

Royal seal of approval for charity's vital work

by **Andy Morris**
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A 'COMPASSIONATE' charity which helps homeless and hungry people in Rugby has been honoured by The King.

Hope4 has been presented with The King's Award for Voluntary Service - the highest award a local voluntary organisation can achieve.

Regarded as the MBE of the voluntary sector, the coveted award recognises the work carried out by the charity's volunteers at the Hope Centre and Rugby Foodbank.

At a ceremony at the Benn Hall last week, Lord Lieutenant of Warwickshire Tim Cox presented the charity with an etched domed glass crystal and a certificate signed by the King.

He said: "The volunteers truly deserve this honour."

"I know Rugby has a very strong volunteering culture, and Hope4 embodies all that is good about caring, compassionate, individuals who wish to use their lives to serve others in the community."

"Volunteering is not only about what you give but also what you receive, and I have heard how richly rewarding it is and just what an impact this charity is having on so many. Congratulations to all."

Hope4 is one of just two



Hope4 chair Diana Mansell and Lord Lieutenant Tim Cox. Picture by Marcus Mings 2325001MMR1

Warwickshire organisations which were lined up to receive the prestigious award last year.

The charity's Chair, Diana Mansell, said "It gives me great pleasure to accept this award on behalf of all our dedicated volunteers, past and

present, who serve their community tirelessly."

"Whether its sorting and packing food, driving the van, meeting and greeting clients, maintenance work, cooking meals or serving as trustees, they do it with great dedication

and love.

"I'd also like to thank our supporters who support our work in a myriad of ad hoc ways, including fundraising and food collections."

"Our mission is to end homelessness and food poverty one person at

a time. Without our volunteers, our mission would simply be impossible. Well done everyone."

At the ceremony, the charity held its first long service awards, with certificates presented to volunteers who had served for five, 10 and 15 years. An afternoon tea was served after the formalities.

Two Hope4 volunteers, Stan and Ellie Bird, also attended a garden party at Buckingham Palace. Stan and Ellie have between them been volunteering with Hope4 for over 20 years at the Hope Centre, Rugby Foodbank and the Winter Night Shelter.

The charity began as soup kitchen in 2005, later opening the Hope Centre to work with people experiencing homelessness, a Winter Shelter which ran for nine years until the pandemic, and Rugby Foodbank.

Small staff teams work alongside over 80 volunteers who give more than 10,000 hours of their time each year. Since 2018, Rugby Foodbank has provided over 42,500 food parcels - 40 per cent of them to children - while the Hope Centre has worked with nearly 1,000 homeless people.

■ Turn to Pages 12 and 13 for the full story and more pictures.



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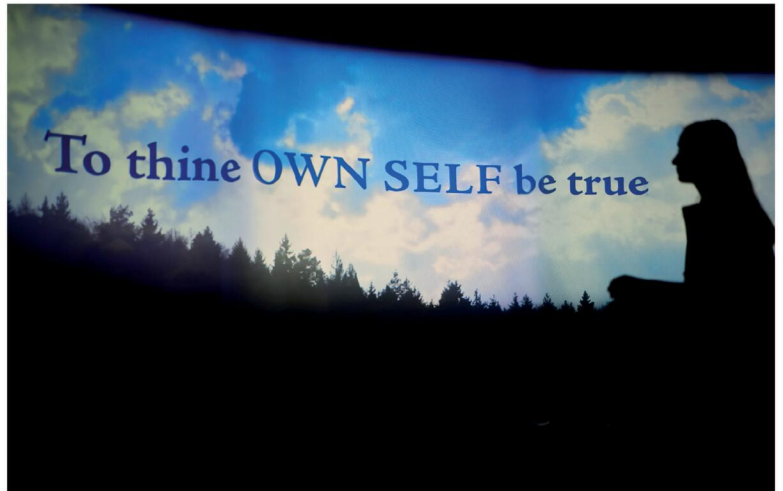
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LEFT: The new exhibition includes items from SBT's extensive collections, some of which have not been on display for many years. RIGHT: Immersed in Shakespeare's words. Immersed in Shakespeare's words. Picture SBT. Pictures Sam Allard (SBT).

Exploring Bard's earliest years

HOW William Shakespeare became the most famous writer who ever lived is told in a major new exhibition.

Becoming Shakespeare, dedicated to exploring the playwright's formative years and enduring creative legacy, opens tomorrow (Saturday), at Shakespeare's Birthplace in Stratford.

The exhibition places his home town of Stratford-upon-Avon at the heart of what made Shakespeare such an important artist.

The visitor journey, created in partnership with SBT's new organisational vision – the Home of Shakespeare for the World. Focusing on bringing everyone together through Shakespeare to experience and spark conversations around his work, life and times today.

SBT CEO Rachael North said: "Our new exhibition reflects our commitment to celebrating and sharing the Shakespeare story with diverse audiences and sparking those conversations that allow us all to explore our shared humanity in a profoundly personal way."

"We are focusing on Shakespeare's formative years and creative influences to help our visitor develop a deeper, personal connection to the beginnings of his extraordinary journey. How did this boy from a Warwickshire market town end up having such a deep impact on our culture? These are just some of the stories we will be sharing with our visitors, and I can't wait for them to experience it."

Becoming Shakespeare is included as part of admission to Shakespeare's Birthplace. Visit www.shakespeare.org.uk for further details and to book.

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It continues with a reflection on the early influences that shaped Shakespeare's imagination, from his family and natural surroundings to his formal education and experiences in the wider world. Carefully selected artifacts from the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust collections offer tangible connections to his formative years.

A new projection immerses visitors in Shakespeare's unparalleled ability to capture the human experience. His words continue to resonate across time - connecting with each visitor, challenging perspectives, and evoking an emotional connection.

Visitors will also be invited to look beyond Shakespeare's Birthplace and discover the part Stratford and Warwickshire society played in shaping his worldview and creative development.

Prof Charlotte Scott, academic advisor to SBT, said: "Becoming Shakespeare is a unique and original exhibition celebrating the beginning of Shakespeare's story, from birth to boyhood. We invite audiences to experience and explore Shakespeare's hometown of Stratford-upon-Avon, his community, his childhood life and his own creative reflections on birth, belonging and the contexts that shaped his thinking and his art."

"Situating Shakespeare's creativity within the early influences of place and home, we will bring the past to life to consider how William, the first surviving child of John and Mary, became Shakespeare."

The new exhibition is the lat-

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See page **30**

Wild for Water will highlight nature alongside our waterways

A CAMPAIGN to raise awareness of water quality and pollution across Coventry, Warwickshire, and Solihull will launch in Rugby this weekend.

Warwickshire Wildlife Trust (WWT) is holding its Wild for Water event at The Barn in Houlton, pictured.

Families will be invited to create raindrop sun-



catchers, paint water-themed designs onto rocks, learn about wildlife in and around local waterways, learn about WWT's 'five refreshing actions you can take for water', take a walk along the nearby Newt Trail, and explore Houlton's nature corridors.

The campaign aims to spread awareness of the conditions of local water-

ways and celebrate waterway wildlife such as kingfishers, newts and water voles.

WWT campaigns officer Catherine Craig said: "This launch event is a fantastic opportunity to learn more about the current state of our waterways, and to celebrate the abundance of wildlife that relies on our streams, lakes, and rivers

for their homes and survival."

The event takes place from 10am to 4pm on Saturday (May 31). Most activities will be hosted inside The Barn and, weather permitting, there will be a dog-friendly gazebo outside. Visit <https://my.houltonrugby.co.uk/whats-on/Wildlifetrust/> for more information.

Fury after bulldozer strips topsoil from 'precious' valley site

AN INVESTIGATION is under way following reports over "alleged unauthorised development" at a site in Hillmorton.

Rugby Borough Council (RBC) and Warwickshire County Council are conducting the investigation into activity at Wharf Farm in Kilsby Lane, after topsoil from a field was stripped by a bulldozer.

A Rugby Borough Council spokesman confirmed there was no pending planning application for the site.

Crick Road resident Alun Williams said his 'heart sank' when he saw the bulldozer.

He said: "This giant machine was working for

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hours, close to a recorded badger sett. This makes me really angry.

"The field has now been lowered by maybe two feet. This is the Rainsbrook Valley - it's precious and shouldn't be treated like this. Locals are all really worried.

"The council are investigating the site but progress has been slow. Councillors from all parties have been really supportive but the planning department needs to show some urgency.

"If they don't, developers might feel they can do as they please.

"Rugby Borough Council

must enforce the rules. This affects all of us, not just Hillmorton."

Mr Williams clarified police had visited the site and confirmed that no law had been broken in relation to development near badger setts.

A Rugby Borough Council spokesman said: "Planning officers from RBC visited Wharf Farm on May 21 as part of an ongoing enforcement investigation being conducted with Warwickshire County Council, following reports of alleged unauthorised development taking place. No formal enforcement notices have been served.

"We now intend to speak further with both the landowner and associated agents

to discuss the work which has taken place on site, but cannot comment further while the matter remains under investigation."

The Observer has contacted the owners of the site for comment but had not received a response at the time of going to press.

The field has been stripped, with topsoil banked up next to the tree line. Picture by Alun Williams.



Ofsted praises school for 'improving significantly'

A 'REMARKABLE' turnaround has seen a Rugby special school praised by inspectors just two-and-a-half years since it was placed in special measures.

Brooke School has been judged as 'Good' in all areas following its latest Ofsted report.

The school located faced significant challenges when it was rated as inadequate and placed in special measures by Ofsted in May 2022 and, in November 2022, warned that its funding could be at risk if improvements were not made.

In its latest report following an inspection earlier this month, Ofsted said the school had 'improved significantly'.

Inspectors added: "The school has sharply focused on providing an ambitious curriculum for all pupils across the school. Through this period of change, the school has remained determined to raise the expectations for what pupils can achieve.

"The quality of education now supports the needs of



Brooke School has been rated 'Good' by Ofsted.

pupils here. As a result, pupils' achievements have improved."

A spokesperson for the Unity Multi Academy Trust which runs the school said: "The trust played a crucial role in the improvement journey by establishing an interim executive board, comprising trust board members, the chief executive, and other key executive leaders.

"This board closely monitored progress and alongside the head teacher and senior leaders, directly reported updates to the Department for Education. Their collective dedication

has been instrumental in driving the school's success."

Tracy Roberts, the chair of the interim executive board, added: "We are overjoyed with Ofsted's assessment of Brooke School. This result is a true reflection of the unwavering commitment and hard work of everyone involved in ensuring significant progress in outcomes for all our pupils.

"The improvements have positively impacted our families, our current and future students, as well as the wider community in Rugby and across Warwickshire."



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Overcoming tough challenges to become an inspiration to others

AN OPTIMISTIC young Coventry man has won a prestigious King's Trust award for overcoming 'dark times' in his life to have a positive impact on his community.

Harry, 23, won the Homesense Young Achiever Award, which recognises an inspiring young person who has overcome barriers to succeed in work, at the King's Trust Awards.

Despite having faced many challenges including trauma and homelessness, Harry secured a job as an instructor with Coventry City Council's Outdoor Education Service (OES). He is now helping young people, who face challenges themselves, to build their confidence and leadership skills.

Harry - whose surname has not been publicised for safeguarding purposes - said: "It's been a long journey to get to this point. Winning the award was a surprise! It has enabled me to see how far I have come. I'm now in a job I love, helping young people who also face challenges.

"Taking part in The King's Trust programme dramatically changed me and my outlook on life. I realised I could have a positive future, doing something I love instead of continuing down the wrong path.

"Finding employment, helping young people who also face challenges just like me is so rewarding and I have The Trust and Coventry Outdoor Service to thank for helping me to get to this point and get my life



back on track." Despite a difficult childhood, losing his mum at a young age, getting in trouble with the police, struggles with his mental health and homelessness, Harry has gone on to create a bright future for himself.

"My life started to unravel after my mum died," he said. "I rarely attended school and had no routine. I started to spend less time at home and instead started going down the

wrong path." Harry later moved in with a family member, but little changed, with his mental health hitting rock bottom due to a particularly traumatic event in his personal life, resulting in him being hospitalised after an attempt on his own life.

After leaving hospital, Harry found himself homeless and sofa surfing.

"Life was chaotic," he said. "I was struggling with my mental health, my

confidence was the lowest it had ever been, I had no job, no qualifications and no permanent home. I felt like I had no real prospects or skills to overcome the challenges I was facing. It was a dark time."

It was during his time seeking support from local homelessness charity St Basil's that Harry found out about The King's Trust Get Started in Outdoor Leadership programme, which led him to Coventry City

Council's Outdoor Education Service (OES).

"Getting involved with the Coventry Outdoors team through The King's Trust programme saved my life," he said. "I wasn't socialising with others and didn't feel comfortable meeting a group of new people. I was feeling stressed about my situation and definitely didn't think I had the confidence to learn new skills or lead anything.

"I was given the opportunity to lead the group in some group activities which really boosted my confidence and helped me realise I did have leadership skills, bringing people together. People trusted me and it made me feel like I was able to help others and help myself."

Harry thrived on the programme, gaining new skills, rebuilding his confidence, attaining ten new qualifications and eventually finding employment with the OES.

Harry is now able to live independently, runs weekly groups on personal development, does one-to-one work with young people at risk of exclusion in schools, and has further aspirations of becoming a qualified counsellor.

He added: "I'd like to thank The King's Trust and Coventry Outdoors Education and Adventure Service for believing in me. I now feel positive about my future and my career."

Harry said winning the award was a surprise.

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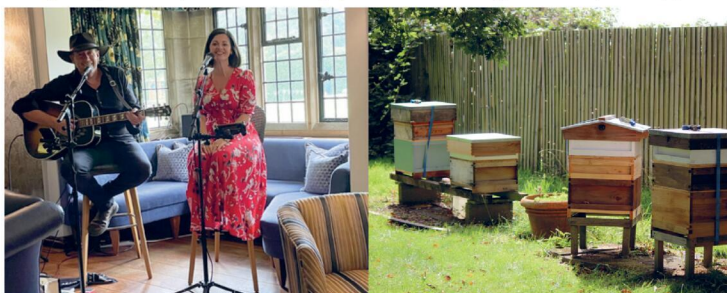
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Man remanded on attempted murder charge

AN ATTEMPTED murder suspect has been arrested and charged following a massive police raid on a traveller site near Ryton on Dunsmore.

More than 100 officers entered Woodside Park at around 5.30am on Thursday May 22, making eight arrests, seizing six vehicles and suspected stolen property together with thousands of pounds in cash.

James Galbraith, 28, of Limerick in Ireland, has

by **Andy Morris**
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been charged with attempted murder and threats to kill in connection with an incident which took place in Nuneaton on May 9, and has been remanded to appear before Warwick Crown Court on June 20.

Officers also arrested 44-year-old John Brown, of Woodside Park, for failing to appear in court for drug driving offences, and 52-year-old

Andrew Poyser, of Belmont Road in Coventry, for failing to appear in court for a case of grievous bodily harm. Both have been remanded in custody.

Police said a 30-year-old man and a 17-year-old boy who were arrested on suspicion of theft as part of an investigation into shop thefts worth around £25,000 have been released on bail while enquiries continue.

A 39-year-old man arrested on suspicion of theft after



suspected stolen goods were found in a caravan has been released on bail while enquiries continue.

Two men arrested for alleged immigration offences have now been transferred to immigration services.

Police also safeguarded four people who they believe may be victims of criminal exploitation. They are now

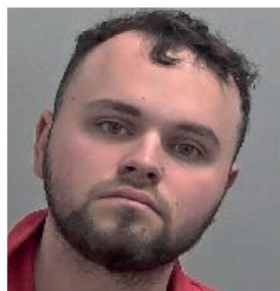
being supported by specialist officers.

Several vehicles suspected to be stolen, used in crime or having false documents were also seized.

Ch Supt Jon Belcher said: "This was a coordinated, multi-agency operation using specialist national resources.

"This came about because of ongoing concerns raised by

our communities, and we want to send a clear message: we will not tolerate criminality. We will work with our partners to use every power and tactic available to pursue and disrupt offenders. We will work to protect and support law-abiding residents, both on the site and elsewhere, as we continue to pursue those who are involved in criminal behaviour."



3-year jail term after guilty plea to drugs supply charge

A DRUG supplier from Rugby has been jailed.

Nathan York, 21, of Oval Road, appeared at Warwick Crown Court where he pleaded guilty to being concerned in the supply of ketamine, MDMA and ecstasy, and was jailed for three years.

The conviction follows a police investigation into the supply of class A drugs in

Rugby which took place in October 2024.

Officers working alongside the Regional Organised Crime Unit seized the three drugs from York's home.

As part of the wider investigation, a firearm was also retrieved from a location in Leicestershire.

A 21-year-old man from Lutterworth was convicted of possession of a firearm,

and was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment', suspended for two years.

Det Cons Simon Harvey from Rugby's Serious Organised Crime team, said: "This investigation involved working with our partners at West Midlands Regional Organised Crime Unit and external Firearms Examiners, as well as our Scenes of Crime Officer

colleagues and the Crown Prosecution Service.

"It was a successful outcome which has removed a viable firearm off the street and removed a drug supply line from our communities – ultimately safeguarding the general public."

Drug supplier Nathan York has been jailed for three years.

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Praise for improving fire service

WARWICKSHIRE Fire and Rescue Service (WFRS) has been praised for improvements made following a damning report two years ago.

His Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) carried out a re-inspection earlier this year which highlighted the efforts which had been put in place to ensure all areas of previous concern were addressed and reviewed.

The highly critical 2023 report noted 'high-risk' residential buildings had still not been inspected two years after concerns were first raised, adding WFRS 'urgently' needed to improve the effectiveness of its fire safety regulation, and grading the service's performance as 'requires improvement' in seven areas and 'adequate' in four.

Lee Freeman, from HMICFRS, said: "We are pleased to see the significant steps the service has taken to address the cause of concern we issued. The result of this work is that the service now has clear direction for its protection activity and a resourced risk-based inspection programme, which targets the highest-risk premises."

by **Ian Hughes**
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WFRS has worked hard over the past two years to put its house in order.

All high-risk residential buildings were inspected, a regular schedule of inspections implemented, and projects established to make the best use of resources, and ensure operational staff had all the equipment needed when attending incidents.

Zach Villers, WFRS' head of protection said: "Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service is delighted that the HMICFRS reinspection of the protection team has resulted in the discharging of the cause for concern."

"Since the previous inspection the protection team has implemented robust plans, making sure the service has a clear direction and approach to manage its protection activity with a resourced risk-based inspection programme."

"Although this is a great step forward for the service, this is only the start of our journey, and we will continue to move forward with purpose to provide excellence for the communities of Warwickshire."



Twycross Zoo's animal service manager Andy Ridout and ape keeper Ben Thornley with Paige Manning and Josh Nicholls from WFRS. The hoses will be used to help keep the zoo's apes amused.



Old hoses used for monkey business

WHEN it comes to giving new life to their fire hoses, Warwickshire firefighters aren't monkeying around.

The used hoses from Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service (WFRS) are being creatively repurposed into a variety of enrichment items for animals at Twycross Zoo.

The robust material is proving particularly useful for enhancing upcoming projects for the resident apes.

Andy Ridout, animal services manager at Twycross Zoo, said: "We are incredibly grateful to Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service for this generous donation. Fire hoses are made from such useful and durable material, and will be invaluable in

creating enrichment toys, feeders, hammocks, ladders, and all sorts of other engaging items for our animals.

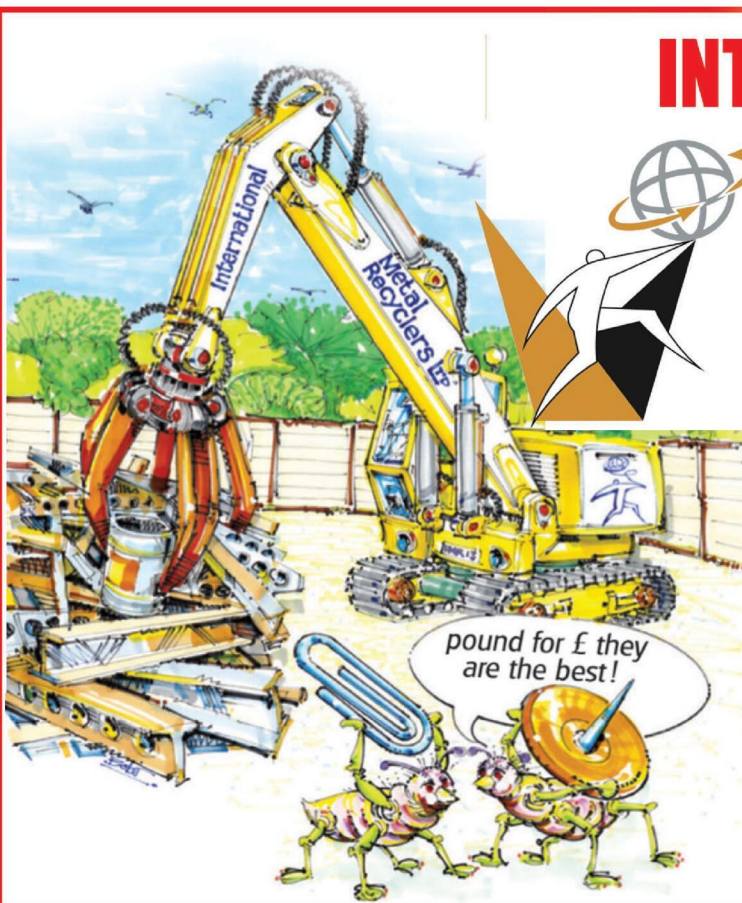
"This donation will be particularly beneficial for some exciting projects we have planned for our ape department, allowing us to create stimulating and enriching environments for them."

WFRS's equipment and supplies manager Charlie Rudge said: "We are delighted to have this great opportunity to recycle our redundant fire hose for the enrichment of the animals in the care of Twycross Zoo. Our equipment, once used to deliver water to extinguish fires and remove flood water, has been given a new lease of life by the

wonderful staff at Twycross. It is not an opportunity that we commonly think of, but it has certainly brought a smile to all involved."

Chief fire officer Ben Brook added: "This partnership is a fantastic example of how we can think creatively about sustainability and continue to contribute positively to our local community. By repurposing these durable fire hoses, we are not only reducing waste but also providing valuable resources that will directly enhance the lives of the animals at the zoo."

"We are proud to support Twycross Zoo in their important work and look forward to seeing the innovative ways they utilise this donation."



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Bayley meets Nero together with Retreat Animal Sanctuary owner Billy Thompson.

Nero's tale takes tot on her own journey

A BULL fostered by a Warwickshire animal sanctuary has achieved worldwide fame, thanks to a children's book detailing his rescue.

Nero the bull was initially taken in by south Warwickshire-based Farm Animal Rescue Sanctuary after being rescued five years ago from a petting zoo by a group of people including author Jodie Barchha-Lang.

Jodie – also known as Green Vegan – was inspired to write Nero the Brave Little Bull, which tells the story of his journey from the petting farm to his now perma-

nent home at the Retreat Animal Sanctuary near Ashford in Kent.

Coventry youngster Bayley is among Nero's many fans thanks to Jodie's book which has proved popular as far as the USA and Australia.

After reading how Nero was forced to leave the petting farm and his mum, five-year-old Bayley insisted she needed to travel the 150 miles to Kent to visit him to give him her teddy.

She said: "I love animals so much. I wanted to see him because we read the book and because I care for animals."

The tot's mum Sarah described Nero as 'gentle and calm' when they met him, happily receiving a cuddle – and a teddy – from Bayley.

The affectionate bull, whose petting zoo life means he's accustomed to human interaction, even went viral after he was filmed leaning down to allow a youngster to pet him.

Visit www.farmanimal-rescuesanctuary.co.uk for further details about Farm Animal Rescue Sanctuary.

For information about Nero and the sanctuary go to retreatanimalrescue.org.uk.

MP brings issue of flies plague to parliament

by Philippa Miggins

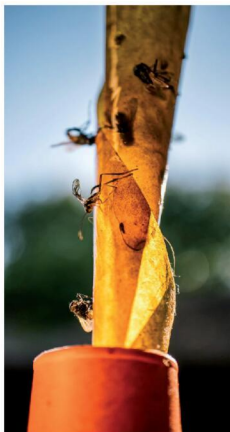
MP MATT Western has taken the fly issues plaguing residents back to parliament, saying he will not stop fighting until it is resolved

The Warwick and Leamington MP has called on the government to step in and support residents in their two year campaign against the ongoing fly and odour problem affecting parts of Warwick Gates, Heathcote and Whitnash.

He called on parliamentary colleagues to imagine being in their own home and unable to eat with family, unable to leave food for even a minute without their kitchen being swarmed by flies, and unable to sleep in their own bed without flies landing on their face.

He said that was reality for hundreds of families in his constituency.

Many residents in Warwick Gates, Heathcote and Whitnash have long com-



Residents have been plagued by flies for two years.

adjournment debate on the issue. Such a debate is an opportunity for an individual backbench MP to raise an issue and receive a response from the relevant minister.

The MP asked residents to share personal experiences of the flies and odour issues which he could share in parliament. Within less than three days, he had received more than 100 responses.

Mr Western added: "Residents have suffered with flies and foul odours for over two years now and are facing another summer plagued by these issues. It is unacceptable."

"I have been very clear that I will continue to support them in this fight and taking the issue to parliament was the latest step in this."

"I will continue to make the case that residents cannot be expected to endure any further suffering due to these problems."

plained of an increase in flies and foul odour which they believe to be originating from the Berry Polymers site off the Tachbrook Road.

Mr Western shared with residents earlier this month that he had secured an

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Fun and games in programme aiming to paint town green

A WEEK-long programme of environmentally-friendly initiatives kicks off in Rugby next month with a free Community Climate Fair in Caldecott Park.

The fair will mark the start of the town's Great Big Green Week celebrations by bringing together community organisations taking action to combat climate change and protect the environment, and aims to inspire visitors to join Rugby's journey towards net zero.

Visitors to the climate fair on Saturday June 7 can learn about innovative ideas to cut carbon emissions and find out about volunteering opportunities, while the council's Play Rangers have a range of nature-focused, fun activities for children.

The fair runs from 10.30am to 2.30pm and launches a packed programme of Great Big Green Week events, with Rugby Eco Hub opening its Repair Cafe at Betts Hall, at the top of Bath Street, on Saturday June 7 to repair broken bikes, electricals, toys and textiles from 10am to 1pm.

Rugby Eco Hub returns the following Saturday (June 14) to reveal the secrets of growing your own vegetables and herbs in limited

space, with training sessions taking place every hour from 10.30am to 1.30pm at Betts Hall.

Garden Organic also joins the Great Big Green Week celebrations that day, hosting a 'grow your own fresh herbs' workshop from 12.30pm to 2pm at the Hill Street Youth and Community Centre, where visitors receive herbs to take home and plant.

At the same event, Garden Organic holds a Community Champions training session from 10am to 12 noon for volunteers who want to promote organic growing in order to support biodiversity and the environment.

Places at the training session must be booked in advance at www.rugby.gov.uk/GBGW

Open days take place at Newbold Glebe Allotment Association's allotments in Egerton Close (10am to 12noon on Sunday June 8) and Whinfield Community Allotment Association's allotments in Clifton Road (11am to 3pm on Sunday June 15), where visitors can learn how to 'grow your own' and make gardens nature-friendly.

And residents can join naturalist Ed Drevitt on a Dunsmore Living Landscape morning bird walk

through Diamond Wood at 7am on Sunday June 15, followed by hot drinks and pastries.

Places on the walk, priced £5, must be booked in advance at www.rugby.gov.uk/GBGW

Throughout the Great Big Green Week, Rugby Borough Council's (RBC) Play Rangers will bring nature-inspired outdoor activities to Millennium Green (4pm to 5.30pm, Monday June 9), Criss Cross Park (3.30pm to 5pm, Tuesday June 10), Dunchurch Community Library (5.30pm to 7pm, Thursday June 12) and New Bilton Recreation Ground (4pm to 5.30pm, Friday June 13).

And Rugby Art Gallery and Museum's Mini Explorers (10am to 11am) and Mini Makers (1.30pm to 2.30pm) workshops on Tuesday June 10 go green in the Percival Guildhouse Gardens next door to the venue, offering creative play sessions for two to five-year-olds.

Places, priced £2.50 per child, must be booked in advance at www.ragn.co.uk/family

Coun Alison Livesey, RBC's spokesperson for operations and traded services, and chair of the council's climate emergency working group, thanked the council's parks and open spaces team for



A Community Climate Fair takes place in Caldecott Park on Saturday June 7 to kick-off Rugby's Great Big Green Week.

organising the event.

She said: "Our first Great Big Green Week celebration aims to promote the wonderful work taking place across our communities to respond to the climate emergency and encourage others to play a part in protecting our environment."

"There are plenty of opportunities to get involved, whether learning new skills, sharing knowledge or simply enjoying and exploring the great outdoors, so we're looking forward to starting the ball rolling at the Community Climate Fair."

Coun Jerry Roodhouse, leader of RBC's Liberal Democrat group,

said: "It's great to see this happening in Rugby and demonstrates the hard work of staff and volunteers."

"We will need to adapt in an ever-changing world and this event supports the work of volunteers along with statutory organisations."

The Great Big Green Week was launched by the Climate Coalition four years ago in a bid to celebrate community action on climate change and the protection of green spaces, and encourage others to get involved.

Visit www.rugby.gov.uk/GBGW for more information about Rugby's Great Big Green Week.



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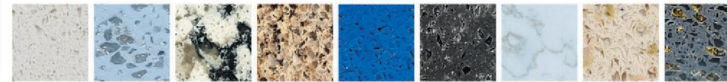
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Airport revamp will increase baggage areas

by Ian Hughes
ian.hughes@bullivantmedia.com

BAGGAGE reclaim at Birmingham Airport is set to be given a £10.6million revamp to cope with increasing passenger numbers.

It is part of the airport's £100million refurbishment plans set out in 2016, which led to a new state-of-the-art security hall being opened last summer.

In the first stage of the latest \$4.2million investment, an additional baggage carousel will complement the existing six within the airport's north area, ready for the busy summer peak.

The second stage will benefit those in the south area.

Plans have also been revealed for a full reconfiguration to expand the south immigration area, and the baggage reclaim area, before the summer peak.

It will increase the number of primary control points from five to eight to give



Birmingham Airport is spending millions to cope with increasing passenger numbers.

UK Border Force a larger immigration hall to process arriving passengers.

In addition, existing baggage carousels will be increased to cope with more bags.

The changes are set to allow an increase in the number of arriving flights the airport can process to up to eight an hour, at an investment of \$6.4million.

Al Titterton, terminal operations director, said: "Birmingham Airport was the airport of choice for over 13million customers to the end of the financial year.

"With forecasts of up to 13.8million passengers this

year, we want to ensure we provide the best possible customer service.

"Last year investment was focused on the outbound customer journey but with these projects the emphasis is providing the right welcome to the region, with increased baggage capacity and additional immigration desks to be resourced and operated by our Border Force colleagues as well as catering for the increased outbound demand.

"By investing in these areas, we can adequately cater for the increase in customers and ensure we are on our way to hit our 13.8million target this year."



Flying high - Rose Tucker (left) and Violetta Beasu took a tandem skydive to raise funds for The Myton Hospices.

Fundraisers reach for the skies

DAREDEVIL fundraisers have taken the ultimate leap of faith to raise cash for The Myton Hospices.

Rose Tucker, activity coordinator, at Cubbington Mill Care Home in Leamington, and Violetta Beasu, senior general manger, at Overslade House in Rugby, took part in a tandem skydive and banked more than

£1,000 for the charity, which cares for patients with life-limiting illnesses and their families, and has hospices in Warwick, Rugby and Coventry.

Rose and Violetta said: "Our goal for taking part in this challenge was to raise awareness of the fantastic job Myton Hospice does for the people and the families

they support. Everyone at Cubbington Mill and Overslade has been really supportive.

"We're daredevils and it's for such a good cause so that kept us focused. To everyone who donated and wished us well, thank you for the bottom of our hearts.

"Now to plan what our challenge will be next year!"

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Mammoth new range of mattresses now on show.

For the last decade Mammoth has built a reputation as a leader in health and wellbeing – the brand that brought Medical Grade™ foam and PostureCells® to the mattress market. Scientific testing, health award wins and an exclusive partnerships with the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy have made it the go-to name for those who need genuine comfort, pain relief and a great night's sleep.

Born out of healthcare and based on the pressure relieving materials used in medical beds on spinal injury units, Mammoth's secret ingredient is Medical Grade™ foam – a naturally cooling, pressure-relieving but supportive material that's shown to be far superior to standard memory foam.

Unlike memory foam, Medical Grade™ foam doesn't require heat to become pliable, nor does it lock sleepers in place where they may seize up with aches and pains. Instead, Medical Grade™ foam instantly contours to the body and provides a supportive yet flexible surface that aids natural spinal alignment.

This is complemented by Mammoth's innovative PostureCells® – independently moving castellations in the foam that provide even support but reduce partner disturbance. Importantly, the air channels between each PostureCell® also serve to wick away the moisture and allergens that typically build up through the night.

Testing excellence

Under laboratory conditions, Medical Grade™ foam mattresses have been found to provide **46% greater pressure relief** and **69% faster cooling** than standard 50kg memory foam. For sleepers that means:

- Improved circulation through the night
- Faster recovery and healing
- Reduced overheating
- Reduced perspiration
- Improved hygiene

Determined to go further, Mammoth also put its mattresses through testing at Northumbria University's Centre for Sleep Research. In clinical trials it was shown that Mammoth's mattresses helped sleepers **fall asleep 29% quicker**, experience a **7% increase in sleep efficiency** and report a **21% increase in sleep enjoyment**.

Award wins

Mammoth's unique technologies helped the brand to win a Bright Ideas in Health award for pressure relief and temperature regulation – awards usually reserved for teams working within the NHS.

These impressive results are among the reasons why Mammoth has become the go-to name for elite athletes and professional sports stars – as can be seen through partnerships with the Rugby Players' Association, British Athletes Commission and Professional Cricketers' Association over the years, as well as relationships with Premier League football teams and Olympians.

Combatting back pain

The unique properties of Mammoth's sleep and comfort technologies have made it the go-to mattress range for health professionals. By improving pressure relief, enhancing postural support and increasing circulation, physiotherapists in particular love the positive patient outcomes offered by Mammoth. With over 50% of adults now estimated to suffer from back pain in their lives, it's never been more important to invest in the very best sleep surface to ease pain and discomfort.

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King's Award for Hope4



LEFT: Lord Lieutenant Tim Cox. Pictures by Marcus Mingins 2325001MMR9. MIDDLE: Diana Mansell receives an award for her 15 years of service with the charity. 2325003MMR5. RIGHT: MP John Slinger was among the audience. 2325001MMR11



LEFT: Five-year award winners. 2325001MMR3. MIDDLE: Ten-year award winners. 2325001MMR4. RIGHT: Hope4 Service Delivery Manager Adi Robinson. 2325001MMR6



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King's Award for Hope4

All smiles as charity picks up top award

DIGNITARIES from Rugby and Warwickshire lined up to applaud the staff and volunteers of Hope4 when the charity was presented with The King's Award for Voluntary Service (see front page).

The award ceremony at the Benn Hall was attended by the Lord Lieutenant of

Warwickshire Mr Tim Cox, the High Sheriff of Warwickshire Mrs Karen Lynch MBE, Rugby Mayor Barbara Brown, Rugby MP John Slinger, Warwickshire County Council Chair Edward Harris, Hope4's Trustees, and many of its past and present volunteers and supporters.

The King's Award for Voluntary Service aims to recognise outstanding work by local voluntary groups who support their communities.

It was created in 2002 to celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's Golden Jubilee and was continued following the accession of His Majesty The King. The 2024 awards mark the second year of The King's Award for Voluntary Service.

Lord Lieutenant Tim Cox shares a joke. Picture by Marcus Mingsins 2325001MMR10

More pictures opposite



ABOVE: Lord Lieutenant Tim Cox and volunteer John Miles. Picture by Marcus Mingsins 2325001MMR2



LEFT: Long-serving volunteer Stan Bird. Picture by Marcus Mingsins 2325001MMR7



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Age UK Coventry and Warwickshire are urging people to seek an early diagnosis if there are signs of dementia. s

EARLY ACTION URGED: CHARITY Age UK Coventry and Warwickshire has urged the public to seek early dementia diagnosis during Dementia Action Week.

It is estimated 11,700 people in Coventry and Warwickshire are living with dementia - with only 56 per cent having a formal diagnosis, preventing individuals and families from getting the vital support they may need.

Anyone who has someone they care about experiencing memory problems, confusion or changes in behaviour, is urged to have a chat with their GP. Early diagnosis allows for better management of the condition, greater access to specialist support and provides opportunity to plan for your future.

Reece McLarnon, Director of Services at Age UK Coventry and Warwickshire, said: "Early diagnosis is crucial in managing dementia effectively.

"It opens doors to support and

resources that can significantly improve quality of life."

Age UK Coventry and Warwickshire offers a range of dementia support services: Dementia Day Opportunities where individuals can enjoy companionship during activities, giving carers an opportunity to rest. These welcoming, supportive centres are located across Warwickshire, including in locations in North and South Warwickshire, Rugby and Nuneaton and Bedworth.

It also offers Maintenance Cognitive Stimulation Therapy, an evidence-based programme focusing on stimulating parts of the brain that do not see everyday use.

And Age UK provides counselling and support for struggling carers.

Call Age UK Coventry and Warwickshire on 02476 231999, email: info@ageukcovwarks.org.uk or visit www.ageuk.org.uk/coventry-andwarwickshire for more information.

Donation will help work to continue

THE RSPCA Coventry and District has received a boost from Platform Housing.

The £400 donation, which came to mark National Pet Day, will help the welfare centre continue its work in rescuing, rehabilitating and rehoming animals.

The Coundon-based charity was founded in 1873, and is funded separately from the National RSPCA, with Platform's donation going towards an entire day of care for all animals currently at the centre.

The housing association, which is behind the current Keresley development, made the donation as part of its pledge to give back to the community.

Platform encourages responsible pet ownership and wants potential buyers to know that owning a pet should not be a barrier to people purchasing their dream home with the housing association.

RSPCA Coventry and District cares for 100 dogs and cats at any one time within the centre, with more through its foster network.

In 2024, the centre assisted 645 animals and rehomed 98 dogs and 482 cats.

Lorraine Bryan-Arnold, RSPCA Coventry and District's animal centre manager, said: "Our expert team provides a wealth of crucial support and care for animals in the centre and across the districts of Coventry, Solihull, Nuneaton and Rugby.

"We are all grateful to have been



considered for this donation by Platform - their generosity will have a positive impact.

"Ryan Harris, area sales manager at Platform, said: "It's really important that our support for communities goes beyond the construction and provision of our affordable homes.

"Animals play a huge part in our lives, and there are so many who rely on them - to be contributing towards that support is incredibly rewarding."

Visit www.rspca-coventryanddistrict.org.uk

for more on RSPCA Coventry and District. Visit www.platformownership.com/development/loomcroft or call 0333 200 7304 for more on Platform Housing's latest development.

Joanna Reynolds, Ryan Harris and Sabina Cox of Platform, visited Lorraine Bryan-Arnold (Centre Manager) and Cat Clements (Kennel Supervisor) with rescued dogs Eric and Moomin at RSPCA Coventry and District.



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Mayor hits training target but is keen to help thousands more

THOUSANDS of West Midlands residents have been given job skills or training during Richard Parker's first year as Mayor.

The Mayor set himself the target of helping 55,000 people after being elected as part of his commitment to help thousands move into work, change careers or upskill – in sectors like construction, digital and green industries.

In some areas of the region unemployment is double the national average and with over 27,700 young people claiming unemployment related benefits, upskilling and creating job opportunities is a key priority for growth.

The Mayor said: "From day one my priority has been to work with partners to open up meaningful training opportunities to help people land work or better jobs and change thousands of lives for the better."

"I set a target to upskill 55,000 people in my first year to start building the skilled workforce our region needs to grow and thrive."

"We've hit that milestone but we won't stop there, more needs to be done to reduce unemployment, especially for our young people."

The Mayor said new devolved powers and funding would bring an even bigger push to build a better-equipped workforce.

Tackling unemployment, especially among young people, is one of the Mayor's key priorities. Last



Mayor of the West Midlands Richard Parker with Harry Scolding, HDS Joinery.

year he launched a pledge to create 20,000 work experience, training and apprenticeship placements to support his drive.

By working with employers and training providers, 6,500 places

have already been pledged for young people across the region.

The Mayor's Jobs for Everyone priority involves investing in jobs, skills, training and apprenticeships so that everyone has the opportu-

nity to secure a job that pays well.

Harry Scolding, aged 22, from Solihull, previously met with the Mayor and told him about his own career path of pursuing a vocational route and then securing a

joiner apprenticeship after leaving school.

He completed first Level 2 and then Level 3 in Architectural Bench Joinery Apprenticeship at Solihull College and University Centre giving him the skills and experience he needed to set up his own company - HDS Joinery.

Alongside running his business, Harry was selected to represent Team UK at WorldSkills Lyon 2024 (also known as the Skills Olympics) due to his exceptional skills, finishing second in his category.

Thanks to its continued support, Harry has now contracted two more Solihull College students to support his flourishing business.

Harry said: "It's nice to be able to give something back to young people who are as passionate as I am and watch them grow."

"Once I got into Solihull College and my tutors saw the passion in me, they pushed me to enter the skills competitions and gave me that confidence to go forward with my career, so I have to give them credit for that."

"It was a dream of mine growing up as a young kid to have control over what work I do."

"I've been able to grow my business and expand my workshop with two part-time workers which is fantastic, and completely mind-blowing, as I've had some massive projects, including on some new build homes in Knowle."

PopCon to Visit Nuneaton as Part of Nationwide Tour Advocating Democratic Reform



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A new political campaign group founded by one of Britain's most prominent free-market advocates is making its way to Nuneaton as part of a national push for greater democratic accountability.

Popular Conservatism (PopCon), launched in February 2024 by Mark Littlewood, former Director General of the Institute of Economic Affairs, will be hosting an event in the town on Thursday, June 12th at 7.00pm. The evening will feature a Q&A session and interviews with Annunziata Rees-Mogg, Head of Communications and former MEP, and Andrew Allison, Head of Campaigns.

PopCon's message centres on what it sees as a democratic deficit in the UK's governance. In a statement ahead of the event, Rees-Mogg and Allison said:

"If you wonder why nothing appears to work in Britain, you only have to look at the way it is



PopCon Speaker List 2025

governed. Brexit was about taking back control. We did take back control from the European Union, but we also need to take back control from unelected Quangos, committees, judges and civil servants. We are campaigning for a restoration of full democratic accountability to Parliament and are looking forward to explaining to people in Nuneaton how this can be achieved."

PopCon has already made stops in Birmingham and Dudley, with Wolverhampton next on its itinerary. Alongside Littlewood, Rees-Mogg and Allison, the campaign boasts a high-profile roster of speakers including Sir Jacob Rees-Mogg, former MP and Cabinet Minister, and Dr David Starkey, the noted historian and broadcaster.

The group's efforts in the West Midlands are being coordinated by former MEP Bill Etheridge.

The event is open to the public, and residents interested in attending are encouraged to get in touch with Clare Golby via email at Clare.golby@outlook.com.

PopCon's arrival in Nuneaton marks another step in its drive to engage communities across the UK on issues of governance, accountability, and democratic reform.

For more details go to: www.PopularConservatism.com



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MasterChef champion shares his recipe for the great outdoors

MASTERCHEF champion Gary Maclean has teamed up with charity Mary's Meals for National BBQ Week to encourage Brits to back the charity throughout barbecue season.

Gary - who has compiled his top tips to make a stress-free family cookout - is backing the international school meals charity once more and encouraging people to donate to Mary's Meals during National BBQ Week (May 26 to June 1).

The charity feeds more than 2.6million children every school day in 16 countries across the world. By offering a daily meal in school, Mary's Meals attracts children from the world's poorest communities into the classroom where they can gain an education, which can be their ladder out of poverty.

Gary said: "It costs only £19.15 to feed a child with Mary's Meals for a school year, just 10p a meal, which is such incredible value."

"This National BBQ Week, you could ask family and friends for a small donation to come along to your barbecue, and if you use my five top tips, you'll make your guests happy all while giving hope to hungry children."

Marinate ahead - Marinate meat overnight to build flavour and tenderise. A mix of whisky, honey, cracked pepper and thyme works well with pork,

chicken or game.

Bring to room temperature - Take meat or fish out of the fridge 30 minutes before cooking. It'll cook more evenly and will not stick to the grill as much.

Use two heat zones - Set your barbecue with a hot side for searing and a cooler side for finishing. It gives more control and helps avoid flare-ups.

Add a bit of smoke - A handful of soaked oak chips or sprigs of rosemary on the coals adds great flavour. Dried heather works too.

Rest before carving - Let meat rest under foil before serving. It keeps it juicy and gives you better texture.

Grilled veg - Courgettes, mushrooms, and leeks grill beautifully. Season well and finish with a bit of crumbled crowdie.

Quick grill cleaner - Rub a hot grill with half an onion on a fork. It's simple and does the job.

Sauce late - If you're using a sweet glaze or barbecue sauce, brush it on near the end to avoid burning.

Dessert on the grill - Try halved peaches or apples in foil with



Gary Maclean has teamed up with charity Mary's Meals for National BBQ Week.

brown sugar and a splash of whisky.

Scotland's national chef has also served up four delicious Scottish barbecue recipe ideas that are sure to impress.

Haggis-Stuffed Peppers - Fill peppers with traditional or veggie haggis and grill until charred and smoky.

Whisky-Glazed Venison Burgers - Swap beef for venison and brush with a whisky and honey glaze. Serve with pickled onions on a soft roll.

Aberdeen Angus Brisket with Irn-Bru Glaze - Slow-cook brisket with a smoky rub, then glaze with reduced Irn-Bru for a sweet finish.

Seaweed Butter Corn - Grill corn and brush with butter mixed with dried seaweed or samphire. Salty, savoury, and very moreish.

Dan McNally, head of grassroots at Mary's Meals, said: "It costs just 10p to provide one school meal to a hungry child with Mary's Meals."

"With a \$5 donation at your next barbecue, we can reach 50 children with a nutritious meal."

"If you purchase a cooking apron from our online shop ahead of hosting your own summer barbecue, your £15 donation will feed 150 children in school."

"With the sun out and with Gary's top tips, there's never been a better time to get grilling, all while supporting Mary's Meals."

By making a donation to Mary's Meals, supporters can help children like 11-year-old Melanie from Madagascar enjoy a nutritious meal at school today and work towards a brighter tomorrow.

She added: "Thank you, Mary's Meals."

"We are always full at school and that motivates us to work hard."

"I study because I want to achieve my goals and help my parents when I succeed."

Visit: marysmeals.org.uk for more information on Mary's Meals and to donate.





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Welcome - left to right - Lodders' Bradley Quin, Steve Halkett, and Graham Spalding.

JOINING THE TEAM: LAW firm Lodders has announced the appointment of Warwickshire corporate law specialist Steve Halkett as an equity partner to drive further strategic growth of the firm's corporate and mergers and acquisitions work.

He joins Lodders following more than 18 years at Wright Hassall, where he was a partner and head of the corporate team, advising business owners and SMEs on all types of transactions. He also rebuilt the firm's corporate team during the pandemic.

At Lodders, he will further build the Business Services group's corporate and restructuring offering alongside the firm's Graham Spalding and Bradley Quin. Steve will also work closely with Lodders' existing partners to help the firm realise its ambitious growth plans.

He said: "I was drawn to the strength and breadth of the team at Lodders and the way in which it moves as one, as well as the overall buzz of the firm. I really wanted to be a

part of that!

"In my new role, I am looking forward to working with my fellow partners and the experienced and successful corporate team to cultivate further growth. I will be identifying opportunities for working with the private client and property teams at the firm, ensuring Lodders' upward growth trajectory is maintained in the long-term."

Graham Spalding, partner and head of Lodders' Business Services group, comments: "With a wealth of experience working with entrepreneurial decision-makers of privately-owned businesses, including those in the tech and gaming industries, Steve adds great strength and specialist expertise to the team."

Lodders' Business Services group offers legal advice to owner managers and business owners looking to divest, grow and raise finance, and is focused on advising owner managers on acquisitions, disposals, and other corporate change.

EU trade deal 'a positive step forward' say business chiefs

THE NEW trade deal with the EU has been described as a positive step forward by businesses leaders in Coventry and Warwickshire.

The Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce has welcomed the refreshed deal agreed at the UK-EU Leaders' Summit.

The organisation's chief executive Corin Crane said it would help businesses overcome uncertainty in relation to trading overseas.

He said: "We know the value that international trade brings, and any steps to remove barriers around this are welcomed.

"This deal will remove unnecessary checks on food and drink exports, link our emission trading schemes making life less costly for businesses and the use of E-gates at passport control will make travel simpler for businesspeople who cross EU borders on a regular basis.

"The deal has also seen a UK-EU defence and security pact established and more will be done around a youth mobility scheme.

"While there is still work to be done, this deal provides some much-needed stability. We will be supporting businesses across our region to navigate this new deal, as well as the US trade deal, and help more companies take their goods and services overseas."

Shevaun Haviland, director general of the

British Chambers of Commerce, said the summit marked a turning point in UK-EU relations.

He said: "For four years, businesses have fought hard to sustain sales to the EU in the face of a rising tide of costs and paperwork which has severely dented their competitiveness.

"The British Chambers of Commerce had seven key asks of Government going into these negotiations which were based on four years of research and analysis involving thousands of firms.

"Today's deal is good news on five of those. But we must not stop here, this agreement must be the foundation on which we aspire to build a much stronger business relationship going forward. That can only be of benefit to all our economies."

The deal comes after the announcement that businesses in the West Midlands can make the most of free help to trade globally after the Exporting Starts Here support programme was extended until next year.

The support features a mix of one-to-one advice from expert export advisers, online workshops and face-to-face events, including an international trade conference later this year.

The World of Park & Leisure Homes Show 2025

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After taking advantage of free entrance and free parking, visitors will have the chance to view an enormous range of around 50 Residential Park Homes and Leisure Lodges including the latest models from leading Manufacturers. It's a fantastic opportunity to see so many homes all on display together. It's your chance to compare models, see the latest designs and innovations, enjoy the inspirational decoration ideas, and find out more about the lifestyle from the experts on hand to help.

The show has something for everyone and of course, it's not just the homes themselves. It's the wonderful locations available across the UK and beyond. It's the extras, the fabulous range of new products and accessories. There's Ideas for

renovation and plenty of those extra touches to provide the leisure lifestyle you dreamed of.

Informal and relaxed

Laid out in the beautiful grounds of the NAEC Stoneleigh and designed to create a very informal, relaxed, and welcoming event for visitors to enjoy.

The 'Park Life' sponsored 'Catering Area' providing delicious home cooked meals and snacks and visitors wishing to picnic are of course most welcome.

Well behaved dogs are welcome and with Stoneleigh so close to Historic Warwick, Stratford-upon-Avon, Leamington Spa and Kenilworth, why not combine a trip to the show with a visit to the one of these beautiful towns. Its a great Free Day Out that could prove life changing.

For more information please visit www.parkhomeandleisure.co.uk
See you in at the NAEC Stoneleigh showground



VR playing role to tackle knife crime

by Philippa Miggins

VIRTUAL reality is playing its part in fighting knife crime in Warwickshire.

Schools, colleges and youth clubs across the county have praised VR sessions highlighting the real-life consequences of carrying a knife.

The Virtual Decisions: Knives sessions have been given to more than 2,000 young people county-wide by council staff and Warwickshire Police.

The sessions, which include a 10-minute VR experience and real-life workshop, help young people explore the reasons for and potential consequences of carrying a knife, and are funded by Home Office Serious Violence Duty funding and supported by the Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board.

Virtual Decisions: Knives places participants in the role of a young person making choices that lead to various outcomes, including potential arrest for possessing a blade.

The VR experience is followed by a workshop to unpack themes and discuss outcomes. Topics include peer pressure, social media, loyalty, 'snitching', knife laws, the reasons for carrying a knife, consequences, and community impact.

Schools, colleges, youth clubs and other education providers have praised the sessions for being



Virtual Reality is proving a great weapon against knife crime.

'well-targeted' and 'a breath of fresh air'.

Warwickshire County Council's communities spokesperson Mark Ryder said: "It's fantastic that over two thousand young people in Warwickshire have participated in these innovative knife crime awareness sessions to date, and that we've received great feedback.

"We've used Home Office funding to target the serious issue of knife crime in Warwickshire, collaborating with schools, colleges, youth clubs, and young people to try to prevent it for everyone's benefit. We are looking to com-

mit some of this year's Serious Violence funding allocation to continue the VR sessions across the county."

Insp Ryan Walker, from Warwickshire Police, added: "These sessions play a vital part in helping children understand the consequences of carrying a knife. Unfortunately, we continue to see these consequences in Warwickshire and across the country."

NINJA swords can be surrendered to police stations in Warwickshire.

The swords will be illegal to own, manufacture or import from August 1.

The ban comes after campaigners pushed for tougher rules around owning blades that have no practical purpose following the killing of a 16-year-old boy in Wolverhampton in 2022.

From July until the ban, a Home Office scheme will allow people in Warwickshire to surrender Ninja swords in police stations.

Legally, a Ninja sword is defined as "a fixed bladed article with a blade between 14 and 24 inches with a simple straight cutting edge, a tanto style point and reversed tanto style point".

Special surrender bins will be at stations in Leamington, Rugby, Stratford and Nuneaton.



Current chief constable Alex Franklin-Smith welcomes former chief Peter Joslin back to Leek Wootton.

Policing through the decades

STORIES were shared when Warwickshire Police's current chief constable came face-to-face with one of his predecessors.

Alex Franklin-Smith, appointed chief last December, recently welcomed Peter Joslin back to the force's HQ at Leek Wootton. Peter – the longest serving chief nationally – was at the helm of the force from 1983 until he retired in 1998.

The pair discussed how policing had changed over the years.

Speaking about the experi-

ence, Ch Con Franklin-Smith said: "It was a real honour to meet Peter. Having led the force for more than a decade, he had a lot of stories and pearls of wisdom for me.

"We both agreed policing has probably changed somewhat since his retirement, but many of the reasons people still join and stay in the profession remain the same as well as his impeccable dress sense.

"I know Peter has fond memories of his time here and it was a wonderful opportunity for us both to catch up."

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THE BLINDING BEST: How one Coventry business is raising the bar (and the blinds!)

In a world of quick fixes and throwaway trends, it's refreshing to find a company where craftsmanship, care and community still matter.

Step into the world of Brixham Blinds, and you'll soon see it's not just about dressing windows – it's about transforming homes. Based in the heart of Coventry and proudly serving the West Midlands, Brixham Blinds is a shining example of what happens when passion meets precision. With a service as

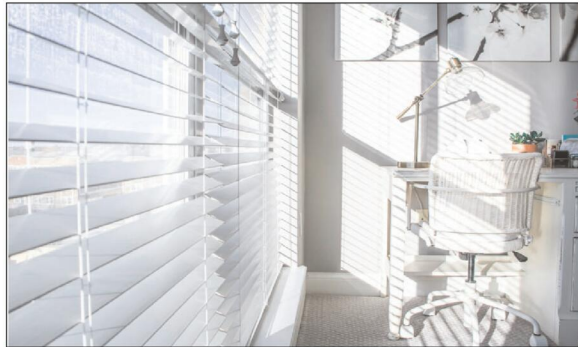
seamless as their sleek roller blinds, owner Zak Mangeri has spent the past ten years building something truly special: a local business that combines top-tier products with good old-fashioned service. "At Brixham Blinds, we pride ourselves on being more than just a supplier," Zak says. "We provide a made-to-measure service, tailored exactly to each customer's needs, no matter the size, style or shape of their space." And it shows. With 100% five-star reviews and an ever-growing number of loyal customers, Zak and his team have become the go-to for

both homeowners and tradespeople across the region. Whether you're styling a single window or outfitting a whole development, Brixham Blinds offers free consultations, expert advice, and solutions for every question you can think of. From minimalist vertical blinds for a contemporary living room to dramatic Roman blinds that give your kitchen a five-star feel, there's truly something for everyone. Their extensive collection includes roller, venetian, pleated, woodweave, blackout blinds and classic shutters – each one carefully crafted using high-quality materials, and all compliant with the latest child safety regulations. And if you're in the trade? You're in good hands too. "We work closely with builders, interior designers, and property developers to deliver bespoke blinds at competitive trade prices," Zak explains. "Everything is made to measure, and everything is backed by our five-year guarantee." Speed, too, is part of the Brixham promise. "We know timing is everything," Zak smiles. "That's why we offer a seven-day fitting promise and aim to get your blinds measured within 48 hours of consultation." It's that kind of commitment that keeps the rave



reviews rolling in: "Absolutely delighted with all of my blinds. Professional, lovely to deal with and the quality is superb." "They look fantastic. Lovely staff and very quick turnaround. Highly recommended." "Excellent service from start to finish. My blinds were fitted within a week of ordering them." And let's not forget the fitting. Brixham Blinds offers a no-obligation measuring service, a seven-day fitting promise, and a generous five-year guarantee. That's not just service - it's peace of mind. As someone who's wrestled with wonky DIY blinds in the past (hello, lopsided Ikea disaster), I can't tell you what a relief it is to meet

someone who gets it right the first time. Zak and his team don't just fit blinds - they make your house feel like a happy and well functioning home. Whether you're chasing that dreamy, show-home look or just want a better night's sleep in total blackout bliss, Brixham Blinds is ready to help you reimagine your space – beautifully, affordably, and reliably. With Zak at the helm, it's clear this Coventry gem isn't just good... They're the blinding best. Ready to find your perfect fit? Browse their collection online or book a free, no-obligation quote. The blind of your dreams is just a consultation away.



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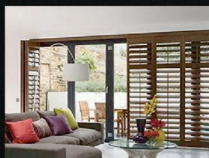
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Gardening

Top tips to make your garden grow

AS THE gardening season gets into full swing, knowing how to feed plants can make all the difference between a lacklustre container and a blooming border.

With a range of plant feeds available, choosing the right one can be daunting, but as part of its #StepintoSpring campaign, British Garden Centres has put together a guide on the main types of plant feed and how to use them for bigger, healthier, and happier plants.

Liquid feeds

Liquid plant food is a gardener's go-to for quick results. These are diluted in water normally and then applied in the garden with a watering can or sprayer.

Liquid feed is quickly absorbed by the roots, delivering an immediate burst of nutrients to plants. This fast-acting formula encourages robust growth, green foliage and long periods of flowering. British Garden Centres recommends applying liquid feeds weekly throughout the plants' growing seasons.

Liquid feeds can be used for container plants, bedding and borders, containers, window boxes and vegetables.

Granular feed

For those seeking a low-maintenance approach to the garden, granular feeds are the ideal solution as they are sprinkled onto the soil and slowly break down over time, providing a controlled and steady release of nutrients.

This slow-release action means fewer applications, often just once-a-month, making the granules perfect for busy gardeners or larger garden beds.

Ericaceous feed

Certain plants like rhododendron, camellias and azaleas, thrive in acidic soils and require a different feed than common plants.

Ericaceous feed is formulated specifically for these acid-loving beauties, supplying the right balance of nutrients and maintaining soil pH so these plants thrive. It is advised the feed is used fortnightly to promote healthier growth, stronger roots and more vibrant blooms in acidic soil. Regular feeding helps prevent common issues like yellowing leaves and poor flowering, ensuring ericaceous plants remain beautiful all summer long.

Tomato feed

Tomatoes and other fruiting crops

need a feed high in nitrogen to support their growth and produce a good harvest.

Tomato feed is packed with nitrogen and a balanced mix of essential nutrients to encourage healthy leaf development, strong stems and abundant fruit.

Gardeners should give their crops a tomato feed regularly, typically every one to two weeks during the growing season for the best harvests.

Natural feeds

Natural feeds, such as seaweed, blood, fish and bone meal, offer an organic approach to plant nutrition.

These types of feed improve soil health – seaweed feed boosts frost tolerance and germination rates, while blood, fish, and bone meal provide slow-release nitrogen, phosphorus and trace minerals for plants.

All are easy to apply to gardens and support sustainable and eco-friendly gardening practices

Feeding tips

When choosing plant food, it is important to look for feeds offering a balanced mix of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium, commonly abbreviated to NPK. Nitrogen promotes leafy growth, phosphorus



A variety of feeds are available to help your plants bloom.

supports strong root development, and potassium encourages flowers and fruit.

British Garden Centres advises following the instructions on the product and not overfeeding this can disrupt nutrient balance and cause issues such as magnesium deficiency, which may result in yellowing leaves and premature leaf drop. Make sure soil is well aerated, as this allows feeds to penetrate effectively and reach the roots.

Julian Palphramand, British Garden Centres' head of plants, said: "For anyone looking to get the best from their garden this season, our expert team is ready to help you choose the perfect feed for your plants."

"Whether you're aiming for colourful blooms, the greenest of leaves or a successful grow your own harvest, we can guide you through the options and ensure your plants receive the essential nutrients they need to thrive."

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How you can help to beat the blockages in sewer system

AN UNSUNG Severn Trent Water hero who tackles up to nine blockages a day caused by unflushables - including an iconic Action Man and his Jeep - is urging customers to go into battle against the damaging obstructions.

Severn Trent's John Bingley is urging residents not to flush wet wipes or pour fats, oils and greases (FOG) down the sink as they can cause 'fatbergs' in sewers.

After teams cleared a massive 28,782 blockages last year, frontline workers have been talking about their experiences in their Sewer Stories, encouraging customers to only put the 'three ps' down toilets - poo, pee and toilet paper.

Sewage threat

Dad-of-two John, 36, and crew mate Kristian Cornell are called out to unblock pipes and sewers.

In the worst cases, the blockages can see sewage flooding back into homes and gardens, which can leave households facing a lengthy bill if it is their responsibility to pay for the clean-up.

Van pack operative John said: "I've seen

all kinds of things in the sewers after being wrongly flushed down the toilet, sink or drains.

"Wet wipes are still the most common issue, they can cause huge problems they do not break down, even the ones saying 'flushable' on the packet.

"But the weirdest thing I've seen blocking the sewer was an Action Man - who was still sitting in his Jeep. I have no idea how that ended up down there."

John and Kristian deal mainly with residential customers, but also cover blockages in local businesses - often caused by FOG.

John said: "We are called out to multiple blockages each shift - nine has been the most in a single day.

"The worst part of the job is dealing with FOG clogging up pipes because it can get everywhere, including all over your equipment. It's just gross."

Not all bad

But John, who has worked at Severn Trent for seven years, was quick to name the best part of the job.

He said: "I just love the customer relations part of my role.



John Bingley is urging residents to 'Be a Binner, Not a Blocker'.

"You get to meet all sorts of people and they all have a tale to tell.

"And it's very satisfying when you can help someone who has suffered from flooding especially if it is not even their fault because they share the sewers with neighbours.

"We can often tell who is responsible, so that's when you have to have a difficult conversation - including reminding them what they should not be putting down the toilet, sink and drains.

"Most people seem to listen to what we say, so hopefully the three p's message is getting through."

Away from work former mechanic John is a real-life 'action man' himself as he enjoys the dangerous sport of motorcross in his spare time.

He suffered a serious broken arm five years ago but bounced back to defy doctors by returning to work after just six months, rather than the predicted year-plus.

"I did everything the doctors wanted so I could return early, as I missed my job too much - I just love it."

Grant Mitchell, Severn Trent's sewer blockages lead, said everyone could help by 'being a binner not a blocker'.

"Unflushable items such as wet wipes, sanitary products, nappies and a whole lot more cannot be flushed down the toilet.

"If they do, they can cause blockages which can flood the home - not very nice at all.

"We are asking people to really have a think about their habits and what they are putting down the toilet and sink, to see if there are any small changes that can be made.

"Even small changes can have a huge impact on sewer health."

Visit: stwater.co.uk/avoidblockages for more information.

Go to: stwater.co.uk/in-my-area/check-my-area or call 0800 783 4444 to report slow drains or blocked sewers.

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Friday 30th May 2025

Homes to a re



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SUDOKU

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

EASY

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

HARD

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

PATHFINDER

Beginning with the top highlighted letter, follow a continuous path of words associated with the given subject. The trail goes through each letter once, twisting up, down and sideways, but never diagonally.

Men's & women's World Cup top scorers

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

Solutions opposite

CROSSWORD

1	2		3		4		5		6		7
			8								
9								10		11	
12			13				14				
15				16		17					
18				19				20			
21											
									22		

ACROSS

- Blackleg (4)
- Power of command (10)
- Contour line of equal temperature (8)
- Uniform (4)
- Climb (6)
- To moderate (6)
- Let (6)
- Strangeness (6)
- Sore on the eyelid (4)
- Middling (8)
- Merge (10)
- Require (4)

DOWN

- Compatible (10)
- Blemish (4)
- Obvious (6)
- Allow (6)
- Respected (8)
- Twirl (4)
- Voters (10)
- Coming from the east (8)
- Lower (6)
- Severe trial (6)
- Break suddenly (4)
- Begin (4)

Scribble pad

LADDER

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

- Precious metal
- Welsh town
- Blend
- Alcoholic drink
- Not alive



NINER

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

- 845215 gives a road;
- 9825 gives a second road;
- 634567 gives waterways.

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

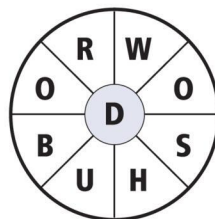
CODEWORD

This puzzle has no clues. Instead, every number printed in the grid represents a letter, with the same number always representing the same letter. For example, if 8 turns out to be a V, you can write in V wherever a square contains 8. Using your knowledge of words, complete the puzzle.

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

WORDWHEEL

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

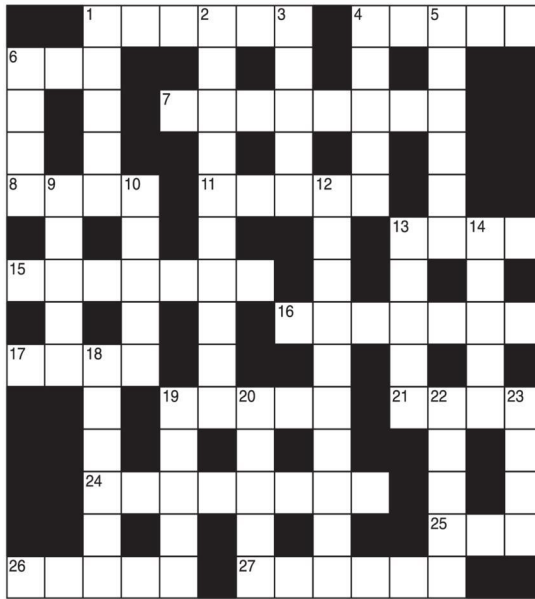


How you rate
 6 words: average
 9 words: good
 12 words: very good
 15 or more: excellent.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Beetle which feeds on vegetable matter (6)
- 4 & 4 Down Writer famous for Ulysses (5,5)
- 6 Action on Smoking and Health, in short (3)
- 7 Verse drama by Ibsen (4,4)
- 8 The NT book following Gospels (4)
- 11 Olivia's clown in Twelfth Night (5)
- 13 Refuse of grain (4)
- 15 Town of Kansas, on the Smoky Hill river (7)
- 16 Saint whose "day" is July 15th (7)
- 17 One of the seven deadly sins (4)
- 19 Superior officer of a religious house (5)
- 21 Hard fat used in cooking (4)
- 24 Edmund ---, son of Ethelred the Unready (8)
- 25 & 26 Across Well-known gambling city (3,5)
- 26 See 25 Across
- 27 Fly carrying disease to men and animals (6)



DOWN

- 1 Card game (5)
- 2 A camera attachment (10)
- 3 Seaside resort and port in Strathclyde, Scotland (5)
- 4 See 4 Across
- 5 A shooting star (6)
- 6 Extent of a surface (4)
- 9 See 22 Down
- 10 Two-wheeled carriage used in trotting races (5)
- 12 Town in Wilts, administrative HQ of the county (10)
- 13 Surname of the author of The Purple Plain (5)
- 14 Character in a story by Lewis Carroll (5)
- 18 A Danish or Norwegian sea pirate (6)
- 19 In short, the concerts founded by Sir Henry Wood (5)
- 20 Extra page(s) inserted in a book (5)
- 22, 23 Down & 9 Down Novel by Harriet Beecher Stowe (5,4,5)
- 23 See 22 Down

SOLUTIONS

General Knowledge Crossword

ACROSS: 1 Weevil; 4 James; 6 ASH; 7 Peer Gynt; 8 Acts; 11 Fester; 13 Bran; 15 Abilene; 16 Swithin; 17 Envy; 19 Pro; 21 Suet; 24 Ironside; 25 Las; 26 Vegas; 27 Tsetse.
 DOWN: 1 Whist; 2 Viewfinder; 3 Largs; 4 Joyce; 5 Meteor; 6 Area; 9 Cabin; 10 Sulky; 12 Trowbridge; 13 Bates; 14 Alice; 18 Viking; 19 Proms; 20 Inset; 22 Undie; 23 Tom's.

Crossword

ACROSS: 1 Scab; 8 Leadership; 9 Isotherm; 10 Even; 12 Ascent; 14 Temper; 15 Leased; 17 Oddity; 18 Style; 19 Medicament; 22 Need; Down: 2 Consistent; 3 Blot; 4 Patent; 5 Permit; 6 Esteemed; 7 Spin; 11 Electorate; 13 Easterly; 16 Demean; 17 Ordeal; 18 Snap; 20 Open.

Wordwheel Pathfinder

BRUSHWOOD: Salvatore Schillaci, Hristo Stochkov, Birgit Prinz, Davor Suker, Sun Wen, James Rodriguez, Sissi, Garrincha, Paolo Rossi, Michelle Akers, Miroslav Klose, Ann-Kristin Aaronson, Oleg Salenko, Homare Sawo, Mario Kempes
 UNIVERSAL: Gary Lineker, Marta, Thomas Muller, Ronaldo, Celia Sasic, Eusebio

Ladder

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

Codeword

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

Hard

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

Easy

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



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PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICES

Warwickshire County Council

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

FOXONS BARN ROAD, BROWNSOVER, RUGBY
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.
Reason for Order: To enable works to lay duct.
Order Commences: 5 June 2025 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 5 June 2025.
Access & Diversion: Foxons Barn Road, Hawlands and vice versa.
Contractor: Core Highways, Tel: 03300 169 688.

KIRKSTONE, BROWNSOVER, RUGBY
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.
Reason for Order: To enable works to lay duct.
Order Commences: 6 June 2025 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 6 June 2025.
Access & Diversion: There is no available diversion route.
Contractor: Core Highways, Tel: 03300 169 688.

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

BIRDINGBURY ROAD, HILL
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.
Reason for Order: To enable installation of a marker post.
Order Commences: 17 June 2025 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 18 June 2025.
Access & Diversion: Southam Road, Stockton Road, Birdingbury Road and vice versa.
Contractor: Chevron TM Ltd, Tel: 03300 080 820.

CHURCH STREET, MARTON
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.
Reason for Order: Works to install a new water connection.
Order Commences: 19 June 2025 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 20 June 2025.
Access & Diversion: Church Street, North Street, Shepherd Street and vice versa.
Contractor: Go Traffic Management, Tel: 01158 965 832.

THE LOCKS, HILLMORTON, RUGBY
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.
Reason for Order: To enable works for new utility supply.
Order Commences: 16 June 2025 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 18 June 2025.
Access & Diversion: No diversion available.
Contractor: For National Grid, Network Plus, Tel: 08006 783 105.

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

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

S Duxbury, Director of Strategy, Planning & Governance, Shire Hall, Warwick CV34 4RL Date 30 May 2025

PUBLIC NOTICES

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence
ERVIN CSEKE trading as ECS TRANSPORT SERVICES LTD of 190 GREENDALE ROAD, COVENTRY, CV5 8AY is applying to change the existing licence to use MITCHELL POTATOES LTD, BOOTS FARM, BOURTON ON DUNSMORE, RUGBY, CV23 9QQ on an operating centre for 3 goods vehicles and 5 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 Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, 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

Rugby Borough Council

Application Number R25/0211
43 REGENT STREET, RUGBY, CV21 2PE
Internal alterations and rear ground & first storey extensions with alterations to roof and addition of a dormer.
This development may affect a Conservation Area

Application Number R25/0360
LAND AT WINDMILL FARM, NORTHAMPTON LANE, DUNCHURCH
New electricity substation including transformers, creation of a temporary access via the Homestead Link Road and associated fencing, landscaping and drainage
This development may affect a Public Right of Way

Application Number R25/0437
YE OLDE SCHOOL, THE SQUARE, DUNCHURCH, RUGBY, CV22 6NU
Listed building consent for a proposed replacement garage with side extension.
This development may affect a Listed Building. This development may affect a Conservation Area

Application Number R25/0454
73 BROAD STREET, BRINKLOW, RUGBY, CV23 0LS
Replacement of Existing External UPVC Windows with Painted Timber Windows & Door
This development may affect a Listed Building. This development may affect a Conservation Area

Application Number R25/0458
LAND ON THE NORTH WEST SIDE OF DUNCHURCH HALL, DUNCHURCH
Remove rebuilt section of boundary wall and reconstruct using matching materials to the original wall.
This development may affect a Conservation Area

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 20 June 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.gov.uk (search for application number and select comment) - or in writing by that date to 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 householder 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
MRPTI

PUBLIC NOTICES

WINIFRED GRANTHAM (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 45 Mansford Road, Wellesbourne, Warwick, CV35 9DA, who died on 19/12/2024, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 31/07/2025, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

Penmans Solicitors LLP, The Precinct, School Road, Wellesbourne, Warwickshire, CV35 9NL

PUBLIC NOTICES

STEPHANIE GILES (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 26 Cherry Orchard, Wellesbourne, Warwick, CV35 9NB, who died on 21/09/2024, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 31/07/2025, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

Penmans Solicitors LLP, The Precinct, School Road, Wellesbourne, Warwickshire, CV35 9NL

PUBLIC NOTICES

Warwickshire County Council

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

VICARAGE ROAD, NAPTON ON THE HILL
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic from Fells Lane and Godsons Lane.
Reason for Order: To enable works to install in-line washout.
Order Commences: 3 June 2025 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 5 June 2025.

Access & Diversion: Vicarage Road, Butt Hill, Southam Road, Daventry Road, Welsh Road East, Holt Road, Napton Holt Road, Thorntons Lane, Chapel Green Road, New Street, High Street, Hackwell Street and vice versa.
Contractor: Chevron TM Ltd, Tel: 03300 080 820.

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

GREEN END, LONG ITCHINGTON
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.
Reason for Order: To enable works for boundary box and meter installation.
Order Commences: 16 June 2025 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 17 June 2025.
Access & Diversion: No diversion available.
Contractor: Chevron TM Ltd, Tel: 03300 800 820.

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

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

S Duxbury, Director of Strategy, Planning & Governance, Shire Hall, Warwick CV34 4RL Date 30 May 2025

PUBLIC NOTICES

Warwickshire County Council

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

BERRYFIELDS, FILLONGLEY
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic from its junction with Nuneaton Road.
Reason for Order: To enable works for laying duct.
Order Commences: 4 June 2025 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 11 June 2025.
Access & Diversion: There is no diversion available.
Contractor: Callan Connect, Tel: 01213 275 167.

CHURCH LANE, CORLEY
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic from a point outside White Cottage.
Reason for Order: To enable works for domestic service connection to mains.
Order Commences: 2 June 2025 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 6 June 2025.

Access & Diversion: Church Lane, Tamworth Road, Coventry Road, Meridian Road, Ousestern Lane, West Hill Road, Common Lane and vice versa.
Contractor: Fulcrum, Tel: 03302 211 202.

SHAWBURY LANE, FILLONGLEY
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic between Newtown Lane and Broad Lane.
Reason for Order: To enable water network installation works.
Order Commences: 2 June 2025 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 4 June 2025.

Access & Diversion: Shawbury Lane, Tower Lane, Newtown Lane, Daw Mill Lane, Tamworth Road, Station Hill, Mill Lane and vice versa.
Contractor: Chevron TM Ltd, Tel: 03300 080 820.

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

MAIN ROAD, ANSTY
Order Effect: Road Closed to vehicular traffic.
Reason for Order: To enable relay valve box works.
Order Commences: 16 June 2025 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 18 June 2025.

Access & Diversion: Main Road, Brinklow Road, Ansty Lane, Ansty Road, Shilton Road, Coventry Road, Harvesters Close, Clifford Bridge Road, Belgrave Road, University Hospital Service Road, Hinkley Road, Eden Road, A46, Coventry Eastern Bypass, and vice versa.
Contractor: Headway TM, Tel: 01564 820 118.

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

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

S Duxbury, Director of Strategy, Planning & Governance, Shire Hall, Warwick CV34 4RL Date 30 May 2025

PUBLIC NOTICES

Warwickshire County Council

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence
GXO Logistics Drinks Ltd of Lancaster House, Nunn Mills Rd, Northampton, NN1 5GE is applying to change an existing licence as follows: to keep an extra 0 goods vehicles and 10 trailers at the operating centre at 100 Scimitar Way, Coventry, CV3 4GB. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre 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

DR ROBERT ANTHONY HOGG (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 17 Fenay Road, Rugby, Warwickshire, CV22 5ND, who died on 02/03/2025, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 31/07/2025, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

BREITHERTONS LLP, Montague House, 2 Clifton Road, CV21 3PX

DEENA VIRGINIA PALMER (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 24 Sandpiper Close, Rugby, CV23 0WP, who died on 29/08/2024, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 31/07/2025, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

Breithertons LLP, Montague House, 2 Clifton Road, Rugby CV21 3PX

PUBLIC NOTICES

Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015

Notice Under Article 13 of Application for Planning Permission

Proposed development at Land adjacent to Castwton Lane, Windmill Lane and Coventry Road, Rugby

Take notice that an application is being made by:
Organisation name: Homes England,
Applicant name: Anna Bend

For planning permission to:
Description of development: Outline permission for a new residential neighbourhood of up to 1,600 residential dwellings (Use Class C3); a 2FE Primary School (Class F1a); a 6FE Secondary School (Class F1(a)) and Community Sports Hub comprising floodlit outdoor sports facilities with changing/social/indoor fitness facilities (Class F1(a)/F2(c)/E(d)); healthcare facilities (Class E(e)); a mixed use centre containing C3 (residential), C2 (a supported living facility), up to 11,200 sqm of community and commercial development at ground and upper floors in use classes E(a-g(i)) which could include retail, office, food and drink and nursery/creche, F1(e) and F2(b) a community/public hall and sui generis uses (p, q, r) which could include drinking establishments and take aways; change of use and refurbishment of the retained Dunkleys Farm and Windmill Farm buildings to the same commercial and community uses listed (included within the 11,200 sqm); and supporting development including open space, play areas, public realm, vehicle parking, cycle parking, a mobility hub, landscaping, foul and surface water drainage and other associated works (all matters reserved except for access). Full permission for part of the Sustainable Transport Link (STL) between HLR and the employment land to the west; a new estate road from the Community Spine Road to the adjacent land to the north; associated landscaping and foul and surface water drainage. Demolition of parts of Cherry Tree Farm, Windmill Farm and Dunkleys Farm.

Local Planning Authority to whom the application is being submitted: Rugby Borough Council, Evreux Way, Rugby, CV21 2RR

Any owner of the land or tenant who wishes to make representations about this application, should write to the council within 21 days of the date of this notice.

Signed: Kamil Rog
Date: 30th May 2025

PUBLIC NOTICES

BRIAN MICHAEL SILLETT (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 17 Fenay Road, Rugby, Warwickshire, CV22 5ND, who died on 02/03/2025, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 31/07/2025, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

BREITHERTONS LLP, Montague House, 2 Clifton Road, CV21 3PX

PUBLIC NOTICES

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

Applicant: JAYA SUPER SAVE LIMITED

Notice is hereby given that JAYA SUPER SAVE LIMITED has applied to Coventry City Council for a NEW PREMISES LICENCE For H&J Convenience Store, 71-73 Broad Street, Coventry, CV6 5AX

Details of Application: To provide Supply of Alcohol (Off Sales) Days & Times: Supply of Alcohol: Mon - Sun (07:00 - 23:00)

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 19th June 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

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PUBLIC NOTICES

national highways

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 - SECTION 14(7) AND 16A(2)(A) THE A46 TRUNK ROAD (LEEK WOOTTON, WARWICKSHIRE) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2025

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that National Highways Limited (Company No. 9346363) has made an order on the A46 Trunk Road, at Leek Wootton, in the County of Warwickshire, to allow the Two Castles Run event to take place.

The effect of the Order will be to close –

(a) the exit slip road leading from the northbound carriageway of the A46, to its roundabout junction with Warwick Road, the B4115 Coventry Road and the A429 Coventry Road; and

(b) the exit slip road leading from the southbound carriageway of the A46, to its junction with the roundabout described in (a) above.

These measures are in place for the interests of road safety while the Two Castles Run is held.

It is expected that the measures will be in operation for three hours between 08:30 hours and 11:30 hours on Sunday 8th June 2025. The order will come into force on Sunday 8th June 2025 and have a maximum duration of 3 days.

Diversion routes via the A46, Warwick Road, Warwick Bypass, the A452, Birmingham Road, High Street, Bridge Street, Abbey Hill, Abbey End, Borrowell Lane, the A452 Fieldgate Lane, the A452 Behive Hill, the B4115 and the A452 Leamington Road will be signed.

Vehicles being used for police, fire and rescue authority or ambulance purposes, and vehicles being used in connection with the event will be exempt from the closures.

For further information please contact Jordan McLaughlin, a project manager on behalf of National Highways Limited, on 07718 236 614.

Karen Eustace, an Officer in National Highways Limited.

National Highways Limited (Company No. 9346363) registered office: Bridge House, Walnut Tree Close, Guildford, GU1 4LZ. A Company registered in England and Wales.

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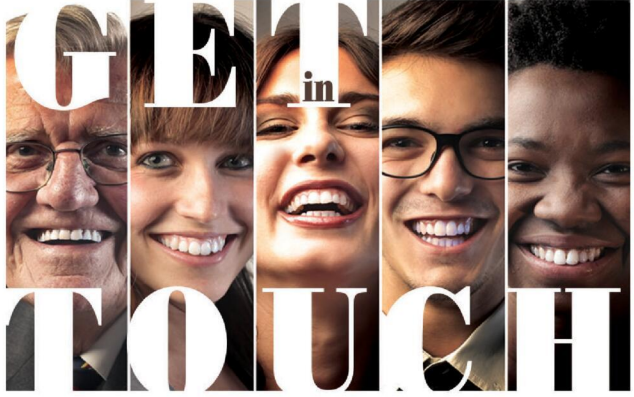
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BRINGING YOU ALL THE LATEST SPORTS NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE AREA

Valley confirm number of pre-season games

by Aaron Sutcliffe
aaron.sutcliffe@bullivantmedia.com

FOOTBALL: RUGBY Town have finalised their pre-season schedule ahead of the 2025/26 season.

Rugby begin pre-season with a trip to Southern League Premier Central side Stratford Town on Tuesday, July 8 with kick-off at 7.45pm at the Arden Garages Stadium.

And Town then travel to another Step Three side in Redditch United on Friday, July 11 with kick-off at 7.45pm at the Valley Stadium.

Rugby then make the trip to former Northern Premier League Midlands opponents Sutton Coldfield Town on Tuesday, July 15 with kick-off at 7.45pm at Coles Lane.

And Town will then play Walsall Wood



on Thursday, July 17 with kick-off at 7.45pm at the John Sylvester Stadium.

Wood have reformed and will play in Midland Football League Division Three this term after previously resigning from the league during the 2024/25 campaign.

Rugby then host Alvechurch on Saturday, July 19 with kick-off at 3pm at Butlin Road.

And Valley will end their pre-season

schedule against Racing Club Warwick on Tuesday, July 22 with kick-off at 7.45pm at Butlin Road.

Rugby's United Counties League Premier Division South campaign could begin as early as July 26 with the FA Cup Preliminary Round likely to take place the following weekend.

Valley boss, Grant Joshua said: "Of course it would have been nice to have got a reprieve, but we have always said that our plans wouldn't be any different wherever we were placed.

"The aim is to be Step Four ready straight away, and we know that we have a very important pre-season ahead of us.

"We're due back in training on June 24 and we know that we need to hit the ground running from the off - both literally and figuratively."

Valley boss Grant Joshua has lined up some tough pre-season games. Picture by Martin Pulley.

Rain forces Bears to settle for draw

CRICKET: IAN Westwood admits it is too early to start looking at the league table after Warwickshire CCC completed the first block of County Championship fixtures.

Rain forced the Bears to settle for a draw against local rivals Worcestershire at New Road.

And the result means Warwickshire end the first block of seven Division One matches in fourth place.

Warwickshire needed just two more wickets to beat the Pears only for the heavens to open and deny the visitors a chance of victory.

And Westwood insists he and his players are taking the season one game at a time.

Westwood said: "It was a good game of cricket, it was a shame it couldn't reach a conclusion.

"If someone bowled well

for a spell you could lose five or six wickets for no runs, it was that sort of pitch.

"It's way too early to be looking at the table, our philosophy this year is we're taking it one game at a time."

Warwickshire posted 227 in their first innings before bowling Worcestershire out for 181.

The Bears then scored 280 in their second innings to set the Pears a total of 327 for victory.

And Warwickshire had the home side in trouble on 181-8 only for rain to wash out the final 47 overs of play.

Warwickshire will now turn their attention to the T20 Blast competition.

Birmingham Bears travel to Notts Outlaws on Friday, May 30 with the game to start at 6.30pm at Trent Bridge.

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