norbury Theatre – where Rik first took the boards – at its heart. Events are also taking place across pubs, community venues and pop-up spaces around Droitwich.

The festival includes appearances from the original Comic Strip gang Planer and Alexei Sayle as well as festival patron Richardson, along with a wide range of contemporary comedians, new acts and one-off events.

Visit rikmayallcomedyfestival.com for more details.

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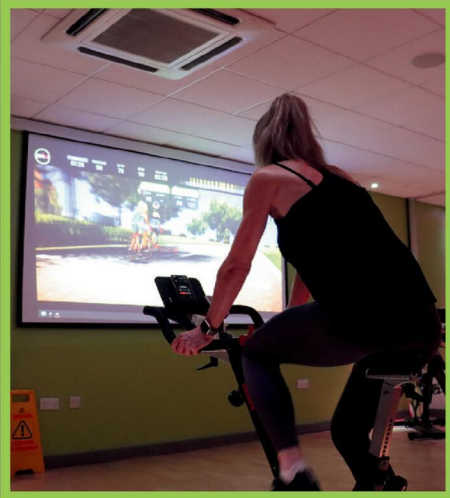
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Sarah and Becky celebrate the donation. Picture by Shaun Fellows / Shine Pix Ltd



A marathon donation

A WORCESTERSHIRE law firm mfg Solicitors has backed a businesswoman from Alvechurch by donating a four-figure sum to support her recent London Marathon effort.

Through its mfg Charitable Foundation, the law firm has donated £1,000 to the Make a Wish Foundation via Sarah Cutler, a director at Alvechurch-based Eden Properties, who took on the iconic 26.2mile race.

The money will contribute towards the total £3,186 raised by Sarah to help the charity continue to grant life-changing wishes for children who have critical illnesses.

Becky Husband, a senior associate at mfg Solicitors, said: "We have worked closely with Sarah on a variety of property transactions for well over a decade, so were only too happy to support her and the fantastic charity.

"Running a marathon can be a once in a lifetime event for millions of people and Sarah has made it that bit more special by raising funds for a charity that does incredible work to support children and their families.

"We're delighted that - through the mfg Charitable Foundation - we could play a small part."

Sarah added: "I'd like to thank the firm for supporting me and for making such a generous donation to Make A Wish.

"It was such a hot day running the marathon, but the atmosphere was amazing and really spurred me on.

"Taking part was always a personal goal of mine but being able to do it while raising funds for a charity that does so much for seriously ill children made it even more special."

Visit make-a-wish.org.uk for more information.

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Molly Ollys co-founder Rachel Ollerenshaw with Samuel. s

Sam's ready to tackle Eire

by Ashleigh Osborne
ashleigh.osborne@bullivantmedia.com

RUNNER Samuel Attwell will take on an extraordinary endurance challenge, covering the length of Ireland – almost 360 miles – from Malin Head to Mizen Head.

The 21-year-old will be attempting to cover that distance in just 10 days and has already secured more than £35,000 in donations and sponsorship from companies and individuals in the UK and Ireland.

That has given his campaign a massive early boost towards a

£50,000 ambition, for children's charity Molly Ollys.

As the countdown to Monday's start date begins, focus has shifted to the intense physical demands and final logistical preparations required to deliver one of Ireland's most punishing endurance challenges.

Samuel said: "Training is going well but there's no sugar coating it – it's brutal. Running miles day after day pushes you physically and mentally but every tough session reminds me why I'm doing this."

Alongside training, a dedicated planning team has been working behind the scenes on route logistics, safety planning and community engagement, with the route

passing through towns and rural communities across Donegal, Derry, Leitrim, Longford, Offaly, Tipperary, Limerick, Cork and West Cork.

A training and route-scouting visit to Ireland took place in the final build-up to the challenge, enabling Samuel and his support team to assess road conditions, elevation, rest points and access while meeting supporters and potential community partners along the route.

Samuel is running as an ambassador for Molly Ollys, a UK-based children's charity supporting children with life-threatening and life-limiting illnesses by funding wishes, therapeutic toys and emotional support for families.

If successful, Samuel's £50,000 fundraising target could help deliver up to 100 wishes for seriously ill children and provide thousands of comfort items to families during their most difficult moments.

Samuel aims to complete the route by May 27 and will be sharing daily updates, GPS tracking and behind-the-scenes footage throughout the journey.

He added: "This run isn't just about endurance, it's about bringing people together, especially the communities I'll be running through, to help children who desperately need hope."

Visit justgiving.com/page/samruneireland to donate.

Putting boots on the stage

BROMSGROVE'S Artrix will launch its first musical theatre group, for performers aged 16 and over.

The much-loved community arts centre will start writing a new chapter with the group, creating more opportunities for people to get involved in theatre, performance and the arts within the community.

Artrix Musical Theatre Group will officially begin rehearsals in September, with its debut production set to be the hit musical *Kinky Boots*, to run from May 26 to 29 next year.

Weekly rehearsals will take place every Tuesday, from 7.30pm to 9.30pm, beginning on September 8.

To celebrate the launch, Artrix will host a special launch event from 5pm to 8pm on Sunday, August 16.

That evening will give prospective members of the group the opportunity to meet the creative team, hear more about the new association, learn about *Kinky Boots* and find out how to get involved.

A spokesperson for the Artrix said: "Whether you are an experienced performer, a complete newcomer or simply passionate about musical theatre, the group aims to create an exciting, welcoming and inclusive environment for adults who love to perform."

Anyone interested in joining or finding out more can email amtg@artrixbromsgrove.co.uk for further details.



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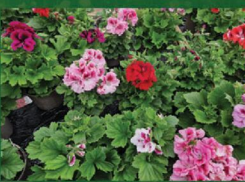


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In the running for top eco award



Oakland International says it embeds environmental responsibility, ethical governance and social value across every level of the business. s

A REDDITCH business has been named a finalist in the Excellence in Sustainability category of the UKWA Awards for Excellence 2026, handed out by UK warehousing trade body UKWA.

Oakland International said it embeds environmental responsibility, ethical governance and social value across every level of the business.

Sustainability officer Elinor Smith said: "Sustainability is not a 'bolt-on' at Oakland, it informs how we operate, invest and plan for the future.

"From cutting food waste and improving energy efficiency to supporting our people and the communities we serve, our focus is on building a resilient supply chain business that delivers long-term value for customers and wider society. To be recognised by UKWA in such a milestone year for the industry is a testament to the commitment and innovation of our teams."

The award winners will be announced at a celebratory lunch on July 15, at the Royal Lancaster hotel, in London.

Groups offered chance to secure part of a £1m community fund

by Tom Harris

A NEW, £1million community investment fund has been launched by Bromsgrove District Council to help residents empower their communities, revitalise neighborhoods and improve their quality of life.

Groups can apply for a slice of the Community Investment Fund (CIF) until June 7.

Applications will be accepted from formal organisations such as registered charities, parish councils or community groups and associations.

Eligible projects must be completed before April 2028, when the fund closes.

The cash can be used for new or improved public buildings or open public spaces and eligible areas include community centres, village halls, libraries and public toilets.

Other eligible space improvements could include parks, public gardens, playing fields, children's play areas, woods, cemeteries and allotments.

Public realm improvements are also eligible, including street furniture and signs as well as the creation of, or improvement to

arts, cultural, heritage and sporting facilities.

Grants for capital projects – the first type available – can range from £5,000 to £30,000 per project. Larger grants, which deliver significant impact and benefits to residents, can apply for up to £200,000.

Bromsgrove District Council leader, councillor Karen May, said: "The Community Investment Fund being introduced is fantastic news for organisations and residents, district-wide. The CIF puts significant investment directly into our communities, helping to improve neighbourhoods, enhance public spaces and support projects that bring people together. We want to see ambitious ideas that will make a real difference."

Coun May urged eligible organisations to come forward with their ideas and apply for funding. "This is a competitive fund but it offers a real opportunity to secure investment that can deliver lasting benefits for local residents," she added.

Eligible organisations can apply for grant funding by visiting bromsgrove.gov.uk or by emailing: economicdevelopment@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk and completing the application form.

Once completed, forms need to be emailed back to the same email address by June 7.



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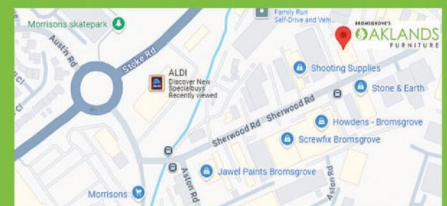
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Dementia event planned

REDDITCH Library will be holding a free dementia event with organisations giving advice for people living with dementia and for their loved ones.

Age UK Wyvern and Worcestershire County Council will be at the event, from 10am to 12.30pm on Friday, May 22.

The event offers a chance to talk to Age UK Wyvern staff about support as well as attending talks and enjoying free refreshments.

Advice will also be available about protection against scammers who, sadly, often target vulnerable older people.

Kelly Reeves, dementia services manager at Age UK Wyvern, said: "We're delighted to be invited to the event and would welcome anyone who has concerns about dementia, is living with and/or supporting someone living with dementia, to come and meet our team."

"There's lots of support available and it's important people get to hear about events and resources that could make all the difference to their lives."

People caring for a family member or friend living with dementia make a massive contribution to their wellbeing but often face numerous challenges.

A report commissioned by the Alzheimer's Society, in 2024, found the cost and time commitment of such care was significant, with a third of unpaid dementia carers reporting they spent more than 100 hours per week caring.

Age UK Wyvern has a dedicated dementia wellbeing team, made up of staff with extensive experience of helping people affected by dementia.

Email [ice@ageukwyvern.org](mailto:dementia-wellbeing-serv <a href=) or call 01905 724294, for support.



Bradley Thomas (centre) with Coun Steve Colella (left) and local resident Adam, at Station Road, in Hagley. s

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

FEARS have been raised that building 111 homes in Hagley will hamper efforts on Station Road, needed to "prevent an accident, or worse"

Bromsgrove MP Bradley Thomas and Bromsgrove District councillor Steve Colella say the narrow footpath across the bridge and along Station Road is leading pedestrians, especially students of two local high schools, to step into the busy road.

That has raised serious safety concerns and residents fear the situation could be made much worse if plans to build 111 homes at the end of Brake Lane are approved. An outline planning application for up to 111 homes was submitted to Bromsgrove District Council in February.

Mr Thomas said: "Having seen for myself just how narrow the pavement is across the Station Road bridge, this is an accident waiting to happen."

"We need immediate action to be taken to prevent an accident, or worse."

The MP added, with the latest planning application near Brake Lane pending, the situation could be about to get worse.

"On safety concerns alone, this application should be refused by Bromsgrove District Council," said Mr Thomas.

In its planning document, applicants LF (Hagley) Limited stated: "The site is a highly sustainable location, benefiting from being within walking distance of Hagley Railway Station, bus stops, schools and wider amenities within the village."

"There is a clear opportunity for future residents to utilise other modes of transport in their everyday lives."

"This is not the case for all

potential development sites in Hagley."

Coun Colella said: "I consider the routes to and from Hagley schools to be a serious safety issue for pedestrians during the morning and afternoon peaks."

"The 'crowd control' safety measures introduced at Hagley Railway Station have caused several hundred students, primarily from Haybridge High School, to cross the railway line via the Station Road bridge's single narrow footpath, forcing pedestrians to step into oncoming traffic including HGVs, buses and coaches."

Coun Colella labelled the situation a 'disaster waiting to happen', adding the 111-home application 'made no sense'.

A Worcestershire County Council spokesperson said: "We have conducted a site visit with the local county councillor."

"We will now be liaising with Network Rail on potential options for improving safety."



Kelly Reeves, dementia service manager, will be hosting the session. s

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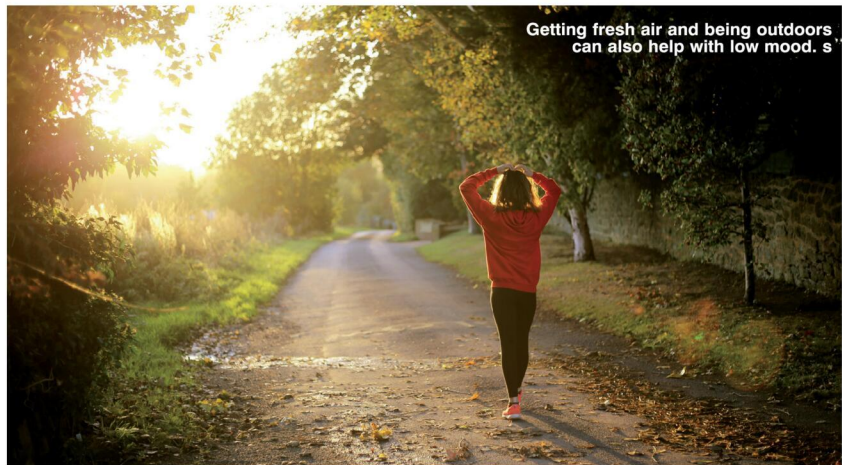
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Groups come together to highlight the support on offer to all



Getting fresh air and being outdoors can also help with low mood. s

PUBLIC and voluntary sector organisations across Herefordshire and Worcestershire are coming together to raise awareness of the wide range of mental health support available to residents ahead of Mental Health Awareness Week 2026.

Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust, together with Herefordshire Council, Worcestershire County Council and Community First are working in partnership to ensure people understand the breadth of services available locally – from early help and preventative support through to urgent care for those in crisis.

Support available across the two counties includes confidential text-based support, group therapy and courses, as well as the urgent mental

health helpline and Safe Havens for individuals who need immediate crisis support.

For children and young people, support is available through digital wellbeing platforms such as Kooth or Lumi Nova. Wellbeing and Emotional Support Teams in Schools (WEST) also work with children and young people across the two counties, providing early help and guidance for those feeling anxious, worried or low.

The campaign highlights that help is available at every stage of a person's mental health journey and encourages people to learn more about the support available for themselves and their loved ones.

This includes community-based activities that that help people stay well by connecting with others, learning new skills and staying active.

Residents are encouraged to explore Worcestershire's Community Services Directory and Herefordshire's Talk Community Directory to discover local opportunities and support.

David Thomas, Associate Director, Primary Care and Community Mental Health Services at Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust, said: "Across Herefordshire and Worcestershire, we offer a wide range of services – from early help and preventative support through to urgent care when people need it most."

"If you or someone you care about is struggling, please remember that you're not alone. Help is available, and we encourage you to reach out to access support."

Prof Lisa McNally, Director of Public Health at Worcestershire County Council, said: "This week,

we want to shine a light on activities and resources that can help Worcestershire residents to stay well and seek support for their mental wellbeing when they need it.

"We encourage everyone to take a moment to explore what's out there, whether for themselves or for someone they care about.

"Mental Health Awareness Week 2026 is a valuable opportunity to share this message. I'm incredibly grateful to colleagues across health services, including the NHS and voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations, who have come together to highlight the wide range of support available locally. This includes everything from early help and preventative support through to urgent care for those in crisis."

Zoe Clifford, Director of Public Health at Herefordshire Council said: "Mental Health Awareness

Week highlights our collective responsibility across organisations and communities to improve mental health. We're asking people to join us in taking action to strengthen support networks, reduce inequalities, and create environments where everyone can thrive to support good mental health."

Mental Health Awareness Week takes place between May 11 to 17 and provides an opportunity to start conversations, reduce stigma and remind people that they are not alone.

By taking action and working together, local partners hope to make it easier for residents to find the right support, at the right time, in a way that works for them. Anyone needing support is encouraged to explore the services available locally and to reach out if they are struggling.

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DEATHS

FRAMPTON

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Aged 85 years

Sadly passed away on 24th April 2026. Lu will be forever with us all and in our hearts and thoughts always.

A service will take place at St Mary's C of E Church, Castle Road, Studley, on Tuesday 26th May at 12:00pm, followed by committal at Redditch Crematorium.

Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, to Worcestershire Acute Hospitals Charity for the Acute Respiratory Unit (ARU) may be sent to Thomas Brothers Funeral Directors on 01527 547777. Thank you.

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DEATHS

WELLS

Alan

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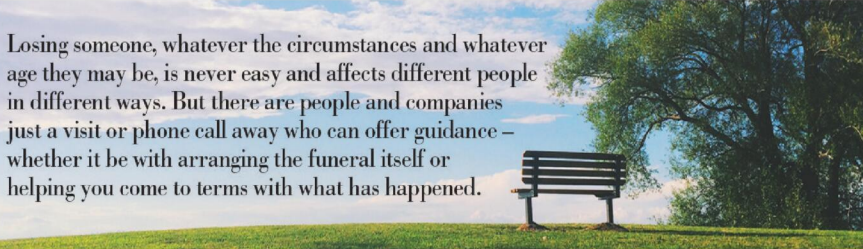
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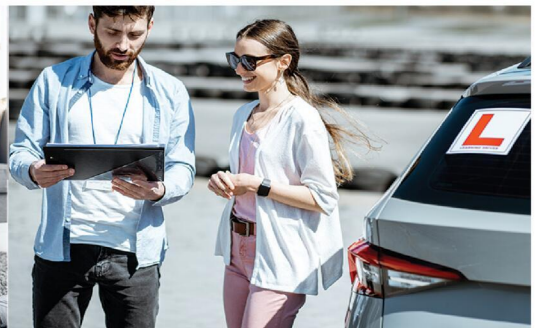


Losing someone, whatever the circumstances and whatever age they may be, is never easy and affects different people in different ways. But there are people and companies just a visit or phone call away who can offer guidance – whether it be with arranging the funeral itself or helping you come to terms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



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PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICES

Warwickshire County Council

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

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

YORK CLOSE, STUDLEY

Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.
Reason for Order: To enable duct laying works.
Order Commences: 1 June 2026 for up to 18 months.

Anticipated Completion: 3 June 2026.

Access & Diversion: No diversion available.
Contractor: Quantum TM, Tel: 01724 786286.

SPERNAL LANE, SPERNAL

Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.
Reason for Order: Removal of two cut kerbs, replace with radius kerbs, repair a sunken carriageway patch, & apply tposoil/seed to verge.

Order Commences: 2 June 2026 for up to 18 months.

Anticipated Completion: 3 June 2026.

Access & Diversion: Spernal Lane, Spernal Lane, School Road, Captains Hill, Kinwarton Road, Kinwarton Farm Road, Thyring Road West, Arden Road, Birmingham Road, Willoughby Close, Coughton Hill, Haydon Way and vice versa.
Contractor: Network Plus, Tel: 01613 515370.

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 14 May 2026

PUBLIC NOTICES

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL & REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Advertisement Key: LB = Listed Building

26/00491/LBC LB

Site: Rose And Crown Public House, 48 High Street, Feckenham, Worcestershire B96 6HS.

Proposal: Replace two original doors with fire resistant copies and replace two modern kitchen doors with fire resistant doors, as required by HW Fire Department. Original doors to be retained on site.

Application forms and plans may be inspected online <https://publicaccess.bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk/online-applications>

Comments can be submitted online, via email to newplan@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk or in writing Planning Services, Redditch Town Hall, Walter Stranz Square, Redditch, B98 8AH.

Comments should be made within 17 days of the date of this publication. The Council does not acknowledge comments but will make these available for inspection online.

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE - LICENSING ACT 2003 APPLICATION FOR A PREMISES LICENCE OR CLUB PREMISES CERTIFICATE TO BE GRANTED UNDER THE LICENSING ACT 2003

Name of applicant/club: Grill It Bromsgrove (Ideal Grill Ltd)
Postal address of premises/club premises or description: 22-24 High Street, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire B61 8HQ

The applicant proposes to carry out the following licensable activities or qualifying club activities on from the above premises/club premises:

Sale/Supply of Alcohol. Late Night Refreshment. Opening Hours: 12:00pm-00:30am, Mon-Sun

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@worscsregservices.gov.uk by 5th June 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

APPLICATION FOR A PREMISES LICENCE OR CLUB PREMISES CERTIFICATE TO BE GRANTED UNDER THE LICENSING ACT 2003

Primrose Hospice and Family Support Centre have applied for a premises licence to be granted under the licensing act 2003 to host Orchardfest at Pools Farm, Moorgate Road, Worcestershire B60 4AP on Friday 21st August and Saturday 22nd August 2026.

If approved, the premises licence would permit the provision of live and recorded music on Friday 21 August 2026 between 17:00 and 23:00, and on Saturday 22 August 2026 between 12:00 and 23:00.

The licence would also permit the sale of alcohol for consumption on the premises during these times.

Anyone wishing to comment on the application must submit their representations to Worcestershire Regulatory Services. 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@worscsregservices.gov.uk by 5th June 2026.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Universe Ltd of Upminster Court, 133 Hall Lane, Upminster, RM14 1AL is applying to change an existing licence as follows. To add an operating centre to keep 20 goods vehicles and 30 trailers at Uniserve, Egghill, Berryhill Industrial Estate, Droitwich Spa, WR9 9AW

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centres who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Quarry House, Quarry Hill, Leeds, LS2 7UE stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representatives must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-guide-to-making-representations-objections-and-complaints-goods-vehicle-operator-licensing

PUBLIC NOTICES

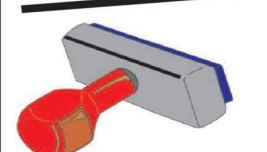
ANTHONY ADAMS Deceased

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 anyone with a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the deceased, late of 19 Salford Road, Bidford-on-Avon, Alcester, Warwickshire, B50 4EY, who died on 04/06/2025, must send written details to the address below by 16/07/2026, after which the Estate will be distributed with regard only to claims and interests notified.
Kingsguard Legal, The Mans, 33 New Road, Stourbridge, DY8 1PA. Ref: 10363

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911 RT a is race car for the road

THE TALOS Porsche 911 RT is the latest incredible creation from Talos, the British designer and manufacturer of handcrafted performance vehicles.

Limited to a production run of just 20 units worldwide, the awe-inspiring machine is a true race car for the road. Inspired by the legendary 911 R race car, the RT retains an almost identical visual presence, while careful adaptations engineered by Talos, deliver sublime road driving performance.

Exclusivity and bespoke craftsmanship are at the core of the vehicle with every unit being individually commissioned, specified and built to each owner's specific requirements.

The result will be complete exclusivity with every owner playing a direct role in the design of their car.

Jamie Thwaites, managing director at Talos Vehicles and the visionary behind the project, said: "Our

philosophy for the 911 RT was very simple; to create a road car that feels like a race car and vice versa, and we're incredibly proud of the result.

"Every decision has been guided by visual authenticity, mechanical honesty and an uncompromising driving experience. The result is a machine that remains focused, immersive and purposeful in every environment."

Engineered and hand crafted in the UK, the Talos 911 RT features a bespoke suspension system exclusively designed in collaboration with performance specialists Öhlins.

The digital TTX system has been engineered to achieve the perfect balance between road comfort and sharp handling.

Furthermore, drivers can fine tune the electronically adjustable dampers via smartphone control, giving them complete authority of the car's set up.

The 911 RT's engine and powertrain remain faithful to Porsche's

most celebrated formula, retaining the car's original character with a focus on response, driver engagement and reliability.

Power delivery of the c. 540bhp engine has been engineered to feel natural and progressive, allowing drivers to fully exploit the car's capabilities, without compromise.

The design of the Talos 911 RT is unapologetically bold. Using advanced 3D scanning, the race car was digitally captured and redeveloped to integrate seamlessly with the road-going GT3 RS chassis.

Developed in collaboration with leading motorsport specialists, MCT Carbon, extensive exposed carbon fibre body panels dominate the car's exterior, helping to reduce the vehicle weight by 80kg compared with the Porsche GT3RS.

Paired with an aggressive aerodynamics package and centre-locking wheel nuts, there can be no doubt about the car's intent and purpose.

Final exterior design choices, including paint specification, are

completed by Talos following extensive consultation with owners to deliver their unique vision for their vehicle.

While the 911 RT's bold exterior reflects its motorsport inspiration, the car's interior achieves a balance between comfort, focus and more modern road car environment. Embracing Talos' philosophy of individual hand-crafted creations, materials, colours and finishes are fully designed in consultation with each owner, delivering a vehicle that is bespoke and matches their unique requirements.

Mr Thwaites added: "The Talos 911 RT has been engineered and commissioned without compromise.

"Not only does the car represent an exclusive design opportunity to owners, its premium finish and our obsessive focus and detail mean the car genuinely delivers the ultimate driving pleasure.

"With every customer playing a key role in shaping the design and performance of their car, the 911 RT is unlike any other. It pushes the boundaries of performance and individuality."

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Prestigious title for young golfer at Royal Troon

by Aaron Sutcliffe
 aaron.sutcliffe@bullivantmedia.com

GOLF: A GOLFER from Droitwich secured the biggest win of her fledgling career with a stunning victory at the Helen Holm Scottish Women's Open Championship.

Grace Bowen, a student at the University of Stirling, claimed a two-shot victory over nearest challenger Jessica Ross from Ireland.

The 54-hole stroke play event took place at Royal Troon in South Ayrshire.

Bowen posted scores of 71 and 69 on the Portland Course and produced another round of 71 on the final day on the Old Course.

The Droitwich golfer finished on five-under par, two shots clear of Ross to clinch the title.

Bowen said: "I'm just so happy to have won. To win a stroke play event of this importance is the best victory to date."

"It's been a great week in challenging conditions and Jess made it really difficult for me, but I'm so proud to have won."

"I've now got exams coming up so the clubs will be locked away for a week or two."

"But I'll enjoy this for a few

Droitwich golfer Grace Bowen secured the biggest victory of her fledgling career. Picture by Chris Young/Scottish Golf.



more hours before I start to think about time in the library."

The drama went to the final hole as closest challenger Ross saw her approach from 140 yards strike the pin and dance around the cup.

An eagle from the fairway would have turned the heat up on Bowen as Ross made an easy birdie.

However, Bowen held her nerve to card a steady par and seal the title.

Bowen came out on top in a 120-strong field with golfers

from 15 different nations vying for the prestigious title.

The maths undergraduate won a Student Tour Series event in Spain earlier this year.

She finished runner-up in the English Women's Amateur Championship at Royal Liverpool last year.

Grace's dad Adrian caddied for her throughout the tournament.

Bowen will also receive an invite to a LETAS event because of the Helen Holm trophy counting towards the new European Amateur Order of Merit.

Ricky Collard on the podium for Team Vertu. Picture by Darren Price.



Podium finishes for Team Vertu's Ingram and Collard

BTCC: DROITWICH-based Team Vertu took four podiums and a race win from the second round of the British Touring Car Championship (BTCC) season.

The team recovered from a difficult first weekend of the season as Tom Ingram and Ricky Collard both stepped on the podium twice at Brands Hatch.

Ingram tasted victory in race three and finished third in race one while Collard finished second in race one and third in race two.

Defending champion Ingram already finds himself 47 points adrift of early leader Ash Sutton with the latter driver on the podium in all six races this season.

However, Ingram hopes he can claw the points back with plenty of time left in the season.

Ingram said: "We needed a win. I feel like I've already had a couple of wins this year but I've not been allowed to keep them for various reasons."

"I'm waiting for them to come up with something to take it off me this time."

"We've done a good job. We've not had the rub of it so far for the first two

rounds of the season.

"We've been on the back foot and in the wrong place at the wrong time or slightly out of position. The chips haven't fell in our favour."

"Team Vertu have had to work hard to maximise what we've got. It's fairly evident to see Ash [Sutton] is going to be super fast this year."

"We're 50 points back already, we've got to make sure we're leaving no stone and doing everything we can to claw the points back."

Ingram gave Team Vertu their first race win of the season with a determined drive in race three as Tom Chilton finished 12th, Nicolas Hamilton 19th while Collard suffered a DNF.

That came after Collard finished on the podium in race two as he crossed the line in third place with Ingram just behind in fourth and Hamilton 11th while Chilton did not finish the race.

And Collard finished second in race one with Ingram third as Team Vertu secured a double podium with Chilton fifth and Hamilton unable to finish the race.

The BTCC season continues at Snetterton over the weekend of May 23 and 24.

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