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Friday, May 9th 2025 Week 19

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

Council election brings big gains for Reform UK

by **Ian Hughes**
ian.hughes@bullivantmedia.com

A HISTORIC local election result saw Reform UK become the largest party on Warwickshire County Council.

It won 23 of the 57 seats on the council - just six short of an overall majority - having started with none when polling stations opened.

It leaves the council in no overall control after the Conservatives, who had ruled since 2017, were left with just nine seats, having previously held 41 before voters went to the polls.

Long-time Tory leader Izzi Seccombe was among those who lost her seat.

The Liberal Democrats are now the second largest party at Shire Hall with 14 seats, having gained a further nine, while The Green Party has seven seats, after winning a further four.

Labour lost three seats, leaving them with just three councillors, with one independent seat held by The Whitnash Residents' Association.

With more than a third of previous councillors stepping down at the election, and the 23 elected Reform councillors, it means there are no fewer than 40 new councillor faces in total at Shire Hall.

Reform UK has alluded to the possibility of working with other parties to run WCC, which remains under major financial pressure, having committed to £21.8million in budget reductions for 2025/26, increasing to £79.6 million by 2030.

James Crocker, who won the Arden seat in Stratford district for Reform UK, was confident the party would quickly work things out, adding he expected this week to be a busy one as new councillors found their feet.

Liberal Democrat leader Jerry Roodhouse, who held his Eastlands seat in Rugby, was keen to hear what Reform UK's priorities were for Warwickshire.

He added all the political parties needed, as soon as possible, to clearly lay out for residents their local priorities.

Reform UK's success in Warwickshire reflected the surge in support for the party which took control of ten local councils up and down the country, won two mayoral races and added a fifth MP to its ranks in the Runcorn and Helsby by-election.

With many of the successes coming at the expense of Labour and the Conservatives, it prompted Reform UK's leader Nigel Farage to declare "the end of two-party politics".



Ready for action - the statue of Lord John Douglas Montagu Scott has been transformed into a Second World War soldier. Picture by Marcus Mingins 2025003MMR

LOOKING GOOD: A STATUE in Dunchurch is suitably attired this week.

To mark VE Day the statue of Lord John Douglas Montagu Scott has been dressed as a Second World War soldier in honour of those who served.

Complete with gun, tin helmet, flask, belt and rucksack he is ready for action thanks to the efforts of the Dunchurch Festival Group.

VE Day celebrations in the village will continue with a party in The Square on Saturday featuring a variety of entertainment, historical displays and vintage vehicles, together with food stalls.

It has long been a Christmas tradition in the village to dress up Lord John, who transformations over the years have included everyone from The Queen to Postman Pat



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Championing the needs of Rugby residents since 1991 and delivering the news to you every week

Familiar face feels 'bullied' after pub comment row ends his role

by Philippa Mingsins
 philippa.mingsins@bullivantmedia.com

A WILLIAM Shakespeare look-a-like says he has been forced to bow out amid an alleged racism row.

Paul Workman, better known as 'Mr Shakespeare', has been regularly seen impersonating the playwright in the bard's home town of Stratford for the past eight years, but the 74-year-old's career took an unexpected turn after Stratford Town Council received a complaint.

He was accused of making offensive remarks, which are understood to have concerned "Muslims and Jews", in a pub in February.

His absence was noted at last month's Shakespeare Birthday celebrations in which he usually takes a pivotal role, but despite feeling "bullied" and "victimised", Mr Workman says he would be honoured to reprise his role.

Mr Workman, who has been a Stratford resident for 38 years, says he remains perplexed over what he said.

He explained: "We were just talking about art. I remember everything said up to a point to talking to these so-called friends and the next thing I remember being sort of marched out of the pub.

"And then the next day I went back to the

pub and somebody approached me and they said I'm going to report you to the council because what you said was not appropriate and Mr Shakespeare is a high profile job.

"I was shocked and thinking no they won't do that, and then a couple of weeks later I had a letter off the town hall saying 'sorry you've done a good job Mr Workman but we've got to let you go'."

In the meantime, he submitted a resignation and apologised.

Mr Workman continued: "I know a lot of people in the town and they are absolutely appalled with what's happened to me because I am Mr Shakespeare. The feedback I've had over the years has been amazing and suddenly it's just been taken away from me.

"I feel now that I've been bullied, that I've been targeted almost and I'm a victim of this situation.

"A lot of people have said to me hopefully they'll reinstate you once this has blown over, which would be an honour. It would be nice," he added.

Town clerk Caroline Nash confirmed they had received a complaint regarding alleged comments made and Mr Workman had been invited to a meeting to discuss this matter.

She added: "He did not take up this offer and we then received a response resigning from his voluntary role."

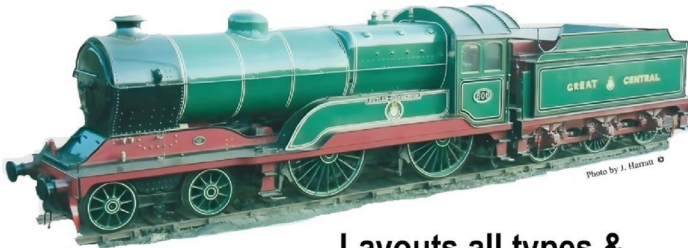


Paul Workman has been forced to bow out as Mr Shakespeare. Picture by Marcus Mingsins 1723001MMR23

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John Bernard visited his former school to unveil a brand new library.

Turn-up for the books

COVENTRY'S POET Laureate John Bernard visited his former school to unveil a brand new library to inspire pupils to follow their passion for reading and writing.

Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School's library has recently undergone a major £70,000 transformation complete with new books and furniture.

The library now houses more than 4,000 books, with more still arriving. It marks a major investment from the academy to inspire young readers and broaden pupils' horizons.

Mr Bernard said: "Seeing the enthusiasm of the pupils, not just for reading but also for poetry and storytelling, was incredibly inspiring

"The new library is a fantastic space that will encourage a love of literature and creativity for years to come."

Mr Bernard, an acclaimed poet and spoken word artist, also spent time speaking with pupils about the power of words, storytelling and the importance of reading in unlocking opportunities for the future.

Molly Smith, the school's librarian added: "The new space has already proved incredibly popular with pupils of all ages.

"We hope by supporting children with reading, it will have considerable benefit in other aspects of their lives, from boosting confidence to improving their overall academic performance and we are thrilled John was able to join us to mark the occasion."

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LEFT: Students and staff from St Marie's Catholic Primary School and English Martyrs Catholic Primary School with Rugby MP John Slinger outside Number 10 Downing Street.

RIGHT: Europe and North America Minister Stephen Doughty (left) and John Slinger (right) joined school staff and pupils for lessons at Number 10. Picture by Aleksandra Drago / No 10 Downing Street



Pupils head to No 10

WIDE-EYED kids from a Rugby primary school visited Number 10 Downing Street for an event marking the UK's new 100-year partnership with Ukraine.

Pupils from St Marie's Catholic Primary School and English Martyrs Catholic Primary School were taken to the Prime Minister's home by Rugby MP John Slinger.

The event, part of the Lessons at 10 initiative, brought together schools from across the UK that have been twinned with Ukrainian schools as part of the landmark 100-year partnership agreement, which was signed by the UK and Ukraine in January to build military,

by **Andy Morris**
andy.morris@bullivantmedia.com

economic and cultural ties.

Pupils aged eight to 11 from across the UK took part in the celebration which highlighted the role of young people in building international friendships and fostering solidarity through education and cultural exchange.

The children from St Marie's and English Martyrs wrote letters to exchange with their partnered school, Vinnytsia Humanitarian Primary School in Ukraine, where many have spent hours attending school in bunkers during Russian drone and missile attacks.

CYM GB, the Ukrainian

Youth Association, taught the children about Ukrainian culture, and they also received a tour of Downing Street.

Charlotte Miller, the executive principal of St Marie's, said: "The UK Ukraine partnership has provided so many opportunities for my children in the UK and also the links and friendships formed with my school in Ukraine."

"The British Council's work is crucial for providing the cultural capital needed for children to become global citizens. I am very proud to be part of this project."

Mr Slinger said: "The young people were able to learn about Ukraine and most importantly, to send messages to fellow primary school students in Ukraine.

"Young people from Rugby were forging positive connections with Ukrainian children.

"These human connections are an important antidote to the evil of war and will be important in the future as Ukrainians rebuild their country.

"They show how humanity can only truly progress through developing connections between cultures and nations. It was a privilege to be there.

"The students also had a tour of Downing Street, which was a treat for me too, as even though I have visited Number 10 before for meetings, I'd not yet had the tour. We also met Larry the Number 10 cat."

RoSA's **ROSA** Support & Empower **Champion**

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Donation will allow new robot op unit to save lives

UNIVERSITY Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire (UHCW) NHS Trust has taken-delivery of £2million robotic surgery system which will be used to perform life-saving operations on hundreds more cancer patients every year.

It is the largest single donation made by the UHCW Charity to the trust through legacy donations - allowing them to purchase the Da Vinci Xi Robot - one of the most modern and advanced of its kind.

This is the third robot bought using charitable funds and it will boost the number of robotic procedures of the Coventry, University Hospital by more than 440 to around 1,300-a-year.

Robotic surgery is significantly less invasive and more precise compared with conventional operations.

Patients benefit from less post-operative pain, lower blood loss, shorter stays in hospital and better outcomes, recovering at home in

just a few days to weeks.

Patient Joe Argue, who has undergone two successful robotic surgeries at the University Hospital, described the technique as 'game changing'.

His fundraising has generated more than £1million, with £70,000 donated to the UHCW Charity towards robotic equipment and medical causes from his Birmingham Irish Cycle Appeal (BICA) team through sponsored bike rides across the world.

He said: "I cannot speak highly enough of robotic surgery.

"Just five weeks after being diagnosed, I had the operation and when I was up on the ward for recovery, I asked the nurse if I had actually had anything done because there were no aches or pains at all.

"It was remarkable. The recovery time was so short - three months later I was back on my bike.

"The two rides we have done since to help raise funds have both been more than 500 miles and I have completed them both (on a manual



Left to right: robotic surgery patient and charity fundraiser Joe Argue, Justine Richards, Chief Strategy and Transformation Officer at UHCW NHS Trust, Penguino, mascot of the UHCW Charity, Joe's wife Michelle, and UHCW Charity Director Jo O'Sullivan.

bike) - so that is a testimony to how good the recovery can be."

Jo O'Sullivan, director of UHCW Charity, said: "The fact the UHCW Charity has made its largest ever donation - almost £2 million - shows just how vital this equipment is and the far-reaching benefits it will bring.

"We thank every one of our donors for making such a positive impact for our patients.

"Without them, none of this would be possible."

Over the past 12 years, surgeons

at the trust have carried out more than 5,000 robotic surgical procedures on patients with a range of cancers including prostate, kidney, bladder, colon and rectum, gynaecology, head and neck, HPB (pancreas, liver, bile duct and duodenum), thoracic (heart and lung) and upper gastrointestinal tract (oesophagus and stomach).

Jawad Ahmad, consultant hepatobiliary and pancreatic surgeon at UHCW NHS Trust said: "As well as being minimally invasive, robotic surgery patients will also benefit

from earlier access to post-operative treatments like radiotherapy and chemotherapy, minimal scarring and fewer interoperative and post-operative complications.

"Thousands of cancer patients have benefited from successful surgery."

"We are very pleased to have this third robot available to expand the types of surgery we can offer to our patients, as well as improving training opportunities for more junior doctor staff."

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Art is coming to Kineton for its annual exhibition this weekend. Picture by Marcus Mingins 1925004MMR © Bullivant Media

ART-LOVERS are being invited to eat and critique at Kineton Art Group's latest exhibition.

Over 80 members of the group will be displaying their work over the weekend (May 10 and 11) at the village hall in Mill Street and there will also be home-made cake to enjoy.

The two 2024 exhibitions welcomed nearly 700 visitors and an estimated 354 pieces of cake were served.

The group are hoping to top that this May. Many of the artworks are for sale and visitors will also be invited to vote for the painting they like the most.

The most popular painting at the autumn exhibition was Julie Dore's As Embers of the Day Turn to Dust.

The exhibition will be open between 10am and 5pm on both days.

Visit kinetonartgroup.com for more information.

A46 reopens but further delays ahead

THE A46 Kenilworth Bypass has reopened to traffic after a major closure to allow work for HS2 - but delays are not over yet.

The busy dual carriageway was closed for 18 days to allow HS2 engineers to slide a massive 14,500-tonne concrete box structure into position beneath the road.

The huge box - which weighs around the same as two new Royal Navy destroyers - is the heaviest of its kind in Europe. It will allow high-speed trains between London and Birmingham to pass under the road on their approach to the new Interchange station near the NEC.

It is one of more than 200 major bridges and viaducts on the controversial new rail line, which is designed to improve journeys between London, the West Midlands and the north, while freeing up space on the existing mainline for more freight and local services.


HS2's designers opted for a box structure, that could be built alongside the road and slid

into place in one operation to avoid two years of speed restrictions and lane closures that would have been necessary to install a more traditional bridge.

Cameron Thompson, HS2 Ltd's head of delivery, said: "It's amazing to see the A46 box in position and I'd like to thank everyone who's worked so hard to get the road open early. This record-breaking slide could not have been achieved without the years of meticulous planning and preparation that the team put in, working closely with our supply chain and National Highways.

"While the vast majority of the bridge is now complete, we've still got a few weeks' of lane closures to finish the central reservation and wingwalls - and I'd like to thank drivers in advance for their patience during these works."

To allow time for the completion of the central reservation and wingwalls on either side, one lane on either side of the road will be closed until the end of July.



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Residents plant one of the free fruit trees.

Planting for the future

LUTTERWORTH residents are enjoying the fruit of an initiative to give away free trees.

Thousands of residents in the wider Harborough district have taken up the offer of a free fruit tree - from children to a 100-year-old lady.

They claimed their own apple, cherry, pear or plum maiden trees to plant and enjoy after around 8,000 trees were given away by Harborough District Council (HDC) at locations in Lutterworth, Market Harborough

and Scraftoft.

Cat Hartley, HDC's Director of Communities and Wellbeing, said: "So many residents have taken advantage of these fruit tree giveaways making it a great success."

"The purpose of the initiative was to serve as a tribute to the 80th anniversary of VE Day, honouring the sacrifices made during the Second World War and celebrating peace and community spirit. This will also have the direct benefit of increased greening of the whole of our district."

Village hall project passes a milestone

A 'HUGE' community effort has brought a village hall in Rugby back to the centre of the community.

Newbold Village Hall has hit a milestone in its ongoing restoration, which has seen it booked every single day for a month for the first time in years.

It comes after the installation of new windows - which had been boarded up for decades - mainly funded by SUEZ Recycling via the Landfill Communities Fund with over £20,000 of grant funding.

Over £80,000 has been spent on the hall's restoration in recent years, including a new roof, a full paint job, and various other upgrades.

The Trust which looks after the hall has also received £5,400 from Rugby Borough Council to upgrade the fire doors, as well as donated paint and tools from SUEZ Maintenance team and Wickes.

The remainder of funding comes from spending money the hall had accrued over the years.

Further work is needed to bring more of the hall's spaces back into use, and upgrade the toilets and disabled access - and the Trust will be seeking further grant funding in the coming months.

The Hall's ongoing 'Vision



Project' is intended to turn the Hall into a centre of community learning, with connections with local groups being established to showcase Newbold's heritage.

Alex White, Chair of Trustees, said: "It has taken a huge community effort - but we're so pleased that the hall is once again becoming a centre for village life here in Newbold. Its restoration is essential to ensuring it is once again a place

people want to spend time.

"We see the hall as a partnership - between our volunteers, the village and the local businesses and community groups who use the space. It's incredibly rewarding to see this historic space still playing a role in so many lives."

Trust Secretary Alison Livesey added: "We know that there is still a lot to do, but we can truly say that the Village Hall is back."

"What we're looking at now is how to take the next step - securing more funding to keep up the restoration project, and making connections with other local groups to make the hall a true community hub - a place showcasing our heritage as well as supporting local businesses and voluntary groups."

The hall offers hiring facilities to all groups, and is currently hosting yoga and exercise classes, dog training lessons, a space for cultural and religious groups, and private parties.

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/3cce9bhu> for more information.

The restored Newbold Village Hall is 'once again becoming a centre for village life'.



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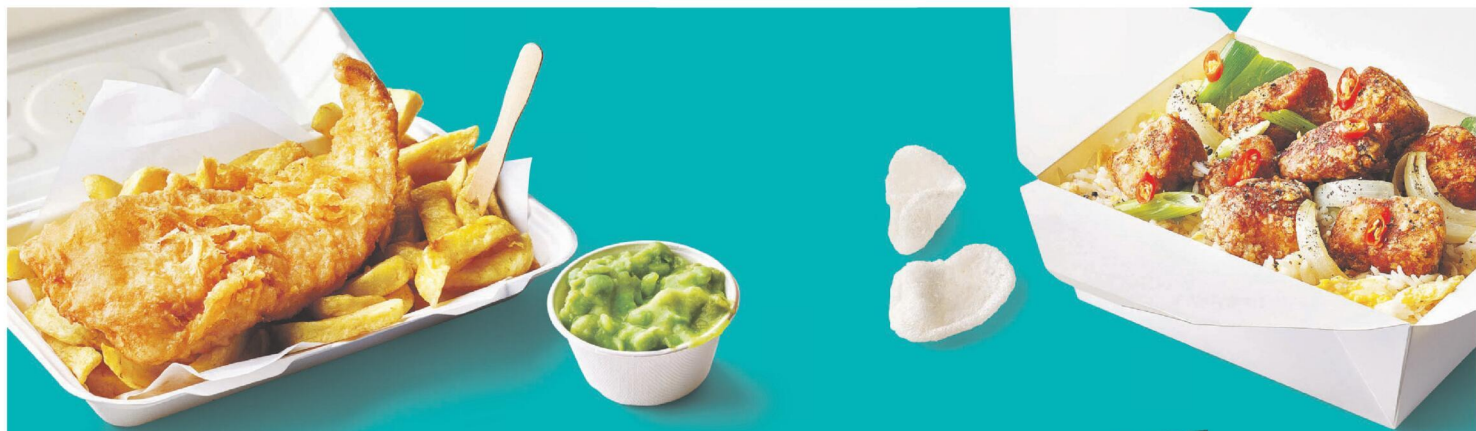
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We want more bobbies on beat reveals survey

MORE bobbies on the beat and a crackdown on anti-social behaviour were among the top priorities flagged up by Warwickshire residents in a public survey.

by Philippa Mingins

Warwickshire has the eighth lowest crime rate in England based on reported crime to the police. It is also well below the England average.

But Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board members say there is more to be done and are already acting on the issues identified in the survey.

Targeted police patrols, upgraded CCTV with more cameras and new lighting are being used to tackle anti-social behaviour.

Community wardens have been playing a key role in increasing police visibility on the streets and a campaign is set to be launched later this year to help residents to be, and feel, more safe.

Visit the website at www.warwickshire-pcc.gov.uk/police-and-crime-plan/ to view Warwickshire's police and crime plan in full.

Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board agencies Warwickshire Police, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Warwickshire, Philip Seccombe, and Warwickshire County Council carried out surveys to gather the views of some 4,500 residents on community safety and seek input on future priorities.

And now organisations tasked with community safety matters have come together to share and review the results, identifying key areas for action to improve the safety, and feelings of safety, of com-

News and sport online: www.coventryobserver.co.uk



More police officers and PCSOs are hitting the streets of Warwickshire.

£1.3m grant will fund more PCSOs

MORE police officers and PCSOs will be hitting the streets of Warwickshire following a £1.3 million grant from the Home Office.

The neighbourhood policing grant will enable eight extra police officers to be deployed within safer neighbourhood teams (SNTs) and ten more Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) to be recruited for Warwickshire Police.

An additional four special constable volunteers will also be supported, and the grant will help to pay for recruitment and associated costs.

Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner Philip Seccombe said: "The visibility of policing is consistently raised by the public as a top priority, along with the importance of Safer Neighbourhood Teams to local communities."

"I have made a clear commitment to enhance neighbourhood policing, recognising that our SNTs are essential to building public trust and confidence, tackling local priorities, and ensuring people feel safe where they live."

"This funding will allow us to put more officers and PCSOs on the streets where

they are most needed, enhancing Warwickshire Police's ability to address issues such as anti-social behaviour, retail crime and deal with community safety concerns in both urban and rural parts of the county.

"It will also provide greater opportunities for meaningful engagement with residents, enabling local teams to respond more effectively to the concerns that matter most to them."

The funding forms parts of the Government's Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee, which aims to ensure communities get visible and proactive policing.



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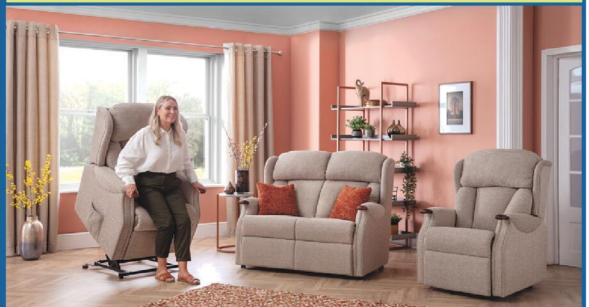
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Soundtrack for bikes

ROCK, blues, soul and more will blast out from Rugby town centre during the Bikefest later this month.

Organisers of this year's event have announced the acts which will take to the open-air stages in Market Place and Church Street on Sunday May 18.

They are Blues Extra, The Mutineers, The Soul Revival, Bright Black, The Rooters, Rugby Electric Guitar Orchestra, Big Family, Trust Club, The Jellyheads, and White Men Can't Funk.

The popular town centre event – organised by Rugby First, Rugby Borough Council and local motorcycling groups – is now in its 11th year.

It will feature bike displays, stalls, live music, children's activities, a funfair, food, cars and arena displays, and will begin with the now-traditional ride-in, with hundreds of bikes entering the town centre in convoy.

Rugby First Business Director Linda Lowne said: "The music at Bikefest is always a big draw and this year I think we have got a great line-up of local bands and talented performers on display. A massive thanks to the creative team who have put the exciting programme together and to all the musicians involved. "Don't forget if you want to join the very popular ride-in, you will need to register online."

The Bikefest will take place between 10.30am and 4pm on Sunday May 18. Visit www.rugbyfirst.org for more information.



A COMEDY about the complexities of adolescence is next up from the performers at Rugby Theatre.

Written by Neil Simon, Brighton Beach Memoirs follows 15-year-old aspiring writer Eugene as he dreams of baseball and girls, while coping with the mundane existence of family life - formidable mother, overworked father and his principled older brother Stanley.

Throw into the mix his widowed Aunt Blanche and her two rapidly-maturing young daughters, and it's a recipe for hilarity.

Director Darren Pratt said: "I have always been a fan of Neil Simon's plays, and Brighton Beach's blend of humour and heart really spoke to me.

"I wanted to explore a deeply personal story of family and growing up with an honest, fresh perspective."

Set in 1937 Brooklyn against the lingering effects of the Great Depression and backdrop of looming war in Europe, the story is narrated by Eugene, sharing his innermost thoughts and wry observations directly with the audience.

The cast includes two members of Rugby's non-profit youth theatre In The Round Theatre, plus experienced Rugby Theatre members and some new faces too.

Darren added: "Despite being set in the 1930s, the themes of chasing dreams, sexual



awakenings, managing family life and finding one's identity are timeless, resonating with audiences just as powerfully now.

"This production is a true labour of love. Every element, from our meticulously crafted family home set to the passionate performances, is designed to give audiences a memorable night of humour and heartfelt storytelling. We can't wait to share it with you."

Brighton Beach Memoirs runs from May 10-17, with discounted Early Bird £14 tickets available for the Monday-Wednesday shows. Visit www.rugbytheatre.co.uk or call 01788 541234 for tickets.

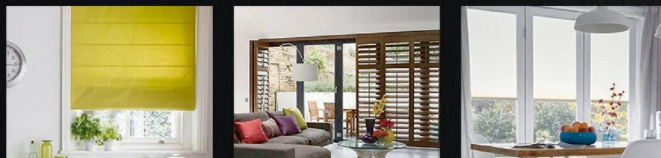
Archie Parker (left) as Stanley and Daniel Faulkner as Eugene.



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Sex offender jailed again after breaching order

A 'HIGH risk' sex offender from Rugby is back behind bars after he breached a court order.

by **Andy Morris**
andy.morris@bullivantmedia.com

At Warwick Crown Court, Joshua Ashby, 31, was jailed for ten years and eight months after he pleaded guilty to breaching a sexual harm prevention order (SHPO), two charges of inciting girls to engage in and watch sexual activity, attempting to engage in sexual communication with a person under 16, and failing to comply with his sex offender registration.

He was charged and remanded last year for a breach of his order where he communicated with a 13 year old child.

Following an 18-month sentence and two orders imposed in October 2015, Ashby was jailed for 25 months in February 2019 after pleading guilty to breaching his SHPO and failing to comply with his sex offender registration. Since then, as a high-risk sex

offender, Ashby has been managed by Warwickshire Police's Sex Offender Management Unit (SOMU) in the north of the county.

DS Kim Stafford said: "It's our job to enforce the conditions when someone like Ashby is released into the community. By being proactive, we've got a prolific sex offender back behind bars.

"An SHPO is a civil order, but it was given on conviction for Ashby due to the nature of his offences. We have a number of options at our disposal to keep the public safe from sexual predators, and we use them effectively."

Sex offender Joshua Ashby is back behind bars after he breached a court order.



Hooded pair tried to break into garage

HOODED burglars reportedly tried to break into a garage in Dunchurch.

Police received a report that two suspects wearing hooded tops were spotted trying to force their way into a garage in School Street between 4.27am and 5.05am on Sunday March 30.

A pane of glass was smashed at the rear of the property, but the suspects did not gain entry and no property was stolen.

Anyone who saw anything suspicious, or who has CCTV, doorbell or dashcam footage from the location, time and date, is asked to call 101 or visit www.warwickshire.police.uk/ro/report quoting crime reference 23/13810/25.

Alternatively, witnesses can contact the independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or via their website.

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co.uk**

Police appeal after driver struck officer in retail park

POLICE are hunting a driver who rammed into a police officer at a Rugby retail park.

Plain clothes officers pulled over a black Audi A3 at Rugby's Elliott's Field

Shopping Park just before 11.30pm on Tuesday April 22.

Police said the driver pulled into a parking space but - when approached by an officer showing ID - drove

into the officer and sped off through the car park.

The officer was not seriously injured.

Police are appealing for witnesses to the incident.

Anyone who saw anything is asked to get in touch via

www.warwickshire.police.uk/ro/report or by calling 101, quoting crime reference 23/16916/25.

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High Sheriff reflects on a year of successes and notable firsts

THE FIRST Sikh woman to hold the office of Warwickshire High Sheriff has reflected on an historic year of service.

From championing youth voices to celebrating inclusivity in the justice system, Rajvinder Kaur Gill's time in office has been marked by meaningful connections and significant milestones.

She said one of the most humbling experiences was supporting the OurJay Foundation.

Born out of tragedy, the foundation turned grief into a powerful force for change. Since Jamie Rees' passing in 2022, his family set out to raise £1,500 for a 24/7 accessible defibrillator at his school.

The overwhelming response transformed that goal into a countywide mission, raising over £250,000 and installing more than 215 public-access defibrillators across Warwickshire. These life-saving devices stand as a lasting tribute to Jamie, ensuring his name continues to make a difference.

Another proud achievement has been the success of the Young High Sheriff competition, which gave young people a platform to voice their concerns on crime and safety.

Following the competition, workshops provided a forum for young people to express their concerns about safer streets, better education on crime prevention, and real conversations about the challenges they face.



High Sheriff of Warwickshire Rajvinder Kaur Gill attends the new Police Constable Degree Apprenticeship passing out ceremony.

A personal highlight of Rajvinder's tenure was celebrating International Women's Week.

She continued: "I was honoured to deliver speeches aimed at empowering and supporting women. Each event underscored the importance of lifting each other up - whether in leadership, community work, or personal growth. There is so much strength in unity, and I hope my words inspired others to push forward, support one another, and continue breaking barriers."

As part of her role, the High Sheriff

marked the start of the legal year by hosting two special legal services. The first, held at St Mary's Church in Warwick, continued a 20 year tradition of inclusivity, featuring speakers and readings from multiple faiths and celebrating the county's diverse communities.

A unique aspect of this service was the inclusion of 'Langar,' a Sikh tradition of serving free food to all, symbolising hospitality and unity, noting Rajvinder's religion.

Making history, the second legal service took place at the

Sikh Gurdwara of Leamington and Warwick - the first of its kind in the UK. Attended by judges, civic leaders, magistrates, and community members, this service reinforced the importance of diversity in the legal system.

And while her tenure may be ending, Rajvinder's mission is far from over.

She added: "Crime prevention and awareness remain my passion, and with the connections I've built, I will continue working to educate, engage, and drive action. There is still much

work to be done to ensure young people feel safe, communities are supported, and those in need know they are not alone."

■ UNSUNG heroes across Warwickshire have been recognised at the annual High Sheriff Awards.

Rajvinder Kaur Gill awarded some of the county's remarkable individuals and organisations for their outstanding dedication to making Warwickshire a better place for all.

The event saw over 30 individuals and groups presented with certificates of recognition for their work spanning community volunteering, youth engagement, faith-based service, fundraising, heritage, and social support.

Among the honourees were Anslay Menopause Support Group, Langar Aid, and Leamington Community Boxing Club, alongside inspiring individuals such as Tim Clark, church historian at St Mary's, Jack and Joshua Bailey, recognised for their tireless fundraising efforts, and Sue Taylor, commended for her long-standing community service.

Rajvinder said: "Warwickshire is full of incredible people whose everyday acts of kindness, courage, and compassion create a ripple effect throughout our communities. These awards are a heartfelt thank you to all those who go above and beyond, often quietly and without expectation. They are the heartbeat of our county."

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Team Snowdon to scale the heights

TEAM Snowdon is once again trekking to the summit to support Warwickshire care leavers.

by Philippa Mingins

This will be the third year philanthropic staff from Warwickshire County Council (WCC) dust off their walking poles to take on the challenge of climbing to Mount Snowdon's summit in North Wales.

Last year the trek raised more than £8,000 to support young people as they move from foster care into adulthood.

The cash raised later this year by a team of colleagues from the children and families service, along with others from across the coun-

cil — including children's legal, business support, and members of the Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service — will be used to fund the care leavers' Christmas celebrations.

The trek has become an annual tradition, with team membership swelling each year.

Calvin Smith, WCC's children's safeguarding spokesperson, said "What started as a one-off idea has turned into something really special. It's so nice to join colleagues who have given up their free time to walk Snowdon together. Not only

does it bring us closer as a team, but it also allows us to support our care leavers in a way that's practical and impactful.

"Last year's response was phenomenal, and this year we're hoping our efforts will give our young people a Christmas to remember."

To make the challenge more interesting, the team will split into two groups — one taking on the popular Pyg Track, and the other tackling the more demanding Crib Goch. Both groups will meet at the summit for some spectacular views.

Visit www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/ashley-chester-2? to donate.



The trek has become an annual tradition.

Myton fundraisers needed to take on mountain challenge

FEARLESS fundraisers are being urged to scale new heights for The Myton Hospices.

A climb to the summit of Snowdon is being organised to raise vital funds for the charity on Saturday June 28.

Standing at 3,560 feet, Snowdon is the highest peak in Wales.

Experienced mountain leaders will take care of participants on the day



Scaling new heights – Fundraisers are being called to climb Snowdon in support of The Myton Hospices.

and training walks will be provided in the lead-up to the event.

All cash raised in sponsorship will enable The Myton Hospices, which has hospices in Warwick, Coventry and Rugby, to provide end-of-life care for more patients and their families.

Marc Dwyer, the charity's challenge events lead, said: "We are so excited to be scaling the heights

of Snowdon and can't wait to welcome everyone for this incredible experience. By taking part in our Snowdon Trek, you are helping to secure the future of hospice care in our community. With your continued support, we can ensure Myton remains 'Here for everyone, forever'."

For more details, visit www.mytonhospice.org/Snowdon

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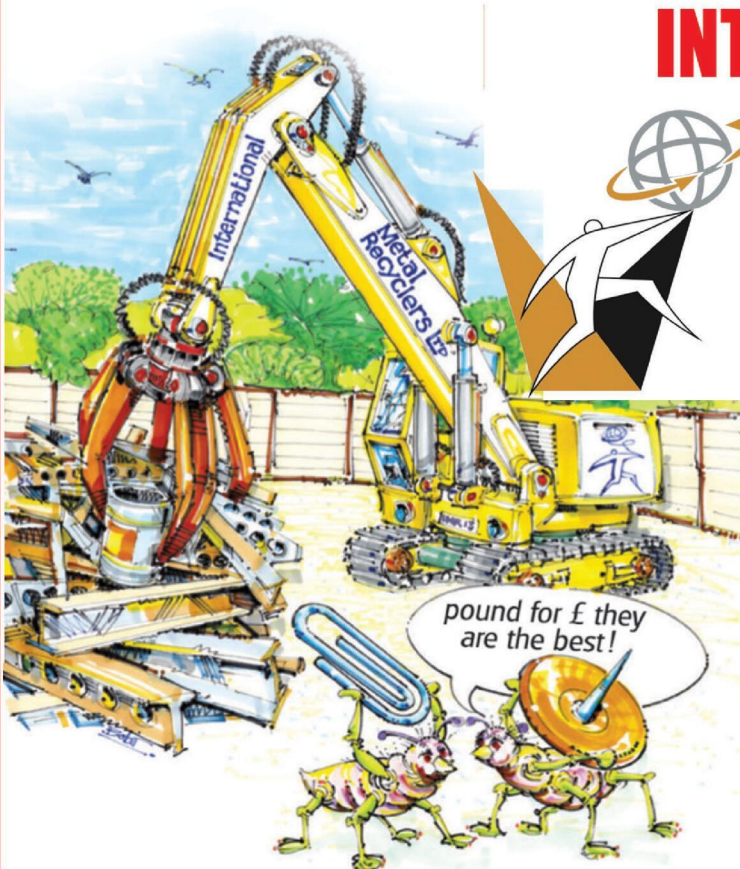
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Music Matters

Cathedral concert strikes right note



MUSIC MATTERS!

Pete Chambers BEM writes for *The Observer*

I HAD the absolute honour of being invited as a special guest to a spectacular gala concert at Coventry Cathedral to celebrate 80 years of VE/VJ Day in association with the Commonwealth War Graves Foundation.

What a very special night, especially as it was in the company of two D-Day veterans who quite rightly received a standing ovation as they were introduced. Real superheroes.

The whole night was filled to the brim with high-class entertainment.

The Coventry Cathedral Girls Choir began the whole event, and, wow, it was spine-tingling, with 20 voices as one.

They were followed by maestro cellist Guy Johnston.

The cello is an instrument I dearly love. It has a tonality that can inspire a radiant smile or just as easily bring a melancholy tear.

Guy has his whole unique style but the mastery of cellist supreme Jacqueline du Pre came to my mind, such was his perfect performance.



The D-Day Darlings and the Brass Band of Central England made the concert truly memorable.

Then it was time for the D-Day Darlings, the UK's premier wartime group. They were signed to Sony Music UK after reaching the finals in ITV's Britain's Got Talent.

In 2018, their debut album, 'I'll Remember You', reached number 15 in the official album charts, receiving a Silver Disc for more than 60,000 sales.

One of the trio, Emily Jane Brooks, was actually born in Coventry and began her professional singing career at the age of 16 at the historic Coombe Abbey Hotel where she took part in

medieval banquets whilst studying for her A-levels.

It was a fun part of the show with the war songs catalogue. These included The White Cliffs of Dover, We'll Meet Again, In The Mood, Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy, Run Rabbit Run, Hang Out The Washing On The Siegfried Line and many more.

You can bet the ones of a certain age all sang along (me included). It was glorious and that four-second delay in the cathedral's acoustics only helped to increase the drama of the whole thing.

They were followed after a

short break by the mighty Brass Band of Central England. You've got to love a brass band, especially when they are this good and that syncopation is in evidence between the many musicians gathered on the stage.

It was here the cathedral acoustics really kicked in. Just imagine a powerhouse ensemble of musical energy pumping out their sounds in such a huge space – wow!

One very potent moment was when we stood for the two-minute silence.

As I stood there I could hear

the young dudes out in the square and the clunk of their skateboards as they hit the concrete – it was a reminder that because of the sacrifice of the many who never came home from conflict, those dudes could enjoy the life of freedom, like us all.

But as I closed my eyes the sounds I heard were no longer skateboards, but the thunder of the guns far in the distance breaking the silent air.

Then it was back in the room and a realisation that our veterans really did give their today for our tomorrow.

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The Carducci Quartet joined forces with clarinet virtuoso Emma Johnson. The Dominic Aldis Trio (RIGHT) took the music making late into the night.



Festival with a flourish

Leamington Music Festival Pump Rooms

WITH the country basking in the best early May weather for years the body may have been taken care of but there was even more to warm the soul in a packed festival weekend of top notch music.

There were two distinctive strings to the festival's bow this time round. Anniversaries in the lives and legacies of Maurice Ravel and Arthur Bliss. The music of both composers, so different in their ways, featured but didn't overpower a fabulous line-up of ensembles and artists.

The task of getting things under way fell to the Trio Shaham-Erez-Wallfisch.

As a demonstration of the breadth of tonality on offer from such a trio this concert had it all. Shostakovich's Trio 2 in E minor showed the trio at its most stretched. Painfully taut high register playing - particularly at the upper extremes of the cello range - and an almost dissociated commentary from the

piano gave us a trio of three very separate players.

In sharp contrast the Ravel Piano Trio in A minor which followed presented music-making as a far more harmonic, supportive proposition particularly in the beautifully measured passacaille, a highlight in a very fine recital.

In a brave bit of programming the sound of improvised (though classically-inspired) jazz took to the stage for a late evening concert. Dominic Aldis and his trio follow in the footsteps of great crossover ensembles, not least those of Jacques Loussier. Breath-taking virtuosity from bassist Oli Hayhurst and drummer Justin Bambini helped make this slight oddity in the festival line-up a real treat for all.

Bliss's Clarinet Quintet paired the Carducci Quartet and virtuoso Emma Johnson in a piece which blends all five voices perfectly rather than demoting the quartet to mere accompanists. A luscious third movement showed just how good this pairing can be in music at the same time traditionally English and pleasingly inventive.

A sprightly and fabulously bright perform-

ance of Mozart's contribution to the repertoire followed and will have been a highlight for many.

Elsewhere during the weekend musicians notable including pianist Mark Bebbington, baritone Roderick Williams and young organist Elli-Mae McGlone, provided plenty to enjoy. With concerts and talks taking place at the parish church of All Saints as well as the Pump Rooms this was a festival open to all.

The Sacconi Quartet took to the stage on Monday evening with something of a wrapping-up job before them, quartets by Ravel and Bliss bringing the musical curtain down on this excellent part-tribute, part-introduction to the chamber works of both composers.

The Ravel quartet in F Minor provided a perfect opening to the evening. Amid the glorious sun-drenched melodies throughout the piece there are some fiendishly clever pizzicato sections. Ensemble playing of the highest order is needed to make this work and it doesn't get much better than this.

Bliss bade a fond farewell to the weekend with his Piano Quartet, pianist Simon

Callaghan joining for spirited reading of a piece redolent of far happier times than its emergence under the shadow of the Great War. The quartet revealed they had taken this work on specially for this festival and it's to be hoped they enjoyed it as much as the generous applause suggested we all did.

Festivals are an opportunity not just to indulge in a wealth of music-making, but to focus on one or two areas of the repertoire and feel a growing attachment. Such was the balance of programming in this year's festival that all will have gone away inspired and entertained in equal measure.

Whether your lasting memory will have been of Emma Johnson's playful virtuosity and tapping foot, the warm tones of Roderick Williams's voice, the expressiveness of violinist Deniz Senocoy or the power of Elli Mae McGlone at the church organ, there were enough great moments to go round.

For details of more concerts in the area visit leamingtonmusic.org.

Matthew Salisbury

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Back of the net...

Much Ado about Nothing
RSC, Royal Shakespeare Theatre

Triumphant, overpaid footballers, dodgy backroom staff and scantily-clad WAGs all indulging in partying, banter and romantic shenanigans - if all this sounds distantly familiar then it's because 400-odd years ago Shakespeare got there first.

The beautiful game meets the charm of unexpected love in a production which really ought to be naff, but actually isn't.

From the distant stands, down the players' tunnel to the communal bath, this whole experience shouts football. Many of us will have been to football matches that were less like a football match than this. Only the smell of fried onions and the opportunity to place a half-time flutter on the marital outcome is missing.

No detail has been overlooked; no idea, however daft or far-fetched appears to have been turned down. Authentic kits, water carriers and physios, media presence and WAGs' costumes - this is premier league design work from Jon Bausor.

Going the whole hog with a gimmicky setting in Shakespeare is often tricky. We've seen enough bold undertakings which, though they seem a great and valid idea in Act One, are often a millstone round the neck of the production by Act Four.

Not so here because at the end of the day (as every football pundit likes to repeat) this is a very funny production which may owe its looks to football but owes its wit to the Bard's time-

less comedy. Thankfully theatre doesn't have the concept of a man-of-the-match and this hugely entertaining company is too uniformly talented to need stars, but praise must go to a few standout performances.

Beatrice (Freema Agyeman) and Benedick (Nick Blood) bring a modern, confident slant to their on-off sparring romance. Two splendid scenes of concealed plot-setting and a couple of wonderfully awkward reluctant professions of love are a joy to watch.

Eleanor Worthington-Cox as Hero and Daniel Adeosun as Claudio both shine but in truth everyone from the Count down to the coppers deserves their spot in the squad.

Wonderful touches abound. The karaoke-style partying, the highly permissive attitude to modernising phrases with Messina's nobility frequently dubbed boss or guv, the inclusion of social media and deep fake elements - it's all playing fast and loose with loyalty to the text but somehow it all works and nothing jars.

Michael Longhurst's direction is slick and brilliantly detailed. The pace keeps up for the whole ninety minutes and more and - like the best sporting encounters - nobody is heading back to the car before the final whistle.

Perhaps Shakespearean comedy is, as the TV pundits insist, all about the results game. And this one is a winner in anyone's book.

Matthew Salisbury

Tapping a rich vein of unremitting gore

Theatre reviews

Titus Andronicus
RSC Swan Theatre

TITUS Andronicus is often cited as Shakespeare's bloodiest drama and like all good slasher movies this procession of horrendous cruelty comes with a warning.

If the steadily simmering anger and jealousy of the first part isn't enough to suggest the mayhem to come, then the blood red sprinkler system above and the foot-high perspex splash guard protecting the front row certainly don't bode well.

The machinations of men seeking power over each other and, more chillingly, over women drives plot after plot leaving a trail of violence and revenge streaked across the stage.

Max Webster's production starts out in an almost monochrome sombreness. The plain set is matched by Joanna Scotcher's design which never moves far from a blue and grey palette. By the end of course, it's all red.

Simon Russell Beale's Titus is a man seasoned in taking crucial decisions affecting the lives of others without really ever really disturbing his equilibrium. Only as events turn against him and those close to him do we begin to see real emotion and the slide from one to another is beautifully handled.



Letty Thomas and Simon Russell Beale. Picture Marc Brenner (RSC).

The banality of violence and its damage is nowhere better displayed than in the 'family dinner from Hell' that opens the second half and gives a foretaste of the sickening feast which will eventually round the whole thing off.

Emma Fielding as Titus's sister charts an equally enthralling descent from calm into chaos and Natey Jones as the scheming Aaron is both chilling and tender before his ultimate date with doom.

While Shakespeare may originally have set his focus principally on the inevitability of violence bringing revenge, to modern audiences the play now carries unavoidable elements of deep-seated racism and the consequences of rape.

The shock of both is tackled front-on in this production and the idea that a victim of brutal rape and torture should be silenced by the

family to avoid shame is, to modern sensibilities, probably more shocking than serving up your enemy's children in a pie.

Each murderous act - and there are plenty to witness - heralds the arrival of another piece of motorised abattoir equipment dangling from the overhead rail. Brutality, or certainly its carefully choreographed cousin, abounds with a thumping industrial soundtrack to hammer home every throat-slitting atrocity.

By the end, the stage and the cast are soaked in blood and it's an outwardly innocent child who presses the button on the final live incarceration. Another gruesome killing in an evening full of gore and effect but perhaps a little short on much else.

Matthew Salisbury



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Calls for more to be done to combat ambulance staff abuse

by Andy Morris
andy.morris@bullivantmedia.com

AMBULANCE staff across the Midlands are subjected to around nine incidents of physical abuse, verbal abuse or aggression every day - prompting a new awareness campaign.

West Midlands Ambulance Service (WMAS) has launched the 'How We Treat Each Other Matters' campaign to encourage members of the public to be respectful to ambulance staff.

Staff from WMAS' frontline, control rooms and Patient Transport Services are coming together on social media to encourage respect and safety for all staff.

The campaign launches as the number of violent incidents against UK ambulance staff reached an all-time high in the last 12 months.

A nationwide issue

Across the UK's 14 ambulance services, 22,536 cases were recorded - up 15 per cent on the previous year - 3,370 of which were in the West Midlands.

The WMAS Trust said it did not tolerate abuse and violence directed towards its workforce, with legal action always being pursued.

Chief Executive Officer Anthony Marsh said: "For many staff, this



sort of abuse can have a profound impact on their lives with some staff never recovering and actually leaving the service altogether.

"While it is a minority of people who commit these offences, we need the public to support us to make such abuse something that is unacceptable."

WMAS Head of Security and Safety Dan Knight added: "Everyone deserves to come to work without fear of abuse, aggression or vio-

lence from the public - whether that be our staff on the frontline, Patient Transport Services staff or those who work in our control rooms.

"The message is simple, abuse will not be tolerated and appropriate actions will be taken when these incidents occur - 3,370 incidents of abuse and violence is 3,370 too many."

"We hope with the launch of this campaign, it will be an important reminder to the public that showing

respect to our staff, who are ultimately only trying to help people, should be a given."

'Shocking figures'

Following the release of the new figures, Chair of the Association of Ambulance Chief Executives (AACE), Jason Killens, has written to ministers responsible for ambulance services in the UK to explore what further national policy

interventions can be developed to help combat the growing number of violent assaults against ambulance workers in the UK.

He said: "These figures are truly shocking and reflect a pattern of increased violence, aggression and abuse directed at hard-working ambulance people who are there to help people in their times of greatest need."

"Frontline staff as well as call handlers are affected by this horrendous abuse and this unacceptable behaviour has a major long-term impact on the health and wellbeing of ambulance people who are simply trying to do their jobs and help save lives."

"This situation is now so serious that we are seeking to engage with UK health ministers at the highest level to explore new interventions that could help deter potential perpetrators of these attacks."

"We would also underline again that it is vital that the judiciary uses all available legislation to ensure appropriate sentences are handed out consistently to those found guilty of committing these horrific crimes against our workforce."

West Midlands Ambulance Service has launched the 'How We Treat Each Other Matters' campaign to encourage members of the public to be respectful to ambulance staff.

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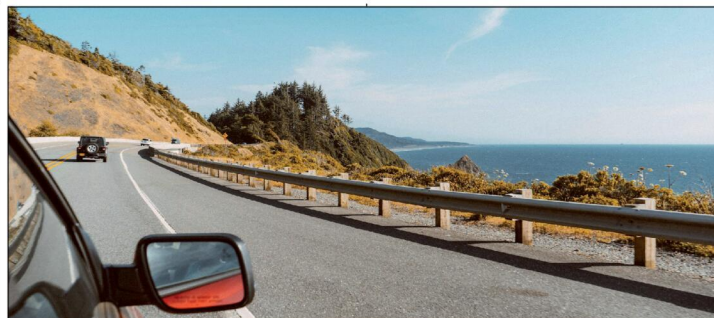


The Joys of Summer Motoring

Embracing the Open Road Safely and Preparedly

As the days grow longer and the sun's warmth beckons, there's an undeniable allure to summer motoring. The thrill of hitting the open road, the gentle hum of the engine, and the panoramic views that unfold through the windscreen create a sense of adventure and freedom that's hard to match. For many, summer is the perfect season to explore new destinations, enjoy scenic drives, or simply indulge in the pleasure of driving without the constraints of shorter daylight hours or colder weather. Yet, alongside the exhilaration comes a responsibility to ensure that your vehicle remains safe and reliable, especially when the mercury rises. Proper preparation and awareness can make summer motoring not only enjoyable but also secure.

Summer offers a unique set of opportunities for motorists. The roads tend to be less congested, especially during off-peak hours, allowing for more relaxed journeys. The warm weather and longer days enable spontaneous trips, weekend getaways, or leisurely drives through picturesque countryside, coastal routes, or vibrant towns. The feeling of the sun on your face, the breeze through the open windows, and the scent of blooming flowers or salty sea air contribute to an immersive sensory experience that elevates the pleasure of driving. Many drivers relish the chance to explore new destinations, from historic landmarks to scenic nature reserves. Summer also allows for more outdoor activities, such as picnics, hiking, or seaside visits, making a car essential for transporting gear and family or friends comfortably. Car journeys become part of the holiday



experience, with the vehicle acting as a mobile sanctuary from which passengers can enjoy music playlists, savour snacks, or simply watch the landscape change. The freedom of summer motoring also fosters a sense of adventure. Whether taking a coastal drive along the British

seaside, navigating winding country lanes through lush countryside, or embarking on a cross-country road trip, the possibilities are endless. The open road beckons, promising new sights, sounds, and experiences that can create lifelong memories.



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Ensuring Vehicle Safety During Hot Weather

While the pleasures of summer driving are plentiful, the hot weather brings specific challenges that necessitate careful attention to vehicle safety.

Excessive heat can impact various vehicle components, potentially leading to breakdowns or hazardous situations on the road.

Being proactive about vehicle maintenance and safety checks ensures that summer

journeys remain enjoyable and worry-free.

Cooling System and Fluids: The engine's cooling system is vital in preventing overheating, especially in high temperatures. Drivers should ensure that the coolant level is adequate and that the system is functioning correctly. Regularly inspecting radiator hoses and the thermostat can prevent overheating incidents that could leave you stranded.

Tyres: Heat causes tyres to expand and can increase the risk of blowouts if they are under-inflated or worn. Before setting off, check tyre pressures against manufacturer recommendations, including the spare tyre. Adequate tyre tread depth is also crucial for grip on potentially hot and dry roads, reducing the risk of skidding or aquaplaning.

Air Conditioning and Ventilation: Summer drives are more comfortable with a well-functioning air conditioning system. Regular servicing ensures optimal performance, providing relief from the heat and helping prevent driver fatigue and dehydration.

Battery and Electrical Systems: High temperatures can accelerate battery degradation. Have the battery checked regularly, especially before long journeys, to prevent unexpected failures.

Lights and Visibility: Summer sun can cause glare, impacting visibility. Keep windscreen clean and ensure that wipers are in good condition. Sunglasses or sun visors can also help reduce glare, making driving safer.



Keeping Supplies for Hot Weather Conditions

Being prepared for hot weather isn't just about vehicle mechanics; it also involves carrying essential supplies to manage the heat and any unforeseen situations. Proper planning can turn a potentially uncomfortable or dangerous situation into a manageable one.

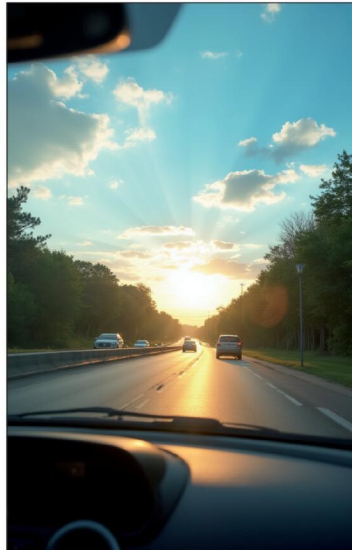
Water and Hydration: Dehydration is a serious concern during hot weather. Carry plenty of bottled water for all passengers, especially children and elderly family members.

Sunscreen and Shade: Sunscreen protects skin from harmful UV rays, especially during long drives or when stopping at outdoor destinations. Sun visors or foldable shade screens can shield the interior of the vehicle and reduce temperature build-up inside.

Emergency Kit: A well-stocked emergency kit is essential. Include items such as a first aid kit, a torch, spare bulbs, jumper cables, and basic tools. In hot weather, consider adding a portable fan or battery-powered fan to help keep passengers cool if the vehicle becomes stranded.

Cooling Accessories: Portable fans, cooling towels, or mist spray bottles can be useful during breaks or emergencies. Keep a small cooler with ice packs for perishable items or to keep passengers comfortable.

Car Sunshade: Using sunshades on windows when parked can significantly reduce interior temperatures, protecting the vehicle's dashboard and upholstery from heat damage and making it more comfortable upon return.





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Driving Tips for Safe Summer Journeys

To maximise enjoyment while maintaining safety, drivers should adopt some practical summer driving tips:

Plan Your Journey

Avoid the hottest parts of the day, typically between 11 am and 3 pm. Early mornings or late afternoons are often cooler and less congested.

Take Breaks

Frequent stops allow passengers to stretch, hydrate, and cool down. Rest areas with shaded areas and facilities are ideal for breaks.

Maintain Safe Distances

Hot days can lead to longer braking distances due to increased tyre grip issues or brake fade. Keep a safe distance from the vehicle ahead.

Monitor Weather Conditions

Sudden thunderstorms or heatwaves can affect driving conditions. Stay updated through weather reports and adjust plans accordingly.

Check for Roadworks and Delays

Summer often sees increased roadworks or events that may cause delays. Planning ahead can help avoid stressful detours.

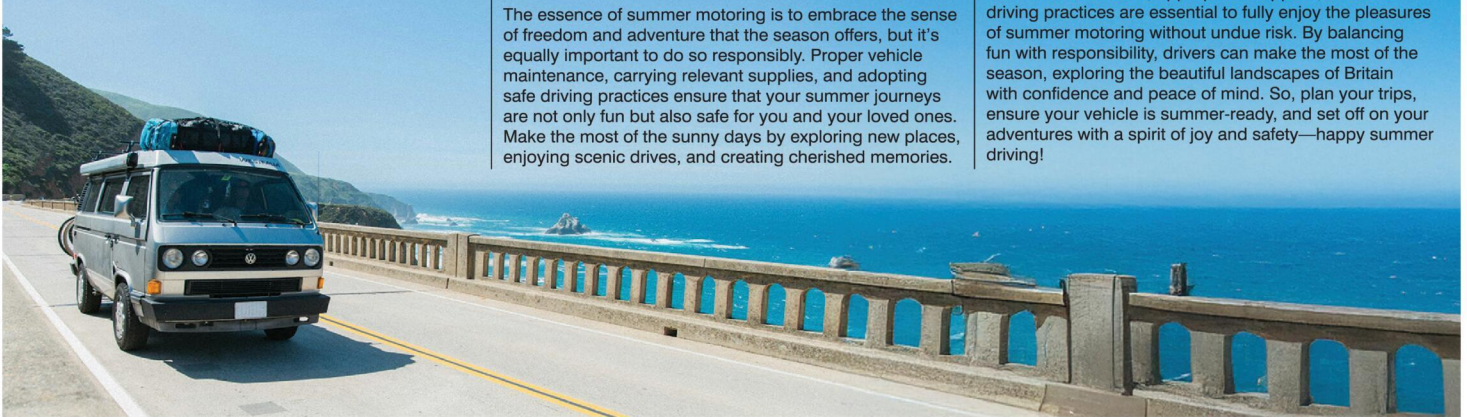
Enjoying Summer Motoring Responsibly

The essence of summer motoring is to embrace the sense of freedom and adventure that the season offers, but it's equally important to do so responsibly. Proper vehicle maintenance, carrying relevant supplies, and adopting safe driving practices ensure that your summer journeys are not only fun but also safe for you and your loved ones. Make the most of the sunny days by exploring new places, enjoying scenic drives, and creating cherished memories.

At the same time, be mindful of the conditions, keep your vehicle in top condition, and stay prepared for the heat. This balanced approach transforms summer motoring from a potentially stressful experience into one of pure pleasure and discovery.

Conclusion

Summer is arguably the most enjoyable time of year for motoring enthusiasts in the UK. The combination of warm weather, longer days, and scenic routes makes for memorable adventures on the open road. However, this season also demands a heightened awareness of vehicle safety and personal preparedness. Regular maintenance checks, appropriate supplies, and safe driving practices are essential to fully enjoy the pleasures of summer motoring without undue risk. By balancing fun with responsibility, drivers can make the most of the season, exploring the beautiful landscapes of Britain with confidence and peace of mind. So, plan your trips, ensure your vehicle is summer-ready, and set off on your adventures with a spirit of joy and safety—happy summer driving!



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Warwickshire County Council

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

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

BECKFOOT CLOSE, BROWNSOVER, RUGBY
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.
Reason for Order: To enable work for laying duct.
Order Commences: 27 May 2025 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 28 May 2025.

Access & Diversion: No diversion available.
Contractor: M J Quinn, Tel: 01543 547 118.

LINDALE, BROWNSOVER, RUGBY
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.
Reason for Order: To enable duct laying works.
Order Commences: 28 May 2025 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 29 May 2025.

Access & Diversion: No diversion route available.
Contractor: M J Quinn, Tel: 01515 478 800.

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.

THE WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (LANDSDOWNE PLACE, RUGBY)

Warwickshire County Council has made the above named Order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 ("the 1984 Act"), the effect of which will be to continue an experimental order on Lansdowne Place, Rugby as follows:-

1. Prohibit vehicular traffic in Lansdowne Place, Rugby, for its entire length of 143m, between Monday and Friday between the hours of 8:15-9:15am and 2:30-3:30pm during School Term Time (following Warwickshire Term Dates). The Order commences on 12th May 2025 and contains exemptions for the emergency services, blue badge holders and permit holders.

A copy of the Order, together with a copy of the experimental order, plans showing the lengths of road affected, the associated traffic calming proposals and a statement of the Council's reasons for making the Order, may be inspected at the Main Reception, Shire Hall, Market Place, Warwick during usual opening hours and on the Council's website. <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/20208/rugby-borough>

Any enquiries relating to the Experimental Order be made to Dana Loxley, Communities Directorate (tel. 01926 412889, email, schoolstreets@warwickshire.gov.uk).

Any enquiries relating to the Order may be addressed to Dana Loxley, Communities Directorate, PO Box 43, Shire Hall, Warwick, CV34 4SX. Any person who desires to question the validity of the Order or of any provision contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or on the grounds that any requirement of that Act or of any instrument made under it has not been complied with in relation to the Order may within six weeks from the date of the making of the Order apply to the High Court for this purpose.

THE WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (MOORS LANE, HOULTON) (PROHIBITION OF VEHICLE MOVEMENTS) ORDER 2025
Warwickshire County Council proposes to make the above named Order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which will be to impose a prohibition of motor vehicles on the length of road mentioned in the Schedule being a copy of the proposed Order, together with a plan showing the length of road affected and a statement of the Council's reasons for proposing to make the Order, may be inspected at the Main Reception, Shire Hall, Market Place, Warwick during usual opening hours and online at: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/20208/rugby-borough>

black leather seat covers, 1000 pieces of copies of the proposed Order, and supporting documentation can be obtained from the Council. Dimensions: L-158. Any objections, representations, or expressions of support to the proposals, which must be in writing and specify the grounds on which they are made, should be addressed to Phil Houlton, County Highway & Minor Works Team, Communities Directorate, Shire Hall Post Room, Northgate Street, Warwick, CV34 4RL or sent by email to phil.houlton@warwickshire.gov.uk. Objections, representations and the name of the objector to the Order making an application, will normally be considered as public information and may be published for the Council processes personal data in accordance with the Customer Privacy Policy which is available at: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/privacy-policy>. Objections and representations must be received by 30 May 2025.

SCHEDULE
1. The schedule should be read in conjunction with Plan Ref. PTR021-016-01A.
2. Moors Lane, Houlton - LEICESTER MOTORWAY
From a point 260 metres north-west of the junction of A428 Crick Road, north-westwards to a distance of 445 metres.
3. S Duxbury, Director of Strategy, Planning & Governance, Shire Hall, Warwick CV34 4RL. Tel: 01926 412515

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICES

Section 17 Licensing Act 2003: Application for a new Premises Licence

M/VE: Mr Radhakrishnan Rajkshagano Have Applied to Coventry City Council for a New Premises Licence for **Gil Bucket Bryant**, No 32 Lockhart Lane, Coventry CV5 9BL licensable activities and accompanying hours applied for are: Supply of Alcohol for On-Premises consumption: Mon-Sun (11:30-24:00). Any person who wishes to make a representation in relation to this application must give notice in writing of his/her representation by 27 May 2025 using the grounds for making said representation to: Licensing Team, PO Box 7097, Coventry City Council, Coventry CV6 9SL. OR email: licensing@coventry.gov.uk. The application may be viewed in the Register held at the above offices or online on <http://www.coventry.gov.uk/>. It is an offence, under section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003, for anyone to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for the offence is unlimited.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Warwickshire County Council

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

Warwickshire County Council has made the following Temporary Traffic Orders:

BOCKENDON ROAD, STONELEIGH
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.
Reason for Order: To enable telegraph pole replacement works.
Order Commences: 14 May 2025 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 14 May 2025.

Access & Diversion: Bockendon Road, Crackley Lane, Cryfield Grange Road, Kenilworth Road, Gibbet Hill Road, Kirby Corner Road, Westwood Heath Road and vice versa.
Contractor: M J Quinn, Tel: 07415 894 179.

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 9 May 2025

PUBLIC NOTICES

Rugby Borough Council

Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)

Application Number R25/0354
AVONDALE STATION ROAD, CLIFTON UPON DUNSMORE, RUGBY, CV23 0BU
Proposed adapted driveway and turning area. This development may affect a Public Right of Way

Members of the public may inspect copies of the application, the plans and documents submitted with it online at: www.planningportal.rugby.gov.uk or in an electronic form at: Town Hall, Evreux Way, Rugby CV21 2RR between the hours of 9:00 am and 5:00 pm Monday to Friday until **30 May 2025**. Please note a planning officer would not be present.

If you wish to make an appointment to discuss the application, please contact the case officer. Any person who wishes to make representation to the above mentioned Council about the applications should make them online - www.planningportal.rugby.co.uk (search for application number and select comment) - or in writing by that date to The Chief Officer Growth and Investment, Town Hall, Rugby, CV21 2RR.

If an application is determined by the Planning Committee, members of the public may have the opportunity to speak at the meeting. More details about public speaking are available from the Council or on-line at: www.rugby.gov.uk/speakingatplanning

For household or minor commercial applications, in the event of an appeal against a refusal of planning permission, dealt with on the basis of representations in writing, any representations made will be sent to the Secretary of State, and there will be no further opportunity to comment at the appeal stage.

Nicola Smith
Chief Officer - Growth and Investment MRTPI

PUBLIC NOTICES

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Melons waste management Ltd of the ark, Rugby Lane, Stretton on Dunsmore, Rugby, CV23 9JD is applying for a licence to use **The ark, Rugby Lane, Stretton on Dunsmore, Rugby, CV23 9JD** as an operating centre for 1 goods vehicle and 0 trailers.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Quarry House, Quarry Hill, Leeds, LS2 7UE, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representatives must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Warwickshire County Council

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

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

D06020 FARM STREET, HARBURY
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic from Mill Street to Sutcliffe Drive.
Reason for Order: Drainage works, 08.00hrs-17.00hrs.
Order Commences: 27 May 2025 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 30 May 2025.

Access & Diversion: Farm Street, Temple End, Park Lane, Chapel Street, Mill Street and vice versa.
Contractor: Balfour Beatty, Tel: 03452 415 302.

For all of the above temporary orders, pedestrian access to and egress from properties and land situated adjacent to the length of road to be closed will be maintained at all times. Vehicular access will be maintained where possible.

To report any problems with these works or for further details of our current & planned roadworks visit our website warwickshire.gov.uk/roadworksmap or call us 01926 412515.

S Duxbury, Director of Strategy, Planning & Governance, Shire Hall, Warwick CV34 4RL Date 9 May 2025

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A NEW PREMISES LICENCE UNDER THE LICENSING ACT 2003

Notice is hereby given that **Dylan Dossanjh** has applied to Coventry City Council for a Premises Licence For: **Bell Green Food & Wines, 175 Bell Green Road, Coventry CV6 7GW**

Details of Application: To provide: **Supply of Alcohol, Monday - Thursday: 8.00 am - Midnight, Friday and Saturday: 8.00 am - 3.00 am, Sunday: 8.00 am - 1.00 am**

Any person wishing to lodge a representation concerning this application may write to: Licensing Authority, The Council House, Earl Street Coventry CV1 5RR. Or send an email to: licensing@coventry.gov.uk. The application may be viewed during normal office hours at the above address and further information may be available at www.coventry.gov.uk on the public register.

Any Representation relating to this application must be made in writing to the Licensing Authority by **29/05/2025**. Please note it is an offence to knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. The maximum fine on summary conviction for this offence is Unlimited.

BERYL SAAYMAN (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 anyone having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the deceased, late of 79 The Jordans, Alseley, Coventry CV5 9JS, who died on 20/08/2024, must send written particulars to the address below by 10/07/2025, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

ANTHONY JOHN WORLEY (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 anyone having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of 56 Newbold Road, Rugby, Warwickshire, CV21 2NQ, who died on 31/03/2025, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 10/07/2025, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

Band Hutton LLP Solicitors, Earlsdon Park, 53-55 Butts Road, Coventry, CV1 3BH. Ref: KTV/SAA23

PUBLIC NOTICES

BRENDA MARY CLOUGH (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of Beechwood Gardens 73 Rochester Road Coventry, CV5 6AF, who died on 16/03/2025, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 10/07/2025, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

Angels Solicitors LLP, 117-119 New Union Street Coventry CV1 2NY

PUBLIC NOTICES

DIANA MARY LESTER (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of Late of Royal Leamington Spa Nursing Home, 14-16 Adelaide Road, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire CV31 3PW previously of 38 Pinces Drive, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, CV22 6AF, who died on 16/02/2025, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 10/07/2025, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

Blythe Liggins LLP, Edmund House, Rugby Road, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire CV22 6EL

PUBLIC NOTICES

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

J5 Transport Specialist Ltd Of Office 1, Labella House, 24-26 Regent Place, City Centre, Birmingham, B1 3J1 is applying for a licence to use **Roxbury Farm, Northbrook Road, Goudon, Coventry, CV6 2AJ** as an operating centre for 1 goods vehicle and 0 trailers. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Quarry House, Quarry Hill, Leeds, LS2 7UE, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representatives must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Richard Mann, trading as P R Mann and Sons, of Hill Farm, Ufton, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, CV33 9PL, is applying for a licence to use the above address as an operating centre for 3 goods vehicles and 3 trailers.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Quarry House, Quarry Hill, Leeds, LS2 7UE, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representatives must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

Any person wishing to lodge a representation concerning this application may write to: Licensing Authority, The Council House, Earl Street Coventry CV1 5RR. Or send an email to: licensing@coventry.gov.uk. The application may be viewed during normal office hours at the above address and further information may be available at www.coventry.gov.uk on the public register.

Any Representation relating to this application must be made in writing to the Licensing Authority by **29/05/2025**. Please note it is an offence to knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. The maximum fine on summary conviction for this offence is Unlimited.

PUBLIC NOTICES

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEATHS

TAYLOR

(nee Weston)
Helen Rose
(formerly of Rugby)

Passed away peacefully at home in Long Sutton on 26th April 2025 aged 93.

Devoted wife of the late Walter. Loving mum to Diane, Jayne and Heather. Much loved nan, great nan and great, great nan.

The funeral will take place at Mintlyn Crematorium, Kings Lynn on Friday 30th May at 2.30pm.

Family flowers only.

Donations in Helens' memory are to Help For Heroes and The Children's Air Ambulance.

Enquiries to F E Walton & Son, Long Sutton, PE12 9JF. Tel 01406 363264.

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Historic promotion for Borough after victory in play-off final



Rugby Borough Celebrate after securing promotion. Picture by Brian Dainty

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

FOOTBALL: RUGBY Borough sealed a historic promotion to Step Four following a 2-1 victory against Aylestone Park in the play-off final. Borough took an early lead courtesy of Lewis Wilson's goal only for Corey Armeni to draw the home side level at Saffron Lane.

However, Sam Fitzgerald restored Rugby's lead just before the half-hour mark as Borough achieved promotion from the United Counties League Premier Division South.

Borough boss, Dave Stringer said: "This is a monumental day for Rugby Borough. The commitment and passion shown by the players and staff have

been outstanding all season. "To achieve promotion in such dramatic fashion is a testament to the unity and ambition within this club."
 Rugby stunned the hosts after just three minutes when Wilson expertly headed in Will Grocott's cross.
 The home side equalised two minutes later as Armeni turned the ball into the net following a scramble in the Borough box.
 Borough reclaimed the lead on 27 minutes when Fitzgerald hammered the ball home after Matt Dawson's cross from the right deflected into the scorer's path.
 Rugby kept Aylestone at bay for the majority of the second half while Harry Sawyer produced a heroic goal-line clearance in injury time.
 Borough held on in the final moments to secure a first-ever promotion to Step Four in the club's history.

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