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# Band on the run to help raise cash for vital cause

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

RUNNING up that hill - a Rugby rock band is raising money for a suicide prevention charity by running up one of the highest mountains in the country this weekend.

Steve Stetson, Karl Selickis, Matthew Higgins and Andy Dove - collectively known as The Soul Revival - will race up Snowdon, and back down again, in aid of the Ian's Chain charity on Sunday (July 27).

Drummer Karl says the idea began as 'four band mates joking around' - but quickly changed to 'something very serious and heartfelt'.

He said: "Initially it was just an idea from Steve to do a challenging run. But when Ian's Chain got behind the idea, that was the moment that we knew we had to complete it no matter what."

"Snowdon was the mountain of choice as we feel like the struggles of mental health replicate the daunting task of the run. It isn't going to be easy and is going to be full of ups and downs."

He told The Observer the charity was close to the band's heart.

"We have all been affected directly by the cruel reality of mental health," he said. "We have all suf-



The Soul Revival - pictured following their performance at this year's Rugby Bikefest - are hoping to scale the heights in aid of the Ian's Chain charity.

fered with mental health issues to some degree, and we have all lost friends and family members to this cruel disease. We all believe that the work Ian's Chain provides is absolutely outstanding."

He says the band are experienc-

ing a mixture of emotions ahead of the challenge.

"We are all very excited but naturally nervous," he said. "I don't think any of us are naive enough to go into this over-confident - we know it's going to be a mammoth

task, but a very rewarding one.

"Training has been really good, we've tried our hardest to run as much as we can while trying to lead busy lives. Most of us have young families and also have to factor in a busy gigging schedule. But run-

ning a couple of times a week while building up strength and resilience has been key for us all."

Karl is full of praise for Ian's Chain, which to date has saved over 200 people from taking their own lives.

"We hope that we can raise as much money as possible for such a wonderful charity," he said. "The work they do is honestly amazing."

"We also want to get people talking about mental health, which can be a taboo subject, and be able to raise enough awareness about the struggles we can all encounter."

"It's okay not to be okay, and there will always be someone who will listen to you and your story."

The band have already gone \$300 over their fund-raising target of £1,000, and hope to raise even more.

A spokesperson for Ian's Chain said: "These funds will provide training to make people suicide aware and enable them to signpost where necessary."

"This will save lives."

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Journalist, broadcaster and Mastermind host Clive Myrie is one of eight people to receive honorary degrees from the University of Warwick.

# TV presenter Myrie among eight to receive honorary degree from university

**BBC JOURNALIST Clive Myrie, author Tracy Chevalier, and YouTuber Colin Furze are among the University of Warwick's 2025 Honorary Graduates.**

by Ian Hughes  
ian.hughes@bullivantmedia.com

The university will award eight honorary degrees in total to people whose work has influenced global understanding, public life and creative culture.

Those honoured are:

**Baroness Catherine Ashton** (Hon DLitt) is a former UK Minister and the EU's first High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, where she led major international negotiations including the Iran nuclear deal.

She has held numerous government roles, including Leader of the House of Lords and Parliamentary Under-Secretary across several departments.

She was Chancellor of the University of Warwick from 2017 to 2024 and its first female Chancellor.

After being created a life peer in 1999, she was appointed Dame Grand Cross of the Order of St Michael and St George and Lady Companion of the Order of the Garter.

**Tracy Chevalier** FRSL (Hon DLitt) is a best-selling novelist whose works include *Remarkable Creatures*, *The Last Runaway*, and *Girl with a Pearl Earring*, which was adapted into a major Hollywood film.

She holds an MA in Creative Writing from the University of East Anglia.

She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and has served as Chair of the UK Society of Authors and President of the Royal Literary Fund.

Since 2015, she has been a trustee of the British Library and is an Ambassador for the Woodland Trust. Her novels have won numerous awards, including the WH Smith Fresh Talent Award and the Barnes & Noble Discover Award.

**Colin Furze** (Hon DSc) is a British inventor and YouTuber known for his imaginative engineering builds, including a hoverbike, underground bunker, and world-record-breaking inventions.

Originally trained as a plumber, his projects include the world's longest motorcycle, a 71-mph mobility scooter, and a motorised pram. His YouTube channel has more than 13million subscribers and 1.8 billion views worldwide. He is widely credited with making STEM exciting and accessible to young audiences.

**Clive Myrie** (Hon DLitt) is a BBC journalist and broadcaster who joined the BBC's graduate journalism programme in 1987. He has reported from more than 80 countries, covering major conflicts including Iraq, Afghanistan, Ukraine, and Gaza.

Since 2009, he has been a BBC news presenter and, since 2021, has hosted *Mastermind*.

His recent work includes Clive Myrie's Italian Road Trip and *Caribbean Adventure*. His memoir, *Everything is Everything*, explores identity and journalism. In 2023, he was appointed Pro-Chancellor of the University of Bolton and in 2024, Chancellor of the University of the Arts London.

**Talan Skeels-Piggins** (Hon DLitt) is a Paralympian, motorcycle racer, and former Royal Navy officer.

Before a spinal injury in 2003, he captained a county-winning hockey team, represented Cornwall in hockey and windsurfing, and served as a Royal Navy Lieutenant with deployments worldwide.

After his injury, he competed in alpine skiing for Great Britain at the 2010 Winter Paralympics and became the first paraplegic to race in an able-bodied motorcycle race. He is the founder of The Bike Experience charity and

now works as a motivational speaker.

**Dr Gemma Tetlow** (Hon DSc) is chief economist at the Institute for Government and a Warwick alumna with a BSc and MSc in Economics. She earned her PhD from University College London. Her career includes senior roles at the Institute for Fiscal Studies and as Economics Correspondent at the *Financial Times*.

She is an ONS Fellow, governor at the National Institute for Economic and Social Research, and chairs the Policy Advisory Board at the Centre for the Analysis of Taxation. She regularly comments on UK public finances in broadcast and print media.

**Mark Urban** (Hon DLitt) is a British journalist, military historian, and author with more than 30 years' experience reporting on international conflict and diplomacy.

A former Royal Tank Regiment officer, he was Diplomatic Editor for BBC *Two's Newsnight* until May 2024 and now writes for *The Sunday Times* specialising in defence and foreign affairs.

He has reported from Iraq, Afghanistan, Ukraine, and the Balkans and has written several acclaimed books.

**Professor Ekaterina Zhuravskaya** (Hon DSc) is an economist at the Paris School of Economics and EHESS, and co-editor of the *American Economic Review*.

A Research Fellow at CEPR, her work explores how political institutions, media, and economic policies shape societies, with a focus on development, conflict, and media – including social media's political effects.

She earned her PhD from Harvard and has received numerous honours, including the CNRS Silver Medal and a fellowship of the Econometric Society. Her research has earned international recognition and contributes to economic policy debates across Europe and beyond.

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# Tributes to campaigner Liz who 'spoke up for poor and oppressed'

**A MUCH-loved political activist from Rugby has died.**  
Liz Peck passed away on Wednesday July 16 at University

Hospital Coventry. Liz was active in local politics as a member of groups including Rugby Trade Union and Socialist

Coalition (TUSC), the Stop The War Coalition, and Rugby Against Racism and Fascism. She is remembered by former

TUSC colleague Pete McLaren, who writes:

Liz Peck was well known in Rugby and Warwickshire as a tireless campaigner on behalf of the poor and oppressed; she fought vigorously against war and was an advocate for peace.

Liz arrived in Rugby in the early 1980s where she remained for the rest of her life. She soon became active in local politics, joining a number of progressive, ecological and socialist organisations and campaigns.

I first met Liz when Rugby Stop The War Coalition (STWC) was set up in 2002. Liz vehemently opposed Tony Blair's invasion of Iraq in March 2003, and was amongst the Rugby contingent of around 100 who joined one and a half million others in London to oppose the war, the largest ever political demonstration in British history. We managed to lose Liz in London as she wandered off to talk to long lost friends she bumped into, something that was repeated many times on future protests!

Liz remained an active member of Rugby STWC, writing articles for its regular newsletters and helping to distribute them. She was present when we sent a delegation to lobby then Labour MP Andy King on his support for the invasion, and she was furious when he deflected it. She joined Rugby Against Racism

and Fascism in 2008. Liz was a leading member, helping to deliver leaflets to every household outlining the BNP's attempts to stir up racial hatred in Rugby.

When austerity began to bite in the 2000s, Liz was a founder member of Rugby Against the Cuts and played an active role in challenging local councils' implementation of public spending cuts. She attended regional and national meetings on our behalf, including the Peoples' Assembly held in London in 2013.

Liz was a fervent supporter of Rugby TUSC and was at the forefront of every campaign and every election we contested. When we began leafleting and talking to residents about Universal Credit on a regular basis outside Rugby Job Centre, Liz was always there and usually had something to say to anyone who dared not to take a leaflet, let alone join her in discussion!

Liz was a one-off, a life force. Her friends were 'little bunnies'; those she didn't like she was much less complimentary about! There was no halfway.

She will be sadly missed, not just by her adoring family and extraordinary number of friends, but also by the others whose lives she touched. I can't believe she has gone.

Pete McLaren, Secretary of Rugby TUSC 2011-2021



Rugby MP John Slinger raised the issue of persistent flooding in Brownsover at the House of Commons.

## Water supply boost is in the pipeline

LONG-awaited upgrades to the water network in a Rugby neighbourhood will tackle persistent flooding issues in the area.

Severn Trent Water has committed to invest £850,000 to replace old supply pipes in Brownsover to reduce leaks and bursts.

Work on the project is expected to begin before the end of September - firstly at Grasmere and Coniston Close - and is anticipated to last around 20 weeks.

The water supplier will also be upgrading pipes in Newton Manor Lane, with site setup likely to begin in the coming months.

The move comes following campaigning from Rugby MP John Slinger, who visited and spoke to residents, held a public meeting, wrote a public letter to the CEO of Severn Trent Water, and raised the issue on the floor of the House of Commons.

He said: "Residents had long raised concerns about ongoing flooding from burst water pipes and a lack of clear action from Severn Trent Water. Some have suffered repeated internal flooding.

"I've heard about the anxiety and upheaval caused by these incidents. I'm pleased that my intervention has helped break the deadlock and get things moving. While there is still work to do, this commitment from Severn Trent is a significant step forward.

"I will continue to monitor progress closely and ensure Severn Trent Water is held to account until the issues are fully resolved.

"This case highlights broader issues with the water industry and the way that residents can be badly affected through no fault of their own. I've raised broader concerns with ministers and will continue to do so."

Temporary traffic lights will be installed during the works, but access for homes, businesses and emergency services will be maintained.

For updates, visit Severn Trent Water on the Nextdoor app, or contact Severn Trent Community Communications Officer Gracie Lazenby at [mainsrenewalsupport@severntrent.co.uk](mailto:mainsrenewalsupport@severntrent.co.uk) or on 07977 141354.

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# It's time to try out a new sport

A PACKED programme of summer sports courses is on offer in Rugby during the school holidays.

The Summer Sport 2025 programme gives youngsters the chance to try a new sport or develop skills under the guidance of a qualified coach.

It includes a two-day sailing course hosted by Draycote Water Sailing Club starting next Thursday (July 31), where youngsters can complete stage one of the RYA Youth Sailing Certificate, while a one-day indoor bowling course takes place at Thornfield Indoor Bowls Club on Monday August 4.

Harris Academy Sports Centre hosts a two-day trampolining course starting on Monday August 11, while Hill Street Youth and Community Centre holds a two-day table tennis course starting on Wednesday August 13.

A Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) coach holds court at Caldecott Park from Monday August 18 at the start of a two-day training camp, and Rugby College hosts a two-day fencing course starting on Wednesday August 20.

Summer Sport 2025 also includes a brace of two-day horse-riding courses at Grandborough's Woodbine Stables - the first starting on Thursday August 7, and the second on Thursday August 24 - and a three-day golf course tees off at Leam Valley Golf Centre on Tuesday August 27 under the guidance of a PGA professional coach.



Coun Maggie O'Rourke, Rugby Borough Council's spokesperson for partnerships and wellbeing, said: "Our Summer Sport programme offers youngsters the chance to get active during the school summer holidays and learn new skills with the help of qualified sports coaches.

"The courses always prove popular and with limited places available on each one, it's best to book early to avoid missing out."

Costs apply to all Summer Sport courses. Visit [www.rugby.gov.uk/summersport](http://www.rugby.gov.uk/summersport) for more information, and to book places online.

**Draycote Water Sailing Club will host a two-day sailing course starting next Thursday (July 31). Picture by John Bentman.**



**Coun Dr Kindy Sandhu and HAF participants pictured at a sports day at Allesley Hall Primary School last summer.**

**THERE'S PLENTY TO DO:** ACTIVITIES are on offer to Coventry school-aged children under the Holiday, Activity and Food (HAF) Summer programme.

The programme has expanded to include over 26,000 activity sessions - 16 available to book per child - across a wide range of venues and locations in the city.

New activities available this year include sessions on AI coding and construction skills - both aiming to help young people gain practical experience that can help them in a future career or develop skills for the future.

Other activities include science and technology sessions, sports, arts and crafts, karaoke, filmmaking, cooking and more.

Coun Dr Kindy Sandhu, Coventry City Council's Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, said: "This programme is a great opportunity for children and families who need financial or additional support to partake in activities that all young people

should have the opportunity to benefit of, regardless of their personal situation or background.

"Providing these opportunities for children to not only gain more skills and interests, but the chance to make new friends and at the same time benefit from healthy food options, will hopefully ensure an enjoyable summer for many of our local children.

"I would encourage all parents and guardians to learn more by visiting the HAF website and sign up for the 2025 summer programme and take the opportunity to be part of Coventry's summer programme."

To be eligible for the HAF Summer programme, children must be in school, undertaken as a 'child in need', and fit within specific financial categories such as being in receipt of a means-tested benefit.

The programme runs until August 31. Visit [coventry.gov.uk/haf](http://coventry.gov.uk/haf) to check eligibility and book activities.



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# Teen confirmed as council leader

**TEENAGER** George Finch has secured the leadership of Warwickshire County Council

The 19 year-old Reform UK councillor, who had been interim leader, was selected for the top job by a single vote.

Four candidates across the political spectrum were put forward for the role, triggered after Reform UK's Coun Rob Howard announced he would be standing down as leader after just 41 days on health grounds.

Coun Finch saw off competition from the Liberal Democrat candidate Jerry Roodhouse, Conservative Adrian Warwick and Green councillor Jonathan Chilvers.

The decision was made by chairman Coun Edward Harris, with the casting vote, who chose his fellow Reform member.

Coun Finch, who represents Bedworth Central, is now in charge of an authority with a £500million annual budget.

His rise to power follows his party's success at the May local elections which saw it form a minority administration in Warwickshire.

But other political groups on WCC continue to demand further information about Reform



UK's plans for Warwickshire. Coun Michael Bannister, who proposed Coun Finch as leader, responded by declaring Reform was 'not failing', telling opposition parties 'you will get the policies when we are ready'.

He continued: "We have been here two months and they want policy, policy, policy. We are professionals, we have come into this business from scratch and we are not going to make a decision on day one, week one, week two just because you keep pressing us."

"We are looking at what's here, we are talking to the officers, we are embedding ourselves here and when we

are ready you will get the policies."

Since taking on the role as leader on an interim basis, Coun Finch has hit the headlines for telling chief executive Monica Fogarty to remove the Pride Progress flag from Shire Hall and then speaking to the national media and whipping up a social media frenzy with party leader Nigel Farage after she refused.

MP for Warwick and Leamington Matt Western, himself a former WCC councillor, told the Observer he had severe concerns regarding the new leadership of the council.

He explained: "This is not about age but simply about experience and commitment. Leading a council requires a deep understanding of the organisation and a willingness to dedicate a serious amount of time to the role."

"I hope, now he has been officially elected leader, he will focus on matters that genuinely benefit the lives of Warwickshire residents, not simply play distraction games and follow the playbook of his national party."

**Coun George Finch has been officially elected leader of Warwickshire County Council.**



Coventry City Council has been recognised at this year's prestigious West Midlands' Adult Learner Awards. s

## Council wins adult learning award

COVENTRY City Council's Adult Education Service has been recognised as a winner at this year's prestigious West Midlands' Adult Learner Awards.

The service was named Inclusive Learning Provider of the Year, acknowledging its commitment to providing learning opportunities in Coventry to all, regardless of background or circumstance.

The service provides flexible, accessible and community-based courses which lead to qualifications.

Coun Dr Kindy Sandhu, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills at Coventry City Council, said: "I am so proud of the service and all of those who contribute to making lifelong learning a

reality in Coventry."

Other nominees from Coventry received high commendation at the awards, including Lilia Baleva in the Inspiring Learner Achievement category.

And a collaboration between Coventry Adult Education and DHL eCommerce UK to develop workforce learning was nominated for a Successful Partnership reward.

Richard Parker, Mayor of the West Midlands, said "The Adult Learning Awards are a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our adult learning champions and show that there is a wealth of talent and enormous potential in the region."

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# Tour of Britain to head across county

**THE WORLD'S top cyclists will be peddling through Warwickshire this September with the arrival of the Lloyds Men's Tour of Britain.**

Taking in all five boroughs and districts of Warwickshire, stage four of the race on Friday September 5 will start in Atherstone before a hilly finish at Burton Dassett Hills Country Park.

It will be the third time Warwickshire has hosted Britain's biggest professional men's cycle race, with the most recent occasion being in 2019, when Dutch sensa-

by Philippa Mingins

tion Mathieu van der Poel was first across the line at Burton Dassett.

Warwickshire has also hosted the Tour of Britain Women on five occasions in the last decade and the men's and women's road races in the Commonwealth Games in 2022, when both events starting and finishing in Warwick.

The detailed route of the Warwickshire stage of the Tour of Britain will be published shortly.

Jonathan Day, managing director of British Cycling Events, added:

"Warwickshire has a long and proud history of hosting the Lloyds Tour of Britain with great support from the communities across the county, so we are delighted to be returning, especially with such a challenging finale at Burton Dassett Hills Country Park, that will draw spectators from right across the heart of England."

The six-stage Lloyds Men's Tour of Britain begins in East Suffolk on September 2.

**A date for the diary – Warwickshire is hosting the Lloyds Men's Tour of Britain on September 5.**



Pedalling her way to a prize – Sarah Burbery.

## Sarah gets back on her bike to win holiday prize

A CYCLIST who dusted off her bike after years out of the saddle has pedalled her way to the top prize in a national bike riding challenge.

More than 500 cyclists across Warwickshire came out in May for the Bike Month Challenge and collectively cycled 92,161 miles throughout the month.

And Sarah Burbery, who works for the Leamington-based The Transportation Consultancy, was selected at random as the winner of the month's grand prize, a £4,000 holiday.

Sarah said: "I only returned to cycling a couple of months ago when I decided I wanted to try a different form of exercise. As I child, I remembered loving going on family bike rides in the summer holidays so thought, as we approach summer, now would be the perfect time to get back into cycling."

"For me, cycling is a great way to get out and see my local area, whether it be a quick cycle at lunchtime to sit in my local park or a longer route to a country park to enjoy a picnic

on the weekend. Cycling has really started to improve my wellbeing and fitness, so I now hope to start cycling to work. I'm looking forward to getting that extra bit of active travel in every week as well as saving some money."

As part of its ongoing partnership with Love to Ride, Warwickshire County Council encouraged residents and workplaces to take part in the Bike Month Challenge during the month of May. Warwickshire's residents and workplaces rose to

the challenge, getting on their bikes.

This resulted in 538 riders and 40 individual workplaces taking part, 6,144 trips made by bike of which 35 per cent were for a specific purpose like shopping, commuting to work or errands rather than for exercise reasons, and 92,161 miles ridden, which is over four times around the circumference of the planet.

The next Bike Month Challenge is in September. Visit [www.lovetoride.net/warwickshire](http://www.lovetoride.net/warwickshire) for more details.

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# Man jailed for 11 years after sexual assaults

**A SEX offender has been jailed for 11 years after assaulting three women in Leamington.**

Emmanuel Atugo, of Southorn Court, Leamington, sexually assaulted a woman he had only just met while in his car on Bath Place on June 27 last year.

The 29-year-old then sexually assaulted a woman he had known for a short while at her home in Leamington on August 1.

While on bail for both offences, Atugo sexually assaulted another woman he knew at his house on November 17. He was charged and remanded in custody following his arrest.

Atugo was found guilty by a jury at Warwick Crown Court of five counts of sexual assault and two counts of sexual assault by penetration.

He was sentenced to 11 years behind bars and four years on licence following his release. He will also be on the Sex Offenders Register for life.

Det Con Ella Stewart, from Warwickshire Police's domestic abuse and rape



Sex offender Emmanuel Atugo has been jailed for 11 years.

team, said: "I cannot praise enough the strength all three victims have displayed throughout this process, and I am relieved that they have finally received the justice

they each deserve. I hope this case reassures victims of sexual abuse that we are committed to investigating and bringing dangerous offenders to justice."

## Drug dealer given 5 years in prison

A DRUG dealer has been sentenced after being caught supplying cocaine in Rugby.

Ross Lloyd, 30, of Stoke Golding, was sentenced at Warwick Crown Court to five years and one month in prison after pleading guilty to being concerned in the supply of Class A drugs.

Police said Lloyd was arrested and charged in July 2021 after officers raided a flat in Abbey Street and found evidence that he was supplying a Rugby street dealer with cocaine.

Det Con Matthew Rapkins, from Rugby Proactive CID, said:



Dealer Ross Lloyd is behind bars for supplying cocaine in Rugby.

"Cocaine has become a huge problem in society up and down the country. Lloyd is someone who looks to profit on people's misery, and was involved in supplying this drug in Rugby.

"I am pleased this sentence recognises the harm caused by this drug. We will continue to work tirelessly to bring people to justice who sell Class A drugs in our town."

## Police appeal to find man wanted on recall

POLICE are hunting John Cannon, from Rugby, who is wanted on recall to prison.

The 35-year-old has mousy brown hair. He has visible tattoos on the front and side of his neck, spelling Lucy and Reg.

Anyone with

information about his whereabouts is urged to visit [www.warwickshire.police.uk/ro/report/](http://www.warwickshire.police.uk/ro/report/), call 101, or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111

Police are keen to trace John Cannon.



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## Youngsters get active

HUNDREDS of schoolkids from across Coventry took part in a series of fun activities designed to promote the benefits of a healthy and active lifestyle as part of National School Sports Week.

Around 300 pupils from Stretton Primary, St Osburg's, St Augustine's, Eden Girls School, Etone College, and Quest Academy were welcomed to the Butts Park Arena by Coventry Rugby Club.

The club's community team hosted and delivered the sessions as part of the nationwide initiative, which is led by the Youth Sport Trust to promote physical activity and wellbeing among young people.

The club's executive chairman Jon Sharp said: "This initiative gave us a fantastic opportunity to connect with pupils from the area and encourage them to move more, play more, and build confidence through a wide variety of sporting activities.

"It was about more than just physical activity – it was about highlighting the vital role sport plays in supporting both physical wellbeing and mental health.

"Creating these positive experiences at a young age can have a lasting impact, and we hope that the sessions we have coordinated will leave the pupils feeling more confident and motivated to stay active."

# Going wild as Eco Buddies

**INQUISITIVE kids at a Coventry primary school are the latest group of students to become 'Eco Buddies' after participating in an environmental education programme.**

Pupils from St Christopher Primary School were visited by staff from housebuilder Orbit Homes, who taught them about biodiversity, why it's important, and what they can do to promote it.

They also helped the pupils build and decorate their own bird boxes.

Year 5 teacher Kevin Tarn 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 pro-

tecting the wildlife around us and we'd like to say thank you to Orbit Homes for inspiring our very own 'Eco Buddies'."

Brian Nearney, regional managing director at Orbit Homes, added: "It was a great opportunity to help the children learn more about biodiversity and share what they can do to make their own positive difference on the environment, both at home and at school.

"Our team really enjoyed building the bird boxes with the pupils and we loved seeing the students add their own personal touch to the bird boxes with their colourful designs.

"We're very grateful to St Christopher Primary School for having us."

Eco Buddies is designed to support students in understanding the importance of nature and how all



St Christopher Primary School's Eco Buddies with their hand-built bird boxes.

living things are connected. Visit [orbithomes.org.uk/eco-buddies](http://orbithomes.org.uk/eco-buddies) for free downloadable classroom resources. Email [eco.buddies@orbit.org.uk](mailto:eco.buddies@orbit.org.uk) for more information, or to book a school visit.



St Patrick's pupils at Waterloo station.

## Rail project is a ticket ride for pupils

CHILDREN from a Coventry primary school have completed a railway adventure across eight iconic locations as part of a landmark celebration.

Pupils from St Patrick's Catholic Primary School have visited some of the country's most popular rail destinations as part of the Railway 200 project, which is celebrating 200 years of the modern railway.

Every year group took train journeys to different locations across the country,

covering hundreds of miles with many pupils travelling by train for the first time.

Following reception children's visit to Paddington Station for a teddy bears' picnic, classes visited Bletchley, Woburn Sands, Bournville, Waterloo, Widney Manor, Malvern Link and Brockenhurst, taking in sights, sketching what they saw from the train, and discovering how rail travel connects people and places.

The project not only celebrates the history of the

railway but also encourages new generations to consider careers in rail and engineering, as well as explore unfamiliar parts of the country.

The school's assistant vice principal Elise Liggins said: "Railway 200 has been a brilliant opportunity for our pupils to get out into the wider world, experience travelling by train, and take learning beyond the classroom as part of a nationwide project. It's been a fantastic school-wide project for the summer term."



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# Award-winning chef continues to cook up a storm

WORD is spreading fast about The Warwick at Mallory Court Country House Hotel & Spa - and with very good reason.

The newly-launched restaurant at the long-established Leamington hotel launched just over a month ago under the stewardship of award-winning chef Stu Deeley, and tables are already in high demand.

Mallory Court has always had an enviable culinary reputation, but that reputation is only going to be enhanced by the arrival of the executive head chef who gained national recognition after winning MasterChef: The Professionals in 2019.

His appointment has generated much excitement, although it is in many ways something of a homecoming. Originally from Birmingham, Stu worked at Mallory Court early in his career. He then spent years perfecting his cuisine in other respected midlands kitchens such as Simpsons and The Wilderness. He later became chef director at Hampton Manor Estate, where he founded the Michelin-recommended Smoke, earning praise for its ingredient-led and open-fire cooking.

And now he is back at Mallory Court with a clear vision, one which combines classic British cooking with a contemporary edge, and a menu built

around bold flavours and seasonal produce.

Diners are finding that vision demonstrated straight away with the arrival at their table of fresh flavour packed trout and goat cheese canapés, followed by a vibrant and equally impressive wild garlic veloute amuse bouche. To say they merely whet the appetite would be an understatement.

The Warwick's summer menu can be savoured via a Taste of The Season or a three course A La Carte option.

### Imagination

Starters such as a beautifully balanced St Agnes Crab, Isle of Wight Tomato and Pecorino Tart with Bloody Mary, and a big meaty hand-dived Orkney scallop with Stornoway Black Pudding and subtle Thai spicing, deliver the very best of British with real flair and imagination.

The lamb main of Oxfordshire Hogget with Potato Terrine and Green Beans in a rich lamb jus, and a stunning Cornish Monkfish paired with a Borlotti Bean Cassoulet and a perfectly spiced Espelette and Nduja sauce, are further evidence of a chef, and his kitchen, who know how to make every ingredient on the plate sing.

Those looking to pair a wine with

the summer menu - if they don't opt for the individual wine pairings with the Taste of the Season menu - may enjoy the bright and refreshing Othello Pinot Noir, full of cherry, strawberry and cranberry flavours, from the nearby Welcome Hills Vineyard.

Desserts such as the rich Manjari Fondant Tart with Garden Mint ice cream, using mint from the hotel's own kitchen garden, a pretty as a picture Somerset Strawberry Mille-Feuille, and a Rhubarb and Custard Baked Alaska, developed over the years from Stu's childhood memories, cannot help but delight.

For all the amazing dishes, precision and attention to every detail, there remains a refreshing and welcome simplicity to The Warwick's first menu.

Stu explained: "My focus is on classical flavour combinations, ingredients that speak for themselves, and food people genuinely want to eat — not just admire. I'm not trying to reinvent the wheel, I just want to make it turn really, really well."

An exciting new culinary journey is underway at Mallory Court, and it's certainly got off to a very tasty start.

Visit [www.mallory.co.uk/the-warwick-restaurant](http://www.mallory.co.uk/the-warwick-restaurant) for further details.

Ian Hughes



Executive head chef Stu Deeley in the kitchen garden at Mallory Court Country House Hotel & Spa.



Rhubarb and Custard Baked Alaska, developed over the years from Stu's childhood memories.



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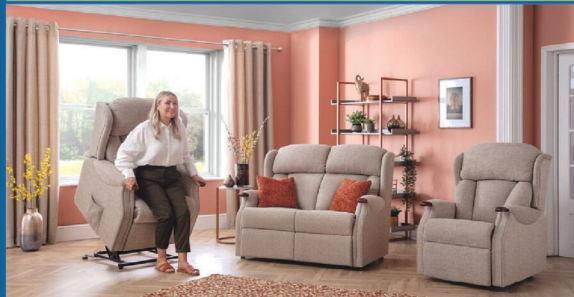
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# Hard work is behind awards

HIGH-achieving students at a Rugby secondary school have been celebrated at an awards evening.

Over 100 students at Avon Valley School were awarded medals and certificates for their hard work over the academic year.

Each of the school's faculties and subject areas nominated two students from each year group to receive a subject award. The subject areas also selected one student, from any year group, to receive the overall award for that subject.

In addition, one high-achieving student from each year group was selected by their head of year for an award. The outstanding students of the year were Elsie Jackson from Year 7, Lena Winiarczyk from Year 8, Edward Dewes from Year 9, and Kallum Mackley from Year 10.

Year 10 student Maya Telka was selected by the school's headteacher for a special award, and Connor Daysh was chosen to receive the Don O'Neill Award. The Alison Davies Award, which was introduced in 2024 and named after the school's former headteacher, was awarded to Year 10 student Abha Masuti for her commitment to the school's values.

Awards were presented by a special guest, Paralympic skier Anna Turney.

Headteacher Blake Francis said: "It is wonderful to be able to recognise and celebrate



our students' ambition and hard work. I am very grateful to our speaker, Anna Turney, for joining us and for sharing her inspirational story with our students and their guests."

**Awards were presented by Paralympic skier Anna Turney.**



## Adding a touch of colour

COLOURFUL kids at a Rugby primary school have stepped up to raise over £4,200 for a children's mental health charity.

More than 350 pupils took part in a vibrant Colour Run at Paddox Primary School, raising the impressive total for Place2Be.

After the children were showered with multicoloured powder, they completed two laps around the school field, followed by a well-earned ice cream and hose down.

Then, to the delight of the children, the school's Deputy and Assistant Headteachers bravely volunteered to be gunged.

Deputy Headteacher Jackie Unwin said: "It was great to come together to support

children's mental health and celebrate our amazing school community."

The event was inspired by Year 4 teacher Charlotte Pearson, who said: "I wanted to give the children something fun and memorable. Our school's such a happy, lively place, and the Colour Run felt like the perfect way to celebrate that - while also raising money for a great cause.

"We were overwhelmed by the generosity of our school community. Many children raised over £100, which was amazing. Our top fundraiser, Hallie in Year One, raised a staggering £670! As a thank you, she's been gifted an unlimited 'Summer of Fun' pass to Coventry's Red Kangaroo trampoline park."

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# School trio say a fond farewell

PUPILS and staff at Henry Hinde School are bidding a happy retirement to three members of staff.

Principal Fleur Edwards and Learning Support Assistants Karen Caldwell and Sandra Evans have collectively given 65 years' service to the Bilton school.

Mrs Edwards, who initially joined Henry Hinde as deputy headteacher in 2012, is retiring at the end of the summer term after 13 years at the heart of the school.

While Mrs Caldwell and Mrs Evans, who both started their roles on 27th September 1999, will aptly retire on the same day.

To mark the occasion, members of the Henry Hinde School community – past and present – were invited to share their memories, with a celebration event also held at the

school to say a big 'thank you'.

James Higham, CEO at the Transforming Lives Educational Trust, of which Henry Hinde School is part, said: "As with so many people who work in education, Mrs Edwards, Mrs Caldwell and Mrs Evans have always gone above and beyond to do the very best for our children.

"It is hard to overestimate the impact that these wonderful colleagues have had on so many lives throughout their time at Henry Hinde.

"They have seen generations of children starting their primary school journey here, making a difference for families right across the local area and supporting countless staff.

"On behalf of everyone we'd like to wish them all the very best for a long and happy retirement."

Mrs Edwards said it had been a privilege and honour to be part of the Henry Hinde family for so many years.

She added: "What makes our school so special is the people – our incredible pupils, their families and all of the inspiring colleagues I've been lucky enough to work with every day. I have so many fond memories and immense pride in all that we've achieved together."

**Fleur Edwards, Sandra Evans and Karen Caldwell have collectively given 65 years' service to Henry Hinde School.**



Olympic kayaker, Kimberley Woods dropped in at Boughton Leigh Junior School's careers fair - with her kayak.

## Inspirational visit

RUGBY'S own Olympic kayaker, Kimberley Woods, dropped in to a careers fair at Boughton Leigh Junior School to offer inspiration to young minds already buzzing with ideas about their future.

Kimberley, who has represented Team GB at the highest level, kindly gave her time to talk to pupils about her journey into sport. Kimberley's key message to the children was to follow their dreams, emphasising that hard work and dedication truly pay off.

One of the highlights of her visit was letting the pupils sit in the kayak she used to win her Olympic medal, which brought her story to life.

The event, for Year 4 pupils, brought

together professionals from a wide range of sectors, offering students a glimpse into the world of work.

There were representatives from Jaguar Land Rover, health professionals from the NHS, local youth services, Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service and research scientists among others.

Oragriser and Year 4 lead Adina Murataj said: "We're really grateful to all of the visitors who gave up their time to support our pupils. It was a brilliant day, and Kimberley's visit made it even more special. Her story helped the children to see that people from their own community can go on to achieve amazing things with the right support and determination."



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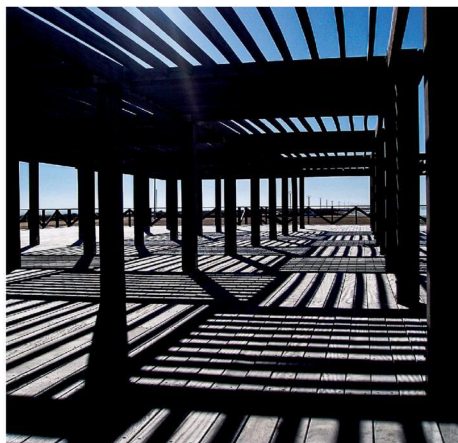
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Shadowplay - three interpretations on the Shadow theme from the Take Ten display. LEFT: Shadow by Clive Bailey. MIDDLE: Shadow by Stefan Shillington. RIGHT: Shadow by Joy Herbert.

# Challenge brings some inspired entries - there's a word for that

HOW many ways can a one-word subject be interpreted by a group of individual photographers?

That is the question posed by the Take Ten challenge undertaken by several members of Leamington Spa Photographic Society's Style Group.

Each of the ten participat-

ing members has set a one-word theme for themselves and the others to interpret with a single photograph - resulting in subjects ranging from Circular, Square, Glass, Shadow and Night to more conceptual themes such as Help, Disconnected, Danger, Electric and Elegance.

And the resulting images will form a grid of pictures as the

centrepiece of the group's annual 'Work in Progress' exhibition at All Saints' Parish Church in Leamington from July 31 until August 3.

In addition to the Take Ten display, the free-to-enter exhibition will include panels of work by the ten and other members of the Style Group.

Those cover subjects as wide-

ranging abandoned boats on the bank of a Suffolk river to impressions of Warwickshire.

Style Group co-ordinator Stefan Shillington said: "While the Take Ten challenge has become a central part of our annual exhibition, the individual panels give each member their own space to use as they wish.

"That means they can show a

body of work based on themes or concepts of their own choosing, in whatever way they want, without being restricted to single images or being subject to outside curation."

The exhibition is open from noon until 5.30pm on Thursday July 31, 10.30am to 5.30pm on the Friday and Saturday, and noon to 5pm on the Sunday.

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## People are urged to have a say on play

THE BLUEPRINT for a revamp of a Rugby play-ground has been revealed to the public.

Rugby Borough Council has published a draft masterplan for the refurbishment of the Bawnmore Road play area in Bilton, and now wants feedback from residents before going ahead with the project.

Plans include a roundabout with wheelchair access, a climbing net, traditional swings together with a nest swing and group swing, and a metal climbing frame with a slide.

The masterplan, drawn up following a first phase of public consultation, also includes replacing the timber platform at the play area's embankment slide and building new steps to make the slide more accessible.

The consultation asks for residents' views on whether to retain and relocate the play area's dish roundabout or replace it with a selection of play equipment for younger children.

Coun Maggie O'Rourke, Rugby Borough Council's spokesperson for partnerships and well-being, said: "Public consultations play a vital part in our rolling programme of play area refurbishments and we're delighted to now be consulting on the draft masterplan for Bawnmore Road.

"This consultation gives residents a chance to have a say on the masterplan and also feedback on whether to remove or retain the play area's dish roundabout, so we really want to know what you think."

Her Liberal Democrat counterpart Coun Neil Sandison added: "Consultations play an important part in our refurbishment plans as resident engagement helps us to install play equipment which best meets the needs of local communities.

"We would urge parents, local schools and children to participate in this consultation so we can make the right choices for the community."

The public consultation runs until 5pm on Friday August 8. Visit [www.rugby.gov.uk/bawnmore](http://www.rugby.gov.uk/bawnmore) to take part.

# Working together gets school a 'Good' grade

A 'PROFOUND shift in culture has earned a Rugby secondary school a 'Good' rating from the schools inspectorate - three years after it received the lowest possible grade.

Ashlawn School received the new rating after Ofsted found 'significant improvement' and a community 'working together with even greater ambition for the school' following an inspection last month.

Inspectors said behaviour expectations were 'high and clearly communicated', lessons were 'calm and purposeful', the curriculum was 'ambitious' and that pupils 'work hard and achieve well'.

They said Sixth Form students 'value the quality of their learning and wider experiences' and were 'impressively keen to contribute to the school community'.

They also praised the school's extra-curricular and enrichment opportunities, the fact that staff felt valued, and that parents 'talk positively about having their voice heard'.

School Principal Paul Brockwell said: "When I first walked through the doors in 2022, the potential in this school was tangible. With the Transforming Lives Educational Trust we have systematically looked at how we can bring that promise to life in everything that we do - and the way that the community has responded to that challenge has been uplifting.

"There is not one element of this school that hasn't moved forward with pace, and that is testament to the fact that we are all committed to one thing - and that is



Ashlawn School Principal Paul Brockwell with students.

'our best, always'. "The most important thing is that our students shone throughout the inspection - and their attitudes, behaviours and successes are the best reflection of a school."

James Higham, CEO of the Transforming Lives Educational Trust which runs the school, said the last two and a half years had been 'significant' for Ashlawn.

He added: "The whole team should be acknowledged for their collective efforts and commitment.

"No stone has been left unturned, and taking the relatively rare step of jumping two judgement grades in one inspection is testament to this. It is an amazing feeling that I hope everyone associated with Ashlawn will feel part of - proud doesn't even begin to describe it.

"This is, however, a step on a much bigger journey. There is more that we want to aspire to and achieve - and that is what makes the future for Ashlawn School so exciting."

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# Bagging basics for the homeless

**SCHOOLCHILDREN have given hundreds of toiletries to those less fortunate in Coventry.**

Students at St Anne's Catholic Primary School in Willenhall have raised funds to buy a variety of toiletry products for 34 homeless people who are in new council-run temporary accommodation at neighboring Chance Avenue Police Station.

The school ran a non-uniform day when pupils could bring in a donation to contribute to an Easter fundraiser.

The tenants have each been given a bag of toiletries with toothpaste, toothbrushes, shower gel, shampoo, razors and aftershave.

One of the residents at the accommodation, Gary, said: "It's lovely of the school to support us. I hope we can repay the school and do something in return for them."

Another tenant, David, added: "It's so kind of the children, school and parents to donate all the items - I am very grateful."

St Anne's headteacher Rachel Batson said: "We have a really good relationship with the staff at the accom-



modation. And have been in contact with the managers, even before it opened.

"We're delighted residents have been able to use the items."

A year six student at St Anne's Primary School, Jack, said: "It's a really good idea because it helps them."

Another pupil, Rebecca, added: "It's a good way of showing love to others, it's a good thing to do."

Fr Stephen Fawcett, Parish Priest at St Anne's in Willenhall, said: "The managers have shown great initiative showing us around the accommodation and makes it much easier for us to respond as a church and school. "It's those basic things like

toiletries that make a difference.

"We wanted to show that they are welcome - it's the care and support we want to show that is the most important."

C o u n  
Naeem Akhtar,  
Coventry City  
C o u n c i l ' s  
Cabinet member for Housing

and Communities, said: "I'm not surprised about this donation because the vast majority of people are very compassionate."

"It's especially lovely that the schoolchildren are involved - I think their gesture is wonderful."

"People become homeless for all sorts of complex reasons and we hope many of those who are accommodated can get back on their feet."

**Students at St Anne's Catholic Primary School raised funds to buy a variety of toiletry products for homeless people.**



Simon Ree (left) with Corin Crane at Bardsley Youth Project.

A HOMELESSNESS charity in Coventry has called for businesses in the region to help it meet increasing demand on its services.

Simon Ree, who runs Bardsley Youth Project in Hill Top, says the charity needs businesses' help to keep its services running.

Mr Ree, who was helped by the project himself when he was younger, said: "If I tell a vulnerable young person where they can go and who they can speak to get help, they probably walk out the door and don't do anything with that information."

"We've seen a four-fold increase in demand for our service since I became CEO in 2019."

"That's partly down to the fact that we are doing better at letting people know we are here and what we can do to help, but there's also the fact that more people need support too."

"Basically, we just want businesses to bear us in mind and help in any way

they can so we can continue to serve the young people in the city in their moment of need."

Simon told Corin Crane, the chief executive of the Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce, about the charity's range of services, including drop-in-sessions, one-on-one support and helping to re-furnish accommodation, during a recent visit.

He explained how the charity relied on donations from individuals and businesses to fulfill the needs of young people, and asked Mr Crane to spread the word among businesses.

Mr Crane said: "My ask to businesses is to find out more about the project and do whatever you can to help."

Visit [www.bardsleyyouth.org](http://www.bardsleyyouth.org) for more information on the charity. Email [rachel@bardsleyyouth.org](mailto:rachel@bardsleyyouth.org) for partnership enquiries.

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# Life-and-times tale of one of the giants of theatre is next on stage

THE STORY of the great Victorian actor-manager William Charles Macready is brought to the stage at the Rugby theatre bearing his name.

Macready! Dickens' Theatrical Friend, written and performed by Mark Stratford, can be seen at the Macready Theatre at Rugby School – for one night only on July 29.

Macready – the man to who Charles Dickens' dedicated 'Nicholas Nickleby' – is billed as a tale of love, devotion, ambition and sacrifice.

With an array of characters, Stratford takes his audience on a journey from Macready's first tentative steps on stage in a tatty country theatre to his final ever performance at the mighty Drury Lane.

Life had begun well for the young Macready. The prestigious Rugby School, where he started in 1803, was intended to be a springboard for him to go to Oxford and study law.

But when his father's theatrical empire collapsed and he was imprisoned for bankruptcy,

Macready, aged 16, was forced to leave the school and help with the family business.

Although still a boy, he took charge of a shambolic company of players still in his father's service at Chester. Young William had shown early promise as a performer at school and before long he somehow managed to knock the troubled troupe in to shape. Debts were cleared, salaries paid and the company moved on to the next theatre.

## Greatest

And when his father was released from prison he cast his son as Romeo and the rest, as they say, is history.

Mark said: "Macready goes on to become the greatest actor of his generation, but why he's got a place in history is down to how he changed theatre for good. He introduced things we now take entirely for granted. For instance he abandoned the somewhat over-the-top style of performance, in favour of more real and natural acting. He insisted on detailed rehears-

als and made sure all aspects of a show such as sound, lighting, costumes, props, and scenery, fitted together properly. He also trained actors and directed. None of these were common practices at the time."

"But there's also so much more to his story. Macready's rise from country actor to 'eminent tragedian' is full of fascinating anecdotes. The conflict between his love of acting and his contempt for the acting profession provides some amusing asides, and Macready's feuds as actor and actor-manager make for great entertainment."

The show is a labour of love for Mark who became intrigued by Macready's story when he read his diaries a few years ago.

"He is not as well-known as the likes of Edmund Kean and Henry Irving, famous actors whose careers overlapped with Macready's at each end of the 19th century, but his story is of such importance and interest, I feel driven to tell it."

Visit [www.ticketsource.co.uk/rugby-arts](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/rugby-arts) for tickets and further details.



Mark Stratford as the great Victorian actor-manager William Charles Macready. Picture by Martin Smith.

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- ✓ Excursion to Fleetwood Market

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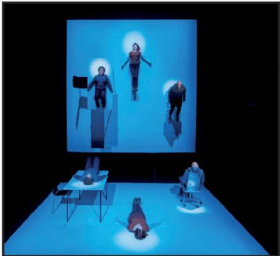
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## Compelling journey into the depths of human suffering

**4.48 Psychosis**  
RSC Other Place, Stratford

THE DISSECTION of mental anguish, depression and suicide is always going to be a tough watch, but in this timely revival of Sarah Kane's millennial script it's an experience as compelling as it is unsettling, as rewarding as it is upsetting.

Three unnamed performers deliver thoughts, confessions and insights as people suffering the deepest of depressions, taking turns to slip effortlessly between patient and doctor. Their comments and experiences are harrowing but never sentimental.



With no clear narrative save the steady, inexorable progression toward the crushingly desperate outcome, this is seventy minutes of concentrated exploration of the darkest parts of the human psyche.

In an interesting move the entire cast and creative team from the original production in 2000 have

been reunited to bring the piece back to the stage.

Performers Jo McInnes, Madeleine Potter and Daniel Evans all give everything to this production second time around. Physically and emotionally this is a tour de force for all three. From strung-out to chillingly calm, from the bleakest depths to snatches of sparkling gallows humour, there's not a single misplaced moment.

Director James Macdonald gathers everything with commendable crispness and focus.

Jeremy Herbert's design acts as almost a fourth member of the cast. A stark stage with equally uninviting table and chairs is, by means of a stage-width angled mirror, sent soaring as a background too with those lying on the floor now suspended in space right in front of us.

Add in adventurous lighting, spot video projections and surfaces which get written on and we're examining these people and their personal hell from every conceivable angle.

But it's through the scope and power of the words that we examine them most closely. In many respects Kane's work comes across more like a poetry collection. Rhythmic, condensed, repetitious and startling, these lines would make a fine book. But the choice of stage rather than page is what makes this piece so persuasive. It's a visual poem, a verbal ballet and packs all the greater punch for being brief and uninterrupted.

Matthew Salisbury

# Artist busy putting herself in the frame

AN ARTIST from south Warwickshire is wasting no time making a name for herself.

Within a few months of graduating from Oxford University's Ruskin School of Art, 22 year-old Emily Hoyle was offered a solo exhibition at one of Oxford's leading art galleries - The North Wall - and is about to have her work on show again in the city, this time in an exhibition of up-and-coming young artists at Ronapainting gallery.

She sold a significant number of her diverse collection of paintings, drawings and sculptures during The North Wall exhibition in January, and has high hopes for her Ronapainting Gallery exhibition, which runs from May 2 to 24.

Emily, now working hard at her studio in Kineton to complete new work, told The Observer: "I'd been wondering whether I could make it in the contemporary art world, as my work is very much rooted in the classical style, then along came these amazing opportunities.

"I firmly believe that creativity alone is not enough to produce good work. It has to be married with hard work and discipline."

Emily is influenced by her rural surroundings and particularly horses, which feature strongly in her work. She learned to ride as a child and her passion still remains evident.

Although her parents have a sci-



Artist Emily Hoyle in her Kineton studio. Picture by Marcus Mings 16256MMR

entific background, Emily credits her creative side to her aunt, who is an artist, and grandmothers who, she says, both enjoyed making beautiful things.

Her own talent was spotted by her teachers when she was just six.

And she credits inspirational art teachers at Stratford Girls' Grammar School and KES for encouraging

her and giving her the confidence to apply to Oxford.

She added: "Producing art can be very challenging, but I love it. Every day is different and, so far, making my way in the art world has been very exciting."

Visit [www.emilyhoyle.com](http://www.emilyhoyle.com) to view and find out more about Emily's work.



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# New jobs, homes and higher wages in Mayor's growth plan

by Sarah Mason  
sarah.mason@bullivantmedia.com

A PLAN to reboot the region's economy, raise living standards, and put an extra £8,600 back into the pockets of working people has been unveiled by the region's Mayor.

Richard Parker says the the West Midlands Growth Plan will drive a new era of prosperity in all parts of the region by creating 100,000 good jobs in fast-growing industries, getting tens of thousands of residents into work, improving public transport, and building 120,000 homes.

The plan also sets out actions to reduce poverty and deprivation and make further progress towards net zero.

The Mayor also plans to grow the region's £77billion economy by more than £17billion – bringing higher wages and better opportunities for working people.

As part of the plan there will be more support for business leaders and entrepreneurs and backing for workers in the everyday economy such as teachers, bus drivers, shop workers and carers.

Towns and cities and their high streets are also set to be transformed through a series of major investments including £2.4billion of improvements to the region's transport network.

The launch comes as the region



West Midlands Mayor, Richard Parker, has launched the West Midlands Growth Plan.

prepares to host a global investment summit in partnership with government later this year which will set out investment opportunities across the West Midlands and UK to international business leaders and investors.

The Mayor said: "We're the biggest region outside London, with world-class universities, global brands and incredible talent. When the West Midlands thrives, the whole country benefits."

"My Growth Plan is about unlocking opportunity for everyone, in every place. It's written with business, backed by government and will improve the lives of everyone."

The Growth Plan will build on new projects and funding secured by the Mayor since he took office.

This includes hundreds of new social homes, £2.4bn to improve transport, more than £10m of support for local businesses, five million free bus journeys ahead of bringing the network back under public control and a flagship Investment Zone, offering tax breaks and other benefits for companies.

The Mayor has also agreed a new tram line to East Birmingham which has proved pivotal in landing the £3bn Sports Quarter regeneration project by American financier and Birmingham City FC co-owner Tom Wagner.

Visit [www.growth.wmca.org.uk/](http://www.growth.wmca.org.uk/) to read the Mayor's West Midlands Growth Plan.



## 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.



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**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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# Simple tips to help bring wildlife into your garden



People are being urged to 'Go WILD for hedgehogs' by creating natural spaces in their gardens. Picture by Christopher Morgan. Wild patches (INSET) will provide places for insects hedgehogs can use as food and habitats. Picture by Grace Johnson. s

A NEW campaign is urging those with a love for gardening to create a much-needed natural space for native hedgehogs.

As part of 'Go WILD for Hedgehogs', gardeners and householders are being encouraged to create an area for much-needed natural insect prey and nesting materials for the prickly creatures.

The drive, which begins this month, is being led by the People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES) and The British Hedgehog Preservation Society (BHPS).

The two prominent charities are determined to protect hedgehogs due to their population declining and them being listed as 'near threatened' on the The International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List.

Leaving a wild, undisturbed patch in a garden and recording its location online not only creates much needed food and shelter, it also tells conservationists at PTES and BHPS where hedgehog havens are and where more are needed.

On top of creating wild patches, Hedgehog Street suggests that - to go the extra mile - people should plant wildflower seeds in autumn (September to November) to further attract pollinators and other insects the following year.

This heavily benefits the near threatened mammals as it provides a crucial food source and habitat by creating a thriving ecosystem.

Hedgehog Street would like to share updates and helpful top tips, such as how to maximise the nutritional wild patches, what to look out for and ways to help Hedgehogs within season changes.

Grace Johnson, an officer of the wild for Hedgehog Street said: "Wild patches are a brilliant way to help hedgehogs, they're minimal effort and cost."

"By simply allowing an area to grow a little wild and undisturbed, you can help to create a diverse habitat that's perfect for hedgehogs and other garden wildlife in the heart of our villages, towns and cities."

"Instead of weeding and mowing, sit back, relax and watch nature

thrive in your garden."

Hedgehogs face many threats and are in widespread decline.

According to the State of Britain's Hedgehogs 2022 report, published by BHPS and PTES, rural populations have plummeted by between 30 to 75 per cent since 2000.

But, encouragingly, the report also showed that populations in urban areas may be starting to recover, likely thanks to Hedgehog Street's 130,000 volunteer Hedgehog Champions.

The new 'Go WILD for Hedgehogs' campaign builds on this as gardens, and especially wild patches, can offer important refuges for hedgehogs and can help reverse the decline that this much-loved nocturnal species is facing.

Extra ways to turn any garden into a hedgehog haven include providing compost heaps and log and leaf piles



to further encourage natural insect prey and offer places to nest, leaving out shallow dishes of water, and/or creating a wildlife pond with sloping sides or an escape ramp.

'Hedgehog highways' are also encouraged - this sees people cut a 13cm x 13cm square hole into fences on each side of their garden to enable hedgehogs to roam between green spaces in search of

food, shelter and mates.

Those without a garden can still help hedgehogs too - by contacting local councils and developers to highlight the importance of managing parks and public green spaces for hedgehogs, call for new-build sites to be hedgehog friendly and raise awareness of the urgent need to help hedgehogs by sharing PTES and BHPS' social media posts and talking with friends, family, neighbours and colleagues about ways they can help hedgehogs.

And people can become a volunteer 'spotter' for PTES and BHPS' National Hedgehog Monitoring Programme, which can be done from people's own homes, is a great way to help too.

Visit: [hedgehogstreet.org/go-wild-for-hedgehogs](http://hedgehogstreet.org/go-wild-for-hedgehogs) for more on the campaign and to register a wild patch.

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# Gardening

## You've got everything covered

**GROUND-COVER** plants are becoming increasingly popular because they offer people a simple, low-maintenance way to make their garden look fuller and healthier.

These plants grow close to the ground, quickly covering bare soil to help stop weeds, retain moisture, and prevent erosion.

Whether a sunny slope or a shady corner, groundcovers are perfect for filling tricky spots where other plants might struggle.

Julian Palphramand, British Garden Centre's head of plants, said: "We're seeing more and more gardeners turn to groundcover plants because they do the hard work for you."

"Whether you've got a tricky patch under a tree, a sunny border, or just want to cut down on weeding, there's a groundcover plant to suit."

British Garden Centres has put together their top groundcover plants that will thrive in your garden.

**Cranesbill geraniums** - Renowned for their resilience and attractive foliage, these geraniums are hardy and create dense mounds of intricately veined leaves and purple or white flowers in late spring. They thrive at the front of sunny borders and tolerate poor, dry soils, making them a favourite for low-maintenance gardeners

who want ground cover in their gardens.

**Erigeron** - Commonly known as Mexican fleabane, this perennial has dainty white and pink daisy like flowers blooming from May to November. Erigeron is a low maintenance ground cover option for sunny spots, rockeries, and wall crevices. Its spreading habit ensures continuous colour and attracts pollinators throughout the summer, making gardens buzz with beneficial insects.

**Campanula** - These bellflowers offer cascades of blue or purple blooms from June to September. Their trailing habit makes them ideal for walls, containers, and shady corners, providing a profusion of flowers and softening hard edges. Look for Campanula portenschlagiana and Campanula carpatica for groundcover.

**Lily of the Valley** - A classic choice for shady borders and woodland gardens, lily of the valley spreads quickly and produces fragrant, bell-shaped white flowers in late spring. It thrives in moist soil and is perfect for underplanting and groundcover, particularly in darker nooks of your garden.

**Periwinkle** - This evergreen groundcover is prized for its rapid growth and ability to thrive in dry



**Cranesbill geraniums are renowned for their resilience and attractive foliage. Picture by Pixabay**

shade. With pretty blue or purple flowers in spring and summer, periwinkle is ideal for challenging sites where other plants struggle.

**Heuchera** - Heucheras are grown for their colourful, evergreen foliage, ranging from green to deep purple. They form attractive clumps and make excellent groundcover in shady areas or the front of borders, with spikes of tiny summer flowers that attract polli-

nators like bees and butterflies.

**Bergenia** - Fondly known as 'Elephant's Ears', Bergenia's large, shiny leaves and pink or purple spring flowers make it a fantastic choice for dense groundcover. It tolerates both shade and drought, providing year-round interest with its evergreen foliage when other plants have faded.

**Heather** - These evergreen, low-

growing shrubs flourish in acidic soils and sunny locations. With flowers ranging from white to deep red, calluna heathers provide colour from late summer through winter and are beloved by pollinators, who will feast on this popular ground cover plant. Plant with other heathers, such as erica and daboecia, to have flowers and cover all year round.

**Lavender** - Lavender is a great ground cover plant because it spreads out to form a low, fragrant mat of purple flowers that brighten up garden beds and borders. It thrives in sunny, well drained soil and is drought tolerant once established, making it easy to care for. Lavender also naturally repels pests like aphids, so it helps protect nearby plants while keeping weeds down. Known for its calming scent, its flowers attract bees and butterflies, supporting pollinators in your garden.

**Aubrieta** - Aubrieta is a great groundcover for beginners because it's easy to grow and spreads quickly, creating a lovely carpet of purple and blue flowers in spring. It likes sunny spots and well-drained soil, and once it is settled, it does not need much care. A massive plus is it helps keep weeds down and adds a splash of colour to gardens, rockeries, or walls without much fuss.

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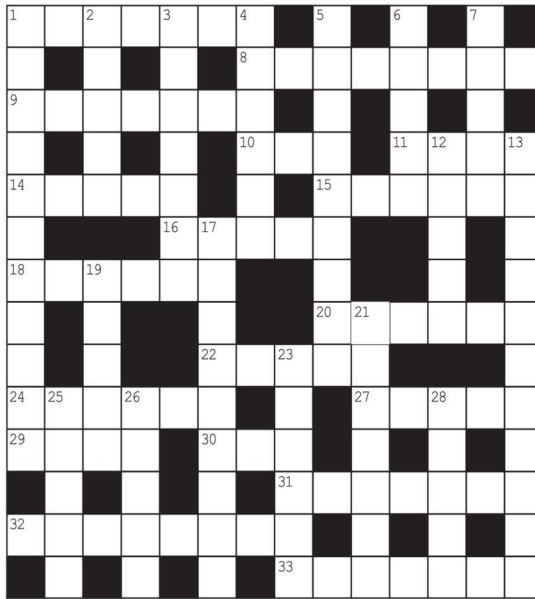




# GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

## ACROSS

- 1 See 11 Across
- 8 Citizen of the West African republic with capital Accra (8)
- 9 Mounted bullfighter with a lance (7)
- 10 Historical period (3)
- 11 & 1 Across Author whose books include Smiley's People (4,2,5)
- 14 Philosopher of a school founded by Zeno (5)
- 15 A heathcock or moorfowl (6)
- 16 "...both...are subdued, And neither party ---" (Henry IV, Pt. 2) (5)
- 18 & 7 Down Fawley Towers actor (6,5)
- 20 Surname of the dramatist famous for Trelawny of the Wells (6)
- 22 From sunset to sunrise (5)
- 24 Migratory winged insect (6)
- 27 Prefix meaning English (5)
- 29 Widely used metal (4)
- 30 Miss Thurman, actress who starred in the film Pulp Fiction (3)
- 31 Red or white wine of Tuscany (7)
- 32 One of the nine Muses (8)
- 33 Mack ---, producer and director associated with the Keystone Pictures Studio (7)



## DOWN

- 1 Beautiful stone of calcite and other minerals (5,6)
- 2 Cocoa and chocolate are made from this tree's seeds (5)
- 3 A little root (7)
- 4 Herons of several species (6)
- 5 Short separate item of news or comment in a newspaper (9)
- 6 Musical instrument (5)
- 7 See 18 Across
- 12 The snow leopard (5)
- 13 A student of the nervous system (11)
- 17 Second husband of Catherine of France, widow of Henry V (4,5)
- 19 Athenian archon, establisher of a severe code of laws (5)
- 21 Name of a symphony by Mendelssohn (7)
- 23 In Greek myth, the three goddesses of beauty and charm (6)
- 25 Mountain nymph in Greek legend (5)
- 26 Colloquially, a pawnbroker (5)
- 28 Sprite or goblin of Arabian tales (5)

# SOLUTIONS

ACROSS: 1 Le Carre; 8 Ghanaian; 9 Fiedler; 10 Era; 11 John; 14 Stolz; 15 Grouse; 16 Loser; 18 Andrew; 20 Pinauro; 22 Night; 24 Locust; 27 Anglo; 29 Iron; 30 Uma; 31 Chianti; 32 Calliope; 33 Senett. DOWN: 1 Lapis lazuli; 2 Cacao; 3 Radicle; 4 Egrets; 5 Paragraph; 6 Banjo; 7 Sachs; 8 Unice; 12 Unice; 13 Neurologist; 17 Owen Tudor; 19 Draco; 21 Italian; 23 Graces; 25 Oread; 26 Under; 28 Genie.

## General Knowledge Crossword

ACROSS: 4 Attract; 8 Needed; 9 Missile; 10 Regard; 11 Indeed; 12 String; 18 Optional; 20 Propel; 21 Sprawl; 22 Radiate; 23 Brogue; 24 Depends. DOWN: 1 Undress; 2 Penguin; 3 Terror; 5 Twilight; 6 Reside; 7 Caller; 13 Isolated; 14 Enlarge; 15 Slender; 16 Ornate; 17 Sprite; 19 Impart.

## Crossword

AVALANCHE: Les Dennis, Samuel L Jackson, Patrick Stewart, Shaun Williamson, Stephen Merchant, Orlando Bloom, David Bowie, Daniel Radcliffe, Ricky Gervais, Ben Stiller, Ross Kemp, Vinnie Jones, Kate Winslet. NINE: Chris Martin, Ian McKellen, Jonathan Ross, Clive Owen, Karl Pilkington, Ashley Jensen. GRADIENTS: Stephen Merchant, Orlando Bloom, David Bowie, Daniel Radcliffe, Ricky Gervais, Ben Stiller, Ross Kemp, Vinnie Jones, Kate Winslet.

## Wordwheel Pathfinder

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

## Codeword

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

Hard

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

Easy  
Sudoku



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# BREAKING NEWS WHAT'S ON SPORT INTERVIEWS

# Classified

TELEPHONE 01527 588688 FACSIMILE 01527 584371

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

**Application Number R25/0511**  
**BEECHCROFT, 5, THE ELMS PADDOCK, CLIFTON UPON DUNSMORE, RUGBY, CV23 0TD**  
Single storey rear extension, single storey side extension, first floor front extension and garage conversion.  
**This development may affect a Conservation Area**

**Application Number R25/0549**  
**PARCEL F (MILLER HOMES) HOULTON (RUGBY RADIO STATION), KEY PHASE 4, WATLING STREET, RUGBY, CV23 0AS**  
Erection of 216 dwellings and associated works and development including access roads, parking and garages (application for approval of reserved matters relating to access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale pursuant to outline planning permission R17/0022)  
**This is a major development**

**Application Number R25/0598**  
**PARK FARM HOUSE, PARK FARM, SPRING ROAD, BARNACLE, COVENTRY, CV7 9LG**  
Listed building consent for proposed internal alterations and structural repairs  
**This development may affect a Listed Building. This development may affect a Public Right of Way**

**Application Number R25/0603**  
**COTON HOUSE, LEICESTER ROAD, CHURCHOVER, RUGBY, CV23 0UT**  
Retrospective application for the change of use of section of parkland to residential curtilage.  
**This development may affect a Listed Building**

**Application Number R25/0604**  
**COTON HOUSE, LEICESTER ROAD, CHURCHOVER, RUGBY, CV23 0UT**  
Retention of greenhouse, fountain and sunken pond with associated re-leveling and landscaping. (Retrospective)  
**This development may affect a Listed Building**

**Application Number R25/0605**  
**COTON HOUSE, LEICESTER ROAD, CHURCHOVER, RUGBY, CV23 0UT**  
Retention of orangery and raised platform (retrospective).  
**This development may affect a Listed Building**

**Application Number R25/0606**  
**COTON HOUSE, LEICESTER ROAD, CHURCHOVER, RUGBY, CV23 0UT**  
Listed Building consent for the retention of orangery and raised platform  
**This development may affect a Listed Building**

Members of the public may inspect copies of the application, the plans and documents submitted with it online at: [www.planningportal.rugby.gov.uk](http://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 **15 August 2025**. Please note a planning officer would not be present.

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION ACCOMPANIED BY AN ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT**

**Application Number R25/0407**  
**LAND TO THE NORTH EAST OF CAWSTON LANE AND LAND EAST OF ALWYN ROAD, CAWSTON LANE, DUNCHURCH**  
An outline application for phased residential development of up to 800 homes (Use Class C3) as well as drainage, landscaping, open space, and associated infrastructure with all matters reserved.  
**This development may affect a Listed Building. This development may affect a Public Right of Way. This is a major development.**

**This application is accompanied by an Environmental Statement** which can be viewed in electronic form at Town Hall, Evreux Way, Rugby, CV21 2RR for 30 days. Members of the public may obtain copies of the Environmental Statement (ES) from RPS Consulting Services Ltd, 0121 622 8520, [kasir.ijaz@rps.teratech.com](mailto:kasir.ijaz@rps.teratech.com), RPS, 4th Floor, 1 Newhall Street B3 3NH. Hard copy of all volumes - £1200.00, Non-Technical Summary (Volume I) - £50.00; ES report (Volume II) - £500; Technical Appendices - £300; electronic copies on CD - £10.00.

**Please make any representation within 30 days of this notice** to the Town Hall address above, online or via email to [swr-taylorwimpey@rugby.gov.uk](mailto:swr-taylorwimpey@rugby.gov.uk). Please ensure your full postal address is included.

**Application Number R25/0487**  
**LAND SOUTH WEST OF CAWSTON LANE, DUNCHURCH**  
Outline Planning Application. Residential development of up to 470 dwellings, associated vehicular access points to Cawston Lane, pedestrian/cycle access points, parking, landscaping, drainage features, open space, children's play area and associated infrastructure. Demolition of all existing buildings. (All matters reserved except for access).  
**This development may affect a Listed Building. This development may affect a Public Right of Way. This is a major development.**

**This application is accompanied by an Environmental Statement** which can be viewed in electronic form at Town Hall, Evreux Way, Rugby, CV21 2RR for 30 days. Members of the public may obtain copies of the Environmental Statement (ES) from Marrons, Bridgeway House, Bridgeway, Stratford upon Avon, CV37 6YX, Tel: 01789 416 400. Hard copies of Non-Technical Summary - free, hard copies of the full ES - £500, main ES statement - £250 for the Main Statement, electronic copies on CD - £5.

**Please make any representation within 30 days of this notice** to the Town Hall address above, online or via email to [swr-catesby@rugby.gov.uk](mailto:swr-catesby@rugby.gov.uk). Please ensure your full postal address is included.

**Application Number R25/0491**  
**LAND EAST AND WEST OF CAWSTON LANE, NORTH OF COVENTRY ROAD AND LAND EAST OF ALWYN ROAD, CAWSTON LANE**  
Outline application for up to 1,600 residential dwellings; a 2 form entry Primary School; a 6 form entry Secondary School and Community Sports Hub including floodlit outdoor sports & changing/social/indoor fitness facilities; healthcare facilities; a mixed use centre containing residential dwellings, supported living facility, up to 11,200sqm of community and commercial development which could include retail, office, food and drink, nursery/creche, community/public hall and sui generis uses such as drinking establishments and take aways. Supporting development including open space, play areas, public realm, vehicle parking, cycle parking, a mobility hub, landscaping, drainage (all matters reserved except for access).  
Full application for part of the Sustainable Transport Link between Homestead Link Road and land to the west; new estate road from the Community Spine Road to land to the north; associated landscaping and drainage.  
Demolition of parts of Cherry Tree Farm, Windmill Farm and Dunkleys Farm. Change of use of the retained buildings at Dunkleys Farm and Windmill Farm to commercial and community uses listed (included within the 11,200 sqm) as flexible uses under Class V of the GDPO.  
**This development may affect a Listed Building. This development may affect a Public Right of Way. This is a major development.**

This application is accompanied by an Environmental Statement which can be viewed in electronic form at Town Hall, Evreux Way, Rugby, CV21 2RR for 30 days. Members of the public may obtain a paper copy of the Environmental Statement from the applicant for £1,000 by contacting [Samantha.Claire.vanDoorn@atkinsrealis.com](mailto:Samantha.Claire.vanDoorn@atkinsrealis.com)

**Please make any representation within 30 days of this notice** to the Town Hall address above, online or via email to [swr-homesengland@rugby.gov.uk](mailto:swr-homesengland@rugby.gov.uk). Please ensure your full postal address is included.

If you wish to make an appointment to discuss the application please contact the case officer.

Any person who wishes to make representation to the above mentioned Council about the applications should make them online - [www.planningportal.rugby.gov.uk](http://www.planningportal.rugby.gov.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](http://www.rugby.gov.uk/speakingatplanning)

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

**Nicola Smith**  
Chief Officer - Growth and Investment MRTPI

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Mavi Logistic Limited of 165 Woodway Lane, Coventry, CV2 2EH is applying to change an existing licence as follows to add 1 goods vehicles and 1 trailers at the operating centre at 1 Oban Road, Coventry, CV6 6HH

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. Representors 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

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

Notice is hereby given that **Ka Wai Wong & Hoi Ting Siu** has applied to Coventry City Council for a new premises license for **Croffle Bank, 13 High Street, Coventry, West Midlands, CV1 5RE**

Details of Application: **Recorded Music (Indoors): 11:00 - 21:00 (7 days a week), Supply of Alcohol (On and Off Sales): 11:00 - 21:00 (7 days a week)**

Any person wishing to lodge a representation concerning this application may write to: Licensing Authority, The Council House, Earl Street Coventry CV1 5RR

Or send an email to: [licensing@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@coventry.gov.uk). The application may be viewed during normal office hours at the above address and further information may be available at [www.coventry.gov.uk](http://www.coventry.gov.uk) on the public register. Any Representation relating to this application must be made in writing to the Licensing Authority by **07/08/2025**

Please note it is an offence to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with an application. The maximum fine on summary conviction for this offence is Unlimited

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Listers Group Limited of Othello House, Baxby Road, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, CV37 7GY is applying to change an existing licence as follows: To keep an extra 6 goods vehicles and 3 trailers at the operating centre at: Lawford Heath Industrial Estate, Lawford Heath Lane, Rugby, CV23 9EU.

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. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available at: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-guide-to-making-representations-objections-and-complaints-goods-vehicle-operator-licensing](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-guide-to-making-representations-objections-and-complaints-goods-vehicle-operator-licensing)

## PUBLIC NOTICES

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

### Planning Appeals

**Application Number R25/0226 - Planning Appeal - APP/E3715/W/25/3368190**  
Footpath Outside 28-31, High Street, Rugby Installation of 1 No. BT Street Hub Unit and associated advertisement panels on either side of the unit

**Application Number R25/0229 - Planning Appeal - APP/E3715/H/25/3368191**  
Footpath Outside 28-31, High Street, Rugby Advertisement consent for 2no. digital 75-inch LCD display screens, one on each side of the Street Hub unit.

Appeal documents are available online at [www.planningportal.rugby.gov.uk](http://www.planningportal.rugby.gov.uk)

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### Warwickshire County Council

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

**PIT HILL, BUBBENHALL**  
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.  
Reason for Order: Works to install new water hydrant.

Order Commences: 29 July 2025 for up to 18 months.  
Anticipated Completion: 31 July 2025.  
Access & Diversion: Pit Hill, Ryton Road, Spring Hill and vice versa.

Contractor: Chevron Traffic Management Ltd, Tel: 03300 080 820.

### WIXFORD ROAD, EXHALL

Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.  
Reason for Order: To enable new water connection works.

Order Commences: 28 July 2025 for up to 18 months.  
Anticipated Completion: 30 July 2025.  
Access & Diversion: Grafton Road, Wixford Road, Bidford Road and vice versa.  
Contractor: Go TM Ltd, Tel: 07880 034 087.

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](http://warwickshire.gov.uk/roadworksmap) or call us 01926 412515.

### THE WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**TEMPORARY CLOSURE & NO STOPPING RESTRICTIONS AT A444 JIMMY HILL WAY, COVENTRY (MATCHES AT COVENTRY BUILDING SOCIETY ARENA)**  
Warwickshire County Council propose to make a Temporary Traffic Order, the effect of which will be to close the A444 Jimmy Hill Way, Coventry, to vehicular traffic, between the County Boundary with Coventry and its roundabout junction with M6 Junction 3, and to impose no waiting and no stopping restrictions thereupon.

The temporary restrictions are required in the interests of public safety due to anticipated large crowds exiting matches at the nearby Coventry Building Society Arena, and to assist with facilitating safe pedestrian egress therefrom.

The Order will commence on 9 August 2025 and will end on 31 July 2026. However, it is anticipated that the temporary restrictions will only be in operation during those dates described in the Schedule below and may be subject to change in the event match dates are rescheduled.

An alternative route will be available for vehicular traffic via Pickards Way, Longford Road, Coventry Road, School Lane, Church Lane, Vicarage Lane, Ash Green Lane, Wheelwright Lane, Holbrook Lane, Holbrook Way, Jimmy Hill Way and vice versa. Pedestrian access will be maintained at all times and exemptions will be applied for the emergency services.

The Contractors dealing with this matter on behalf of Coventry Building Society Arena are APCOA (contact number: 07970 201399). To report any problems with these temporary restrictions please telephone 01926 412515.

### SCHEDULE

- 9 August 2025
- 12 August 2025
- 23 August 2025
- 13 September 2025
- 27 September 2025
- 18 October 2025
- 25 October 2025
- 4 November 2025
- 22 November 2025
- 29 November 2025
- 13 December 2025
- 26 December 2025
- 29 December 2025
- 17 January 2026
- 20 January 2026
- 7 February 2026
- 14 February 2026
- 28 February 2026
- 11 March 2026
- 4 March 2026
- 3 April 2026
- 11 April 2026
- 25 April 2026

**S Duxbury, Director of Strategy, Planning & Governance, Shire Hall, Warwick CV34 4RL Date 25 July 2025**

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### MARY WILLIAMS (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 Eric Williams House Brookside Avenue Coventry, CV5 8AP, who died on 25/06/2025, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 26/09/2025, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

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

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### WILLIAM GEORGE BYRNE (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 35 Bohun Street, Coventry, CV4 9SB, United Kingdom, who died on 25/03/2023, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 26/09/2025, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

**Kathleen Ryan of Band Hatton Butten LLP**  
Carlson Park, 53-55 Butts Road, Coventry, West Midlands CV1 3BH

### THELMA ELIZABETH FOSTER (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 112 Silverdale Close Coventry, CV2 1PX, who died on 13/07/2025, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 26/09/2025, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

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

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### ROBERT PURSE (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 11 Brook Street, Fenny Compton, Southam, CV47 2YH, who died on 12/06/2025, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 25/09/2025, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

**Robert Gerrard-Purse**, The London Gazette (15441), PO Box 3584, Norwich NR7 7WD

### VICTOR CHARLES WAITE (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 8 Prospect Road, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, CV31 2BY, who died on 26/05/2024, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 26/09/2025, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

**Kathleen Ryan of Band Hatton Butten LLP**  
Carlson Park, 53-55 Butts Road, Coventry, West Midlands CV1 3BH



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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:

**ABBEY STREET, RUGBY**

**Order Effect:** Road closed to vehicular traffic.  
**Reason for Order:** To enable works to repair/replace defective manhole frame and covers.  
**Order Commences:** 1 August 2025 for up to 18 months.  
**Anticipated Completion:** 1 August 2025.  
**Access & Diversion:** Cambridge Street, Clifton Road, South Street, Abbey Street and vice versa.  
**Contractor:** Customer Solutions Plus, Tel: 07918 298 599.

**D22740 HILL ROAD, GRANDBOROUGH**

**Order Effect:** Road closed to vehicular traffic from Main Street to A426.  
**Reason for Order:** Tree removal and drainage works, 08.00hrs-17.00hrs.  
**Order Commences:** 28 July 2025 for up to 18 months.  
**Anticipated Completion:** 30 July 2025.  
**Access & Diversion:** A426, Flecknoe Road, Broadwell Road, Flecknoe Station Road, Sawbridge Road, Willoughby Road, Grandborough Road, Sawbridge Road, Main Station and vice versa.  
**Contractor:** Balfour Beatty, Tel: 03452 415 302.

**DRAYCOTE ROAD, DRAYCOTE**

**Order Effect:** Road closed to vehicular traffic from Main Street to Glebe Farm Road.  
**Reason for Order:** To enable meter renewal works.  
**Order Commences:** 31 July 2025 for up to 18 months.  
**Anticipated Completion:** 1 August 2025.  
**Access & Diversion:** Draycote Road, Main Street, Straight Mile and vice versa.  
**Contractor:** Chevron TM Ltd, Tel: 03300 080 820.

**FLECKNOE ROAD, LEAMINGTON HASTINGS**

**Order Effect:** Road closed to vehicular traffic.  
**Reason for Order:** To enable works on the water network.  
**Order Commences:** 31 July 2025 for up to 18 months.  
**Anticipated Completion:** 1 August 2025.  
**Access & Diversion:** Hayway Lane, Main Street, Hospital Lane, Southam Road and vice versa.  
**Contractor:** Chevron TM Ltd, Tel: 03300 080 820.

**WEST STREET & MAIN STREET, LONG LAWFORD**

**Order Effect:** Road closed to vehicular traffic.  
**Reason for Order:** Access to telegraph pole(s) to provide fibre overhead cabling for customer supply.  
**Order Commences:** 1 August 2025 for up to 18 months.  
**Anticipated Completion:** 1 August 2025.  
**Access & Diversion:** Main Street, Cross Street, Chapel Street, Railway Street and vice versa.  
**Contractor:** Sunbelt Rentals Ltd, Tel: 03700 500 792.

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

**D30050 DREYER CLOSE, RUGBY**

**Order Effect:** Road closed to vehicular traffic from its junction with Cornwallis Road.  
**Reason for Order:** Carriageway patching and associated works, 08.00hrs-16.00hrs.  
**Order Commences:** 14 August 2025 for up to 18 months.  
**Anticipated Completion:** 14 August 2025.  
**Access & Diversion:** No diversion available.  
**Contractor:** Balfour Beatty, Tel: 03452 415 302.

**D22940 SCHOOL HILL, FLECKNOE**

**Order Effect:** Road closed to vehicular traffic from Flecknoe Village Road to Church Hill.  
**Reason for Order:** Carriageway patching and associated works, 09.30hrs-13.00hrs.  
**Order Commences:** 12 August 2025 for up to 18 months.  
**Anticipated Completion:** 12 August 2025.  
**Access & Diversion:** Flecknoe Village Road, Church Hill and vice versa.  
**Contractor:** Balfour Beatty, Tel: 03452 415 302.

**EDVYAN CLOSE, OVERSLADE, RUGBY**

**Order Effect:** Road closed to vehicular traffic.  
**Reason for Order:** To enable duct laying works.  
**Order Commences:** 15 August 2025 for up to 18 months.  
**Anticipated Completion:** 16 August 2025.  
**Access & Diversion:** No diversion available.  
**Contractor:** M J Quinn, Tel: 01543 547 118.

**GORSE CLOSE, OVERSLADE, RUGBY**

**Order Effect:** Road closed to vehicular traffic.  
**Reason for Order:** To safely enable works to lay duct.  
**Order Commences:** 13 August 2025 for up to 18 months.  
**Anticipated Completion:** 13 August 2025.  
**Access & Diversion:** No diversion available.  
**Contractor:** Core Highways, Tel: 03300 169 688.

**GRASMERE CLOSE, BROWNSOVER, RUGBY**

**Order Effect:** Road closed to vehicular traffic.  
**Reason for Order:** Works to renew water mains in the carriageway and footway.  
**Order Commences:** 11 August 2025 for up to 18 months.  
**Anticipated Completion:** 5 September 2025.  
**Access & Diversion:** No diversion available.  
**Contractor:** Chevron Traffic Management, Tel: 03301 744 388.

**MILL ROAD, BUTLERS LEAP, RUGBY**

**Order Effect:** Road closed to vehicular traffic.  
**Reason for Order:** Works to remove vegetation from railway bridge, closed 22.00hrs-06.00hrs.  
**Order Commences:** 11 August 2025 for up to 18 months.  
**Anticipated Completion:** 16 August 2025.  
**Access & Diversion:** Mill Road, Butlers Leap, Clifton Road, Whitehall Road, Murray Road and vice versa.  
**Contractor:** QTS Group, Tel: 03300 433 030.

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](http://warwickshire.gov.uk/roadworksmap) or call us 01926 412515.  
 S Duxbury, Director of Strategy, Planning & Governance, Shire Hall, Warwick CV34 4RL Date 25 July 2025

# Classified

TELEPHONE 01527 588688

**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**Warwickshire County Council**

**ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984**

Warwickshire County Council has made the following Temporary Traffic Orders:

**MODEL VILLAGE, LONG ITCHINGTON**

**Order Effect:** Road closed to vehicular traffic.  
**Reason for Order:** Works to connect to electricity supply.  
**Order Commences:** 28 July 2025 for up to 18 months.  
**Anticipated Completion:** 31 July 2025.  
**Access & Diversion:** No diversion available.  
**Contractor:** Network Plus, Tel: 08081 642 252.

**WULFSTAN DRIVE, LONG ITCHINGTON**

**Order Effect:** Road closed to vehicular traffic.  
**Reason for Order:** Works to repair small water pipe.  
**Order Commences:** 30 July 2025 for up to 18 months.  
**Anticipated Completion:** 1 August 2025.  
**Access & Diversion:** No diversion available.  
**Contractor:** Chevron Traffic Management Ltd, Tel: 03300 080 820.

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

**A423 SOUTHAM BYPASS, SOUTHAM**

**Order Effect:** The layby on the southbound carriageway of the A423 Southam Bypass, Southam, situated 100 metres before the Galanos roundabout, will be closed to vehicular traffic. In addition, a 40mph speed restriction will be imposed between Galanos Roundabout and the current 30mph speed limit at the Daventry Roundabout.  
**Reason for Order:** To avoid the likelihood of danger to road users and to the contractors engaged in works in connection with the new Aldi Store.  
**Order Commences:** 11 August 2025 for up to 18 months.  
**Anticipated Completion:** 3 December 2025.  
**Contractor:** Fitzgerald Contractors Ltd, Tel: 01213 260 402.

**BASCOTE ROAD, BASCOTE HEATH**

**Order Effect:** Road closed to vehicular traffic between its junction with Welsh Rd West to a point opposite to The Fox and Hen Public House.  
**Reason for Order:** To enable stop tap renewal works.  
**Order Commences:** 12 August 2025 for up to 18 months.  
**Anticipated Completion:** 13 August 2025.  
**Access & Diversion:** Welsh Road, Fosse Way, Southam Road, Ufton Hill, Bascote Road and vice versa.  
**Contractor:** Chevron TM Ltd, Tel: 03300 080 820.

For all of the above temporary orders, pedestrian access to and egress from properties and land situated adjacent to the length of road to be closed will be maintained at all times. Vehicular access will be maintained where possible.  
 To report any problems with these works or for further details of our current & planned roadworks visit our website [warwickshire.gov.uk/roadworksmap](http://warwickshire.gov.uk/roadworksmap) or call us 01926 412515.  
 S Duxbury, Director of Strategy, Planning & Governance, Shire Hall, Warwick CV34 4RL Date 25 July 2025

**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**APPLICATION FOR A NEW LICENCE LICENSING ACT 2003**

NOTICE is hereby given that we, New Vision Events Ltd have applied on 21st July 2025 to Rugby Borough Council in respect of the premises known as **Combe Abbey (part of), Brinklow Road, Binley, Nr Coventry, CV3 2AB** for a PREMISES LICENCE to provide the following licensable activities:  
 FILMS, PLAYS, LIVE MUSIC, RECORDED MUSIC, ANYTHING SIMILAR TO THE ABOVE, SALE OF ALCOHOL (CONSUMPTION ON PREMISES), between the hours of 12:00-8:23:00 for two event weekends (being a) Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday a year between the months of April to October  
 Further information concerning the application can be viewed by accessing the Licensing Act 2003 Electronic public register at: [www.licensing@rugby.gov.uk](http://www.licensing@rugby.gov.uk)  
 Any person, who wishes to make a representation, must do so in writing, preferably by email to: [www.licensing@rugby.gov.uk](mailto:www.licensing@rugby.gov.uk) or alternatively by post to Rugby Borough Council, FAO Public Health and Licensing Team, Town Hall, Evreux Way, Rugby CV21 2RR  
 Representations must be made in writing to the above address by 23.59 hours on 18th August 2025  
 It is an offence, under section 158 of the licensing act 2003, to make a false statement in or in connection with this application. Those who make a false statement may be liable on summary conviction to a fine of any amount.

**SALES & WANTS**

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**BEDS NEW** Doubles £95 Singles £59 King size £159. Second hand doubles £49 Singles £29 Fridges £49 Freezers £59 Can deliver 07703 925662

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

**MARVEL / DC Lego** models £250 9cost over £500 willingly sell separately 07319147987

**4 leather tan leather** armchairs W100cm D110cm H70cm existing labels £75 each one must have been seen 01564 770633

**DOUBLE Buggie,** Reasonable condition £ 25 079022 92926

**NEXT ladies crop** jeans, size 12, brand new £15 07813 706 158 (Shirley area)

**DYNASTY Season** One dvd box set, mint condition £12 07813 706 158 (Shirley area)

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**DYNASTY Season** One dvd box set, mint condition £12 07813 706 158 (Shirley area)

**M A N C H E S T E R** United red cap, size small / medium, brand new £10 07813 706 158 (Shirley area)

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

**CARAVAN** Aquaroll with handle, 40 litres, good condition £30 07813 706 158 (Shirley area)

**SIX Oak Dining** Chairs (black seats) Good Condition £50 ono 07879015716

**WANTED** Buggie, Reasonable condition £ 25 079022 92926

**\*\*WANTED: Vinyl Records CDs Cassettes** Vintage or New \*\* Seeking classic rock, jazz, indie and rare finds. Cash paid or text: 07765 142354 Or 01527 893992 Or email: [welston@live.com](mailto:welston@live.com) Paul (Albatross & Doomed Records)

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**REGATTA Great** Outdoors Hydrorafort navy ladies waterproof jacket, Mesh lining, New, Size 12. £14. Tel. 0121 430 3880

**4 x black lantern** lighting kit with bulbs for garden and patio, new in box £25 07813 706 158 (Shirley area)

**GEORGE and Mildred** complete tv series dvd box set £25 07813 706 158 (Shirley area)

**LADIES New Look** green lace-up pumps, size 8 / 41, brand new £8 07813 706 158 (Shirley area)

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## Valley and Borough to meet on final day

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

**FOOTBALL:** BOTH Rugby Town and Rugby Borough have discovered their fixtures for the 2025/26 Northern Premier League Midlands season.

The Northern Premier League have released the fixtures for the 2025/26 season across their respective divisions.

And Valley will start the campaign with a home game against Carlton Town on Saturday, August 9.

Newly-promoted Borough will begin life at Step Four with a trip to Boldmere St Michaels on the same day.

Valley play local rivals Racing Club

Warwick back-to-back in league and cup at the start of September.

Town host the Racers in the FA Trophy (September 6) and then travel to Townsend Meadow in the league (September 13).

And Valley welcome rivals Coventry Sphinx to Butlin Road the following month (October 18).

Valley make the trip to Bedworth United (November 22) in another derby clash.

The first Rugby derby of the season takes place the following weekend with Borough to visit Butlin Road (November 29).

And Valley then host Warwick in the return league fixture (December 6) which also marks the club's final home game of the year.

Borough travel to local rivals Coventry Sphinx on Boxing Day

(December 26) in their final game of the year.

And Valley host Mickleover on Boxing Day which also marks the club's final fixture of 2025.

Borough face another derby clash against Racing Club Warwick on New Year's Day (January 1) in their first game of 2026.

Valley travel to Shepshed Dynamo on New Year's Day in their first game of the New Year.

And Valley travel to Coventry in the return fixture the following month (February 21).

Valley host Bedworth in the return fixture in their final home game of the season (April 18).

And the season will end with a mouth-watering derby clash as Borough host Valley on the final day of the campaign at Kilsby Lane (April 25).

## Another national title for O'Connor



**Rob O'Connor on top of the podium in Bath after winning another national title.**

**CYCLING:** ROB O'Connor claimed his second national title of the season with victory in the British Cycling National Masters Circuit Championships.

The Rugby cyclist triumphed in the 65 to 69-year-old age group in Bath.

Cyclists from across the United Kingdom - from Scotland to Penzance - battled it out on a tricky circuit.

Dorset-based rider Robert

Cranstone attempted a late attack with five laps left.

However, O'Connor and Wigan-based rider Roy Homes managed to reel in Cranstone.

With three laps to go, O'Connor and three other riders sat 20 seconds clear of the bunch.

O'Connor went into the last corner in the lead and remained ahead after the final 350m sprint to take the coveted red, white and blue jersey and gold medal.

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