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Hopkins hits back after council axes comedy show

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

A STAND-UP show by Katie Hopkins at Rugby's Benn Hall has been cancelled over safety concerns.

The controversial political commentator had been set to take to the stage tomorrow (Saturday) as part of her Batsh*t Bonkers Britain, billed as a comedy show.

But the planned appearance by the former Apprentice star, who has previously been accused of making homophobic, transphobic, racist, Islamophobic and ableist comments, sparked anger from pro-LGBTQ+ and anti-racism groups who were planning to protest outside the venue.

That prompted Rugby Borough Council, which owns the venue, to pull the plug on the show following advice from Warwickshire Police.

An RBC spokesperson said: "The Benn Hall is primarily a family venue with many community events and activities from musical shows to antiques fairs.

"We want to support all our communities and their interests with safe, fun activities that everyone can enjoy.

"Since concerns about the Batsh*t Bonkers

Britain tour booking were first raised with us, we have taken advice from a variety of partner organisations, including Warwickshire Police, about the context and safety implications of this performance.

"We are aware of a planned protest on the evening of the performance with significant numbers of individuals and organisations indicating their intention to attend.

"Because we are responsible for event safety and cannot guarantee the safety of ticket holders or protesters, we have cancelled the booking.

"Ticket holders should contact the promoter for information on refunds.

"We understand the depth of feeling this matter has invoked. We will review the Benn Hall booking policy and debate it at a forthcoming meeting of the council."

Hopkins responded on social media saying RBC had not given her a chance to address con-



Katie Hopkins says RBC did not give her an opportunity to resolve concerns before it made the decision to cancel the Benn Hall show of her tour.

cerns before cancelling the show for which 480 tickets had been sold.

The 50 year-old was defiant saying she refused to be "cancelled" and "the show must go on" - and called for other venues to take up the booking.

She told her followers: "We've not been given an opportunity to discuss this and try and resolve it."

"We can provide security. Any protest we have we can make sure they're well looked after on the other side of the road."



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The royal organising committee - left to right - Philip Corral and Katherine Macdonald from English Heritage), Jan Cooper, Coun Ailx Dearing, Sue Law, Coun Alan Chalmers, Kenilworth mayoress Kit Lawry, Mark Lovegrove from St Nicholas Church and Kenilworth mayor James Kennedy.

Kenilworth is marking the 450th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth's visit to Kenilworth Castle in 1575. Picture by English Heritage.



Castle to mark Queen's historic visit

by Ian Hughes
ian.hughes@bullivantmedia.com

KENILWORTH is preparing for a right royal celebration this summer.

Townpeople will be coming together to mark the 450th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth I's 19-day visit to Kenilworth Castle in 1575.

The Queen's visit from July 9 to 27 was her longest ever to a courtier's residence, with a lavish programme of festivities laid on throughout her stay by her host



Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester. The centrepiece of the celebrations is the opening of a new immersive art installation at Kenilworth Castle by Lindsey Mendick entitled 'Wicked Games', which will be on display in the

Queen Elizabeth I arriving at Kenilworth as painted by John Brandard in 1865.

Great Hall of Kenilworth Castle until October 31.

It offers a new perspective on the relationship between Dudley and the Queen, which has been a subject of much intrigue and speculation through the centuries.

There will also be a programme of commemorative events and activities, put together by Kenilworth Town Council and partners, including English Heritage, Warwick District

Council, Kenilworth Carnival, Talisman Theatre, Coventry Cathedral Chorus, Kenilworth Allotments Tenants Association, Kenilworth Artists and St Nicholas and St John's Church.

Kenilworth mayor James Kennedy said: "The 450th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth I visit is a great opportunity for residents and visitors to come and enjoy everything our wonderful town has to offer and at the same time learn more about this fascinating time in our history and the immense pageantry and entertainment laid on for her by the Earl during her stay."

A commemorative brochure detailing Kenilworth's 450 anniversary events as well as a timeline and historical background to Queen Elizabeth I's visit is available from the library and public venues throughout the town or can be downloaded from the town council website - kenilworth-tc.gov.uk/450thanniversary.

Kenilworth residents and their friends/family have been invited to a special picnic where they will be entertained by A Book of Portraits, who will put on their own extravagant spectacle, inspired by Dudley's efforts to impress his Queen.

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Tommy's inspirational efforts lead to special Mayor's award

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

A DETERMINED Rugby teenager who is not letting his disability prevent him from achieving in life has received the Mayor's Special Appreciation Award.

Tommy Lloyd, 19, works as a trainee accountant for the Transforming Lives Educational Trust (TLET), based at Houlton School, and volunteers as a governor for Hillmorton Primary School - despite gradually losing his mobility as a result of Muscular Dystrophy.

His inspirational story caught the attention of Mayor Barbara Brown, who presented him with the award at Houlton School.

Tommy, who was diagnosed with the muscle wasting condition when he was just six, wants to encourage youngsters to believe they can achieve their dreams.

He said: "It's hard for young people anyway, let alone people with a disability. You have to focus on what you can do rather than what you can't."

"My life is a challenge physically and mentally so being able to work on something I really enjoy is important and motivating for me."

"I would say to anyone who feels like they can't achieve, they can - they just need to find something they enjoy and focus on that."

The former Henry Hinde and Ashlawn School pupil said he was very excited to be given the opportunity to train as an accountant - something he'd always wanted to do.

On receiving the Mayor's award, he said: "I felt proud that I was doing a good job. I love my job and the people I work with, and I feel grateful to be given the opportunity. I felt happy I was recognised by the Mayor as valued member of the team."

He took on the role as a governor at Hillmorton Primary because he wanted to make a difference to all children - but especially those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

He said: "I want to make the school experience better for children with disabilities. I know how hard it is to go through the school system with a disability."

"I like to have an input into strategic decisions. Even though I'm young, I'm lis-

tened to and my experience and views taken onboard.

"Primary is where the majority of children who have SEND needs are identified, so it's really important they get help as early as possible."

Mayor Barbara Brown said Tommy was 'a true inspiration'.

She added: "His determination to overcome the challenges he faces every day is matched by his ambition to make a positive difference to the world, both through his work at TLET and his voluntary role as a governor at Hillmorton Primary School."

"He's an amazing example of what can be achieved through passion and positivity, and really represents the best of Rugby."

Tommy's mum Hayley said she was 'bursting with pride' when he received the award.

She added: "It was such a boost for Tommy - he never stopped smiling."

Pride

"The mayor was fantastic and talked with such pride about Tommy. She's also keen to learn more about how TLET and Tommy have worked so well together so other employers can replicate this for other disabled people."

She said it was a shock when he was diagnosed with Muscular Dystrophy.

"I was told my young child's muscles would waste away and he would use a wheelchair by his mid teens. It was like all my dreams about his future were taken away in that moment."

"Over the years Tommy's mobility has worsened and it's hard to see him unable to do things he was once able to do."

But she is now 'in awe' of how hardworking, caring and positive he is.

"I'm so proud of Tommy and everything he's achieved. I see how hard daily things are for him just moving around but he finds the motivation to carry on."

"He's always wanted to be an accountant - he loves spreadsheets - so to get this position has been fantastic, I couldn't be happier."

"He deserves the opportunity to fulfil his dreams, just like anyone else."

Tommy is encouraging young people to become a school governor and make a difference.

Visit www.warwickshire.gov.uk/becomeagovernor for more information.



Tommy is presented with the Mayor's Achievement Award by Mayor Barbara Brown (centre) as proud mum Hayley looks on. Picture by Marcus Mingins 2825003MMR1



Tommy says he loves his job and the people he works with as a trainee accountant at Houlton School. Picture by Marcus Mingins 2825003MMR4



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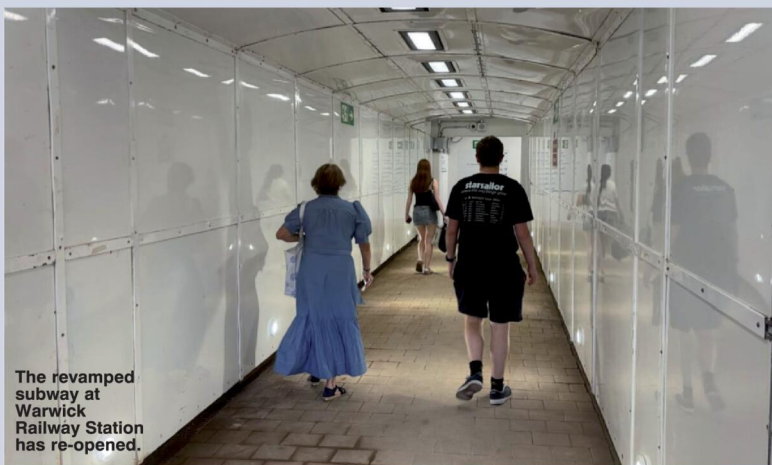
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The revamped subway at Warwick Railway Station has re-opened.

Station subway open again

THE SUBWAY at Warwick Railway Station has reopened.

The revamped subway, linking platform 1 to 2, had been closed since September as part of the station accessibility upgrades.

For just over a year, Network Rail and its contractor have been on-site to install two new lifts, made possible by Government funding through the Access to All fund, which will help passengers with reduced mobility, families with prams, and those carrying heavy luggage access both platforms.

Engineers have been working in the subway and station building, excavating land and installing over 50 piles across both platforms in readiness to install the new lifts.

While the subway was closed, it received its own upgrade, including a new entrance, hand-

rails, steps, CCTV, security mirrors, lights, tactile paving, and cabling.

Joe Flynn, scheme project manager for Network Rail, said: "Work on the lift installation project is progressing really well, with both lift shafts now in place. I'm really pleased we've been able to reopen subway access from the main station entrance and I'd like to thank passengers for their patience while it has been closed."

Attention now turns to the station entrance on the platform 2 side. Engineers will be widening the doorway, replacing the steps, and installing a new ramp. The entrance from platform 2 will need to be temporarily closed while work is continued this side of the station, so passengers will need to access the station from the main entrance on Station Road.

COVENTRY railway station has been brightened up with a £600,000 investment to replace its 27 skylights.

The refurbishment was made possible with funds from Avanti West Coast, Network Rail, and Railway Heritage Trust, who came together to give the 60-year-old skylights on platform one a makeover.

The previous skylights were dirty and at the end of their lifespan, having been built in the 1960s.

The new skylights consist of eight panels that can be individually removed to be cleaned, as well as having access points to the roof to ensure maintenance can easily be carried out, with new energy-efficient LED lighting alongside to reduce energy consumption.

Dean Duthie, engineering and infrastructure director at Avanti West Coast, said: "Walking along platform one, the work has made a remarkable difference where customers will see a more vibrant look and feel from the natural light streaming through the new skylights."

Federica Labanca, Principal Route Engineer at Network Rail Central route, said: "We're really pleased to have been able to support the fantastic station improvement project for passengers."

"At Network Rail, we take great pride in working with our industry partners to

preserve and enhance Britain's iconic railway stations whilst making sure they meet the needs of the modern day passenger."

There has also been new wayfinding signage installed, part of an ongoing transformation at the station after an \$82million purpose-built main building and multi-storey car park opened in 2022.

Coun Naeem Akhtar, cabinet member for housing and communities at Coventry City Council, said: "It's great to see upgrades like this enhance the station's architectural heritage while also meeting modern-day needs."

"The new skylights and signage absolutely strike that balance, helping to improve the customer experience while preserving the unique character of the station."

Avanti West Coast have also previously worked with Railway Heritage Trust to renovate the station's unique tiled walls and create a prominent display for the old steam train nameplate 'City of Coventry'.

Tim Hedley-Jones, Director of the Railway Heritage Trust, added: "Having clear natural light and visible signage for passengers waiting for trains is an important part of the customer experience and we are pleased to have supported this work with three grant awards."



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Reform select teen as leader

REFORM UK have selected an 18-year-old to become the next leader of Warwickshire County Council (WCC).

Coun George Finch has served as interim leader since June 25 following the resignation of former Reform leader Coun Rob Howard, who quit his post with immediate effect just five weeks after the party's success at the May local elections which saw it form a minority administration in Warwickshire.

Coun Finch, who represents Bedworth Central, is now hoping to get the backing of fellow councillors to become permanent leader in charge of the authority with a \$500million annual budget

He said: "As leader of Warwickshire County Council, I will spearhead the delivery of our comprehensive Road Renewal Plan, be at the forefront of providing better SEND services, and oversee Warwickshire's upcoming local government reorganisation, where I'm determined to give every Warwickshire resident proper representation at council level."

"In May's Local Elections, my colleagues and I stood on a promise of delivering



Coun George Finch (left), pictured with Reform UK leader Nigel Farage, is aiming to become the permanent leader of Warwickshire County Council.

meaningful change, and that's what we will do. As well as overhauling transport to properly fix our roads and delivering adequate bus services, we will be reforming education to help young people get into skills-based training and apprenticeships more easily. Warwickshire needs Reform, and with me as leader, Warwickshire will get Reform."

WCC's full council will meet to formally elect the leader of the council.

Coun Finch added that "in the interests of democracy"

he hoped the other political groups on the council would "not play politics with the governance of Warwickshire" and get behind the "only person with a clear plan for sustainable leadership".

Coun Finch has already made headlines nationally during his time as interim leader, and not just because of his age.

He has had a public falling out with WCC chief executive Monica Fogarty over the flying of a Pride flag outside the council's Shire Hall headquarters in Warwick.

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Pupils built and decorated bird boxes as part of Orbit's 'Eco Buddies' educational programme.

Natural enjoyment

NATURE-LOVING pupils at St Christopher Primary School in Coventry put their biodiversity knowledge to the test.

They took part in Eco Buddies, a free educational programme by housebuilder Orbit Homes.

The session saw pupils build and decorate their own bird boxes as well as learn more about biodiversity, why it's important, and what they can do to promote it.

The new 'Eco Buddies' also got an insight into sustainable construction and how Orbit works to integrate eco-friendly features into its new homes

and developments, such as hedgehog highways and bug hotels.

Kevin Tarn, Year 5 teacher, said: "Our pupils are very curious about the environment and love to explore outdoors so this was a very engaging experience for them.

"The bird box activity was a fun and creative way to get the pupils really involved with the idea of protecting the wildlife around us and we'd like to say thank you to Orbit Homes for inspiring our very own 'Eco Buddies'.

Visit eco.buddies@orbit.org.uk for more information.

Project will see 2,400 new trees

THE COVENTRY community, Citizen Housing and Earthwatch Europe have come together to plant 2,400 new trees in the city as part of the Tiny Forest Project.

The trees are being spread equally across four sites in Coventry - Foresters Road, Bell Green Road, Nickson Road and Thimble Road.

Local schools have volunteered to take part in the planting process as an extra-curricular activity.

Year five Teacher at Manor Park Primary School, Katy Moore, believes the project has brought her class closer to their community.

She said: "It's good for the children to connect with nature.

"They know this event has a purpose - bringing more green space to the community."

Elly Dix, Citizen Housing's head of estates and services, said they felt the project had helped lead to a positive change for their managed green areas, adding: "We decided to get involved in this project as it's a great of helping the environment.

"In each of these areas there is grass which we used to cut, but now trees have been planted, better use will be made of this land. This includes encouraging wildlife and people being able to use the area as benches will also be installed.

"It was also lovely to see pupils from Manor Park Primary school get involved in the planting too.

"We want to work with our partners to make a positive difference to our communities and this is a good example of this."

The project has been spearheaded by the Forestry Commission's Local Authority Treescape Fund with matched funding by TBL Fire Protection, Westfield Speciality Insurance and Redevo.



The process was supported further through resources funded by the National Lottery Community Action Fund.

Earthwatch Europe says it started the Tiny Forest Project to bring dense green spaces back to urban areas, giving wildlife space to thrive, mitigating the impacts of climate change and stimulating local communities.

Hannah Davidson, Earthwatch Europe's senior programme manager, said: "Green spaces don't have to be vast to make a big difference. Tiny Forests provide rich opportunities for connecting with nature and supporting local biodiversity."

Tree-mendous - Poppy Sharples from Earthwatch, Elly Dix, head of estates and services at Citizen, Ken Lindsay, grounds maintenance manager at Citizen, Shivangi Rose from Earthwatch and Isaac Chater, Darcy Anspach-Hollingworth, Yathnika Kanthan.



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'On the run' rapist given 22 years in jail

A 'DANGEROUS' Coventry rapist who went on the run to avoid arrest after he repeatedly abused an underage girl has been jailed for more than 22 years.

Scott Salisbury, 39, from Tile Hill, pleaded guilty to rape and causing a child to engage in sexual activity and was sentenced in his absence at Warwick Crown Court to 22 years and six months in prison.

He was also given a lifelong Sexual Harm Prevention Order and a lifelong restraining order against his victim.

Salisbury raped the girl, who

was a teenager at the time, on a number of occasions over a four-year period.

The victim, now an adult, bravely reported the offences to police.

Salisbury became aware he had been reported and attempted to evade capture.

Last December, following a 10-day search, officers arrested Salisbury with the help of West Midlands Police's Dogs and Drones units.

Salisbury made no comment when interviewed by officers from the force's Rape and Serious Sexual Assault (RASSO) team.

A West Midlands Police spokesperson said: "Our

investigation involving helping the female find the right support to empower her to face Salisbury in court.

"She courageously took to the witness stand at court to provide a personal statement.

"She was thanked by the judge in court, who also said Salisbury's absence from court for sentencing was failing to do the one decent thing he could do."

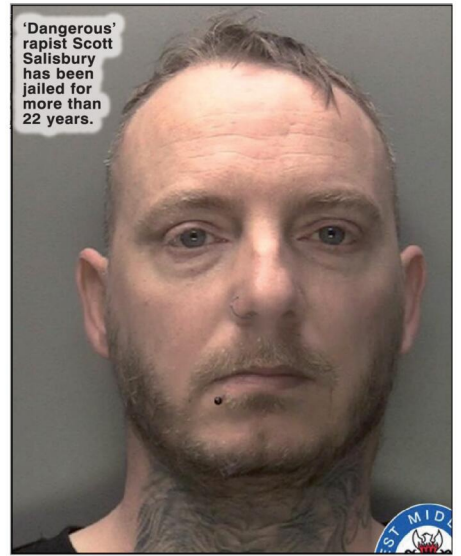
Temporary Det Sgt Evie Griffiths, from the Eastern RASSO team, said: "This was a truly horrendous case, and the fact Salisbury went on the run to try and avoid facing up to what he had done speaks volumes.

"Thanks to the victim's bravery in coming forward to tell her story, and put her trust in the police and criminal justice system, we have taken a truly dangerous sex offender off the streets.

"In the RASSO team, we investigate all reports of rape and sexual abuse, no matter how long ago they took place.

"We would encourage anyone who has suffered sex offences to come forward and tell their story."

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/mv8tnshb> for information on how to report rape, sexual assault or other sexual offences.



'Dangerous' rapist Scott Salisbury has been jailed for more than 22 years.



One of the new cells at Willenhall police base, described as 'far from luxurious' by Ch Supt Paul Joyce.

24 new police cells will help with growing arrest numbers

NEW police cells in Coventry will help officers cope with increasing arrest rates.

Willenhall police base has added 24 new cells following a major refurbishment over the past three months.

A West Midlands Police spokesperson said the new cells would help the force cope with higher arrest rates, with around 5,000 people arrested across the region in June alone.

They added: "In 2022, we had just four custody facilities across

the region but thanks to our investment and by working differently, we have more operational cells than ever before, across seven sites.

"The changes to the force's custody estate is all part of Chief Constable Craig Guildford's vision of creating a more balanced system focused on supporting front-line officers in making proactive arrests, while ensuring that all the elements of safer detention are sensibly facilitated."

Ch Supt Paul Joyce, responsible

for policing across the whole of Coventry, said the updated facilities would make a real difference. He added: "These changes are more than just about safe and secure cells, it's about Coventry Police's total operational effectiveness.

"While good, the facilities are far from luxurious. Custody remains a very challenging environment where we are responsible for many very vulnerable people with very complex needs.

"There are also legal require-

ments for us to provide certain facilities and to protect certain rights of detainees."

The refurbishment also included new interview rooms fitted with the latest digital interview equipment and CCTV.

As part of the works, adaptations have been made to help children, disabled and neurodivergent people who use the cells or work at the site.

This is the first refurbishment of the site since it was opened in 1995.



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LEFT: Hundreds of runners took part in the inaugural Love Rugby Festival Couch to 5K, despite torrential rain.



RIGHT: Ned Gilford was the first runner across the finishing line in a time of 16 minutes and 44 seconds.



Rugby MP John Slinger (left) and Coun Michael Moran (right) celebrated completing the Couch to 5K with Mayor Barbara Brown (second left) and Coun Maggie O'Rourke (second right).

Runners are streets ahead to end festival

TORRENTIAL rain failed to dampen the spirits of hundreds of runners who took part in the inaugural Love Rugby Festival Couch to 5K run.

The five-kilometre run started and finished in Whitehall Recreation Ground on Sunday July 6, with more than 500 runners taking on the course through the town centre past landmarks such as Rugby School, Caldecott Park and the Clock Tower.

Couch to 5K, part of the NHS' Better Health programme, aims to guide novices from the couch to running five kilometres.

The run formed part of the Love

by Andy Morris
andy.morris@bullivantmedia.com

Rugby Festival's celebration of sport in the borough, while promoting the festival theme of improving mental and physical health.

Rugby Borough Council leader Coun Michael Moran took part in the run and paid tribute to everyone who took on the challenge.

He said: "When I floated the idea last year of a Love Rugby Festival it always included a 5K run, so to see it in action and get the numbers we did around the town – in the rain – is simply brilliant.

"I know first hand how much time and effort colleagues across the

council have put into this, so a huge 'well done' to all concerned."

The Couch to 5K brought the curtain down on the first Love Rugby Festival, which comprised a programme of live music, theatre, art, heritage and sport to create a sense of pride in the borough, boost footfall in the town centre and celebrate Rugby's diverse communities.

Coun Neil Sandison, the council's Liberal Democrat group spokesperson for partnerships and wellbeing, said: "A big 'thank you' to all participants in this fun run and all the other Love Rugby events.

"It's been such a pleasure to welcome so many visitors and groups to our town."



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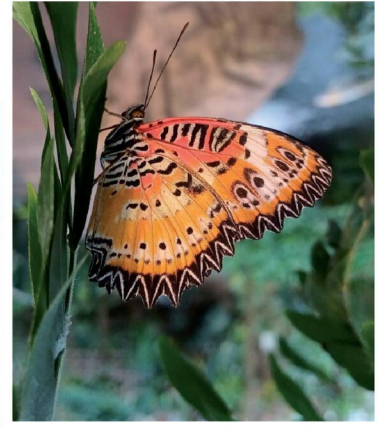
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LEFT: Clive Farrell releases the first butterflies. MIDDLE: The Butterfly Farm under construction. RIGHT: Over five million visitors have walked among the tropical butterflies.

A special anniversary and the Butterfly Farm wants your pics

by Philippa Mingins
philippa.mingins@bullivantmedia.com

STRATFORD Butterfly Farm is all aflutter over its 40th anniversary celebrations.

More than four decades ago Clive Farrell had a dream to create an attraction that would introduce visitors to the wonder of butterflies. This dream became a reality in 1985 when the Swans Nest Lane attrac-

tion opened its gates to the public, and 40 years on, remains the UK's largest and most successful butterfly farm.

Since then, over five million visitors and thousands of schoolchildren, have walked among the tropical butterflies in the live displays.

To celebrate this milestone, the Butterfly Farm is organising several special activities. The celebrations will start in July with an anniversary celebration, hosted by Clive.

And the celebrations will continue throughout the summer holidays which will include the launch of a new exhibition within 'Rainforest Realm'.

General manager Richard Lamb said "As we reflect on four incredible decades, we are grateful for the countless visitors, staff, volunteers, work experience students and supporters who have helped us reach this moment. "Whether you're a lifelong supporter or planning your first

visit, we would love you to join us over the summer holidays in celebrating this special year. Come and experience the magic, walk among the butterflies, and help us continue our mission of inspiration, conservation and education.

"What began in 1985 as Clive's bold vision to bring the beauty and magic of tropical butterflies to Warwickshire has grown into one of the UK's most beloved nature attractions".

The Butterfly Farm is also appealing to visitors to share their memories or old photographs from over the past 40 years. Photos and memories can be posted using #stratfordbutterflyfarm40th and location Stratford-upon-Avon Butterfly Farm or email them to marketing@butterflyfarm.co.uk

The best stories and images will be featured on their website and in social media with the winners receiving free tickets for a return visit.



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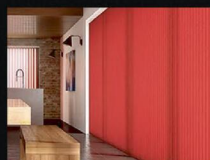
Special Feature



LEFT: Elsa from Frozen pays a visit. Pictures by Marcus Mingins 2825002MMR7. MIDDLE: Learning about Brooke's Forest School. 2825002MMR3. RIGHT: The Coneheads from Harris CofE Academy. 2825002MMR1.



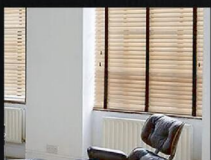
LEFT: Fun on the drums. Pictures by Marcus Mingins 2825002MMR9. MIDDLE: Cooling off. 2825002MMR2. RIGHT: The Bridge Street Band. 2825002MMR8.



VERTICAL



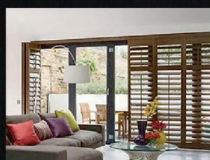
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Special Feature

All smiles after winning a prize. Picture by Marcus Mingins 2825002MMR4



Dancing at the silent disco. Picture by Marcus Mingins 2825002MMR6



Festival raises spirits and some vital cash

FESTIVAL vibes came to a special educational needs school in Rugby as it turned its annual family picnic into something bigger.

Staff at Brooke School put on Brooke Fest to bring the summer festival experience to its pupils - some of whom will not have the opportunity to attend the real thing.

Teaching Assistant Becki Williams led a team which spent eight months planning the extravaganza.

Families were entertained by Brooke's own school choir, Nathan and the Bridge Street Band, and students from Harris Coffe Academy who performed in rock bands and as soloists, dance routines, and an act from their current musical Bugsy. The New Testament Church of God Rugby Branch Choir also performed old

school classics.

Other highlights included a silent disco, splat the teacher, beat the goalie and several craft stations.

The event raised over £600 which the Friends of Brooke School will put towards new playground equipment.

Brooke School Headteacher Greg Williams said: "This was the most tremendous occasion and brought joy to many people. My only concern is that Becki is poached to run Glastonbury in two years' time."

Becki says she is determined to do even better next year, adding: "I've already phoned Oasis to see if they can make it in 2026, and I've also enquired if Ozzy Osbourne will come out of retirement one last time!"

More pictures opposite



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Crowdfunding project to help bereaved parents

A MUM-of-two from south Warwickshire is aiming to help comfort bereaved parents.

Emma Bishop and her husband Michael recently started selling copies of a baby hand and footprint book which Emma designed and self-published.

And now the Shipston-on-Stour couple have launched a crowdfunder campaign with the goal of raising £5,000 in 30 days to provide free bereavement hand and footprint kits to every neonatal

by Philippa Mingins

intensive care unit (NICU) and bereavement suite in the UK.

Every year, more than 2,000 families in the UK face the heartbreak of stillbirth, and countless more endure the loss of an infant in the early days of life.

Each Little Paws Big Memories kit costs £5 to produce and contains an illustrated print and ink pad to help families create a lasting keepsake when saying goodbye to a baby.

Emma explained: "This project is inspired by Dexter, a baby who was stillborn in 2024. His mum reached out to me on social media when she came across our book, and said she would have loved to have had something like that when Dexter was born. Her words stuck with me so I have been working on this campaign in his memory."

"Our campaign launched on July 1 and is part of a national competition for female-led businesses being run by Crowdfunder and



Michael and Emma Bishop are crowdfunding to provide free hand and footprint kits to bereaved parents. Picture by Marcus Mingins 2725009MMR

Muddy Stiletto, giving us the opportunity to win an additional £10,000 in funding — if we can rally enough community support. "We're a small, family-run

business based and this campaign is both personal and purposeful." Emma and Michael are also looking for support from local businesses in the

form of donations, spreading awareness or help with producing the products. Visit www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/littlepawsbig for more details.



From pot shots to pulling pints — Dennis Taylor with Hosoun Miah at Warwick Spice. Picture by Everybody Smile Photography.

Taylor's tales from the baize helps Molly Ollys pot £400

A SNOOKER legend helped rack up vital cash for charity in Warwick.

Dennis Taylor recounted his career spanning more than 40 years — including his epic battle against Steve Davis to win the World Championship in 1985 — during an event at Warwick Spice which raised £400 for Molly Ollys.

Supported by video, the Irishman looked back over his career both on and off the table,

including his 2005 Strictly Come Dancing appearance and BBC commentator status.

Dennis said: "It was great to visit Warwick Spice once again and sample the fantastic food cooked to the highest quality by the team. And with the wonderful bonus of supporting a fabulous local charity such as Molly Ollys. Thank you so much to everyone who came and supported them. It was a wonderful evening."

Rachel Ollershaw established Molly Ollys with husband Tim in 2011, following the death of their eight-year-old daughter Molly from a rare kidney cancer.

The charity works to support children with terminal or life-limiting illnesses and their families and help with their emotional wellbeing.

As well as providing more than 4,300 wishes to date, they donate therapeutic toys and books to

both children directly and to hospitals.

Rachel added: "Thank you once again to Hosoun and the team at Warwick Spice for inviting us to join them. It was great to listen to Dennis' stories and to have the opportunity to spread the word about Molly Ollys. The money raised will help us to fund another 48 books that we can donate to children to help them understand their treatment journey."

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Welcome cash boost will help more enjoy museum collection

RUGBY Art Gallery and Museum has secured a £25,000 grant to preserve its Second World War collection for future generations.

The Little Elborow Street venue was awarded the grant from the Victory 80 Fund, launched by the Government to mark this year's 80th anniversaries of VE Day and VJ Day.

The fund aimed to support museums across the country to commemorate the milestones, with Rugby Art Gallery and Museum one of only three museums in the Midlands to secure a grant.

Now the museum plans to enhance and expand its handling collections of Second World War and post-war objects to build on the success of the recent Good Times Roadshow, which visited care homes in the borough during April to hold a series of VE Day-inspired art workshops.

Thanks to the Victory 80 grant, the museum plans to take the roadshow to hospitals, care homes and hospices to hold weekly sessions with adults living with dementia, while also developing different sessions tailored for other hard-to-reach audiences, including neurodivergent children and adults living with blindness or visual impairment.

And the grant means the museum can improve the storage and care



of Second World War objects from the handling collections, and provide staff with training from the Alzheimer's Society to strengthen skills across the team.

The grant also looks set to fund research into the handling collections and the impact of national, post-war recovery efforts on the

borough - notably the founding of The Rugby Collection of contemporary British art in 1946 and how the war influenced the work of artists featured in the collection such as LS Lowry, Stanley Spencer and Leon Kossoff.

Phoebe Hilton, Rugby Art Gallery and Museum's senior learning and

engagement officer, said: "The Victory 80 grant allows us to expand and enhance the work of the Good Times Roadshow, while also revitalising our Second World War handling collections and preserving the objects for future generations.

"The roadshow allows us to work with adults living with dementia in

Rugby Art Gallery and Museum has secured a grant from the Government's Victory 80 Fund to preserve its Second World War collection for future generations.

their care setting, with the handling collections serving as a starting point for conversations and reminiscence, and the Victory 80 grant means we can now also develop Second World War-inspired sessions for different audiences."

The Good Times project was launched nearly a decade ago and currently runs once a month at Rugby Art Gallery and Museum.

The sessions aim to tackle loneliness and increase social interaction, and have been specifically designed for adults living with dementia and their carers.

RBC well-being spokeswoman Coun Maggie O'Rourke said: "The Good Times has been a groundbreaking project and the Victory 80 funding means we can deliver more sessions directly to care settings while preserving our Second World War and post-war handling collections.

"We're delighted Rugby Art Gallery and Museum was one of only three museums in the Midlands to receive a £25,000 grant, a fitting achievement in its 25th anniversary year."

The Victory 80 Fund was awarded by Museum Development Midlands on behalf of Arts Council England using public funding from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

Visit www.ragm.co.uk/good-times for more information about the Good Times,

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Volunteers urged to step forward to help the annual Poppy Appeal

VOLUNTEERS are wanted in Coventry and Warwickshire to help the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal.

The RBL is looking for new recruits in the county to help with the annual appeal, which runs every October and November to raise funds in support of veterans and the Armed Forces community.

In the build up to this year's appeal, the RBL is asking people living near the county if they could spare some time to volunteer for the charity, in areas including Rugby, Coventry, Warwick, Bedworth, Tysoe and Bidford-on-Avon.

Claire Elliston, the Poppy Appeal Manager for the Royal British Legion in Warwickshire, said: "We would encourage anyone who is interested in volunteering for the Poppy Appeal to get in touch with us to find out more."

"If you are looking for a more active part in the Appeal, we would love to have you as a Poppy Appeal Organiser. This role is crucial to delivering the Appeal in the county and includes distributing poppy boxes, organising a team of dedicated volunteers, and counting money. You will be fully supported in the role, including receiving training before the Poppy Appeal."

"If you are well organised with excellent time management, capa-



The Royal British Legion is looking for new recruits in Warwickshire to help with its annual appeal.

ble of leading a small team, able to build key relationships and have strong verbal and written communications, a Poppy Appeal Organiser role may be perfect for

you. Volunteering is a great way to meet new people, support your community and build your skills."

The Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal is the charity's largest

fundraising campaign and takes place every year in the run up to Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday. The money raised makes a vital difference to people in the

Armed Forces community, providing expert advice and practical support.

After 26 years in the army, including operational tours in Bosnia and Iraq, veteran Baz Seymour was diagnosed with complex trauma PTSD. This was compounded when he suffered a stroke whilst out running in 2020.

The 48 year-old said: "The Royal British Legion were there for me, they sent me to their Battle Back Centre where I did loads of activities such as archery, canoeing, rafting, things you never get the chance to do normally. But it was mainly about meeting like-minded people and rediscovering the camaraderie I had enjoyed in service."

"Without the work of the RBL's volunteers and collectors during the Poppy Appeal, this might never have been possible. Every penny raised during the Appeal goes to help people like me, so I'd like to thank those volunteers, from the bottom of my heart."

"If you can give them a few hours of your time, please do - it makes a world of difference."

The Royal British Legion can support with housing, debt and money advice, employment and physical and mental health.

Visit www.rbl.org.uk/poppyappealvolunteer or call 0345 845 1945 for more information about volunteering with the RBL.

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Focus on men's mental health

MEN across Warwickshire are being encouraged to talk about their mental health.

According to the BUPA Wellbeing Index, half of men have struggled with mental health difficulties at some point, yet fewer than half have sought medical advice. The Index also identified that just over a third of UK men admitted actively hiding their mental health issues from their partners, and three in ten surveyed said they did not know where to turn for advice or support.

Warwickshire County Council health spokesperson Coun Anne-Marie Sonko said: "It's really important to talk about your mental health with a trusted person. We know that men between the ages of 18 and 44 are less likely to go to the doctors with any health concerns compared to women.

"If you are struggling with your mental health, please do speak up and let someone know how you feel. Warwickshire County Council and partners are here to help you with advice and support."

Men seeking a safe place to share their feelings can get in touch with a number of groups set up with men and mental health in mind.

■ MENTalk is a weekly group session designed to bring men together to improve their well-

being. It mixes psychologist led sessions alongside professional sport coaches to encourage talking and taking up physical activities to help members talk about their own experiences of anxiety and depression. Visit www.cfcf.co.uk/community to find out more.

■ Men's Sheds encourage conversations, connections and creation for men of all ages, who are looking to improve their wellbeing, reducing loneliness and combating isolation. Men's sheds do this by getting members working on practical projects to help make, repair and repurpose projects in their local communities.

Visit www.menssheds.org.uk for more details.

■ The national campaign It Takes Balls to Talk, uses sporting themes to encourage men to talk about how they feel. The campaign's website highlights local mental health services available in Warwickshire that support with factors that can often impact mental health. Visit www.ittakesballstotalk.com for more information.

Warwickshire also has a host of mental health services that can provide advice and support. Visit www.warwickshire.gov.uk/mentalhealth to find out more.

Personal story spurs support over MND

SAM Tooze had only been married a few months when she was diagnosed with MND - but it has not stopped her helping others with the crippling condition.

At the most exciting time of her life, when she had hoped to be making plans to start her family, she instead faced a devastating, terminal diagnosis and a future filled with uncertainty.

Determined to face her diagnosis head on, Sam and husband Chris, made the heartbreaking decision not have the baby they longed for, instead focusing their attention on each other, and their relationships with their family and friends.

Sam told The Observer: "We decided not to have our own children. It was a massive part of my life, always wanting to have children, and for Chris as well. That was tough. But I've got an amazing relationship with my nephew and niece. They are both incredible with me and they never treat me any differently to anyone else"

The decision was not made lightly, and Sam and Chris went through a series of counselling sessions, both alone and together.

"After that, we went away for a week, and that's when we really spoke in-depth about how we felt. Thankfully, we both felt the same.



As the volunteer group leader and someone living with MND, she understands the importance of local support.

Matthew Cobble, head of volunteering at the MND Association said, "It's always truly inspiring when someone living with MND volunteers with the association. They have lived experience and a deep understanding of the impact MND has, so are able to work with their local community in unique ways. Sam's dedication is remarkable."

MND is a terminal neurological condition which affects the brain and spinal leaving people unable to speak, eat or even breathe. The MND Association supports people living with the disease across England, Wales and Northern Ireland and is the biggest charity funder of MND research in the UK.

The condition has been much in the news in recent years after rugby legends Rob Burrow and Doddie Weir shared their diagnoses and their subsequent efforts to raise awareness and funds for research into the disease.

Visit www.mndassociation.org for further details about the charity.

Sam Tooze, pictured with husband Chris, now devotes much of her time to supporting others facing MND.

It was the biggest decision of our lives."

Sam now devotes much of her time to supporting others facing MND and helped to establish her local MND Association support group, the Coventry and Warwickshire group as well as a new Rugby group.



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Arrests after police action targets drug operations

IT WAS a bad week to be a drug dealer in Warwickshire.

During County Lines Intensification Week, Warwickshire Police closed down three major drugs lines into the county, carried out seven warrants, arrested 14 people and seized more than £10,000 in cash, 158 wraps of class A drugs, and 424 cannabis plants.

They also seized eight weapons and four stolen motorbikes.

County lines drug criminals exploit some of the most vulnerable people in the community and during the intensification week, Warwickshire Police's safer neighbourhood teams visited schools and engaged with other members of the community, raising awareness of the signs of exploitation to prevent others falling victim.

Det Insp Pete Sherwood, from the force's serious and organised crime team, said: "It was a bad week for drug dealers in Warwickshire and across the country. However, we know this is an ongoing battle and for as long as drug criminals

are exploiting vulnerable people, we will continue to do everything in our power to make life as difficult as possible for them.

"Everyone has a role to play in tackling this type of crime and protecting vulnerable people. It's vital people are aware of the signs of exploitation and report their concerns."

Signs of exploitation include displaying aggressive or violent behaviours, often going missing from home or school and being found away from their normal area, unexplained money, clothes, designer wear, jewellery, gadgets or mobile phones, having multiple mobile phones, and new peer groups and/or relationships with unknown associates.

County Lines is a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks that export illegal drugs into other areas across the UK, using dedicated mobile phone 'deal lines'.

County Lines Intensification Week is a national week of action to tackle the problem.

Building suppliers are being urged to be on their guard against rogue traders.



Warning to building suppliers

SUPPLIERS of building materials are being urged to avoid falling victim to rogue traders.

Warwickshire Trading Standards has received reports that suppliers of fencing panels, roof tiles, plasterboard and other building and home improvement materials have been targeted.

Rogue traders order materials before luring the suppliers to remote delivery locations. On arrival, the suppliers are threatened and forced to hand over the materials without receiving payment, or are promised payment at a later date, which is never made.

In doing so rogue traders are making illegal profits out of both suppliers and customers.

Warwickshire Trading Standards is urging suppliers not to deliver to locations they feel uncomfortable visiting or, if they choose to, to take payment beforehand.

Suppliers are also advised to Google delivery locations before they travel and keep records of

any problematic deliveries, so they can avoid issues in the future.

And residents are also being strongly urged not to buy goods or services from unexpected doorstep traders, including those offering property repairs.

Warwickshire County Council communities spokesman Mark Ryder, said: "I urge building suppliers to exercise caution and due diligence by researching delivery locations, maintaining records of transactions, and requesting payment prior to delivery of materials when appropriate.

"A trustworthy trader never knocks uninvited, and we want to remind residents that it is not possible to distinguish a reputable trader from a rogue one at the doorstep."

Residents and traders can contact the Citizens Advice consumer helpline, 0808 223 1133, for help and advice. All complaints and enquiries from Warwickshire businesses and consumers are shared with Warwickshire Trading Standards.



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Advice on how to make life safer for those left at home



More than 500 referrals were made about children being left home alone last year.

AGENCIES including the police and children's services were alerted to more than 500 concerns about children being left home alone last year in the West Midlands.

Between April 2024 and March 2025, the NSPCC Helpline – which provides help and advice for adults with concerns about the wellbeing of a child – says it made 496 referrals to local agencies, following contacts from adults who were concerned for the safety of a child because of this issue. More than 4,000 referrals were made to agencies across the UK.

The NSPCC Helpline is anticipating an increase in contacts across the UK this summer from adults with concerns about children being left home alone.

In July and August, the service received 1,276 calls about the issue.

The charity says the summer holidays can be a particularly challenging time for parents as they try to balance the competing demands of

work and childcare. To cope, some adults might consider leaving their children home alone.

There is no legal age limit for leaving children, but the NSPCC recommends never letting a child aged under 12 years old be home alone.

Equally, if a child has expressed concerns about being left without a parent or carer, those worries should be respected.

For those young people who are ready to remain at home unsupervised, the children's charity has prepared advice to parents and carers.

Kam Thandi, head of the NSPCC's Helpline, said: "The long summer holidays present many parents and carers with a major headache about how they ensure their children are safe and looked after while also holding down a job.

"Trying to juggle these competing commitments can lead some to consider whether leaving their child home alone is a viable option.

"Even if the child is aged 12 or over it is still essential to check they

Tips for parents and carers considering leaving their child alone:

- Being home alone for the first time is probably going to be as worrying for the young person as it is for you. Try to prepare them by talking about scenarios that might take place and solutions, such as would they know what to do if someone came to the door?
- Ensure they have the emergency services and relevant contact numbers written down in case they can't contact you.
- Agree what they'll be doing while you are out, equally agree what they cannot do,

for instance cooking can be dangerous and should only be done by an older child.

■ Adults should be clear about what time they'll be returning and let their child know if their plans change, as well as checking in regularly.

■ Depending on the child, being left home alone can be a big change to get used to. It's better to leave them for a short time at first then build this up over time.

Further advice can be found on the NSPCC website, as well as a quiz to assess if a child is ready to be left unsupervised.

are comfortable at being left unsupervised and to also map out together what they will be doing while you are away and what they should do if something goes wrong.

"For additional support and guidance, the NSPCC Helpline and website has a wealth of information and expertise which parents and carers can also draw on.

Adults with concerns about a child can contact the NSPCC Helpline by calling 0800 800 5000 or emailing help@NSPCC.org.uk.

Childline is available for young people via phone on 0800 1111 and online, offering a 1-2-1 chat on the website.

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- 15th August - Top Gun (12A)
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- 22nd August - Mamma Mia (PG)
- 5th September - Wicked (PG)



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RSPCA calls on councils to ban use of goldfish as 'throw away prizes'



AN ANIMAL charity is calling on councils across England to ban pets being given as prizes on their land.

The RSPCA has relaunched its #NoFunAtTheFair campaign calling for the outdated practice - which mostly involves goldfish being handed out as prizes - to be banned.

The charity is urging its supporters in England to sign an email which calls upon their local authorities to stamp down on this practice to protect animals that otherwise often suffer as a consequence of being given away.

In England, the RSPCA is aware of more than 160 councils who have banned this practice - but the charity wants to see more sign up.

The RSPCA is ultimately calling on both the UK Government and Welsh Government to introduce outright bans on the giving of pets as prizes via national legislation - but local councils taking action is a great step in restricting the practice locally, and raising awareness about animal welfare.

New data obtained by the RSPCA has found that almost half of adults in the West Midlands are shocked that pets can still legally be given

away as prizes.

Goldfish are the animal most commonly associated with prize-giving.

Over the past few years (since 2020), there have been 53 reports (involving 400 animals) about pets being given as prizes made to the RSPCA; but the charity fears many incidents go unreported.

RSPCA campaigns officer Christa Harwood said: "Our list of councils across England is ever-growing but we're now calling on our supporters across the West Midlands region to help us call on their local council to take this important action and ban this practice on their land."

"There is clearly strong public support for councils to take action - but we still need your help to get the message out there. The more people who sign our action, the more councillors will get the message that a ban is needed - and wanted."

"Please help make a difference for animals and help us spread the word and take our supporter action to ban this outdated practice from your local area."

The RSPCA is also concerned that giving pets away as prizes

risks further damaging how animals are perceived by society.

Evie Button, RSPCA animal welfare expert, said: "We all want to see a world where pets are acquired responsibly, well looked after and respected. But sadly, many goldfish are at risk with their welfare hanging on the spur-of-the-moment result of a carnival game."

"Goldfish are easily stressed and often, fish won as prizes suffer miserably from shock, oxygen starvation or die from changes in water temperature, and many will die before their new owners even get them home."

"They're misunderstood pets - as they can make great companions; but can be challenging to look after and owners must do their research before they acquire the fish, not afterwards."

"Handing someone a sentient animal in a plastic bag full of water as a prize can clearly encourage individuals to not treat them as a sentient being, but rather as a worthless object that can be thrown away."

The RSPCA are calling for a ban on pets being given away as prizes.

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Public urged to think about use of water as situation worsens

WATER provider Severn Trent is urging its customers across the region to think carefully about their water use amidst this hot weather and hosepipe bans in other areas of the country.

The West Midlands is now officially 'in drought' following the third heatwave of this summer and temperatures which have soared above 30°C in the region in the last few days.

The National Drought Group (NDG) made the announcement on Tuesday as dry weather continued to impact water resources across England requiring water companies to take action to manage demand with the public being urged to use water wisely.

Since the group last met on June 5, the situation has deteriorated, with further areas, including the West and East Midlands.

Across England, rainfall was 20 per cent less than the long-term average for June.

June was also the hottest on record for England, with two heatwaves driving unusually high demand for water.

Water levels dropping

Reservoir levels continue to fall with overall storage across England at 75.6 per cent - Yorkshire has seen its water levels drop to 53.8 per cent. This has seen its local water

company introduce a Temporary Use Ban (TUB) - commonly known as a 'hosepipe ban'.

The National Drought Group heard that - without further substantial rain - some water companies may need to implement further drought measures, including more Temporary Use Bans (TUBs) to conserve supplies.

The Environment Agency expects and will ensure that water companies follow their drought management plans. Water companies need to step up their work to fix leaks and adjust their operations to conserve water.

We contacted water provider Severn Trent to ask if the West Midlands could be subject to water limits.

A spokesperson said: "Severn Trent hasn't had a hosepipe ban for over 30 years because we know just how important it is for our customers.

"It's why we have thousands of employees working around the clock right now to keep the water flowing.

"We're finding and fixing more leaks than ever before, investing record amounts in new pipes, and upgrading and developing new treatment works, adding hundreds of millions of litres of drinking water into our network.

"So, whilst we want to reassure our customers that we're doing



Environment Agency teams are actively monitoring river levels and are urging anglers, swimmers and boaters to remain vigilant. s

everything we can to keep the water flowing, we can't escape how hot and dry it is, and how little rainfall we've had this year.

"We experienced record levels of demand just last week and that's why, as well as doing everything we can, we're also asking our custom-

ers to be even more mindful of their water usage during this hot spell."

Think about water use

The public is being asked to think about how they use water at home as the less water they use at the

home, the more water there is for their local environment.

The National Drought Group is also asking recreational water users - such as anglers, swimmers and boaters to remain vigilant and report any environmental issues they see, such as fish in distress, acting as important eyes and ears on the ground.

Farmers are using water efficiently, supporting one another, and looking to trade water and welcome the support from the Environment Agency.

However, without further rain, the agricultural community are facing a range of challenges due to the dry weather including concerns about irrigation reservoir levels.

It is likely yields will be lower than last year, particularly non-irrigated grains and straw.

Environment Agency teams are out on the ground actively monitoring river levels, with staff working with the water sector to ensure there is enough water for the people and the environment.

Teams are also supporting farmers and abstractors with advice on how to manage abstraction during prolonged dry weather and low flows.

Fisheries teams are responding where necessary to protect fish which are struggling due to reduced oxygen or moving them if the river has dried up and they have become stranded.

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COMPETITION TIME.....COMPETITION TIME.....COMPETITION TIME.....

SUIT UP FOR SUPERHERO SUMMER AT WEST MIDLANDS SAFARI PARK

a Family Ticket to West Midlands Safari Park



West Midlands SAFARI PARK

This August, families are invited to suit up and celebrate wildlife conservation in heroic style, as West Midlands Safari Park launches Superhero Summer - a month-long adventure packed with action, education, and fun.

Running from 1 to 31 August 2025, this brand-new event is packed with competitions and entertainment, all focussed around the Park's five conservation partners and the animals they protect.

Guests can follow the Superhero Shield Trail, answering clues and completing exciting challenges to build their own superhero shield. Those who complete the trail will be entered into a prize draw to win a bespoke VIP experience for four.

Another brand-new feature is Eddie's Safari Superhero Show, a 20-minute interactive stage show full of games, dancing, and laughter.

Taking place daily at 2pm and 3pm, the show also gives families a chance to grab a "super selfie" with the characters, as well as learning about the Park's superhero animals.

Throughout the month, visitors can also meet the Park's very own superhero explorers, Eddie and Eliza at daily meet and greets and those feeling extra adventurous can take part in the Superhero Photo Competition by striking a pose at the themed photo wall and sharing it on Facebook, with the chance to win an unforgettable overnight stay in a Hippo or White Lion Safari Lodge.

For those inspired to make a real-world difference, the Conservation Station offers the opportunity to chat with the Park's own conservation superheroes, who will share more about the animals at the Park and the incredible work being done to protect wildlife around the world.

The event focusses on five incredible conservation organisations supported by the Park. These include the Lemur Conservation Association in Madagascar, WildCats Conservation Alliance in Sumatra, the Mali Elephant Project, Save the Rhino International, and the Global Penguin Society.

Through fundraising and awareness campaigns, the Park helps support each partner's vital work protecting endangered species and their habitats. Children can earn a special sticker by learning how they too can help, even from their own home.

Superhero Summer activities are included in the standard admission price and guests can book in advance online for the best prices, which also includes a free return visit.

For your chance to win a WMSP Family Ticket, so you and your family can enjoy Family Fun at West Midlands Safari Park, just answer the following question:

In which month is Superhero Summer launched?

Simply email your answer and your email contact details to:

Competitions@bullivantmedia.com

All entries must be in by noon on Thursday 24th July 2025

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Late penalty denies Angliss podium place

by Aaron Sutcliffe
aaron.sutcliffe@bullivantmedia.com

BLAKE Angliss saw his charge for a first podium finish of the 2025 British GT Championship season dashed by a late penalty at Snetterton.

The Coventry driver partnered up with Steven Lake for a pair of one-hour sprint races in the GT4 class racing for Mahiki Racing.

However, a late drive-through penalty for track limits infringements saw Angliss and Lake drop from second to fourth in their class.

Angliss said: "We've been chasing our tail a bit throughout the weekend unfortunately, looking to make progress on the car setup and fixing some small issues along the way.

"We made some good steps forward though and the pace we showed in the final race was hugely encouraging.

"I was really pleased with my stint in the final race, as it was my first chance to show my true pace.

"The car was feeling racy and I was quicker than the two cars ahead of me, including the championship leaders.

"It was just a shame we picked up that penalty, as we were on course for second in GT4.

"That first podium finish of the season will come soon though.

"Mahiki Racing and Ginetta have been working very hard with the car and we're starting to see the reward for that, so I'm



excited to see what we can do next time out."

Angliss returned to the British GT Championship for the competition's overseas race at Spa-Francorchamps in Belgium last month.

Despite qualifying to start in the top-six for both races, the duo had to begin the first race from the pit lane due to a last-minute issue with a wheel on their Ginetta G56 GT4 Evo.

And a malfunction with the light at the end of the pit lane, meant starting driver Lake sat in the pits for longer than required.

Lake eventually took to the track more than 20 seconds behind the back of the pack.

Despite the best efforts of both drivers, Angliss and Lake had to settle for a fifth-place finish in the Pro-Am class.

However, Angliss showed his potential in the second race as he charged through the field to rise up to third in class.

Angliss ended his stint at the 35-minute mark and Lake emerged from the pit stop cycle in second place overall in the GT4 ranks.

The pair appeared on course to finish on the podium, with a sizeable gap to the cars behind, only for a drive-through penalty for track limits infringements to drop them down to a fourth-place class finish.

The penultimate round of the British GT Championship season takes place on the Brands Hatch Grand Prix circuit in Kent next month (August 23 and 24).

Blake Angliss on the track at Snetterton. Picture by Jakob Ebrey Photography.

Young athletes star at Junior Championships

COVENTRY Paralympian Kare Adenegan raced for the first time since the Paris Paralympic Games at the National Junior Para Athletics Championships in Coventry.

More than 100 young disabled athletes from across England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland competed at the prestigious event.

The competition took place at Warwick University's Coventry Athletics Track as five-time Paralympic silver medallist Adenegan starred on her return to action.

She picked up three gold medals in the 100m, 400m and 800m.

Adenegan said: "It's really great to see the talent that's coming through, it's good to be able to encourage them and cheer them on.

"That's what I really like about this event, it brings together those that have been around quite a while but also those that are coming through. It's a great celebration of sport.

"Sadly, there's not enough races for para-sport, so it's really important to have an event on a good track, and also to have a variety of events for a variety of classifications.

It's an important part of the calendar for a lot of us." Activity Alliance hosted the event alongside England Athletics.

Activity Alliance CEO, Adam Blaze said: "We were thrilled to once again welcome athletes from across the UK for a fantastic event.

"Having seen the action first-hand, it shows exactly why accessible and inclusive opportunities are so important.

"The energy across both days was amazing. We celebrated not just those that won a medal, but everyone for taking part.

"We all should feel we belong in sports and activities, and the joy that was on show highlights exactly why we have to continue to break down barriers disabled people face when trying to be active."

A young competitor, Paris, won five gold medals in what was the 11-year-old's first major event.

Paris said: "I was very nervous at first.

"Then when I did my first race, I got the hang of it.

"My teammate gave me a pep talk, she said 'don't give up, you've got this!'."

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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:
CRACKLEY LANE AND BOCKENDON ROAD, STONELEIGH
Order Effect: Roads closed to vehicular traffic.
Reason for Order: Engineers to access overhead structures for cabling work.
Order Commences: 21 July 2025 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 25 July 2025.
Access & Diversion: Crackley Lane, Cryfield Grange Road, Kenilworth Road, Gibbet Hill Road, Kirby Corner Road, Westwood Heath Road and vice versa.
Contractor: Sunbelt Rentals Ltd, Tel: 03700 500 792.

Warwickshire County Council proposes to make the following Temporary Traffic Orders:
B4102 MERIDEN ROAD, FILLONGLEY
Order Effect: A 30mph Speed Limit will be imposed beneath the M6 Bridge on the B4102 Meriden Road from Newhall Green Lane, Fillongley to Wall Hill Road, Corley.
Reason for Order: For the safety of all road users and of the contractors working on or near to the carriageway.
Order Commences: 5 August 2025 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 13 August 2025.
Contractor: Vocon TM, Tel: 03333 448 308.

WITHYBROOK LANE, SHILTON
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.
Reason for Order: Works to replace telegraph pole in verge.
Order Commences: 7 August 2025 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 7 August 2025.
Access & Diversion: Withybrook Lane, Leicester Road, Withybrook Road, Main Street and vice versa.
Contractor: M J Quinn, Tel: 01515 478 800.

For all of the above temporary orders, pedestrian access to and egress from properties and land situated adjacent to the length of road to be closed will be maintained at all times. Vehicular access will be maintained where possible.
To report any problems with these works or for further details of our current & planned roadworks visit our website warwickshire.gov.uk/roadworksmap or call us 01926 412515.
S Duxbury, Director of Strategy, Planning & Governance, Shire Hall, Warwick CV34 4RL Date 18 July 2025

PUBLIC NOTICES

Warwickshire County Council

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
Warwickshire County Council has made the following Temporary Traffic Orders:
D2360 MILL CRESCENT, SOUTHAM
Order Effect: Road closed from opposite No. 59 to outside No. 72.
Reason for Order: Footpath reconstruction works, closed 08.00hrs-17.00 hrs.
Order Commences: 21 July 2025 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 25 July 2025.
Access & Diversion: No suitable diversion. Access/Egress to be maintained where possible to businesses and residents only.
Contractor: Balfour Beatty, Tel: 03452 415 302.

PUBLIC FOOTPATH F0889 MILL CRESCENT TO WELSH ROAD WEST, SOUTHAM
Order Effect: Footpath closed from its junction with Welsh Road West to Mill Crescent.
Reason for Order: Footpath reconstruction and associated works.
Order Commences: 21 July 2025 for up to 6 months.
Anticipated Completion: 25 July 2025.
Access & Diversion: Welsh Road West, Mill Road, Mill Crescent and vice versa. No access/egress for all users.
Contractor: Balfour Beatty, Tel: 03452 415 302.

For all of the above temporary orders, pedestrian access to and egress from properties and land situated adjacent to the length of road to be closed will be maintained at all times. Vehicular access will be maintained where possible.
To report any problems with these works or for further details of our current & planned roadworks visit our website warwickshire.gov.uk/roadworksmap or call us 01926 412515.
S Duxbury, Director of Strategy, Planning & Governance, Shire Hall, Warwick CV34 4RL Date 18 July 2025

PUBLIC NOTICES

Warwickshire County Council

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
Warwickshire County Council has made the following Temporary Traffic Orders:
CHESTER STREET, RUGBY
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic between Corbett Street and Abbey Street.
Reason for Order: To enable pipe renewal works.
Order Commences: 22 July 2025 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 24 July 2025.
Access & Diversion: Abbey Street, Cambridge Street, Hunter Street, Corbett Street and vice versa.
Contractor: Chevron TM Ltd, Tel: 03300 080 820.
LITTLE CHURCH STREET, CALDECOTT, RUGBY
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.
Reason for Order: Joint hole works in footway for new supply, closed 18.00hrs-07.00hrs.
Order Commences: 21 July 2025 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 22 July 2025.
Access & Diversion: Little Church Street, Market Place, Church Street, Clifton Road, Whitehall Road, Hillmorton Road and vice versa.
Contractor: Network Plus, Tel: 08006 783 105.

Warwickshire County Council proposes to make the following Temporary Traffic Orders:
GLEBE FARM ROAD, DRAYCOTE
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.
Reason for Order: Works to lay ducting in verge.
Order Commences: 4 August 2025 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 12 August 2025.
Access & Diversion: No diversion available.
Contractor: Galian Connect, Tel: 01213 275 167.

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 18 July 2025

PUBLIC NOTICES

Rugby Borough Council Town and County Planning Act 1990 (as amended)

Application Number R25/0581
LAND AND BUILDINGS ON THE SOUTH EAST SIDE OF DUNCHURCH HALL, DUNCHURCH
Building new buttresses to strengthen existing boundary 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 **8 August 2025**. Please note a planning officer would not be present.

If you wish to make an appointment to discuss the application, please contact the case officer.
Any person who wishes to make representation to the above mentioned Council about the applications should make them online - www.planningportal.rugby.co.uk (search for application number and select comment) - or in writing by that date to The Chief Officer Growth and Investment, Town Hall, Rugby, CV21 2RR.
If an application is determined by the Planning Committee, members of the public may have the opportunity to speak at the meeting. More details about public speaking are available from the Council or on-line at: www.rugby.gov.uk/speakingatplanning
For 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
MRTP/

PUBLIC NOTICES

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Inpost Distribution Limited of Neptune Industrial Estate, Owen Road, Willenhall, WV13 2PZ is applying for a licence to use Unit 4400, Harrier Parkway, Lutterworth LE17 4XT as an operating centre for 80 goods vehicles and 250 trailers.
Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Quarry House, Quarry Hill, Leeds, LS2 7UE, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representatives must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

PUBLIC NOTICES

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

VARINDER SINGH trading as **VINNI CONTRACTING LIMITED** of 36 Stoneyard Road, Coventry, United Kingdom, CV2 2HW is applying for a licence to use Site 1, Oben Road, Coventry, United Kingdom, CV6 6HH as an operating centre for 3 goods vehicles and 3 trailers.
Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Quarry House, Quarry Hill, Leeds, LS2 7UE, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representatives must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence
Utility Solutions Provider Ltd of Unit 8b, Pangon Way, Edhal, Coventry CV7 9QS is applying for a licence to use Unit 8b, Pangon Way, Edhal, Coventry CV7 9QS as an operating centre for 2 goods vehicles and 2 trailers. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Quarry House, Quarry Hill, Leeds LS2 7UE stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representatives must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

PUBLIC NOTICES

DOREEN LYNDA NUTTALL Deceased
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 anyone having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the deceased, late of Drover House, Drover Close, Rugby CV21 3HX, who died on 17/05/2025, must send written particulars to the address below by 19/09/2025, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests notified.
Elizabeth Moffitt c/o Rowberry Morris Thames Valley LLP, 17 Castle Street, Reading, RG1 7SB. Ref: Z5/1696



PUBLIC NOTICES

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

Classified

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

IN MEMORIAM

Margaret Eleanor Robinson

Passed away 22nd July 2020

Miss you so much Mum Think of you every day

Always loved you ...

Always will

Nite, nite Mum...nite nite

Love Martin



DEATHS

CUNNINGHAM

Stanley Davidson

Passed away on the 19th June 2025 aged 95

Is sadly missed by Angela, Sandra, grandchildren and their families.

The funeral will take place at the Avon Chapel, Rainsbrook Crematorium, Rugby On Wednesday 6th August at 2pm.

Family flowers only.

Donations in Stan's memory are to Cancer Research UK.

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MISCELLANEOUS

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

SET of 14 LH Golf Clubs Bag / Accessories Good Condition Taylor Made, Galloway, King Cobra £180 ono Tel: 07879015716

DEMIJOHNS, bargain @ £5 each. Can deliver locally. Phone Ann on 07516409225

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BLACK ash desk £15 L11.10 x H82 x D50 cms Tel: 07831 488658

MISCELLANEOUS

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FOR sale Stihl HS80 professional petrol hedge cutter good condition. £65 Tel: 07967401319

FOR sale Hood deflector bonnet guard protector for Kangoo Van (2013to 2021)boxed unused cost £40 - £20 Tel: 07967401319

HARRY Potter figurine, new in box. £10 Tel: 07813 706 158 (Shirley area)

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3-BIKE rear carrier rack (Auto Care) Still in wrapper, £20 Phone after 6pm 0121 742-4250

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UNISEX Mountain bike good condition £20 ono Cat Transport box new £10 ono 07541 576100

SET of 14 LH Golf Clubs Bag / Accessories Good Condition Taylor Made, Galloway, King Cobra £180 ono Tel: 07819015716

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Swimmers end season on a high

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

SWIMMING: RUGBY Swimming Club's artistic swimmers just missed out on defending their Combo Cup title despite claiming three silver medals at the prestigious event.

The club's artistic swimmers won three silver medals at Ponds Forge International Sports Centre in Sheffield.

And the efforts of the swimmers saw Rugby finish third overall to just miss out on defending the crown they won in 2024.

The 13 to 15-year-old Division One team of Emily Babb, Isabella Franks, Ayla King, Alice Pavlova, Isabel Strain, Ruth Ho, Sophia Myronova, Jemima Parkinson and Daisy Jenkins won silver with a dynamic routine set to 'Six'.

And the club's 13 to 15-year-old Division Two team also won silver for their energetic 'Beetlejuice' routine as Saranne Black, Amelie Jeary, Mellinda Bogdanova, Isobelle Watkins, Lucy Gates, Dorcey Townsend, Mabel Chapman, Ruby Shepherd and Aaron Lee stepped onto the podium.

In the 12 and under Division Two event, Lottie Wilkins, Sophie Croft, Caitlin-Rose Smith, Amelia Storr, Elsa Gaskin, Catherine Yu, Izzy Maglione, Seren Humphry, Jessie Slater and Emily Secher delivered a precise and energetic routine to secure yet another silver.

And Rugby's 15 to 18-year-old Division Two team of Chloe Barrett-Leafe, Rebecca Harper, Natalia Rodrigues, Sophie Henry, Georgina Stoddart, Isabella Flaig, Daisy Clark, Kara Duckett, Beatrice Banks and Poppy Jenkins placed seventh with their 'Gladiators' routine in a highly

competitive category.

The prestigious event attracted more than 30 teams and 700 swimmers.

Rugby head coach, Hannah Secher said: "I'm incredibly proud of every swimmer who competed at this huge event.

"Their commitment, teamwork, and passion were evident in every routine.

"The support from our families and fans was phenomenal - it really lifted the team.

"We knew the competition would be fierce this year, and our swimmers rose to the challenge with grace and determination."

The club's masters swimmers also took to the water at Ponds Forge in the National Masters Championships.

Rugby's masters combo team of Julie Bowler-Smith, Sandra Anstruther, Joyce Williams, Ruth MacCallum, Laura Bloomfield, Cathy Reekie, Annette Parker and Alison Richardson won silver with



a polished performance.

And MacCullum and Williams also won silver in the 60 to 69-year-old age group with a fine duet.

Bloomfield just missed out on the podium with a fourth-place finish in the 40 to 49-year-old

solo category while Bowler-Smith and Anstruther represented the club in the 40 to 49-year-old duet division.

Rugby's 13 to 15-year-old Division One team pose with their silver medals. s

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