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Event is aiming to put nature at top of agenda

by **Andy Morris**
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PROTECTING the borough's nature will be the firm focus in Rugby next month.

Rugby Borough Council and Warwickshire Wildlife Trust host Nature in Focus: Rugby, at The Benn Hall on Sunday July, 20. This follow-up event aims to build on the success of the 'Climate Adaptation World Cafe held last November.

Nature in Focus: Rugby will explore what can be done to protect nature and enhance biodiversity across the borough.

Warwickshire Wildlife Trust (WWT) emphasises the urgent need to not only slow the loss of wildlife, but to reverse declines and restore biodiversity, acknowledging the link between a stable climate and thriving ecosystems.

Attendees will have the opportunity to gain insights from experts, join discussions, and contribute to action focused solutions to address the environmental crisis faced by the borough.

Round table discussions will also enable sharing of concerns, visions, and initiatives for ensuring a greener future within the borough and beyond.

Expert speakers include Tom Heap, from BBC's Countryfile and BBC Radio 4's Costing the Earth and The Climate Show, and Ian Jelley, director of Landscape Recovery at WWT.

Rugby-based publisher Nine Arches Press has pledged its support to help restore hedges in Rugby's Diamond Wood Country Park.

RBC Climate Emergency Working Group chair Alison Livesey said: "I first moved to Rugby 20 years ago. In June of that year the sky above my house was full of swifts, I haven't seen one this year. It is clear nature is facing an existential crisis for nature, and I am pleased we have been able to hold this event so that residents and businesses can hear what they can do to help.

"You don't need a lot of land or even a garden to make a difference. You can plant a window box or even just a pot at the front door to attract different species of insects, which, in turn support other species in the food chain."

The event, which runs from 10am to 2.30pm, is suitable for all residents, businesses and local community groups committed to environmental preservation and action.

Visit www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/nature-in-focus-rugby-tickets-1407338038959 to register a place at the event.

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More HS2 delays are confirmed

HS2 trains will not be running through Warwickshire by 2033 as originally planned.

The news came as Transport Secretary Heidi Alexander vowed to address years of mismanagement and restore public trust in the highly controversial 190km high speed rail line being built between London and Birmingham - some 54 kilometres of which will cut through the heart of Warwickshire. Swathes of the Warwickshire's countryside has already been transformed by ongoing work on the line.

Newly appointed HS2 Ltd CEO Mark Wild confirmed there was no possibility of trains running by 2033 as was previously planned, and he also warned costs would continue to increase if not taken in hand.

Mrs Alexander also said she would accept all recommendations from the James Stewart Review commissioned by the Government last October.

The report sets out evidence of the historic mishandling of the controversial high speed rail line including a lack of ministerial oversight and scrutiny, inadequate control of the project by HS2 Ltd, and a lack of effective incentives with the supply chain, which will collectively cost the taxpayer billions more than planned.

In a statement to Parliament, the Secretary of State condemned the "litany of failure" that had plagued HS2, citing spiralling costs, ineffective oversight, and broken promises.

She added that without action, Phase 1 alone risked becoming one of the most expensive railway lines in the world - with costs ballooning by £37 billion and £2 billion wasted on cancelled Phase 2 works.

She continued the Government had taken decisive action to get back control of HS2 including appointing new leadership - Mr Wild and Mike Brown as HS2 Ltd chair to reset the project, commissioning the James Stewart Review, reducing financial delegations to HS2 Ltd, limiting what the company could do without Government approval to place a lid on spiralling costs until the reset was complete, and providing £25billion in the recent Spending Review to support all of this work.

Mrs Alexander said: "This must be a line in the sand. This Government is delivering HS2 from Birmingham to London after years of mismanagement, flawed reporting and ineffective oversight.

"Mark Wild and Mike Brown were part of the team, with me, that turned Crossrail into the Elizabeth Line - we have done it before, we will do it again.

"Passengers and taxpayers deserve new railways the country can be proud of, and the work to get HS2 back on track is firmly underway."

HS2 is supporting over 33,000 jobs and over 3,400 UK businesses across all UK nations and regions. Over 44 miles of tunnels have been completed to date and the 2.1-mile deck of the Colne Valley Viaduct, the UK's new longest railway bridge, was completed last September.

ABOVE: The controversial line has faced much opposition in Warwickshire.

LEFT: A bridge being built near Kenilworth. Swathes of the Warwickshire's landscape has already been transformed to accommodate the line.

PUBLIC NOTICES For all your latest information on Planning Proposals, Traffic Notices, Goods Vehicle Operator Licences, Licences To Sell Alcohol and Probate Notices... See page 30

Fundraiser bids to help Margaret's NZ finale

A CHAMPION bowls player from Rugby needs one last helping hand to represent England.

Margaret Cusker, who is completely blind and competes with the assistance of a guide, already has a vast collection of medals including a World Championship gold.

She has been selected to play for England at the International Blind Bowls Association Championships in New Zealand in 2027.

But in order for her to compete she needs to raise £4,500 to pay for her entry fees, air fares, accommodation and other costs.

Margaret started competing at national level in 1996, since when she has won either a silver or gold medal at every national competition.

She has taken part in five World Championships, which are held every four years, winning medals at events held in Australia, Israel and New Zealand. She become world champion in Melbourne in 2009.

She plans to retire from international competition after the championships in New Zealand.

Margaret is a member of two social clubs organised by Rotary Clubs in Rugby for people who are visually impaired.

The Rotary Club of Rugby Dunsmore has set up a fundraising page to help her on her way and has already raised £410.

Willy Goldschmidt, organiser of the Hillmorton Social Club, said: "Margaret is a very modest but totally inspirational member of our social club and it would be great to help her, hopefully, achieve another medal to polish off her career."

Visit http://bit.ly/409xKzK to donate to help Margaret get to New Zealand.

Left to right: president of the Rotary Club of Rugby Dunsmore Ramesh Srivastava, president of the Rotary Club of Rugby Pauline Kimber, Margaret Cusker, and president elect of the Rotary Club of Rugby Saturday Breakfast Gill Ralph.

Council start scheme to recycle plastic bags from your home

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

RESIDENTS in the borough can now recycle more from their doorsteps.

Rugby Borough Council (RBC) has introduced an additional recycling service for the collection of plastic bags and wrapping, collected fortnightly with other dry recycling in the blue-lidded recycling bin.

The new scheme comes into place ten months ahead of a deadline for collection of flexible plastics set by the government's Simpler Recycling programme.

Plastics such as plastic bags, confectionary wrappers, foil-lined packaging, plastic film, bubble wrap, food wrapping, fruit and vegetable net bags and more can now be placed in the blue-lidded recycling bin for fortnightly collection.

The plastic must be empty and clean, free from food residue and other contaminants.

Coun Alison Livesey

The scheme will help boost further RBC's improving recycling rate, which was the tenth most improved in the country in the most recent reporting year.

Plastic bags and wrapping represent approximately 22 per cent of all UK consumer plastic packaging but only around eight per cent is recycled. Until now, the only way to recycle plastic bags and wrapping was at supermarket front-of-store collection points.

RBC spokeswoman Coun Alison Livesey said: "Plastic bags and wrapping continues to be a large part of the way in which food and other products are packaged, so it's great for our residents to be able to recycle these at the kerbside.

"Our partnership with and investment in Sherbourne Recycling – the materials recycling facility in Coventry where our recycling is sorted – allows us to make improvements for our residents, and we're very grateful to the team there enabling this new recycling scheme to happen."

For more information on recycling flexible plastics see www.rugby.gov.uk/whichbin or check the RBC app, downloadable from www.rugby.gov.uk/app.

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

Police target criminals on roads

POLICE are aiming to drive criminals off Warwickshire's roads.

Operation Tavaco has been going for two years in a co-ordinated effort to seek out criminals using the county's road network.

While catching criminals on the road is a 24/7 job for the force, at weekends they have the chance to pool resources and use a mix of plain-clothes officers in unmarked vehicles and high visibility patrolling.

Last weekend, 26 Warwickshire Police officers from different departments, including the rural crime team, neighbourhood officers, traffic and the Special Constabulary teamed up.

They arrested two men on suspicion of drug offences, recovered a stolen vehicle and also identified three cloned vehicles. They also completed nearly 300 Police National Computer checks and issued five traffic offence reports.

Sgt Johnny Howells, from the force, said: "This operation demonstrates our commitment to tackling vehicle crime across the county.

"We are targeting offenders, recovering stolen property, and making arrests."

PHOENIX COACHES

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5th Skegness	£27.50	£22.00
19th Southend-on-Sea	£29.50	£24.50
29th Bury Market	£27.00	£22.00
31st Weston-super-mare	£27.00	£22.00
August		
2nd Blackpool	£29.50	£24.50
5th Chester	£27.00	£22.00
14th Camden Market	£29.00	£24.00
16th Great Yarmouth	£29.50	£24.50
19th Cotswolds Market & Broadway	£27.00	£22.00
21st Blist Hill	£41.00	£29.00
27th Sandringham House	£50.00	£45.00
30th Skegness	£27.50	£22.00
September		
2nd Pub Lunch	£30.00	£24.00
6th Cheshire Oaks	£27.50	£22.50
9th Lincoln	£27.00	£22.00
20th Llandudno	£29.50	£24.50
23rd Tewkesbury	£25.00	£20.00

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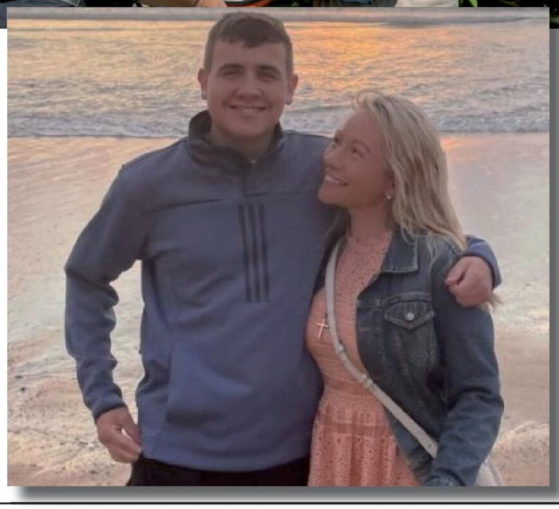

ABOVE: Specialist police cars will soon carry lifesaving defibrillators.

RIGHT: Jamie Rees and mum Naomi. Jamie died on New Year's Day in 2022 despite the best efforts of police officers, who did not have access to a defibrillator to save him.

Police cars set to be fitted with vital kit

LIFESAVING defibrillators are set to be installed in specialist police cars across Warwickshire.

The 28 Home Office donated defibrillators will be carried by dog and firearms cars across the county.

It is particularly poignant because Warwickshire is home to the OurJay Foundation, the charity was set up after the tragic death of 18 year-old Jamie Rees from Rugby, who collapsed on New Years' Day in 2022.

Officers were first on scene and, despite administering CPR, were unable to save Jamie.

Doctors later said that if the officers or the public had quicker access to a defibrillator Jamie might still be alive.

This prompted Jamie's mum Naomi Rees-Issitt and her family to set up the OurJay Foundation – and they have been ceaselessly campaigning and fundraising to have defibrillators installed across the county ever since.

Naomi said: "Everyone at OurJay Foundation is so proud to have reached such a huge goal for heart safety, ensuring that more police vehicles now carry defibrillators.

"This first progress is all the more special to us as it has happened in our home force of Warwickshire.

"We have worked with Warwickshire Police to have these defibrillators put in the most appropriate police vehicles.

"Not only do we foresee the defibrillators going on to save lives, but we will also be able to build an evidence base, relating to usage, lives saved and impact.

"This will help towards our campaign for 'Jamie's Law', which will hopefully mean defibrillators will become mandatory in a higher percentage of police vehicles across the UK.

"When Jamie collapsed following a cardiac arrest, the police officer that reached Jamie first was not carrying a defibrillator in his vehicle. Sadly the officers had to rely on radioing for another officer to go to Rugby Police station to collect a defibrillator and bring it to the scene. We lost Jamie, due to oxygen starvation to his brain on January 5, 2022.

"We will continue to work with Warwickshire Police to save as many lives as possible."

The Home Office initially offered forces across the country 14 defibs each – but further negotiations led by Warwickshire Police Asst Ch Con Claire Armes saw that figure doubled

She said: "Officers and PCSOs can be the first at the scene of emergencies and we often have to administer first aid until it's safe for other agencies to come in.

"Many lives have been saved over the years because officers and staff have administered CPR and other emergency first aid.

"We see these defibs as another part of our first aid toolkit and we're absolutely delighted to have them.

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‘Key’ city drug dealer jailed for five years

by **Andy Morris**
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A ‘KEY’ drug dealer has been jailed for supplying crack cocaine and heroin in Coventry after police shut down an active drugs line.

At Warwick Crown Court, Samba Faal, 26, of Holmfield Road, pleaded guilty to running the drugs network and was sentenced to five years in prison for being concerned in supplying Class A drugs.

Faal ran the illegal Class A network between April and July last year, the court heard.

Officers from West Midlands Police’s County Lines Taskforce discovered bulk messages showing the availability of the ‘Menace Line’ to supply heroin and cocaine, along with prices.

Communication data found that the drugs phone line was often associated with Faal’s personal phone and location.

The line could often be traced through communication data and CCTV in an Uber booked by Faal using an account that was registered with his email and nickname ‘Smuggzy.’

Samba Faal, a ‘key supplier of drugs in Coventry’, is behind bars.

CCTV footage was also retrieved showing Faal purchasing a top-up for the drug line’s sim card.

Last October, officers raided an address linked to Faal, where he was arrested. A phone linked to the drugs line was also discovered following a search.

Police seized £1,000 of suspected criminal cash and several mobile phones and sim cards linked to the line. The line itself was valued at around £160,000.

Det Cons David Cockbill, from West Midlands Police’s County Lines Taskforce, said: “Faal was a key supplier of drugs in Coventry.

“Our work in bringing down drug lines across the region does not stop at enforcement.

“We continue to work with partner agencies to offer support to vulnerable people and provide long-term support.

“As ever, we couldn’t do this without information from the public and encourage you to get in touch if you have any information. You might think it’s nothing, but it could be integral to our investigation.”

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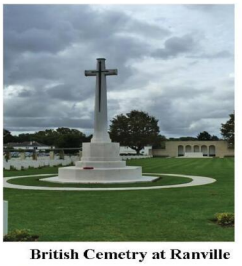
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Serena delivers on role to inspire

Serena Bird is looking to inspire other women to join the transport and logistics industry.

A TEAM member at Amazon fulfilment centre in Rugby is hoping to inspire other women after reaching the national Everywoman in Transport & Logistics Awards.

Serena Bird, from Coventry, was nominated in the Warehousing (Above & Beyond) category, which is given to women excelling in their roles within a warehousing environment. Serena was set to find out if she had been successful at a ceremony in London yesterday (Thursday).

The nominees for this year's awards demonstrated the progression, achievements and increasing avenues of opportunity available for women within a traditionally male-dominated industry.

Serena, who joined Amazon five years ago after studying for a degree in Art History and English Literature, said: "I've worked in three different sites at Amazon across every team since I joined the company. Inbound, outbound – you name it and I've probably done it. It's all helped to shape me into the manager I am today."

As part of Serena's operations role, she sits on the board of an employee-led group at Amazon called Women in Operations, a subsection of Women at Amazon that acts a global group for women and allies interested in increasing gender diversity at the company.

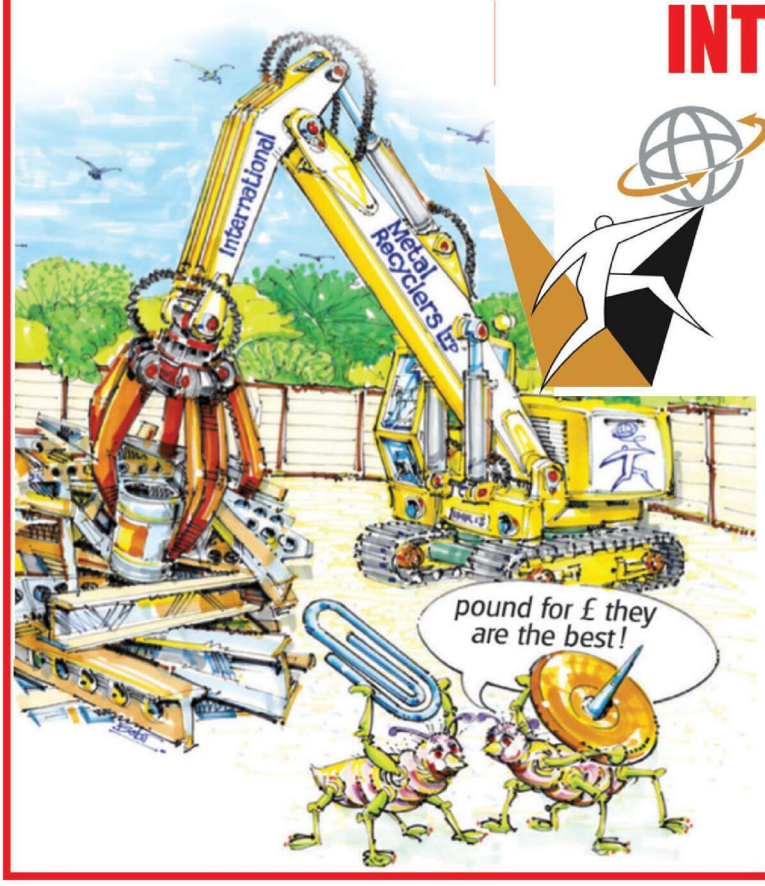
This role, alongside her achievements as an operations manager, that's secured her nomination for the award.

Serena credits her success to some of the mentors she had when embarking on her career. She added: "When I first started at Amazon I had an amazing operations manager. She was ex-military, and she was absolutely incredible – the epitome of everything I looked up to when I was brand new in the job. What she did for me has inspired me to do the same for others.

"That's why one of my favourite parts of my role is not just mentoring women but connecting them.

"With my Women in Operations Board role, there are more than 150 points of contact across our site and business lines, and I get to link women with others and support them directly.

"I'm quite lucky. I've got some incredible women in my life. I've got my mum and two incredible sisters, but there are a lot of people out there who don't. It's nice to think that I can be one of those people for someone else."



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Mayor delighted to unveil art gallery's newest painting

A PAINTING by acclaimed artist Barbara Walker has been acquired for The Rugby Collection of contemporary British art.

Construct 2, an oil painting depicting a black male, seen from behind, wearing a graphic T-shirt and backwards-turned baseball cap, was unveiled on Saturday (June 21) by Mayor Barbara Brown, at Rugby Art Gallery and Museum's Big Birthday Bash.

Walker's work was acquired for the collection after the council secured grants from the Arts Council England/V&A Purchase Grant Fund, the Art Fund and the Contemporary Art Society.

Birmingham-based Walker has been described as 'one of the most talented, productive and committed artists of her generation,' and was shortlisted for the Turner Prize in 2023 for her work, Burden of Proof.

Making portraits in a range of media and formats, from small embossed works on paper to paintings on canvas and large-scale, charcoal wall drawings, Walker's work explores issues of belonging, power, visibility and representation.

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

Construct 2 encourages the viewer to look beyond the anonymising act of categorising an individual based on race, class or gender and challenge a society which turns to stereotypes to swiftly label individuals.

The black male's T-shirt, complete with cartoonish graphics and phrases such as 'Boom!' and a riff on streetwear brand Lot 29, reflects youth subcultures such as hip hop and graffiti, and explores how clothing has become a powerful symbol of identity, with young people expressing individuality, belonging and cultural alignment through fashion.

Katie Boyce, Rugby Art Gallery and Museum's senior exhibition and programming officer, said Construct 2 was a significant addition to The Rugby Collection which reflected the art gallery's commitment to presenting diverse voices and perspectives when exploring contemporary social issues.

She added: "Barbara Walker's Construct 2 presents a younger, urban perspective on issues such as race, culture and identity, creating fresh dialogues when considered with the wider Rugby Collection.

"Barbara's Birmingham roots amplify the relevance of her work to Rugby and the Midlands, supporting our mission to make The Rugby Collection inclusive, reflective and relevant to our community."

Walker was made an MBE in 2019 for services to British art and in 2023 she was elected to the Royal Academy of Art.

Her work has featured in exhibitions across the world while, closer to home, she was commissioned to produce a piece for Coventry Cathedral's Broken Angel project, which temporarily replaced the cathedral's iconic West Screen after it was destroyed by vandals five years ago.

Coun Brown said: "I was delighted to officially unveil the latest acquisition for The Rugby Collection at Rugby Art Gallery and Museum's Big Birthday Bash, a highlight from a wonderful day.

"Next year we celebrate the 80th anniversary of the borough's collection of contemporary British art, so we're delighted to acquire a piece from such a celebrated artist as Barbara Walker, thanks to the grant funding from the Arts Council England/V&A Purchase Grant Fund, the Art Fund and the Contemporary Art Society."

Mayor Barbara Brown unveiled Construct 2, the latest acquisition for The Rugby Collection during Rugby Art Gallery and Museum's Big Birthday Bash.

Visit the website at www.ragm.co.uk for more information about exhibitions and events at Rugby Art Gallery and Museum.

Visit www.barbarawalker.co.uk for information about Barbara Walker's work.

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Ruth welcomes arrival of 100th guide dog puppy

A DEVOTED volunteer from south Warwickshire has welcomed the arrival of her 100th guide dog puppy.

Ruth Mercer, from Oxhill, signed up as a Guide Dog volunteer in 2006 and has cared for four guide dog mums over the past two decades.

She and her family currently have breeding guide dog mum Rhoda and retired mum Georgia living with them permanently. For most of the time, these doggy mums are like any other pet dog, but during their time on the charity's breeding programme, they have litters of pups who will hopefully become working guide dogs.

The 100th puppy is one of 11 puppies in a litter born to Rhoda in April and in just a few weeks' time they will leave Ruth's home to live with puppy raisers and officially start their guide dog journey.

Ruth said: "It's been amazing and incredibly rewarding to have delivered over 100 puppies for Guide Dogs.

Ruth Mercer and husband Jon with guide dog mum Rhoda and some of her puppies.

Every litter that has been born at our home has given us enormous pleasure and a sense of satisfaction that they might go on to change someone's life. We feel lucky to have been at the start of the Guide Dog journey for so many puppies.

"We have the most amazing support from Guide Dogs and I know I speak on behalf of the whole Guide Dogs family that any support, whether that's donating or volunteering, is so very much appreciated."

FUNDRAISERS at Guide Dogs in Leamington are bringing back the summer fair this weekend.

The event will take place at the Leamington training school in Warwick New Road tomorrow (Saturday), from 11am until 3pm.

There will be stall holders, food, drink, a meet-and-greet with Guide Dogs and a dog demonstration.

The summer fair has not been held for a number of years and the fundraising team thought it would be a great way to raise some much-needed cash.

Fundraising team co-ordinators Leah and Jane said: "We are so excited to be bringing the fair back. Hopefully it will continue to run for many years and be a great success."

Pete Wicks is introduced to Theo by Ross McAlpine from Dogs Trust Kenilworth. Picture by Marcus Mingins 2425007MMR © Bullivant Media

Pete leads hunt to find Theo a new home

A FAMOUS face visited a south Warwickshire dog rehoming centre to help find a loving home for Theo.

Strictly star and dog-lover Pete Wicks stuck up a bromance with Theo, the sofa-loving Neapolitan Mastiff, currently in the care of Dogs Trust Kenilworth, while making his TV show Pete Wicks: For Dog's Sake.

Theo, who is described as a 'loveable giant', has a heart condition which will seriously limit his life expectancy.

Nevertheless, Pete has joined forces with the team at Dogs Trust, for whom he is an ambassador, to find Theo a loving home to see out the rest of his days, regardless of how long this may be.

Theo's story, which is being documented in the upcoming series of Pete Wicks: For Dogs' Sake, has not been easy. He arrived at Dogs Trust Kenilworth severely underweight after being found as a stray.

With time, TLC, and a healthy diet, he gained strength, but vets discovered he had a life-limiting heart condition. Theo's life expectancy could be anywhere between a few months and a couple of years.

Pete said: "I fell in love with Theo the moment I met him. He's a big lad with lots of love to give. He's the kind of dog who just wants a spot on your sofa and someone to lean on (literally). I've met a lot of amazing dogs through Dogs Trust, but Theo is something special, and I am heartbroken that he has such a short life expectancy. I'm calling on dog lovers across the nation to take a chance on him and give him a special home for however long he needs."

Visit www.dogstrust.org.uk/theo to apply to adopt.

Pete Wicks: For Dogs' Sake is returning to U&W for a new series.

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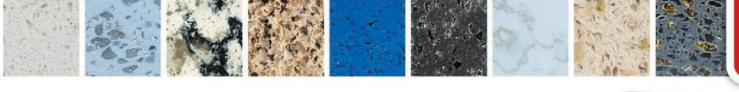

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Evelyn's Gift to mark ten years of acts of kindness

by **Philippa Mingins**

A CHARITY founded in memory of a Warwick youngster is celebrating ten years of kindness.

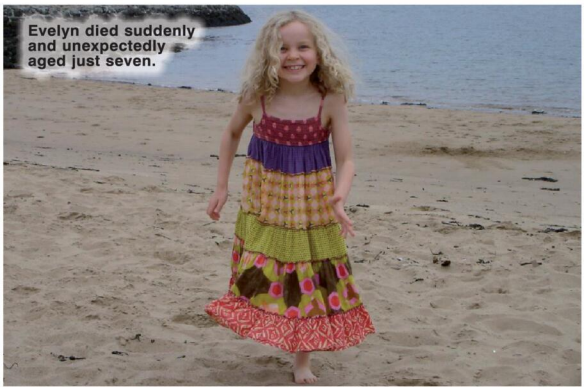
Evelyn Smith died suddenly and unexpectedly in 2013 following a misdiagnosed upper airway infection at just seven years old, leaving family and friends devastated.

Charity Evelyn's Gift was launched in June 2015 with two objectives – to provide acts of kindness for local people in need, and to promote CPR and defibrillator training in the community.

Evelyn's mum, Helen, had to perform CPR on Evelyn, but could not have saved her because of a blocked airway.

Helen said "The sudden, unexpected and preventable loss of Evelyn remains agonisingly painful, but I find some comfort in knowing that her short life continues to touch others.

"All of this work is inspired by Evelyn to create a fitting legacy for her, which has reached thousands of people in many different ways."



Evelyn died suddenly and unexpectedly aged just seven.

Evelyn was full of love and kindness, and even at a young age recognised the importance of being kind to others, and the difference it could make.

Over the past decade, the charity's little acts of kindness have included providing equipment for disabled children, food and clothing for survivors of domestic abuse, equine therapy to support mental health, funding help for funeral costs for children, regular acts of kindness for terminally ill people, and toiletries for modern slavery victims and for vulnerable people.

A significant part of the charity's work is associated with bereavement. An estimated 500 bereavement support packs for under-ten-year-olds, have been sent out across Warwickshire to families, schools and charities.

Former Warwick mayor Dave Skinner with Evelyn's mum Helen Smith.

Evelyn's Gift also works closely with Warwickshire County Council's children's services in various ways, including providing trips for children that are in a different care setting from their siblings.

Former Warwick mayor Dave Skinner, raised £3,000 for Evelyn's Gift during his term as one of his chosen charities.

To mark ten years of the charity, Warwick Preparatory School and Coten End Primary School will collect items such as toiletries and activity books, toys and toothbrushes for children being taken into care. There will also be baby essentials for emergency care placements.

Visit evelynsgift.co.uk for more information.

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Lemn Sissy will be talking life and poetry in Rugby on June 27. Picture by Hollie Fernando.

Event offers chance to hear popular poet

POET and broadcaster Lemn Sissy will be sharing the love in Rugby tonight.

An Evening with Lemn Sissay, part of the Love Rugby Festival running until July 6, takes place at Rugby Baptist Church this evening (Friday) at 7pm.

The evening, organised and hosted by Hunt's Bookshop, will encompass a journey through Sissay's life and work, reflecting on the experiences that shaped him - from growing up in the care system to becoming Chancellor of the University of Manchester, and being royally honoured by both The Queen and The King.

He was also the official poet of the 2012 London Olympics, has worked with the British Council, and is a patron of the Letterbox Club, supporting children in care.

Christopher Hunt, owner of Hunt's Bookshop, said: "Expect powerful readings, raw truth, and moments of unexpected happiness."

Visit huntsbookshop.com for tickets.

Watching gallery in its development

A FLIGHT of fancy from the drawing board to fully-fledged creation is taking off at Rugby Art Gallery and Museum.

The venue is hosting an exhibition tracing the foundations of the building and the collection of contemporary art it houses, as part of its 25th anniversary celebrations.

The Blueprints exhibition includes pieces from The Rugby Collection of contemporary British art - including LS Lowry, Turner Prize winner Lubaina Himid, Paula Rego, Claudette Johnson, David Remfry and Chris Orr - together with seldom-seen sketches by the artists,

The exhibition will also feature rarely seen photographs of the art gallery and museum under construction and the original architectural drawings.

Katie Boyce, Rugby Art Gallery and Museum's senior exhibitions and programming officer, said artists rarely revealed preliminary sketches to the public.

"Artist sketchbooks tend to be private, temporary and personal, places where artists work through ideas, ask questions and, sometimes, make mistakes.

"When you open a sketchbook, you catch the artist mid-thought, mid-question and mid-decision. It's the visual equivalent of overhearing someone talking to themselves."

Chris Orr visits Rugby Art Gallery and Museum on Wednesday July 9 to join Dr Richard Davey, senior research fellow in historical and critical studies at the Nottingham School of Art and Design, to talk about the role of drawing in bringing an artist's imagination to life.

Places at the talk, which starts at 6pm, can be booked for £5 online at www.ragm.co.uk/blueprints or by calling Rugby Visitor Centre on (01788) 533217.

Rugby Borough Council spokeswoman Coun Maggie O'Rourke said: "This exhibition explores the literal and metaphorical building blocks which underpin both the artists' work and the venue itself.

"It's a rare opportunity to take a peek into the imaginations and inspirations of many of the artists featured in The Rugby Collection, and also discover the history of the building which has played such a pivotal part in our cultural life over the past quarter of a century."

Blueprints runs until September 6.

Blueprints traces the foundations of Rugby Art Gallery and Museum and the iconic collection of contemporary art it houses.

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School's Summer Festival offers a packed programme

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

A NEW summer festival is being hosted by Princethorpe College this weekend.

Building on the success of Princethorpe PTA's traditional Summer Fete and Motoring Festival, the college's new Summer Fest takes place on Sunday (June 29) from 11am to 7pm.

The main Festival Stage will feature live performances by Krisis DJ, Mac Wood, Molly Gone Mad and James Byrne, as well as local groups including the Rock Choir, Local Vocals, the Collaboration Choir, the cast of the College's recent musical Newsies Jr, Love Ballet Dance Company, Crescent School's Choir, a Taekwondo demonstration and Princethorpe's Dance Company.

Across the site, visitors will be able to explore students' Photography and Design Exhibition, take in the Motoring Festival's classic and vintage vehicles, and try out the College's climbing wall.

Other attractions include crazy golf, glitter, tattoos, sporting games, Total Wipeout, a surf simulator and a helter skelter.

Arts and crafts will be on sale, alongside a variety of food and drink.

Headmaster Grove du Toit welcomed Ruth Hurford-Jones from the College's PTA and Yousaf and Amy Hussain from event sponsors Carter and King to unveil a giant banner advertising the Summer Fest.

Princethorpe College Events Co-ordinator Holly Summers, PTA Chair Ruth Hurford-Jones and Headmaster Grove du Toit, with Amy Hussain and Yousaf Hussain of Carter and King.

Mr du Toit said: "Plenty of work has gone in behind the scenes to put together Princethorpe's first Summer Fest.

"It's going to be a great family day out with something for everyone - from music, arts and craft lovers to classic car fans and foodies - as well as providing plenty of entertainment and activities for all to enjoy."

Visit https://tinyurl.com/yc4ctywm for more information.

Nature is the focus of latest gallery showing

ARTISTS come together to explore nature at at Rugby Art Gallery and Museum.

Echoes of Nature, part of Warwickshire Open Studios, can be seen from July 1 to 12.

It features the work of five artists – painters Chloe Deltufo, Alina Bondarchuk, Kanika Sharma, painter and ceramist Ginte Zacharini, and mixed media artist Carol Wheeler.

A spokesperson said: "Through painting and craft, Echoes of Nature invites visitors to experience the subtle presence of nature as interpreted through diverse artistic voices.

"Each artist offers a unique perspective, using a variety of mediums and approaches to reflect on life, growth, decay, and renewal. Their work invites stillness and sparks reflection, encouraging conversations about the richness and fragility of the world around us."

The exhibition is in the Floor One Gallery and admission is free.

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Alex Horne is taken to task. All pictures by University of Warwick

The winning team, Pirniehall Primary, with Alex Horne.

Youngsters up to the Task as TV's Alex takes charge

THE TASKMASTER'S assistant made sure everyone followed the rules at the School Tasking Champion of Champions Final.

More than 800 schoolchildren visited University of Warwick for the final hosted by comedian Alex Horne, creator of hit TV show Taskmaster.

Inspired by the show, School Tasking introduces Year 5 pupils to the world of law through imaginative tasks and team challenges.

Created by Dr Ali Struthers, School Tasking is a Warwick-led legal outreach programme that now works with more than 3,000 schoolchildren and 34 universities across the UK and Ireland.

The winners of the regional finals competed in fun tasks on stage with Alex – from finding the audience member closest in height to a chicken, to tossing beanbags into Dr Horne's mortar board, and even hiding in Warwick's iconic Butterworth Hall – in a bid to be crowned School Tasking Champions 2025.

And after all the fun and games it was Da Nuggets from Pirniehall Primary in Edinburgh, Scotland, who were crowned champions.

Alex said: "Every year, the children in this project consistently show how capable and creative they are in approaching each and every one of the tasks at the Champion of Champions.

"It must be nerve-wracking for them standing up on stage and being given tasks to do by 'that man off the telly', but they really do take it all in their stride and perform magnificently."

School Tasking creator, Dr Struthers, Reader in Law at the university, added: "The School Tasking Champion of Champions is always such a joyful event, bringing together teams from across the country who have earned the right to lark about on stage doing ridiculous tasks with Little Alex Horne. It's not easy performing on stage in front of around 1,000 people in the audience, but they rise to the challenge brilliantly and absolutely give it their all."

Visit taskmastereducation.com/school-tasking for further details.

School Tasking creator Dr Ali Struthers with Alex Horne.

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

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Lord Mayor Rachel Lancaster (left) prepares to cut the ribbon at Partou Wonder Years, with Rose Elkins (Regional Business Manager), Teresa Palagano (Area Manager), Leighton (two), Hannah Reid (Regional Quality Advisor) and Manager Tracy Simpson. Picture by Marcus Mingins 2325005MMR1

Cutting the ribbon

THE NEW Lord Mayor of Coventry has cut the ribbon on a newly-refurbished nursery in the city.

Coun Rachel Lancaster led celebrations at Partou Wonder Years Day Nursery and Pre-school following an £85,000 redevelopment.

The Lord Mayor's official visit kicked off an open week at the Foleshill Road nursery, featuring a host of other guests from the Coventry community.

Highlights included team members from Foleshill Library popping in to lead a storytelling session, and a visit from representatives of West Midlands Fire Service and West Midlands Police.

Coun Lancaster said: "I am really impressed by everything I've seen. Early years learning is such a crucial element in a child's life.

"I congratulate Partou Wonder Years on the refurbishment and wish everyone well for the future."

Nursery Manager Tracy Simpson said: "We're grateful to the Lord Mayor for taking time out to cut the ribbon and tour the nursery.

"I want to thank my team, the children and the families for their patience as the improvements were made.

"We're all looking forward to the fun learning experiences which lie ahead at Wonder Years."

A grand way to help youngsters in Malawi

BIG-hearted kids at a Rugby primary school put the 'fun' into fund-raising to help a Rugby-based charity improve education in one of the world's least-developed countries.

Year 4 children at The Crescent School have raised over £1,350 for the Bwengu Projects Malawi charity, which Rugby couple Sue and Tony Melia set up in 2005 after they witnessed the terrible conditions at a Malawi school where they were teaching voluntarily.

Each year, Year 4 children at the school study Africa, Malawi and the work of the charity, and organise fund-raising activities for the whole school.

This year, they raised money through various activities including a non-uniform day, a fund-raising day of activities and games, collections at the school's Easter Service and Spring Concert, and a sponsored silence - an idea their teachers very much enjoyed!

The school was one of the Bwengu Projects Malawi's first supporters back in 2007 when it donated books for use in school libraries – one of the charity's earliest projects.

The school's Deputy Head Bryony Forth said: "Supporting Bwengu Projects is always a highlight of my teaching year, something which I am personally very proud to be part of.

"The children always enjoy studying Bwengu and comparing 'A Village Less Economically Developed with their home town of Rugby' in their Geography lessons.

Crescent School's Year 4 classes with Sam Melia.

"Over the years, we must have raised over £18,000 for this charity, and helped pay for renovating schools, building a Women's Development Centre, providing sewing machines, classroom furniture, a teacher's salary and nearly 60,000 meals for orphans.

"The children worked incredibly hard this year organising lots of different events. They smashed their fundraising target, having raised a great total of £1,351.

"The money will be used to refurbish Matecha Early Learning Centre and to fund six months of the Llema Primary School Adult Education scheme."

Sue and Tony's daughter Sam, who works with the charity, visited the school to receive the cheque from Year 4 pupils Joshua and Flora during an assembly.

She said: "There are so many different people in need across the world and we are so grateful that every year the pupils at Crescent School choose to support Bwengu Projects and help unlock the opportunity of education for the children of Malawi."

Is Hand Pain Holding You Back?

Whether it's the frustration of struggling with buttons, the difficulty of opening jars, or the sadness of not being able to plant bulbs in your garden, it can be truly upsetting when pain and discomfort affect your hands.

Many common hand conditions share similar symptoms, but understanding the signs can help you identify what might be going on. Can you spot the symptoms of these common hand conditions?

Common Hand Conditions and Their Symptoms

Carpal Tunnel Syndrome

Carpal tunnel occurs when a nerve in your wrist is put under pressure. You might be at higher risk if you have diabetes, are pregnant, or if your job or hobbies involve repetitive hand movements.

Symptoms to look out for:

- Pins and needles in the fingers, especially the thumb, index, middle, and half of the ring finger.
- Numbness in the hand.
- Muscle wasting in the thumb area (in more severe cases).
- Waking from sleep due to hand discomfort or numbness.

Dupuytren's Disease

Dupuytren's disease involves a thickening of the tissue in the palm, fingers, or thumbs, often causing fingers to bend inwards towards the palm. Risk factors include smoking, heavy alcohol consumption, manual work, diabetes, and a family history of the condition.

Symptoms to look out for:

- A finger that has started to contract (bend downwards) or a noticeable lump in the palm.
- It most commonly affects the ring and little finger, but can appear in any finger or even the thumb.

Common Cause of a Palm Lump: Thumb Arthritis

Thumb arthritis frequently affects the basal joint at the base of the thumb. This can make everyday small tasks, like doing up buttons, quite challenging.

Symptoms to look out for:

- Pain and stiffness at the base of the thumb.
- A reduction in grip strength.
- Clicking and cracking sounds in the joint with movement.

Trigger Finger

Trigger finger happens when a tendon in the front of your hand thickens and gets "caught," causing your finger to lock in a bent position.

Symptoms to look out for:

- A finger that locks down in a bent position.
- A clicking sound or sensation when trying to straighten the finger.
- It can affect any finger, and sometimes the thumb.
- Pain that radiates up the arm from the affected finger.

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Get In Touch – We Can Help

If you're experiencing any of the symptoms listed above, and if hand pain is getting in the way of your day-to-day life, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us. We're here to help you understand your condition and find the right solution to get you back to doing the things you love.

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

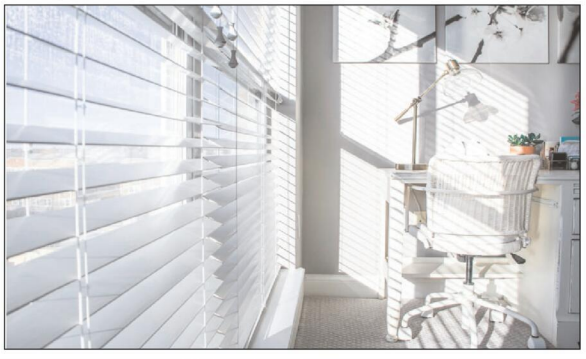
In a world of quick fixes and throwaway trends, it's refreshing to find a company where craftsmanship, care and community still matter.

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 Mangera 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.

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Jailed for drug and drink-fuelled killing of work colleague

Stuart Baker has been jailed for killing a co-worker in Kenilworth.

A MAN who brutally attacked and killed a fellow worker while drunk and high on cocaine has been jailed for at least 17-and-a-half years.

On December 20 last year, Stuart Baker, who had been working at an abattoir on Rouncil Lane in Kenilworth and staying in a caravan on-site, appeared at the door of another colleague telling him to call the police.

When officers arrived, they discovered 21-year-old James Bosworth, from Nottingham, dead on the floor of Baker's caravan with catastrophic injuries.

Officers arrested 43-year-old Baker on suspicion of murder, and during a search in custody discovered wraps of cocaine in his pockets.

A court heard Baker had been with James from 3pm that day in his caravan.

Just before 5.30pm, Baker attacked James who received extensive and serious injuries including puncture wounds and slashes to his body.

by **Philippa Mingins**

Baker left his caravan wearing James' coat and with a phone in his hand, before reappearing at his other colleague's door telling him that there was "blood everywhere" and that he "needed to call the police".

Baker, from Somerton in Somerset, was sentenced to life with a minimum term of 17-and-a-half years at Warwick Crown Court after pleading guilty to murder and possession of cocaine.

Det Insp Gareth Unett, of Warwickshire Police's Major Investigations Unit, said "James Bosworth was a young man in the prime of his life, much loved by his family and friends.

"Although nothing I can say will fill the void left by James' death, I hope the family and friends can find some comfort that our investigation has led to Stuart Baker spending at least the next 17-and-a-half years behind bars and unable to cause further harm.

James Bosworth was murdered in a drink and drug-fuelled frenzy.

"Baker's drug-induced, drink-fuelled attack was without sense or reason.

"Throughout the investigation he has failed to explain his actions or provide answers as to why James was so brutally taken from his family in this way.

"I would like to echo Judge Lockhart's remarks as he commended the efforts of the police officers and staff involved in responding to this incident and the subsequent high-quality investigation."

Remembering James, his mum described him as "a joy and a treasure" and "a bright, beautiful, and brave soul".

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LEFT: Emiljano Kasaj has been given a hospital order and will only be transferred to prison to serve the remainder of his sentence if deemed well enough.

RIGHT: Joel Carriedo was killed on Woodway Lane.

FAR RIGHT: Leo Moran was killed on Gosford Street.

Man who killed two Coventry pedestrians with car sentenced

A MAN who deliberately drove at three pedestrians, killing two and seriously injuring another, has been sentenced.

Emiljano Kasaj has been given a hospital order after the deaths of Leo Moran, 44, and Joel Carriedo, 47, in Coventry in 2023.

On the morning of September 3 that year, Kasaj drove his car around Coventry city centre, where he hit the three pedestrians.

Mr Moran, who was hit on Gosford Street, and Mr Carriedo, who was hit on Woodway Lane, were both pronounced dead at the scene, while a third man suffered serious injuries requiring hospital treatment.

Now, 34 year-old Kasaj has been handed a hybrid order under the Mental Health Act following a hearing at Warwick Crown Court, where he was given a life sentence, with a minimum of nine years and four months.

The Albanian national, of no fixed address, is currently being held in a secure mental health facility, and will only be transferred to prison to serve the remainder of his sentence if he is deemed well enough.

The court heard Kasaj was suffering from what was believed to be a psychotic episode at the time.

When he was arrested, he was rambling incoherently, although he did admit to killing the two men.

Det Insp Phil Poole, who led the investigation, said: "This was a horrific incident which robbed two families of their loved ones and caused long-lasting injuries to the third.

"We hope the conclusion of this case can bring some closure to the families of those affected.

"We'd also like to thank the many members of the public who came forward as witnesses and shared what they saw with us - your assistance was invaluable."

Gardening

Perfect choice for busy beginners

SUCCULENTS have become increasingly popular in recent years due to their unique shapes, varied colours, and versatility. They are well-suited for beginner gardeners or those with busy lifestyles who prefer plants requiring minimal maintenance.

Their ability to grow in dry conditions makes them a practical choice for gardens facing water scarcity or unpredictable weather we get in the UK. The team at British Garden Centres has put together this guide on which succulents to plant and how to get the best out of them in your outdoor space.

Julian Palphramand, British Garden Centres' Head of Plants, said: "Succulents are the perfect plants for beginners.

"These plants are tough, rewarding, and perfect for anyone new to plants—they will create a long-lasting and stunning display in the smallest of spaces and bring a little bit of greenery into your home and garden."

Choosing the right succulents

For those new to growing succulents, picking the right plants can make a big difference.

Jade plant - This is one of the easiest succulents to grow. It has thick, shiny leaves and can live happily indoors or outdoors. Jade plants do not need much water and can handle a bit of neglect, making them perfect for busy people who want to include them in their succulent container garden.

Aloe Vera - Known also for its medicinal properties, Aloe vera is not only easy to care for, but it is useful as its gel can help soothe burns or skin irritation. It likes bright light and well-draining soil, and is forgiving if people forget to water it now and then.

Echeveria - These pretty rosette-shaped succulents come in lots of colours and sizes, perfect for any succulent display. Their beautiful shape makes them a favourite for arrangements, so why not make a garden that will stand out with these amazing plants?

Haworthia - These (like the Zebra Haworthia) are great for indoor spaces, especially where there is not a lot of light. They are small, tough, and safe for pets, but also add a dimension to succulent gardens too.

Sempervivum - Also known as Hens and Chicks, these are super hardy and can handle both hot and cold weather. They spread easily and are perfect for outdoor gardens or pots and are probably one of the most loved succulents out there for displays.

Succulents have become increasingly popular in recent years due to their unique shapes, varied colours, and versatility.

Sedum - Sedums, including the trailing 'Donkey's Tail,' which lives up to its name, are very easy to look after and thrive on neglect. They grow quickly and are adaptable to different conditions, both inside and outside, so an ideal starter plant for a succulent journey.

Choosing containers

Choose a container with holes at the bottom so water can drain away, because succulents do not like sitting in wet soil. Pick a spot that gets plenty of sunlight.

Add a layer of small stones or crocks at the bottom. This helps the water to flow out and keeps the soil from getting too soggy. Mix up compost with grit or perlite so the soil drains quickly.

Gently take each succulent plant out of its pot and loosen the roots before making a hole in the compost and pop the succulent in, gently pressing the soil around it.

Sprinkle a thin layer of grit or small stones over the top. This helps keep the soil insulated and keeps moisture in when needed.

Caring for succulent gardens

When it comes to watering, less is more with succulents. Wait until the soil feels almost dry to touch, as overwatering can cause more harm than good.

Succulents love being in bright, indirect sunlight, so try to place them somewhere that gets plenty of natural light. If there are any cold snaps or frosts forecast, cover with horticulture fleece or move indoors. If growing indoors, turning the pot on your windowsill will help the plants grow evenly.

Succulents do not need much plant food or fertiliser, but for a little boost, use a feed just once or twice during the growing season in spring and summer.

Remove any dead leaves and check for pests from time to time. If plants get crowded, make new ones by taking off small offshoots or leaf cuttings to grow on or share with friends and family.

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Keep an eye out for things that are definitely 'off the menu' for dogs

A DOG food specialist has warned pet owners of three popular barbecue foods that could be dangerous for their four-legged friends during the summer.

Ella Sprengeman, dog food specialist and owner of Dogwooff - dogwooff.com/en/home - has identified several common barbecue foods that pose serious health risks to dogs and should be kept well away from pets during outdoor events.

He said: "With many families planning barbecues, it's crucial pet owners know which foods could send their dog to the emergency vet.

"Three barbecue favourites can cause serious harm to dogs even in small amounts."

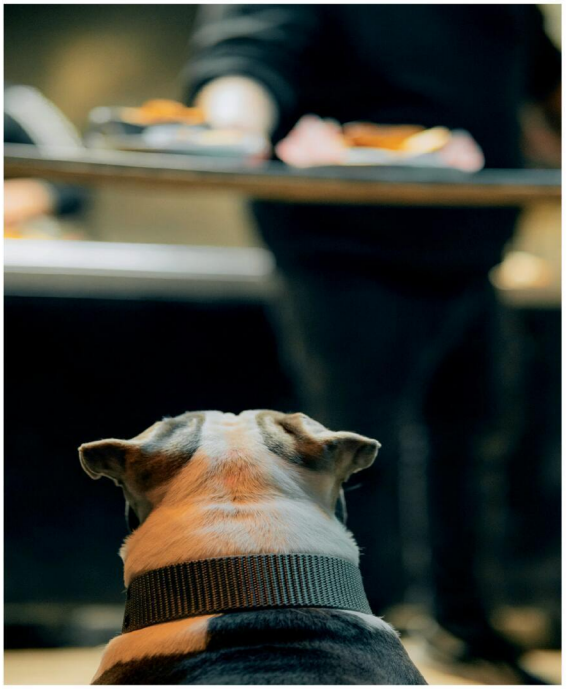
Ketchup - Most people do not realise ketchup contains harmful ingredients for dogs. While plain tomatoes can be safe in moderation, ketchup typically contains high levels of salt, sugar and sometimes xylitol, which can be toxic to dogs. Ella advises pet owners keep condiment bottles out of reach and clean up any spills immediately to prevent dogs from licking them.

Onions - Raw, cooked, powdered or even small amounts of onion can damage a dog's red blood cells. This applies to the entire onion family too, including garlic, shallots and spring onions. Dogs that eat onions may show symptoms like lethargy, weakness, and reduced appetite. Onions frequently appear on burgers and in salads, making barbecues especially risky for pets allowed to scavenge.

Chicken bones - Many barbecue hosts serve chicken legs, wings or thighs, which presents another serious danger. Never give dogs cooked chicken bones of any kind. Unlike some larger raw bones from beef or lamb that can be safe for supervised chewing, cooked chicken bones splinter easily and can cause internal punctures or blockages. The expert advised disposing of bones securely where dogs are unable to reach them.

Ella recommends creating a pet-safe zone away from the cooking and eating areas.

She said: "Set up a comfortable space for your dog with shade, water, and their own dog-friendly treats so they don't feel left out of the festivities but can stay safe."



The advice comes as many pet owners may not realise that common barbecue foods can have such serious risks.

According to Dogs Trust, other barbecue hazards for dogs include corn cobs, which can cause intestinal blockages, as well as alcohol, which should never be accessible to pets.

Ella added: "If your dog does consume something suspicious, contact your vet immediately rather than waiting for symptoms to appear.

"Time can be critical in treating food toxicity cases."

For those who wish to include their dog safely in barbecue gatherings, Ella suggests preparing pet-friendly alternatives.

"Cooked meat without seasoning, some plain vegetables like carrots or cucumbers, or specially made dog treats are good options that let your pet join in the fun without risk."

Ella emphasised the importance of informing guests about pet safety.

"Make sure all your guests know not to feed your dog scraps, no matter how pleadingly they look up with those eyes.

"It takes just one well-meaning guest to cause a severe problem

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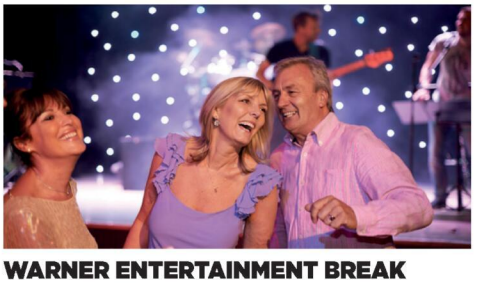

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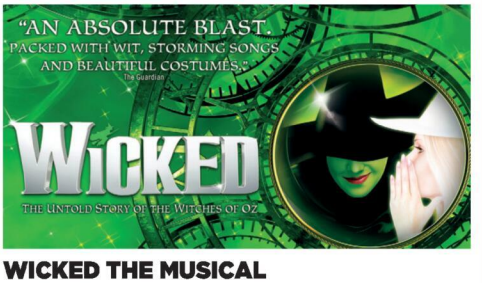

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SUDOKU

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

EASY

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

HARD

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

PATHFINDER

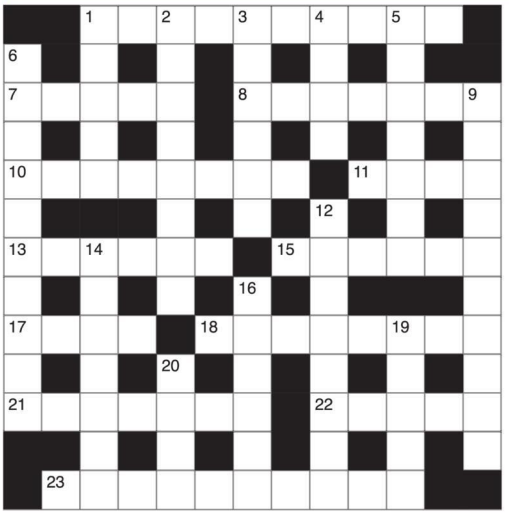
Beginning with the top highlighted letter, follow a continuous path of words associated with the given subject. The trail goes through each letter once, twisting up, down and sideways, but never diagonally.

Wimbledon singles champions

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

Solutions opposite

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1. Choice (10)
7. Oust (5)
8. Clearer (7)
10. Outside (8)
11. Minus (4)
13. Struggle (6)
15. Doorway (6)
17. Ale (4)
18. Outlook (8)
21. Directly stated (7)
22. Well done! (5)
23. Dejected (10)

DOWN

1. Flattened fold (5)
2. Completely (8)
3. Use (6)
4. Vivacity (4)
5. Agree (7)
6. Hateful (10)
9. Determination (10)
12. Practicable (8)
14. Spire (7)
16. Jail (6)
19. Precise (5)
20. Profound (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.

DEAD
Hand out cards
Twin
Uninspiring
Wrench
Survey
POOL

NINER

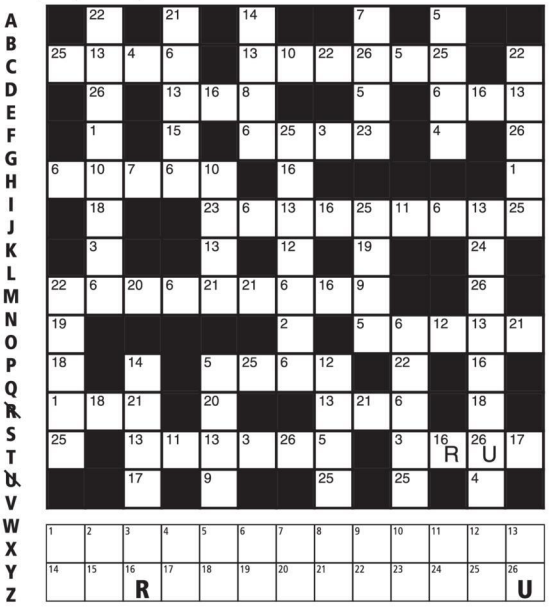
Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

15338174 gives a flower;
926642 gives a plant;
159124789 gives a weed.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

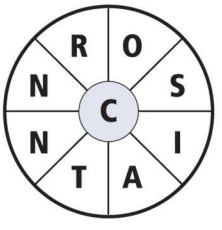
CODEWORD

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.



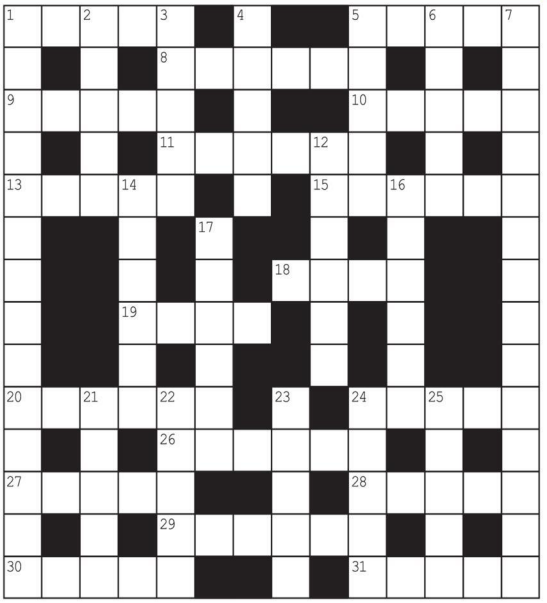
WORDWHEEL

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
15 words: average
25 words: good
35 words: very good
40 or more: excellent.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1, 18 Across & 23 Down Famous book by Nevil Shute (1,4,4,5)
5 American carnivore related to the racoons (5)
8 --- Arnaud, comedy actress after whom a theatre is named (6)
9 Surname of the inventor of dynamite (5)
10 Type of light boat (5)
11 Canadian capital, once known as Bytown (6)
13 Closely woven, lustrous, silk fabric (5)
15 Covered passageway with shops (6)
18 See 1 Across
19 An insignificant part, a jot (4)
20 See 5 Down
24 See 14 Down
26 God of the winds in Greek myths (6)
27 A young eel (5)
28 Yachting centre on the Isle of Wight (5)
29 Genus that includes the wattles (6)
30 Kind of Dutch blue and white pottery (5)
31 Letters or characters of the earliest Teutonic alphabet (5)

DOWN

1 In Dickens's novel, the second wife of David Copperfield (5,9)
2 Path in space round a heavenly body (5)
3 Synthetic textile fabric (5)
4 General and founder of the Salvation Army (5)
5 & 20 Across Belgian composer known for his religious works (5,6)
6 Tropical genus that includes the custard apple and sweet-sop (5)
7 Painters such as Manet, Monet, Degas and Renoir (14)
12 Large North American deer (6)
14 & 24 Across Large expanse of water lying between Africa and Australia (6,5)
16 A clergyman (5)
17 Body of people entering into an organisation, new recruits (6)
21 Incus of the ear (5)
22 Measure of weight for precious stones (5)
23 See 1 Across
24 Annual cinema award, in various fields (5)
25 King of Northumbria from 617-633 (5)

SOLUTIONS

Sudoku

Easy

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

Hard

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

Ladder

Dead, Deal, Dual, Dull, Pull, Poll, Pool.

Codeword

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

Wordwheel

CONSTRAIN

Pathfinder

Roger Federer, Gaëtine Maugunza, Björn Borg, Chris Evert, Rod Laver, Steffi Graf, Pete Sampras, Lindsay Davenport, Goran Ivanisevic, Evonne Goolagong, Rafael Nadal, Martina Hingis, Stefan Edberg, Marion Bartoli, Andy Murray, Venus Williams, John McEnroe, Serena Williams, Pat Cash

Niner

DEFLATION

Crossword

Across: 1 Preference; 7 Eject; 8 Plainer; 10 Exterior; 11 Less; 13 Tussle; 15 Portal; 17 Beer; 18 Prospect; 21 Express; 22 Bravo; 23 Despondent. Down: 1 Plear; 2 Entirely; 3 Employ; 4 Elan; 5 Consent; 6 Detestable; 9 Resolution; 12 Possible; 14 Steeple; 16 Prison; 19 Exact; 20 Deep.

General Knowledge Crossword

ACROSS: 1 A Town; 5 Coati; 8 Yvonne; 9 Nobel; 10 Sloop; 11 Ottawa; 13 Satin; 15 Arcade; 18 Like; 19 Iota; 20 Franck; 24 Ocean; 26 Aeolus; 27 Elver; 28 Cowes; 29 Acacia; 30 Delft; 31 Runes. DOWN: 1 Agnes Wickfield; 2 Orbit; 3 Nylon; 4 Booth; 5 Cesar; 6 Anona; 7 Impressionists; 12 Wapiti; 14 Indian; 16 Cleric; 17 Intake; 21 Anvil; 22 Carat; 23 Alice; 24 Oscar; 25 Edwin.

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New green scheme for BYD

BYD, the world's leading manufacturer of new energy vehicles, has joined forces with Octopus Energy, the UK's largest energy supplier, to announce the launch of the Power Pack Bundle – the UK's first vehicle-to-grid (V2G) bundle – and it's a gamechanger for EV drivers.

Announced at Octopus Energy's Energy Tech Summit, the Power Pack Bundle will include a leased V2G-ready BYD Dolphin, a V2G Zaptec Pro charger and access to a smart tariff that offers completely free charging at home.

This means typical EV drivers can slash their bills by £620 a year compared to charging on a standard variable tariff – and save almost £1,000 compared to fuelling up a gas-guzzler.

V2G makes EVs work as a battery on wheels - both charging and sending power back to the grid at peak times, reducing the need for having to turn on dirty fossil fuel plants.

The Power Pack Bundle uses Octopus Energy Group's tech platform, Kraken, to unlock these savings for customers and make things as simple as possible.

All drivers need to do is plug in their car most nights and let the tech do the rest. The fully automated process leaves drivers with guaranteed free charging at home for all the miles in their lease.

This is the first time V2G tech has gone commercial in the UK, thanks to the BYD Dolphin's market-leading technology. With more V2G-ready cars coming soon, hundreds of thousands of EVs could soon act as mini power stations.

Octopus and BYD have also partnered with Motability Operations to make the V2G technology available to disabled people across the UK – ensuring low-cost electric driving is accessible to all.

Stella Li, Executive Vice President of BYD, said: "We're thrilled to officially launch our V2G project with Octopus Energy and Kraken.

"BYD is fully committed to making intelligent, innovative, sustainable technologies available to our customers, and this project will allow them to unlock the full potential of electric vehicles - not just as transport but as dynamic assets that can play a key role in supporting the grid.

"Together with Octopus Energy, we're enabling EV owners to play an active role in the energy ecosystem, reducing costs and increasing the resilience of renewable power systems."

Greg Jackson, Founder of Octopus Energy Group, said: "V2G is the game-changer for drivers and the grid. For the first time ever, drivers can effortlessly power their homes and help the grid – and drive for free in return. V2G is here, available at scale, and ready to revolutionise our entire energy system."

Andrew Miller, Chief Executive of Motability Operations, said: "It's great to see V2G technology becoming available at scale – effectively turning EVs into energy assets that can help power homes and support the grid.

"We're proud to be part of a pilot that's not only breaking new ground in energy, but also ensuring the benefits are accessible to disabled people across the UK."

The Power Pack Bundle will be available later this year.

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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:

KNOB HILL, STRETTON-ON-DUNSMORE

Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.
Reason for Order: To enable works to install a hydrant.
Order Commences: 30 June 2025 for up to 18 months
Anticipated Completion: 2 July 2025
Access & Diversion: Fosse Way, Brookside, Knob Hill and vice versa.
Contractor: Chevron TM Ltd, Tel: 0330 008 0820.

CRICK ROAD, HILLMORTON, RUGBY

Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.
Reason for Order: To enable detailed bridge examination, overnight 2300-0600hrs.
Order Commences: 28 June 2025 for up to 18 months
Anticipated Completion: 29 June 2025
Access & Diversion: Crick Road, A5 Watling Street, Central Park Drive, Newbold Road, Evreux Way, Corporation Street, Warwick Street, Lawrence Sheriff Street, Hillmorton Road, Ashlawn Road, High Street and vice versa.
Contractor: Centurion TM, Tel: 0113 277 5360.

VARIOUS ROAD, RUGBY, WARWICKSHIRE

Order Effect: The roads, as indicated below, will be closed to vehicular traffic:

Roads	Area
Hillmorton Road	Rugby
Lawrence Sheriff Street & Sheep Street	Caldecott, Rugby
Market Street, Regent Place, Albert Street, Albert Square, James Street, Henry Street, Regent Street & Bank Street	Benn, Rugby
North Street, Park Road, James Walk & Church Street	Newbold Rugby
Park Walk	Rugby

Reason for Order: The closures and restrictions are required for the safety of the public and of the participants in the Rugby 5k Fun Run.
Order Commences: 6 July 2025 for 1 day
Access & Diversion: Diversions will be appropriately signed.
Contact: Tom Kittendorf, Rugby Borough Council Tel: 01788 533749.

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

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

THE WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (MOORS LANE, HOULTON) (PROHIBTION OF VEHICLE MOVEMENTS) ORDER 2025

Warwickshire County Council has made the above named Order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which is to impose a prohibition of motor vehicle movements on the length of road mentioned in the Schedule below. The Order commences on 30th June 2025.

A copy of the Order, together with a plan showing the length of road affected and a statement of the Council's reasons for proposing to make the Order, may be inspected at the Main Reception, Shire Hall, Market Place, Warwick during usual opening hours and online at: https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/20208/rugby-borough.

If you do not have access to the internet, printed copies of the proposed Order and supporting documentation can be obtained by contacting 01926 410410.

Any person who desires to question the validity of the Order or of any provision contained in it on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or on the grounds that any requirement of that Act or of any instrument made under it has not been complied with in relation to the Order may within six weeks from the date of the making of the Order apply to the High Court for this purpose.

SCHEDULE

1. The schedule should be read in conjunction with Plan Ref. PTR021-016-01A.
2. Moors Lane, Houlton – Prohibition of Motor Vehicles

(i) From a point 260 metres north of its junction with A428 Crick Road, north-westwards for a distance of 445 metres.

S Duxbury, Assistant Director of Governance & Policy, Shire Hall, Warwick, CV34 4RL **Date 26 June 2025**

PUBLIC NOTICES

Warwickshire County Council

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

Warwickshire County Council has made the following Temporary Traffic Orders:

HARBURY LANE, BISHOPS ITCHINGTON

Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic from its junction with Oakley Wood Road.
Reason for Order: To enable safe access the underground structure for new cabling.
Order Commences: 30 June 2025 for up to 18 months
Anticipated Completion: 9 July 2025
Access & Diversion: Tachbrook Road, High Street, Radford Road, Southam Road, Fosse Way, Harbury Lane and vice versa
Contractor: Sunbelt Rentals Ltd, Tel: 03700 500 792.

THORN WAY, LONG ITCHINGTON

Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.
Reason for Order: To enable works for installation of a boundary box and meter.
Order Commences: 3 July 2025 for up to 18 months
Anticipated Completion: 4 July 2025
Access & Diversion: There is no available diversion.
Contractor: Chevron TM Ltd, Tel: 0330 008 0820.

POPLAR ROAD, BISHOPS ITCHINGTON

Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic from a point outside property number 19.
Reason for Order: To enable works to install a new gas connection.
Order Commences: 28 June 2025 for up to 18 months
Anticipated Completion: 29 June 2025
Access & Diversion: Chapel Street, Fisher Road, Poplar Road and vice versa.
Contractor: Cadent Gas, Tel: 0800 111 999.

HARBURY ROAD, LADBROKE

Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic from outside Barry Chin Associates Ltd.
Reason for Order: To enable safe access for overhead cabling works.
Order Commences: 1 July 2025 for up to 18 months
Anticipated Completion: 1 July 2025
Access & Diversion: Harbury Road, Church Road, School Lane, Banbury Road, Southam Road, Leamington Road, Kineton Road, Station Road and vice versa.
Contractor: Sunbelt Rentals Ltd, Tel: 03700 500 792.

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

THE NOOK, PRIORS MARSTON

Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.
Reason for Order: Works for boundary box installation.
Order Commences: 17 July 2025 for up to 18 months
Anticipated Completion: 18 July 2025
Access & Diversion: No diversion available.
Contractor: Chevron Traffic Management Ltd, Tel: 0330 008 0820

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, Assistant Director of Governance & Policy, Shire Hall, Warwick, CV34 4RL **Date 26 June 2025**

PUBLIC NOTICES

WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

PROPOSAL TO INCREASE CAPACITY TO 1400 PUPILS AND ESTABLISH RESOURCED PROVISION AT THE AVON VALLEY SCHOOL AND PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Warwickshire County Council intends to increase capacity and establish resourced provision at The Avon Valley School and Performing Arts College.
Name, address of proposer: Warwickshire County Council, Access to Education, Shire Hall, Warwick CV34 4RL
Name, address of school: The Avon Valley School and Performing Arts College, Newbold Road, Rugby, CV21 1EH
Proposal: To increase the capacity of The Avon Valley School from 1100 pupils to 1400 pupils and to establish resourced provision for 20 pupils. The full proposal and details of how to comment can be found at
https://ask.warwickshire.gov.uk/schools/avon-valley
Alternatively, copies of the proposal can be obtained by emailing
schoolorganisation@warwickshire.gov.uk or writing to Education Sufficiency, Shire Hall, Warwick, CV34 4RL. The deadline for comments is Sunday 20th July 2025.

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 SECTION 257
RUGBY BOROUGH COUNCIL
THE BOROUGH OF RUGBY (PART OF FOOTPATH R168Y) PUBLIC PATH ORDER 2025

On 18 June 2025 the Rugby Borough Council confirmed the above named Order.

The effect of the Order as confirmed will: -

Stop up the footpath from point A grid reference 446290 272230 south easterly for approximately 494 metres to Point B grid reference 446578 271830 and create a new footpath from Point D grid reference 446308 272296 on Bridleway R168x east for approximately 172 metres to Point E grid reference 446479 272300 turning south for approximately 216 metres to Point F grid reference 446513 272094 curving slightly for approximately 19 metres to Point G grid reference 446514 272076 then south for approximately 261 metres Point C grid reference 446491 271821

A copy of the Order and the order map may be seen free of charge at the Town Hall, Evreux Way, Rugby weekdays. It can also be viewed on the Council's website at: www.rugby.gov.uk/w/notices-of-confirmed-public-path-orders. Copies of the Order and map may be purchased at the price of £5.00.

The Order comes into force on 23 June 2025 but if any person aggrieved by the Order desires to question the validity thereof or of any provision contained in it on the ground that is not within the powers of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, or on the ground that any requirement of that Act or any regulation made thereunder has not been complied with in relation to the confirmation of the order, he or she may apply to the High Court for any of these purposes under section 287 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 within 6 weeks from the date on which notice is first published as required by paragraph 8 of Schedule 14 to that Act.

Dated 26 June 2025

Authorised officer on behalf the Council
The Officer appointed for this purpose

PUBLIC NOTICES

LICENSING ACT 2003 - Public Notice

Windmill Hill Brewing Co Ltd is applying for the variation of a Premises Licence for **Unit 14, Victoria Business Centre, Neilston Street, Leamington Spa, CV31 2AZ**

If granted the application will allow the following licensable activities to take place: **1) To replace the wording in our license operating schedule with the new wording on this variation application. 2). To add the provision of regulated entertainment by way of showing films. 3) To increase our alcohol sales and opening hours to 09:00 - 23:00 (Monday - Saturday) and 12:00 - 22:00 on Sundays.**

Any person wishing to make representations in relation to this application may do so by writing to the Licensing Authority:
Warwick District Council
Licensing, Town Hall Parade
Royal Leamington Spa
Warwickshire CV32 4AT
licensing@warwickdc.gov.uk

Representations may only be made for 28 consecutive days from the date of this Notice.

A copy of the application for the grant of the above licence is kept by the Licensing Authority at the above address. The application can be viewed Monday to Thursday 9.00 am to 5.00 pm, and 9.00 am to 4.30 pm on Fridays, except Bank Holidays.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. The maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for making a false statement is a Level 5 fine on the Standard Scale.

25th June 2025

PUBLIC NOTICES

Warwickshire County Council

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

Warwickshire County Council has made the following Temporary Traffic Orders:

ROCK LANE, CORLEY

Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.
Reason for Order: Works to lay duct in the carriageway and verge.
Order Commences: 1 July 2025 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 14 July 2025
Access & Diversion: Bennetts Road North, Highfield Lane, Tamworth Road and vice versa.
Contractor: Callan Connect, Tel: 0121 327 5167.

BURROW HILL LANE, CORLEY

Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic from its junction with Rock Lane.
Reason for Order: To enable duct laying works.
Order Commences: 1 July 2025 for up to 18 months
Anticipated Completion: 14 July 2025
Access & Diversion: Bennetts Road North, Rock Lane and vice versa.
Contractor: Callan Connect, Tel: 0121 327 5167.

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

MAIN STREET, BRANDON

Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.
Reason for Order: To safely enable works for small sluice valve renewal.
Order Commences: 15 July 2025 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 17 July 2025
Access & Diversion: Station Road, Main Street and vice versa.
Contractor: Chevron Traffic Management Ltd, Tel: 0330 008 0820.

CHURCH LANE, LITTLE LONDON, FILLONGLEY

Order Effect: Road closed between its junction with Nuneaton Road.
Reason for Order: Works to lay duct in the carriageway and verge.
Order Commences: 15 July 2025 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 18 July 2025
Access & Diversion: Nuneaton Road, Coventry Road and vice versa.
Contractor: Callan Connect, Tel: 0121 327 5167.

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, Assistant Director of Governance & Policy, Shire Hall, Warwick CV34 4RL **Date 26 June 2025**

PUBLIC NOTICES

VERA MAY SPURRIER (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 Youell Court Residential Home Skipworth Road Binley Coventry, CV3 2XA, who died on 07/04/2025, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 28/08/2025, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.
WARD & RIDER, 2 Manor Yard New Union Street Coventry CV1 2PH

BARRY CHARLES STREET (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 7 Furness Close Rugby Warwickshire, CV21 1QE, who died on 10/04/2025, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 28/08/2025, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.
Brethertons LLP, Montague House 2 Clifton Road Rugby Warwickshire, CV21 3PX

ANNOUNCEMENTS

IN MEMORIAM

GRAHAM FULLWOOD

Missing you so very much
and I know we will meet again,
sometime soon,
and that is a comfort to me.
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Love, Carol & Family
xxx

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SALES & WANTS

MISCELLANEOUS

RECLINER CHAIR electric rise & recline £169 Manual recline chair £60 High seated chair £40 Can deliver 07703 925662

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FERGUSON TX 14" TV Silver, Excellent condition, jut needs top box. Suit collector of Vintager TVs £30. Tel: 077510 25730

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LADIES M & S Classic Fully Lined Lightweight Jacket With Optional Hood. Light Turquoise. Hardly Worn. Size 12. £4.00. (1 Can Forward Photos If Interested) Tel: 07934132759.

LOG Splitter, Electric 150w 4T Triton. Good Condition, Split log 370 mm length £80 Tel: 07973 725985

GREY 3 piece suite and foot stool made by next £350 phone number 01905863132

TWO G Plan leather sofas (viola colour, reddish) vgc condition. £60 ono. photo available. 01299 407393

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Gold again for Henry at World Cup in Italy

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

ROWING: LAUREN Henry insists there is more to come after winning World Rowing Cup gold for Great Britain in Varese, Italy.

Henry dominated the women's single sculls event to win gold by more than eight seconds.

The Rugby-born rower crossed the line in a time of 7 minutes 13.54 seconds as Germany took silver and China bronze.

Henry backed up her recent gold medal performance at the European Rowing Championships to stand on top of the podium again in Italy.

And Henry wants to push on from her recent victories and has already set her sights on the World Championships later this year.

Lauren Henry celebrates. Picture by Benedict Tufnell for British Rowing.

Henry said: "I'm pleased with that race. I kept it lively.

"There are still some things I want to work on with my coach Andrew to see how I can push on, there's certainly more to come.

"The single is a very physical race, but it's the same for everyone, so you just have to try and keep yourself as cool as you can.

"That's half the battle when it's this hot. And obviously, with the World Championships in Shanghai, we're going to have to get used to the sweltering heat."

The 23-year-old posted the fastest time of any sculler in the heats to qualify for the semi-finals in a time of 7 mins 20.53 secs.

And she shaved nearly five seconds off her heat-winning time in the semi-finals.

Henry crossed the line in 7 mins 15.94 secs to qualify for the final in the fastest time.

And Henry showed her class once again in the final, posting an even quicker time, to claim another gold medal in the single sculls discipline.

Henry will represent Team GB at the World Rowing Cup again in Lucerne, Switzerland over the weekend of June 27 to 29.

Valley confirm exit of top scorer Charles

FOOTBALL: RUGBY Town have confirmed the departure of last season's top scorer Trey Charles.

Charles has opted to leave Valley in favour of a move to their Northern Premier League Midlands Division rivals Wellingborough Town.

The 31-year-old scored 20 goals for Rugby last season despite the club suffering relegation from Step Four.

However, a late FA reprieve from relegation means Valley will again play in the NPL Midlands next season.

Charles said: "I just want to say a massive thank you to all the Valley supporters over the past season.

"You've made me and my partner feel very welcome from the very first day I joined as a Rugby Town player.

"You fans have been unbelievable with your support through what was an underwhelming season.

"I'm sure with the new management team and the positive news that Rugby have received a reprieve, the club can push on and give the fans and supporters what they deserve.

"Thank you for everything, see you guys soon."

The club have also confirmed the signings of midfielder Callum Griffin, attacker Rivel Mardenborough and winger Cairo Taylor as Grant Joshua continues to build his squad.

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