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Green for go as parks win right to fly the flag

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

FIVE of Rugby borough's parks have retained prestigious Green Flag Awards.

Caldecott Park, Newbold's Centenary Park and Millennium Green have all retained Green Flag Awards, while New Bilton's Jubilee Recreation Ground and the 'pocket park' at Gladstone Green held on to Green Flag Community Awards.

Caldecott Park has now retained its Green Flag status for an 18th year, while Centenary Park has achieved ten awards on the trot.

Millennium Green has now secured Green Flag status for nine years in a row, while Gladstone Green retained its Green Flag Community Award for a ninth year, with Jubilee Recreation Ground keeping its community award for a fourth year.

Green Flag is the international benchmark for quality parks and open spaces, promoting well-managed and well-maintained parks and facilities. Judges assess nominated parks against ten criteria, including horticultural standards, sustainability, cleanliness and community involvement.

Green Flag Community Awards recognise parks and green spaces which play a part in bringing communities together.



Front, left to right: **Stephanie Huggett**, the council's town park ranger, **Coun Maggie O'Rourke**, **Sheela Hammond**, chair of New Bilton Community Association, **Coun Neil Sandison**. Back, left to right: **David Henderson**, **Thomas Malin**, **Daniel Mallinson** and **Benjamin Anstice**, members of the council's grounds maintenance team.

Both community awards were reward for the hard work of New Bilton Community Association, which has worked with the council to develop Gladstone Green and Jubilee Recreation Ground.

The pollinator-friendly partnership has borne fruit, with volun-

teers and residents supporting a community orchard and community growing projects, which harvest a variety of fruit, vegetables and herbs throughout the year.

Sheela Hammond, chair of New Bilton Community Association, said: "We're proud to have been

awarded our Green Flags as we have invested volunteer time, effort and money in our community projects in New Bilton.

"Every year is a school year as far as learning to plant with the rhythms of unseasonal changes - all challenging and fun - and we're still

learning, still experimenting and still planting."

Cllr Maggie O'Rourke, Rugby Borough Council's spokesperson for partnerships and wellbeing, praised the hard work and dedication of the council's teams, volunteers and residents who all played a part in the town's Green Flag success.

She added: "The Green Flag Awards set the standard for high-quality parks and open spaces, so to have five parks ranked amongst the best in the country is an achievement we can all be proud of."

Her Liberal Democrat counterpart Coun Neil Sandison said: "This handful of excellent parks are leading the way in raising the standard of parks across the borough."

"We're seeing an increase in community-led involvement in our local parks and open spaces, and the Green Flag Awards give our council teams and volunteers a goal to aspire to."



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Katie sends positive vibe

AN EXCITED Coventry teenager has been crowned the UK's National Junior Miss for 2025-26.

Katie Keenan, 15, said she couldn't be more excited to wear her crown while travelling across the UK, raising funds for charities, and spreading a message of self-belief to young people during her year of service.



Katie, pictured, has also created a social media series entitled Katie's Corner: A Teen's Take on the World, which offers a safe and empowering space for teens to chat, connect, and be themselves.

A competitive Irish dancer since the age of three, Katie also studied Musical Theatre from the age of six and is now pursuing a B-Tech in Musical Theatre.

Those interested in following in Katie's footsteps can email info@pageantgirluk.com or call 01925 767 884 for more information.

Good news as volunteers take award

DEDICATED volunteers who support the delivery of Rugby Art Gallery and Museum's ground-breaking Good Times project have been recognised by Warwickshire Community and Voluntary Action (CAVA).

Good Times offers free art and craft sessions specifically designed for people living with dementia, with sessions taking place once a month at Rugby Art Gallery and Museum.

Volunteers also support the Good Times Roadshow, which visits care homes in the borough to deliver themed sessions inspired by 'remembrance' boxes containing objects from the museum's social history collection.

At the Benn Hall, the team were presented with a Warwickshire CAVA Volunteer Recognition award for services to the borough's community during an event to celebrate the work of volunteers across the

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borough. Warwickshire CAVA provides support for volunteers, organisations, charities and enterprises, working to empower and strengthen communities across the county.

Coun Maggie O'Rourke, Rugby Borough Council's spokesperson for partnerships and wellbeing, said she was delighted the hard work and dedication of the Good Times' team had been recognised by Warwickshire CAVA.

She said: "Rugby Art Gallery and Museum launched the Good Times project a decade ago with the goal of creating a supportive environment where people living with dementia can socialise, reminisce and, most importantly, have fun.

"Volunteers play a vital role in delivering the project and have been a major part of its success, so I'm thrilled the team's wonderful work



Left to right: Rachel Coldicott, Rugby Art Gallery and Museum's learning and engagement assistant, joined museum volunteers Katherine Paglinawan and Angela Pearson at the awards.

has been recognised by CAVA."

Her Liberal Democrat counterpart Coun Neil Sandison added: "Rugby's a small town with a big rural community, and without the support of volunteers it would be a much poorer place to live.

"We really welcome the recogni-

tion of the valuable role this group of volunteers provides, alongside the commitment of Rugby Art Gallery and Museum's staff to help those living with dementia."

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

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The colourful free open-air community event takes place on Sunday October 12.

Counting down to Diwali

DIWALI celebrations will return to Rugby town centre this autumn and organisers are keen to hear from organisations and individuals keen to participate.

Organised by Rugby Indian Communities with support from Rugby First, Rugby Borough Council and event management company Unlimited Communications, the free open-air community event will take place on Sunday October 12.

The event will include music, dance, stalls, festive lighting and a lantern parade. Activities will run from 1pm to 7pm and take place in Market Place, High Street, Sheep Street and the Asda car park in front of the Swan Centre.

Diwali is the five-day Festival of Lights, celebrated by millions of Hindus,

Sikhs and Jains across the world. It is a festival of new beginnings and the triumph of good over evil and light over darkness, and for some also coincides with harvest and new year celebrations.

The festival always falls sometime between October and November, but the exact date varies each year as the Hindu calendar is based on the moon.

Coun Ish Mistry, who is one of the organisers of the event and deputy leader of Rugby Borough Council, said: "Diwali is an extremely important annual celebration for the Indian community, and I am so pleased it will be returning to the town centre again.

"This year we are really keen to involve other communities from across the

borough in this important celebration, so if you are interested in having a stall, joining the procession, making some lanterns or being part of the music and dance programme please get in touch."

Linda Lowne, Rugby First business director, added: "Rugby has an incredibly diverse community and an event like this brings people together. It also generates significant footfall and provides a boost to the town centre economy, so you can have some fun while also supporting local businesses."

Anyone interested in being part of the celebrations, want to have a stall or run a special promotion, should contact chris@ucltd.co.uk, or visit www.rugbyfirst.org

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Mithra gets on her bike to support charity fund

AN 'INSPIRATIONAL' eight-year-old from Rugby has jumped in the saddle to raise hundreds of pounds for her school and the town's hospital.

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

Mithra Sathiyamurthi, a pupil at Abbots Farm Junior School, has completed a near-40 mile cycle ride from Rugby Station, around several villages in Warwickshire and back to Rugby town centre.

So far she has raised £800, which will be split equally between the school and the Friends of St Cross Platinum Anniversary Appeal.

Gemma Webb, Mithra's head teacher at Abbots Farm Junior School, said: "We are very proud of Mithra for taking on this challenge and raising money for the school and a great local charity."

"She is a pupil who embodies all of our school values all of the time - but this challenge has especially shown her 'resilience' and 'healthy body and mind'."

"We also promote supporting local charities and the importance of social responsibility, so while I am thrilled that Mithra has chosen to donate some money to our school, I am even more thrilled

that she has chosen a great local charity to donate to as well.

"The money Mithra has raised for school will go towards supporting our school's Eco-committee work, of which Mithra is an active part. What a great example of an Abbots Farmer she is!"

Willy Goldschmidt, president of The Friends of St Cross, said all at the charity were delighted that Mithra chose to support The Friends' Platinum Anniversary Appeal.

He added: "The Appeal aims to raise at least £70,000 to celebrate the 70 years since the charity was founded."

"The first major project which the appeal will support is the purchase of a second ultrasound machine for the maternity and gynaecology services in Rugby. This will reduce the number of patients that have to travel to Coventry for their scans."

Visit bit.ly/4kyuGVy to sponsor Mithra. Visit www.fsx.org.uk for more information on the Friends of St Cross.



A triumphant Mithra at the end of her near-40 mile cycle ride.



Police make appeal over wanted man

POLICE are asking for the public's help to locate a wanted man with links to Rugby.

Curtis Holland, also known as Curtis Petkovic, is wanted in connection with breaching a court order.

The 29-year-old, pictured, is of a medium build and around 6ft tall. He has short brown hair, and tattoos on his arm and wrist. He sometimes wears glasses.

He has links to Rugby, Daventry, Northamptonshire, Leicestershire and Birmingham.

Anyone who has information on his whereabouts is asked to call 101, quoting incident number 23N5/11876/25. Anyone who sees him is asked to call 999.

Warning issued after batteries spark fire at recycling centre

A FIRE caused by incorrectly disposed batteries triggered an evacuation at Rugby's recycling centre.

Staff at Hunter's Lane waste recycling centre noticed smoke coming from one of their waste containers on Saturday July 19.

They found that a member of the public had thrown in a bag of lithium-ion batteries in a taped-up bag, one of which had ignited upon compaction.

Staff raised the alarm immediately and evacuated the site including the Age UK Reuse Shop.

Quick-thinking staff carefully removed the batteries and placed them in a metal bin to cool before being correctly disposed.

The bag of batteries was between two damp mattresses which stopped the fire spreading quickly, limiting damage to a small burn hole in one of the mattresses.

Coun Darren Cheshire, Warwickshire County Council's spokesperson



for Environment, Heritage and Culture, said: "This incident at Hunter's Lane serves as a stark reminder of the dangers of incorrectly disposed of batteries and other hazardous items."

"We are incredibly grateful to Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service for their swift and effective response."

"It is crucial that residents understand the correct way to dispose of items like batteries, vapes, and electricals to prevent future fires and ensure the safety of our recycling

centre staff and the wider community."

"We urge everyone to utilise the dedicated facilities provided at our Household Waste Recycling Centres or through other designated collection points."

The council is reminding resident not to dispose of vapes, batteries, waste electricals, hot ash or coals in kerbside bins.

Visit www.warwickshire.gov.uk/hwrc for more information about recycling centres and making a booking.

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SILVER 2024 BRITISH TRAVEL AWARDS 2024

More police patrols for 'summer blitz'

THERE will be more bobbies on the beat in south Warwickshire towns as part of a "summer blitz" on crime.

Warwick, Leamington and Stratford are among 500 towns nationwide to sign up to the government's Safer Streets campaign that will see increased police patrols and targeted enforcement powers against troublemakers, including banning perpetrators from hotspots, to tackle increasing levels of town centre crime and anti-social behaviour.

Home Secretary Yvette Cooper said: "High streets and town centres

are the very heart of our communities. Residents and businesses have the right to feel safe in their towns.

"But the last government left a surge in shop theft, street crime and anti-social behaviour which has left too many town centres feeling abandoned.

"It's time to turn this round. That's why I have called on police forces and councils to work together to deliver a summer blitz on town centre crime, to send a clear message to those people who bring misery to our towns that their crimes will no longer go unpunished enforcement powers against troublemakers - including banning perpetrators from hotspots."

Warwick and Leamington Labour MP Matt Western welcomed the move.

He said: "We should all be able to enjoy our high streets and for them to be places we want to be, and this will play an important role in addressing some of the crime we see on our high streets too frequently.

"It is also welcome news for shopkeepers who too often find themselves victims of anti-social behaviour and shoplifting.

"They, like all of us, deserve to feel safe at work."

Stratford Lib Dem MP Manuela Perteghella added: "I am pleased that we will see more police pres-



Residents should see more police on south Warwickshire's streets this summer.

ence on the streets this summer, especially after incidents of crime and anti social behaviour, in Stratford in particular.

"Everyone deserves to feel safe in their own homes and walking down their streets, and businesses

and shops must be able to operate without fear.

"Public trust in the police is essential. Building that trust requires confidence that the police will respond to and properly investigate local crime."



Two charged after £2.5m cannabis haul found in garage

CANNABIS with a street value of some £2.5 million was discovered in a garage in a south Warwickshire village.

Warwickshire Police teamed up with the National Crime Agency to raid an address in Tamworth-in-Arden, seizing more than 900kg of cannabis stored in the garage.

A further 500kg was found in storage at a property in Shenstone in Staffordshire. Together the cannabis had a wholesale value of around

£5.5million. Two men arrested in connection with the investigation - Peter Stride, 44, and Aaron Asbury, 37, were charged with conspiracy to supply cannabis.

NCA investigators made the arrests as part of an inquiry into a crime group smuggling methamphetamine from the UK to Australia, and importing cocaine to the UK.

Stride, of Vicarage Hill, Tamworth-in-Arden, was also charged with conspiring to

export Class A drugs and conspiring to import Class A drugs.

Asbury, of Sycamore Road, Drakelow in Burton-upon-Trent, was also charged with conspiring to import Class A drugs.

They have both been remanded in custody and will appear before Warwick Crown Court on August 14.

A third man who was arrested yesterday at a property in Wombourne, Staffordshire, was

released under investigation.

Elsewhere, a cannabis factory has been shut down after a police raid in Leamington.

Detectives from Warwickshire Police's serious and organised crime team raided the unit on Althorpe Street and seized a "significant amount" of cannabis as part of the wider NCA operation.

Police seized more than 900kg of cannabis stored in a garage in Tamworth-in-Arden.



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Knife attacker given 16 years

AN ASSAILANT who fled to Scotland to evade justice after a savage knife attack in Coventry has been jailed for 16 years.

Charles McDonagh, 34, of Ryton-on-Dunsmore, attacked a man in Ansty Road in October last year, causing him life-changing injuries.

McDonagh had been out with a group of men, including the man he went on to attack, throughout the day. He left, but later returned and began

by **Andy Morris**
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fighting with the man. McDonagh slashed the man several times in the head, arms and body with a Stanley knife.

The man McDonagh attacked was left with serious injuries, from which he is still recovering.

McDonagh fled the scene but left the knife and his coat behind, allowing officers to identify him

as a suspect. Having fled to Scotland, McDonagh was arrested before being transported back to Coventry to be interviewed.

McDonagh gave no comment when interviewed and was convicted of wounding in April this year.

He was remanded in custody until he was sentenced at Warwick Crown Court.

Charles McDonagh has been jailed for a savage knife attack.



Police want to speak to the two men pictured in connection with a serious assault in Coventry.

Police appeal after serious attack at shop

POLICE are appealing for information following a serious assault in Coventry.

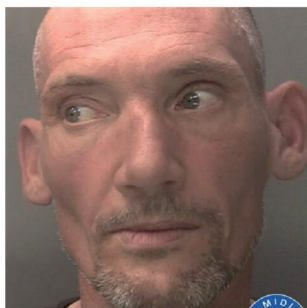
Shortly before 3pm on April 5, two men got involved in an argument at a shop in Roland Avenue with another man, police said.

The argument escalated and the man was hit over the head before being pushed out of the door of the shop.

Since then, officers have been working to identify those involved and are looking to speak to the two men pictured.

Anyone who recognises them, or who saw the incident or the events leading up to it, is asked to contact police via 101, quoting crime number 20/199158/25.

Jailed shoplifter banned from stores



Shoplifter Mark Turner is behind bars.

A SHOPLIFTER from Coventry has been jailed after being found guilty of a summer spree of thefts in the city.

Mark Turner targeted shops in the north of the city, becoming one of Coventry Local Policing Area's most wanted offenders, police said.

On July 13, officers from the Radford, Holbrook, Sherbourne and Bablake Neighbourhood team arrested Turner in connection with thefts from shops in Wheelwright Lane.

The team examined more than 100 evidence exhibits to build a case against Turner, who was later charged with 16 shop thefts.

Now the 47-year-old has been found guilty and sent back to prison for nine months, as well as being banned from the premises he targeted.

The team successfully applied for a Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO) which bans Turner from entering the areas he targeted for five

years. If he is found there again, he can be instantly arrested and brought back before the courts.

A West Midlands Police spokesperson said: "Turner is the latest in a series of successful prosecutions of prolific thieves in the city.

"Along with jail sentences, our teams regularly apply to the courts for CBOs, as they give us greater ability to stop known offenders from entering specific areas and causing problems."



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Special honour seals Lauren's perfect month

RUGBY and Lutterworth's golden girl Lauren Henry has been named Athletes' Athlete of the Month by Britain's elite sport-people.

Rower Lauren, the reigning Olympic champion in the women's quadruple sculls, was awarded the prize after winning a trio of gold medals in the single sculls in June, which included victory at the European Rowing Championships.

The award is presented by the British Elite Athletes Association (BEAA) on behalf of its members – current and former sportspeople who receive funding from UK Sport's World Class Programme.

Lauren, who was born and raised in Rugby before moving to Lutterworth, was up against para-canoeing's Laura Sugar and para-triathlon's Henry Urand, both of whom won European titles in June, as well as teenage taekwondo star Lily Kingsley.

The 23-year-old topped the



Lauren Henry celebrates after winning gold in the World Rowing Cup in Lucerne. Picture by Benedict Tufnell for British Rowing.

vote amongst BEAA members thanks to her continental crown and two dominant victories in the World Rowing Cup events in Varese and Lucerne.

She said: "I was very honoured to be nominated for the award.

"I didn't think I was going to win, so it's a really nice surprise to win after being up against such a strong field of athletes who've had fantastic achievements as well.

"I think it's all the more special that it's voted for by your peers because the peo-

ple that are voting, they're all on World Class Programme, so they know what elite sport is like and they know what it's like to be competing at the highest level."

Lauren switched from the quadruple to the single sculls following her success in Paris last summer.

Her European Championship victory marked her first senior medal in the individual event, and it was secured in fine fashion as she set a British record and a European Best Time in the heats.

Her dominance continued in Varese, where she won by more than eight seconds before victory in Lucerne completed a remarkable month.

"June was pretty amazing," she added. "We had three international regattas and it's the first time I've raced in the single sculls at senior international level.

"I knew I was going to be fast. I have been very fast in training, but to go out there and dominate all three races was quite special for me."

Screen



The cast and crew of Rugby Theatre Youth Project's production of 9 to 5: The Musical.

Youngsters take on Dolly's hit show

WHAT a way to make a living! Dolly Parton's hit musical 9 to 5 is taking to the stage at Rugby Theatre.

Performed by Rugby Theatre's Youth Project, 9 to 5: The Musical tells the hilarious and heart-warming story of three women – Violet, Judy and Doralee – who band together to take control of their office and stand up to their egotistical, sexist boss.

With upbeat songs, outrageous humour and a message that still resonates today, the show is described as a celebration of female friendship, workplace solidarity and

the power of change.

The Youth Project's founder Phil Kettle said: "9 to 5 is more than a musical – it's a movement.

"We're thrilled to bring this story to our stage and share its timeless message of courage, equality and perseverance, all wrapped up in a whole lot of fun."

Rugby Theatre's Youth Project is open to budding actors, singers, dancers and backstage crew aged 10 to 21, who stage a high-quality show after just 10 days of rehearsals, guided by a West End team.

Phil added: "The show has a cameo appearance

from Dolly herself, in video clips to explain the background of the main characters.

"We also have a fantastic set design, and the technical crew are being helped by the professional scenery company MI Workshops.

"Don't miss your chance to tumble outta bed into Dolly Parton's iconic, feel-good musical."

The show runs until August 3, with matinee performances at the weekend.

Visit the website at www.rugbytheatre.co.uk or call the Rugby Theatre box office on 01788 541234 for tickets.



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£7,500 bill for illegal work on historic hall without consent

by Andy Morris
andy.morris@bullivantmedia.com

THE owner of a historic building near Rugby and Coventry has been landed with a near-£7,500 legal bill after renovation and repair work on the building was carried out without consent.

At the Grade II-listed Peter Hall in Combe Fields, Rugby Borough Council's planning enforcement team discovered modern capping tiles fitted to the historic building's roof, wooden window frames replaced with uPVC - and a 14th century wooden door which had a hole cut into it so a garden tap could be installed.

The work was carried out after the council's planning team received an application on behalf of the site's owner - Pharvinder Singh - in 2021 to carry out investigative and repair work to a wall which, according to a structural report submitted with the application, was at risk of imminent collapse.

Permission - known as listed building consent - for the investigative work was given but a number of conditions were imposed, including a requirement that no repair work was to be carried out without written approval from the council.

But after no further contact from Singh's representative, officers visited the site in January 2024 and spotted a number of the building's wooden window frames had been replaced with uPVC frames in a different design.

The officers then arranged to meet Singh on site the following month to discuss the work which had been carried out - and found no evidence of investigative or repair work on the wall which prompted the application for listed building consent.

Interviewed under caution in May 2024, Singh admitted knowing Peter Hall was a listed building and the work had been done without listed building consent.

Singh told officers a family friend who claimed to have experience of Grade II listed building works had submitted the application for listed building consent and was managing the repair and restoration project on his behalf.

Singh added the wooden windows had been leaking and required urgent repair but accepted he was aware the work required consent from the council's planning team.



A 14th century wooden door at historic Peter Hall had a hole cut into it so a garden tap could be installed.

At Coventry Magistrates' Court on Wednesday June 18, Singh pleaded guilty to carrying out works on a listed building without consent - an offence under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

In mitigation, magistrates were told Singh and his wife had bought Peter Hall in 2018 and the building was in a poor state of repair.

Magistrates heard the couple, who live in Birmingham with their four children, had experienced family health issues and, after Singh lost his job of 14 years, had struggled financially.

Reiterating Singh had left the project in the hands of a family friend, magistrates were told the couple wanted Peter Hall to be the family home.

Taking into account his early guilty plea, Singh's fine was reduced by a third to £1,057 by magistrates, who also ordered him to pay the council's full costs - \$5,856.30 - and a \$425 victim surcharge.

Peter Hall was built on the site of the former medieval Church of St Peter in the 16th century, incorporating the remains of the church, with further extensions to the brick farmhouse building taking place in the late 18th century.

Historians believe the Church of St Peter was acquired by monks who founded the monastery at Coombe Abbey in the 12th

century. Peter Hall was designated a Grade II listed building in 1960.

Speaking after the hearing, Coun Louise Robinson, Rugby Borough Council's spokesperson for growth and investment, digital and communications, said: "Listed building consent aims to safeguard buildings of historical or architectural importance by placing strict conditions on any renovation or repair work which might impact a building's character."

"In this case, the owner of the property allowed a number of repairs to be carried out despite the conditions of the listed building consent clearly stating the consent only applied to the investigatory work and permission was required from the council before starting any repairs or renovations."

"The council's planning team always works to support applicants through the listed building consent process, offering advice on how to comply with the legislation. However, we have a duty to protect the borough's historic buildings and have no hesitation in prosecuting individuals who allow work to be carried out on listed buildings without permission."

Her Liberal Democrat counterpart Coun Isabelle McKenzie added: "Listed building consent isn't there to make life difficult for homeowners, but to ensure our historic buildings are cared for appropriately."

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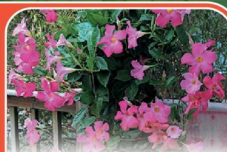
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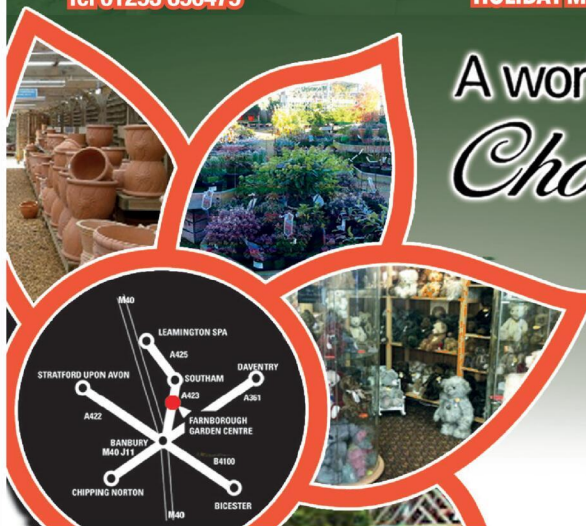


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Son's tragic death leads mum to start water safety charity

by Philippa Mingsins

A GRIEVING mother has launched a water safety awareness charity after her eight-year-old son drowned in the River Arrow in south Warwickshire.

Rebecca Hinde's son, Joshua Hillstead, died in the river near Alcester in July last year, and to mark the first anniversary of his death she founded The Joshua Hillstead Foundation charity.

Her mission is to fight for wider water safety awareness support national charity, the Royal Life Saving Society (RLSS) UK, with initiatives such as Water Smart Schools, to help share free education with young children.

In June, Becky, from Birmingham, also went to the House of Commons, joining RLSS UK to help lobby at Parliament for class-based water safety education to be taught in all schools in England.

Speaking on the launch of The Joshua Hillstead Foundation she said: "July 22, 2024, was the day my life changed forever. At around 9.30pm, I received a call that ensured life would never be the



The Joshua Hillstead Foundation charity has been set up in Joshua's memory.

same again. My lovely son Joshua had fallen into the River Arrow and was being taken to Birmingham Children's Hospital. His heart had stopped beating, but paramedics had got it beating again.

"Once at the hospital, he suffered a pulmonary haemorrhage and was having seizures. He was put onto a ventilator and the doctors worked tirelessly but unfortunately he stopped responding and we had to make the hardest

decision to turn off the machines and let him go. He passed away on July 23, the day before his ninth birthday.

"He was the most wonderful, kind caring boy with so much love for his family. I see now just how loved he was and how many people are feeling the deep pain of his loss. I couldn't be there to help save my son as he wasn't with me at the time of the accident, so now my goal is to help other families and prevent others from feeling the devastation we feel every day.

"In honour of Joshua, my family and I have created The Joshua Hillstead Foundation. Our aim is to help raise awareness and empower children through education on the dangers of natural waterways. We want to introduce comprehensive water safety and first aid in schools across the UK in order to prevent any further accidents such as Joshua's.

"Our goal is to help all children to understand undercurrents, tides, ice, cold water shock, while also highlighting surrounding dangers such as sand banks, rocks, weeds and sudden drops. We endeavour to give them the knowledge and tools to keep themselves and others safe around water."

Passport to learn about town's military history

A BREAK from school doesn't have to mean a break from learning, as the Warwick Military Heritage Network launches its children's activity trail for the summer holidays.

The free activity passport can be collected from the Visitor Information Centre on Jury Street. Children can take a trip around the town to visit the venues, learn more about the military history of the town, answer the questions in the passport then return it to the VIC to collect their free goody bag including a notepad, bookmark, pen, pencil, sticker, medal and badge.

Warwick District Council's active communities spokesperson Coun Jim Sinnott said: "Warwick has a rich military history so it's fantastic to be able to bring all of this together in one place, so that our children and young people can find out more about the history of their town."

"No matter the weather this summer, the trail is a great opportunity to explore the fascinating venues in our town and entertain the kids

On the trail in Warwick.



while providing some excellent local knowledge."

The Warwick Military Heritage Network comprises the military heritage museums and venues in the town including The Lord Leicester, The Fusilier Museum Warwick, Warwickshire Yeomanry Museum, The Queen's Royal Hussars Museum, St Mary's Church, Warwickshire County Record Office and Unlocking Warwick.

Visit www.warwickdc.gov.uk/warwickheritagetrail for more details.

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Rider reveals star quality for show

AN AMATEUR rider from Coventry and her horse have qualified for the prestigious Horse of the Year Show (HOYS) in Birmingham in October.

Izzy Little and her horse, Chelsey's Opal Spirit, owned by Daniela Randino, won the traditional gypsy cob class at Stoneleigh Park in Warwickshire.

The pair's success in the SEIB Search for a Star qualifier means they will now head to the NEC in Birmingham for the HOYS later this year.

Izzy and Chelsey's Opal Spirit

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

earned their HOYS qualification after impressing top judges Jordan Cook and Nicola Taylor.

Izzy said: "We gave it a go – our best placing previously in Search for a Star was fifth."

"I've got her on loan from Daniela and have had her since last September. We've mainly done in-hand showing."

She added: "We're all booked in to go to Theford Forest [in East Anglia] on holiday, I expect Opal will really enjoy riding in the forest

and on the beach. She always tries her hardest."

Daniela added: "Izzy has done all the work."

"Opal was a bit like a Ferrari to start with and Izzy has really got to grips with her over the past seven or eight months and now it's all really coming together."

"They were fifth at Hartpury last month and they've really improved since."

SEIB Search for a Star organiser, Nicolina MacKenzie said: "Search for a star is all about the journey and learning and improving over time."

"Our team of judges and stewards



From left to right: Daniela Randino, Nicola Taylor, Jordan Cook and Izzy and Opal. Picture courtesy of 1st Class Images.

are all invested in providing support and encouragement to help competitors and their horses and ponies perform to the best level they can."

SEIB Search for a Star first took place in 1996 and over the years has provided thousands of opportunities for amateur riders to compete at HOYS.



Barratt Homes support Samaritans for vital service

GRATEFUL staff at the Coventry Samaritans have thanked a housebuilder for a donation which will help it continue to offer its life-saving services.

The charity received a £500 donation from Barratt Homes to mark Samaritans Awareness Day.

Mike Ballinger, trustee of the Coventry and District Samaritans, said: "Barratt Homes' very kind donation of £500 will enable us to take 125 calls from anyone who needs

to talk. It could be about anything that is troubling them, including thoughts of ending their life."

"Like all charities, we need money to sustain and refresh our service. We are very grateful for the donation, and for Barratt Homes' interest in Samaritans, which will help spread our message."

Formed in 1964, the Coventry Samaritans have listened to and helped around one million people. It runs outreach events within Coventry and surround-

ing areas, including Rugby, to raise awareness of its services and the importance of talking about personal problems.

Mike continued: "We do various things around the local community, including safety awareness days at local railway stations. We also train volunteer prisoners at HMP Onley and Rye Hill to listen to and support their fellow inmates, as suicide rates are nine times higher in prison than in the general population."

"We also give talks to any

organisation or company that wants to hear about us, and we are members of the Coventry and Warwickshire Suicide Prevention Group."

The Samaritans are always looking for Listening Volunteers. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/34acredd> for more information.

Left to right: Volunteers Debbie Evitts, Debby Lapworth and Irene Davis at the Coventry Samaritans. Picture by Mike Sewell

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Dance teacher Viv is taking steps to help fight hunger in Africa

A DANCE school teacher will be using her art to raise funds to fight hunger in countries affected by war, famine and natural disasters.

Viv Kibble who runs Leamington and Warwick Academy of Dance has been inspired to continue fundraising for Coventry-based charity Feed The Hungry following a trip to Africa with her husband, Gavin.

Together the pair brought the gift of dance to hundreds of children in Kenya and Zambia who in turn taught her some special dance moves.

And now Viv is planning to donate proceeds from her next dance show this summer.

The money will go towards the £1,300 needed to build a new water tower in Mazabuka - the tower's solar-powered pump which will enable residents to more easily access fresh water.

Viv said: "We learned some Afrobeat. From my perspective, we jumped in and learned from them first. I taught them how to do a bit of Jive and Freestyle and I took my tap shoes along, something they'd never seen before."

"My main take away from Zambia was that you can't fix things but you can help people from within to grow what they've got. The heart to see things improve is definitely there, which is lovely, and you can feel there's a sense that they want to better themselves and improve life for



Viv Kibble teaches dance to youngsters in Zambia.

the kids. It's a great ethos."

The visits to Kenya and Zambia through Feed The Hungry, also saw them introduced for the first time, to the new £30,000 school block funded by Gavin's 200-mile coast to

coast trek between St Bees Head in Lancashire and Robin Hood Bay in Yorkshire last May.

The children at Lukkamano School in Mazabuka, Zambia, come from very poor homes. Some of these

children, orphaned by the AIDS pandemic, live with relatives for whom putting food on the table is a continual challenge.

Such are the numbers of children at the school that teaching time for

each child had been halved due to lack of space and facilities.

But the new "Gavin Kibble" Block, opened in August last year, means that an additional 200 students can now be accommodated, meeting the criteria to qualify for additional Government funding of teachers.

Gavin, chief executive of Feed The Hungry, said: "Up to now they had struggled to provide full time education for the children because they were so limited by the space they had."

"It was quite humbling to see the new school block. The reality of connecting something that was quite a challenge for me into something of benefit to so many children, not just for this generation but for generations to come, made it all worthwhile."

Last month's trip, which ended in Mazabuka, brought the couple into contact with more than 300 children between the ages of five and 21.

As well as delivering dance workshops, they also took the opportunity to distribute food parcels and handover vital medical equipment and medicines and watched the children take part in some sporting activities.

Feed The Hungry is an international Christian humanitarian organisation committed to fighting hunger due to poverty, war, famine and natural disasters. The charity works to reduce world hunger by establishing feeding programmes and supporting disaster relief.



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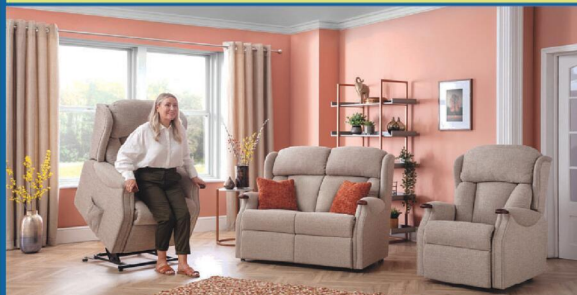
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Left to right: Adrija Ganguly, Supriya Banwait, judges Liz Pickon and Andy Roughton of The Percival Guildhouse, Shamil Mariya and Aadit Garg.



CREATIVE young storytellers from Rugby have penned imaginative tales to help mark the centenary of The Percival Guildhouse.

Secondary school pupils from the town took part in a short story competition to help the adult education centre celebrate its 100th birthday.

Presented with a series of themes as options, the budding authors produced a series of 500-word stories.

Announcing the winners, Guildhouse Centenary Committee member Andy Roughton said: "We were delighted with the quality of the response, even if imaginations tended towards horror. Perhaps there was something about 100 years that brought ghosts to mind!"

Rugby High School pupil Adrija Ganguly was announced as the winner of the 12-14 category for her story A Mother's Determination.

Supriya Banwait, also from Rugby High School, won the 15-18 years category with her story Eyes in the Window.

Runners up were Aadit Garg and Hang Zhong of Lawrence Sheriff School, Parnika Nataraja of Ashlawn School, and Shamil Mariya from Bilton School.

Rugby High School students Deepshika Gangadhari, Kenuli Wickramasekara and Sophia Myronova were all highly commended.

All of the stories will be compiled into an illustrated book which will be available from Hunt's Bookshop later this year.

The main winners have also been invited to The Percival Guildhouse's formal Centenary Celebration at Rugby School in September, when they will be presented with their prizes.

Appeal aims to raise cash to revamp lab

A FUND-RAISING campaign to refurbish an ageing science lab has been launched by a Rugby secondary school in memory of a former teacher.

Rugby High School (RHS) has set a goal of raising £20,250 in 2025 for developments at the school, including the complete refurbishment of the Gospel Lab - named after former teacher Emma Gospel - over the summer holidays.

The Gospel lab was last refurbished 40 years ago, with some parts still remaining from the original installation in 1960. The planned refurbishment will result in an entirely new laboratory full of specialist science equipment.

When the lab was first installed it was known as the New Lab. It was first renamed Mendeleev, after the creator of a version of the periodic table, but it was renamed in honour of the school's much-loved former head of science, Emma Gospel, who died of cancer in 2021.

An RHS spokesperson said: "In her time at Rugby High School, Emma Gospel taught thousands of students in the lab, with commitment and passion, and we are continuing her legacy, inspiring the next generation of future scientists."

"The school is looking forward to thousands more students experiencing science at Rugby High School, and this refurbishment is at the heart of plans to further improve the facilities at the school."



The Gospel Lab was last refurbished 40 years ago, with some parts still remaining from the original installation in 1960.

The refurbished lab will provide a larger working area with improved accessibility including wheelchair access, new flooring, and energy-efficient LED lighting.

The spokesperson added: "This lab is used every period of every day, so it is a hard-working lab, used to the full. All Rugby high School students are taught in this

lab at some point, as it is used to teach Year7s, 8s and 9s, as well as GCSE and A-level students."

The school has obtained a grant of around £37,000 which will go towards the project, with the remainder to be raised through donations.

Visit www.justgiving.com/campaign/20250in2025 to donate.



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Public given a say on plans to boost the town centre

Don't miss out on vote

PLANS to get landlords to 'play their part' in the regeneration of Rugby town centre have gone out to public consultation.

Rugby Borough Council (RBC) aims to adopt new government powers to bring long-term vacant commercial units in the town centre back into use.

The council plans to designate the town centre as a High Street Rental Auctions (HSRA) zone - where RBC will have the power to auction leases for commercial properties which have stood empty for more than 12 months within a two-year period.

Should businesses and residents support the plans, the council can target landlords who fail to actively market or let commercial units within a reasonable timeframe - with the council able to offer one to five-year leases on such properties at auction.

RBC would also restrict the type of businesses which could bid for a lease at auction, to ensure the town centre has a diverse range of shops.

Businesses and residents can now take part in the consultation, which aims to gauge support for the proposed HSRA zone and find out the reasons for either backing or objecting to the plans.

RBC leader Coun Michael Moran, said HSRAs had an important part to play in the council's regeneration plans for the town centre.

He said: "Long-term vacant commercial units have become an issue in



Rugby Borough Council aims to revitalise the town centre by adopting new government powers.

town centres and high streets across the country, and the government's new powers aim to equip councils with the tools to tackle the problem.

"While we only intend to use these powers when we have exhausted all other avenues with landlords, HSRAs give us the opportunity to bring empty units back into use and breathe new life into the town centre."

Last November, the retail sector vacancy rate in the town centre was 15.7 per cent - or 24.6 per cent when including the Rugby Central shopping centre, which currently has planning permission for a partial redevelopment - compared to the national average of 14.2 per cent.

To launch an HSRA, the council must serve an initial notice on a landlord, starting a ten-week period when the landlord can be involved in the letting process.

After eight weeks, if the landlord has failed to agree terms with a new tenant with the council's consent, the council can serve a final notice which - subject to appeal - means a lease can be auctioned to the highest bidder.

The government has made funding available for 'early adopters' of HSRAs, with grants of up to £5,000 available to cover the legal, surveying and advertising costs of each auction, together with grants of up to £75,000

to carry out the necessary renovations and works to bring long-term vacant units back into use.

Coun Jerry Roodhouse, leader of Rugby Borough Council's Liberal Democrat group, said: "These auctions will play an important role in supporting Rugby telling landlords they need to step up and play their part in our town centre."

"For too long, landlords have not played their part and we will use these powers when we have exhausted all other means."

Visit www.rugby.gov.uk/HSRA to take part in the consultation, which ends on August 11.

VOTERS in Rugby have been reminded of new rules which mean they must renew postal votes every three years.

The new rules, introduced under the Elections Act 2022, first impact electors who applied for a postal vote before October 31 2023, who must now reapply to vote by post before January 31 2026 - or have the postal vote cancelled.

Once a postal vote has been cancelled, an elector must make a fresh application or vote at a polling station or by proxy at the next scheduled elections on Thursday May 7, 2026.

The council plans to email or write to all postal voters affected by the new rules with information on how to reapply.

Electors must provide a date of birth, a National Insurance number and a photo or scanned copy of a signature in black ink on plain white paper.

Dan Green, Returning Officer for Rugby, urged electors impacted by the new rules to reapply for a postal vote as soon as possible.

He said: "The Elections Act 2022 has introduced a number of significant changes to the way we vote, including presenting valid photo ID at a polling station and having to complete a return form when hand-delivering a postal vote."

"The need to renew your postal vote application every three years was the final change introduced by the Act and we want to encourage electors impacted by the new rules to reapply for a postal vote in plenty of time ahead of the next scheduled local elections in May."

Visit www.rugby.gov.uk/postalvote to reapply for a postal vote.



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Pilates classes help patients recover

BREAST cancer surgery patients at University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire (UHCW) NHS Trust are enjoying the benefits of rehabilitative Pilates sessions pioneered by the trust's physiotherapists.

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

group of people where you've all been through the same thing.

"The session was really enjoyable, and I can see how the project will help future patients in their recovery."

"Had this been available when I had my surgery, I definitely would have taken part."

The education class is open to women immediately following surgery, providing them with the information they need to pace their return to normal life. The class also looks at more technical details, including scar management.

Lucy MacDonald, lead physiotherapist for Breast Cancer Rehabilitation at UHCW, leads the Pilates classes, which are open to

patients from six to eight weeks after surgery and focus on rehabilitation, helping patients to learn to understand their body again and step up their activity levels.

Lucy said: "It's great to be able to offer this service to patients and empower them with the tools to return to normal function after surgery."

"Exercise can be important in preventing recurrence of cancer and helping patients to tolerate treatment."

"Unlike regular Pilates sessions that you can access through a gym, our sessions are set up with breast cancer patients in mind. All patients are assessed before coming into class, so we get to know them well and are aware of any issues or concerns they may have."

The project's funding also covers pre-screening with patients who



Lucy MacDonald, lead physiotherapist for Breast Cancer Rehabilitation at UHCW (second left) leads the Pilates classes.

are more likely to develop shoulder stiffness after surgery.

'Prehab' sessions are also offered to patients who are due to undergo surgery, encouraging them to stay fit and well ahead of their surgery date.

The thinking behind the classes came from studies which found

that a structured exercise programme reduced pain and improved movement and quality of life outcomes in women following breast cancer surgery.

Funding has been allocated for the sessions to run for 18 months, with a period of evaluation to follow.



Reservoir hosts treasure hunt trail during holidays

FAMILIES are being invited to take part in a treasure hunt at a reservoir near Rugby during the summer holidays.

Draycote Water is hosting the free treasure hunt throughout August.

Visitors can collect a treasure trail sheet from the site's Visitor Hub and explore nature around the reservoir

while looking for clues and finding answers to uncover the hidden treasure.

Prizes are up for grabs for some of the lucky treasure finders at the end of the summer.

Donna Marshall, senior visitor engagement officer at Severn Trent, said: "We want everyone to be able to make

the most out of our beautiful visitor sites, especially during the summer holidays.

"There are lots of great prizes to be won. Once you've completed the treasure hunt just pop your sheet into the box to be entered into the draw."

The trail is open from Friday (August 1) to August

31 between the hours of 10am and 4pm. The treasure trail is best suited for ages eight to 12, but all can take part with some support. Bring a pen or pencil.

Children are being encouraged to explore nature around Draycote Water while taking part in the treasure hunt.



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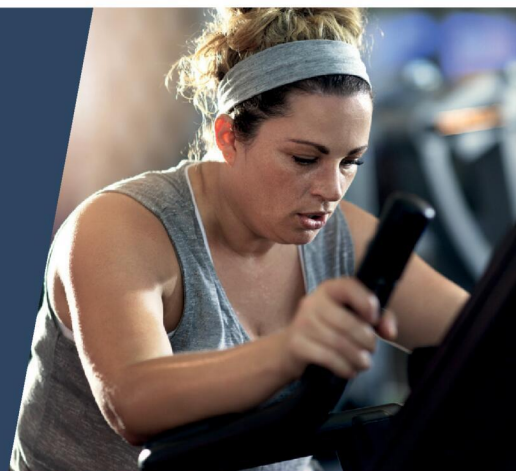
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They're off – in the Shetland Pony Grand National at the Game Fair.



Digby, Dougal and Darwin go for a walk with Amanda, Lucy and Victoria at Ragley Hall.



BASC coaches Mark Baxter and Rob Newton ready with their guns.

All the fun of the Fair



Preparing for take-off - CJ'S Birds of Prey gave a falconry demonstration.

THE GAME Fair welcomed a record-breaking 128,000 visitors to Ragley Hall at the weekend.

Fair-goers at the south Warwickshire estate near Alcester enjoyed a range of countryside pursuits from fieldsports competitions to displays of everything from falconry to chainsaws, together with a Shetland Pony Grand National and terrier racing.

Celebrity guests at the show this year included broadcaster, farmer and conservationist Jimmy

Doherty, TV's best-known bartender Merlin Griffiths and the former footballer turned actor Vinnie Jones.

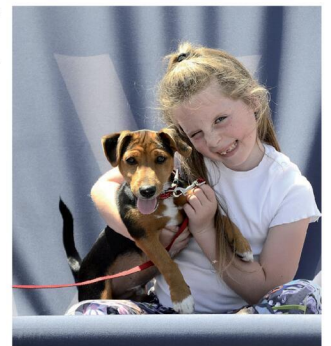
Expert and amateur anglers alike took to the lake to take part in a range of fishing activities, including The British Fly Casting Club's ever-popular casting competitions as the celebration of the countryside returned after a year off.

James Gower, of organisers Stable Events, said: "Ragley Hall provided the perfect back-

drop for what was a truly memorable Game Fair. It was great to witness so many of our visitors fully immersed in the event, celebrating our shared countryside interests.

"Thank you to all our visitors, exhibitors, sponsors and team for making it such a success."

The Game Fair returns to Ragley Hall for its 68th celebration of the countryside next year from July 24 to 26.



Rosie meets happy hound Trigger.

PICTURES BY MARCUS MINGINS

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Police vans will carry defib kits to save lives

LIFE-SAVING defibrillators have been installed into West Midlands police vans.

by Sarah Mason
sarah.mason@bullivantmedia.com

The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), Simon Foster, has used money seized from criminals to pay for the equipment for 10 vehicles.

Up until now firearms and traffic police vehicles have carried the defibs, but not the Operational Support Units (OSU).

The initiative has been made possible through £10,750 secured via the

Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 (POCA) – money seized from criminal activity and reinvested into crime prevention and community safety.

The bid was approved after a compelling case was made by a police officer from the OSU, who highlighted the critical role defibrillators can play in saving lives at the scene of emergencies.

Mr Foster said: "I am passionate about using money seized from criminals and

putting it to good use, for the benefit of people and communities within the West Midlands.

"By buying these defibs and kitting out police vans, we are directly investing in equipment that can save lives.

"I'm pleased to support this initiative and thank the officers who championed it. Every second counts in a cardiac emergency, and these defibrillators could make the difference between life and death."

The devices were supplied by St John Ambulance,



Karen McKeown, West Midlands county commissioner from the charity, said:

"We're proud to support West Midlands Police in this life-saving initiative.

"The defibrillators provided are designed for rapid deployment and ease of use, even in high-pressure situations. It's especially meaningful that the POCA funding used to purchase them is being reinvested into St John Ambulance,

helping us continue our mission to save lives."

The rollout has also been welcomed by Naomi Rees-Issitt, tireless campaigner and founder of the Our Jay Foundation, which was established in memory of her 18-year-old son Jamie Rees.

The Rugby resident has been raising awareness of the importance of defibrillators and is campaigning for Jamie's Law, which would

see every police vehicle in the UK equipped with a defib.

Naomi said: "I'm absolutely thrilled to see West Midlands Police taking this step. It's a huge win for public safety and a testament to the power of community campaigning.

"Jamie's legacy lives on through initiatives like this. I hope other forces follow suit and support Jamie's Law – because every second really does count."



West Midlands Road Safety Commissioner Mat MacDonald welcomed the latest figures.

Families 'spared heartbreak' as road deaths fall by 18pc

The number of people killed or seriously injured on the West Midlands' roads has fallen by nearly 20 per cent in the first half of 2025.

Latest figures from West Midlands Police show that 471 people were killed or seriously injured in road traffic collisions between January and June 2025, down from 575 during the same period in 2024 – an 18 per cent

reduction. The reduction follows the implementation of the West Midlands Road Safety Action Plan, launched in November 2024.

Overseen by new Regional Road Safety Commissioner Mat MacDonald, the plan includes a tripling of speed enforcement in the region, stepping up reviews of dashcam footage to identify dangerous drivers, and more

school streets schemes introduced to block traffic around schools at the start and end of each day.

West Midlands Mayor Richard Parker said: "The latest data shows the action plan we put in place last year is beginning to get results. So far this year 100 fewer people have lost their lives or been seriously injured, that's 100 families spared the heartbreak

that comes with road traffic collisions.

"But every life lost is one too many and we still have much work to do. We will continue to invest, innovate, and work together to make our streets safer for everyone. Each and every one of these numbers is a real life which has been forever ruined or brutally cut short, and we must do better as a region."

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Visitors to Ryton Pools set light traps during the venue's annual Moth Night. Among the species spotted at the park have been the female Oak Eggar Moth (LEFT) and the Brown-banded Carder Bee (RIGHT).

Three thousand reasons to greet country park's latest tiny arrival

RANGERS at Ryton Pools Country Park have recorded the 3,000th species at the site.

The honour went to a tiny micro-moth, *Narycia duplicella*, discovered by Countryside Ranger George while out looking for Pine Ladybirds.

The milestone is a result of years of site management and recording work, a collaboration between the ranger team and local experts and volunteers.

The site now supports regionally and nationally important species - including all 14 species of bumble-

bee found in Warwickshire, rare spiders, and priority butterfly species like the Wood White and Dark Green Fritillary.

The site has also established a second Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) offsetting meadow - a national approach to conservation, aiming to ensure that development leads to measurable improvements for nature by funding habitat creation and restoration.

The project to create a second meadow began around 18 months ago with surveys and soil sampling.

The 12-acre site was identified as having strong potential for biodiversity enhancement due to its nutrient-poor soil and low diversity of grassland species. A 30-year management plan has been developed to guide the work.

The new BNG meadow is expected to be managed entirely by the park's resident Hebridean sheep through rotational grazing - a low-impact, wildlife-friendly method of maintaining healthy grassland.

The field has been fenced off and divided into sections so the sheep

can be moved periodically to help encourage diverse plant growth and habitat structure.

The diversity of wild bees recorded at Ryton Pools has also soared to 114 species. Notable new additions include the nationally scarce Brown-Banded Carder Bumblebee, and Black-headed Mining Bee.


The rangers also tend their own beehives, home to honeybees that forage across the park's wildflower meadows.

This summer, the team were thrilled to harvest their first batch of

Ryton Pools Wildflower Honey.

Coun Darren Cheshire, Warwickshire County Council's spokesman for Environment, Heritage and Culture, said: "This incredible milestone at Ryton Pools is a great reminder of the role our Country Parks play in protecting nature and supporting biodiversity."


"It's thanks to the hard work of our rangers, volunteers and partners that sites like this can thrive. Whether you're coming to spot butterflies or pick up a jar of local honey, there's never been a better time to visit."




★★★★★ Trustpilot

By Coach from Coventry, Rugby

Reader Travel





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Myth-busting to help boost foster numbers

CORRECTING common misconceptions about fostering teenagers is the aim of a new awareness initiative in Warwickshire.

Information is being shared by Warwickshire Fostering to highlight the significant positive impact foster carers have on young lives to encourage more residents to consider opening their homes to teens.

Currently, around 750 children are in care in Warwickshire, all in need of a stable and caring home - but a shortage of local foster carers can mean they face being moved away from their familiar surroundings, including schools, friends, and crucial support networks.

Warwickshire Fostering is committed to ensuring children can remain close to their communities, where they feel connected and supported.

Prospective foster carers often have reservations about welcoming a teenager into their home due to myths and stereotypes.

Warwickshire Fostering team manager Rebecca Clifford said: "There's a common misconception that fostering teenagers is more challenging than fostering younger children, but that's simply not true.

"Teenagers bring their own unique strengths and personalities, and providing them with a stable, supportive environment during such a crucial time in their lives can be incredibly rewarding for both the young person and the foster family. We want to

show people the incredible difference they can make."

The service is reaching out to counter beliefs that can deter potential carers.

Many people worry teenagers in foster care may have behavioural issues due to past trauma, neglect, or instability, or that they might be inherently rebellious or difficult.

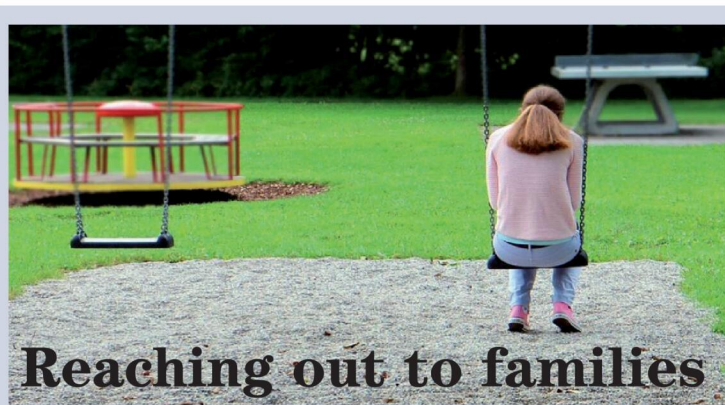
Rebecca added: "While some teens do struggle, this perception can overshadow the reality that many are resilient, kind, and just need a chance."

Another frequent concern is about attachment and bonding. Some potential foster carers feel it might be harder to form a close bond with a teenager compared to a younger child, or that teenagers can't form new meaningful relationships with foster carers.

Rebecca continued: "The truth is, many teens actively seek out connections, and it's often easier to find common ground with young people who, despite possibly being cautious from past experiences, genuinely seek consistency, reliability, and time.

"We find that contrary to the belief that teenagers don't want to engage in family activities, they do want to be part of family life and to feel included - they just need extra support to give them time and tools to help them feel valued and able to contribute."

For further details visit fostering.warwickshire.gov.uk or call 0800 408 1556 for a confidential, informal chat.



FAMILIES in distress or at risk of crisis due to children and young people's mental health issues are the focus of a new service offered by Warwickshire County Council.

The Urgent Outreach for Families in Crisis is now in place and will be offered to eligible families referred by other services or those already supported by social care and health teams.

The service aims to help families identify issues and prevent them escalating further, as well as offering solutions and guidance to help overcome crisis and improve wellbeing for all involved.

This will include aiming to reduce risk of crisis or hospital admissions, prevention of family breakdown, and stabilising a child's needs.

It builds on Warwickshire's existing Family Wraparound Service and provides more urgent, dedicated short-term support that may feature intensive, daily support with routines and activities for children struggling with social, emotional and mental health as well as their families.

The service is available on a 24/7 basis with core service hours delivered at times that

work best for families, including evenings and weekends, with on-call available outside of core hours. Phone support is also available for families and young people who are open to the service to offer practical support and advice when it is needed. Referrals to the service are made by the family's social care team or another professional.

Support will be delivered under a 'test and learn' process, working creatively and compassionately with families, in their homes and in community spaces to allow the service to develop in response to feedback from young people, families and professionals.

Hayley Thompson, clinical lead for Urgent Outreach for Families in Crisis, said: "We place families at the heart of what we do. We provide a responsive, coordinated service that listens to families and places their needs at the centre of every decision. Rather than delivering services to children, we walk alongside families — offering support that wraps around their unique circumstances and builds lasting, meaningful connections."

Visit www.warwickshire.gov.uk/childrenandfamilies to find out more about WCC support for children and families.

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Josephine Rugg

Gardening

Timely advice for while you're away

AUGUST is usually the month when many people go on holiday and leave gardens to fend for themselves.

A little thought before heading off and some tender loving care on the return will be enough to make sure that you can go away without worrying about all of your hard gardening work going to waste.

While you are away and your garden is left unattended, many of your plants may suffer due to lack of water.

Make sure, before you go, you either arrange to have your containers and baskets watered, or set up a system that can supply water on a regular basis to your tubs and baskets.

Move any baskets and containers out of full sun to a position where they are shaded at the height of the day.

Stand terracotta pots on gravel trays topped up with water, so the pots can gradually absorb the reservoir of liquid or alternatively make a few holes in the lid of a plastic water bottle, cut off the bottom of the bottle, turn upside down into the plant compost and then fill with water (which slowly drips into the soil).

The same watering principles to your veg patch as well. August (and September) is a month of gathering, harvesting, bottling and jam making for all Grow Your Own gardeners.



Tomatoes will be ready and ripe to pick this month.

However, if the weather is good, you can still sow quick maturing salad crops such as lettuce, radish, rocket and chicory in troughs and containers. All of which go well with tomatoes – which are now ready to be picked straight from the vine. Some of the tastiest and easiest tomatoes to grow are Moneymaker, Tumbling Tom

and Tigerella. Moneymaker is an old fashioned, salad tomato that produces reliable crops of medium-sized red tomatoes with good flavour; Tumbling Tom is perfect for containers or hanging baskets, producing an abundance of small, super-sweet cherry tomatoes that are great for salads or eating straight off the plant; and Tigerella,

well suited to colder climates, will give you a good quantity of distinctive medium sized red tomatoes with orange and yellow stripes.

Another harvest for August is herbs. For a steady supply of fresh herbs through the winter cut the younger leaves now, rinse in clean water and, after putting them in a plastic bag, place in the freezer.

There is no need to chop them up, simply crush them gently when frozen and use as required. This includes Basil – the perfect herb for use in tomato dishes and also as an aromatic herbal tea. Basil is a member of the mint family, and basil tea can be served after meals to help digestion and is also a great source of vitamin K, especially dried basil leaves. A lemon basil tea smells amazing!

In addition to harvesting and watering other top tips from the RHS for August jobs in the garden include:

- Dead head flowering plants regularly
- Prune wisteria
- Prune rambling roses once they have finished flowering
- Collect seed from garden plants
- Harvest vegetables when they become ready
- Lift and pot up rooted strawberry runners
- Keep ponds and water features topped up
- Improve the soil with green manures
- Feed containers and border perennials with a liquid tomato food to encourage early autumn blooms
- Water containers and new plants, with grey recycled water or rainwater if possible

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Offering some food for thought

A SUMMER holiday, for many of us, means eating out, sampling local specialities and picking up some foodie treats.

But if you're concerned about animal welfare, it can be tricky to know what food to avoid, according to award-winning eco chef and food writer Tom Hunt.

Tom has teamed up with RSPCA Assured to help holiday-makers understand how to choose higher welfare products when travelling in new places.

Tom said: "Finding high-welfare meat when travelling or eating out can be tricky. I've learned to look for trusted certifications like the RSPCA Assured label alongside outdoor-reared, free range and organic here in the UK, the EU Organic logo across Europe, or Animal Welfare Approved in the US, which all have rigorous standards. Another important signifier of higher welfare is pasture-reared.

"My strategy is finding a local farmers' market or wholefood shop early in any trip. Not only can I stock up on quality ingredients, but the knowledgeable staff are goldmines for food and restaurant recommendations.

"The easiest way to check the animal welfare of a dish is to ask. If the waiter doesn't know or has a generic answer, it's best to avoid that meat and go vegetarian or order another dish you can be more certain of."

Say no to foie gras

Foie gras is a type of pate made by force-feeding ducks and geese,

making their liver expand to 10 times its normal size. Despite the practice being banned in the UK, foie gras can still be imported here and is widely produced in popular holiday destinations including France, Hungary and Bulgaria.

This cruel practice causes significant pain, suffering and injury to birds. You can do your bit to take a stand against it by avoiding buying foie gras if you see it on menus or in shops while on your travels this summer.

Be aware of local foods made from endangered animals

It's normal to want to immerse yourself in local culture, but make sure that's not at the expense of endangered animals. Sadly, there are still many animals hunted to near extinction for so-called delicacies, like shark fin soup or turtle jelly.

If you're travelling abroad, familiarise yourself in advance with any local cuisine which may come from endangered animals. And don't be tempted to try it, even if it's just a one-off - this is how tourists can unwittingly help drive up demand and encourage more hunting.

Looking for higher welfare? Look for the RSPCA Assured logo

If you're holidaying in the UK, the easiest way to make sure you're buying higher-welfare meat, fish, eggs or dairy products is to look for the RSPCA Assured logo. This means it has come from a farm



inspected by the RSPCA.

Bookmark the RSPCA Assured store finder at www.rspcaassured.org.uk/retailers to help you find supermarkets stocking higher welfare meat, fish, dairy and eggs wherever you are in the UK. Remember, if you're not sure - look for the RSPCA Assured label.

If you're going abroad, a quick internet search will help you research higher welfare labelling and availability in the country you're travelling to.

Eat less, eat better

From the spicy and aromatic lentil dhal of India to the colourful, fresh salads of the Med, the world is bursting with incredible tastes, flavours and textures which are all naturally vegan. And holidays are a great time to give some of these a go, especially if you don't usually choose meat-free options.

So alongside eating better and choosing higher welfare options, why not pick a few days of your holiday where you'll try out local plant-based flavours? That doesn't mean you have to miss out - picture a lazy lunch in the sun with soft, herby focaccia served with succulent olives and creamy houmous. Perfect!

Visit www.rspcaassured.org.uk for more information on finding RSPCA Assured-certified products.

Eco chef and food writer Tom Hunt. Picture by Elsa Pearl.



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Keeping it healthy is all in the game



NOW that the summer holiday has arrived, children and teenagers will likely be playing video games more. But the physical health issues caused by playing video games for extensive periods are often overlooked.

With that in mind, Emre Aksu, a spokesperson for online gaming site 1337 Games (<https://1337games.io>), discusses how to avoid some of the most common gaming-related health issues.

“Gamer neck” and poor posture

“Gamer neck” can occur due to poor posture while playing video games. When you lean your neck forward for long periods of time, it can cause it to become unnaturally positioned. It can also cause neck and back pain.

Being mindful of how you’re sitting may prevent issues. Playing in a specialised ergonomic gaming chair with a straight, high back will encourage correct posture.

Regular stretching is another effective way to relieve stiffness, pain, and tension. Stretching your arms, neck, and back every hour or so should make you feel better.

Musculoskeletal issues

Musculoskeletal issues are one of the leading health problems associated with gaming. This can include carpal tunnel syndrome, repetitive

strain injury, and pain in the wrists and hands.

Carpal tunnel syndrome arises when pressure is applied to the ‘median nerve’ in the hand, which controls fine motor skills such as moving fingers and hand muscles. This can cause symptoms such as numbness, tingling, weakness and pain in the hands and fingers.

For PC gamers, elevating the wrists to be level with the keyboard and mouse will ensure that there is circulation throughout the wrist and hand to prevent the nerve from being trapped. A small, soft cushion can assist in elevation and make your wrist position more comfortable.

For console gamers, opening and closing your hand repeatedly between sessions can be helpful, as can bending your wrist forward and backwards or side to side before rolling the wrist. Warming up your hands and wrists before playing and stretching them after finishing may also be helpful.

Eye strain, vision problems and headaches

These can occur if you stare at your screen for too long. Screens may cause you to develop eye pain, blurred vision and headaches – especially if you are already susceptible to them or suffer from migraines.

Take a break of at least 20 seconds every 20 minutes, to look at something that is at least 20 feet

away from you. Taking longer breaks from screens every hour or so, for at least 15 minutes, will help prevent any significant eye problems or headaches.

Using a blue light filter on your computer or video console screen may also counter any eye problems.

Hearing loss

Hearing loss can be countered by maintaining lower volume levels and playing sound through speakers as opposed to headphones.

If you want to use headphones, over-ear headphones are better than in-ear headphones, as the sound does not travel directly to the ear canal, which allows more space for the sound to reverberate.

Obesity and blood clots

Physical inactivity can cause obesity, and sitting for long periods can interrupt circulation, allowing blood

clots to form, particularly in the legs.

Taking breaks from gaming every 90 minutes to walk around will enable healthy blood flow and reduce the risk of developing blood clots.

Crossing your legs or tucking them underneath or behind you should be avoided as it can restrict blood flow. Instead, stretch them out as much as possible.

Intersperse your gaming routine with exercise; this doesn’t have to be high intensity, and even a 30-minute brisk walk every day could significantly benefit your health.

Dehydration

Having water or another drink nearby you at all times will prevent dehydration.

Some gamers may also limit their fluid intake to avoid needing the toilet and having to pause their game. This isn’t advisable, as it will result

in dehydration and may encourage individuals to suppress their bladder needs, which can cause a variety of health problems.

Fatigue and insomnia

This can arise in gamers who play late or right before bed. Gamers who play for long hours, particularly during the evening and nighttime, may also struggle to switch off when going to bed, due to the sensory stimulation of video games.

Avoiding gaming a couple of hours before you plan to sleep will allow you to switch off at nighttime.

Similarly, limiting your gaming hours is one of the best steps you can take to prevent insomnia. Gaming at the same time each day, for a specific period, will mean that you can enjoy yourself while still feeling energized throughout the rest of the day and reducing the risk of adverse health effects.

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Grand touring for new OMODA

IN a bold demonstration of real-world range testing, OMODA UK has put its flagship SUV, the OMODA 9 SHS (Super Hybrid System), to the test by embarking on a more-than-WLTP range grand tour across nine European countries.

Completing the route using the power of only one charge and one tank of fuel, the OMODA 9 exceeded its WLTP estimate of 700 miles. Remarkably, 730 miles were accomplished with no refuelling or concerns, and plenty more still left in the 70-litre fuel tank.

The nine-country tour began in England on the white cliffs of Dover and traced a path through France, Belgium, The Netherlands, Luxembourg, Germany, Switzerland,

Liechtenstein and Austria.

From the cobbled towns of Luxembourg to the sleek stretches of the German Autobahn, the journey showcased the OMODA 9 as a powerful, luxurious and future-ready touring SUV.

Crafted for long-distance serenity and 'quiet luxury', the OMODA 9's proprietary Chery International-derived super hybrid powertrain combines near-silent propulsion with acoustically optimised tyres and glass.

The cabin is engineered around tranquillity, offering passengers a 24.6-inch curved screen display, ambient lighting, PM3.0 Air Purification, and fully reclining heated and ventilated seats, making the journey to the destination, just as important as reaching it.

Powered by a 1.5-litre TGD

engine, dual electric motors and a 34.46 kWh M3P battery, the OMODA 9 delivers 449 PS, 700 Nm of torque, and acceleration from 0-62 mph in just 4.9 seconds. During the nine-country tour, the OMODA 9's six drive modes ensured smooth progress across every terrain and climate.

Whether in the congestion of rush-hour Brussels, cruising past sun-drenched hay bales in rural France, or summoning instant torque for the high-speed corridors of the autobahn, the OMODA 9 delivered consistent power, efficiency, and comfort at every turn.

Designed for pan-European versatility, the OMODA 9 has 660 litres of rear luggage space, expanding to 1,783 litres with split-folding rear seats.

With ample room for five adults

and elegant design details throughout, the vehicle's practicality meets aesthetic grace, making it the perfect partner for long-haul family touring.

OMODA UK CEO Gary Lan said: "For the OMODA 9 and team to have completed the nine countries trip is a huge accomplishment, embodying more than our faith in our Super Hybrid System technology - it reflects our belief in making a connection to the journey."

"The OMODA 9 links people to purpose, ambition to accessibility, and lifestyle to innovation."

"We challenged the convention of what a plug-in hybrid can do, and we did it not just with substance, but with style."

"Our core values; quiet luxury, intelligent technology, and bold design, come together in the

OMODA 9. We're showcasing a vehicle that is not only a work of art in engineering, but a platform for creative expression and adventurous storytelling.

Next time you see an OMODA 9, just think where else it could take you on one tank and one charge."

Offering large all-wheel drive SUV levels of refinement, quality, technology and safety at mid-sized SUV cost, the OMODA 9 SHS will be available in the UK through OMODA&JAECOO UK's expansive dealer network, priced at \$44,990 OTR with a 7-year/100,000-mile warranty (whichever comes first); plus 8-year warranty on the battery, alongside RAC Home Start, as standard.

Order books are now open through OMODA UK's 75+ dealerships.

Classified

TELEPHONE 01527 588688 FACSIMILE 01527 584371

PUBLIC NOTICES

Warwickshire County Council

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

GLEBE FARM ROAD, DRAYCOTE
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.
Reason for Order: Works to lay ducting in verge.
Order Commences: 4 August 2025 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 24 August 2025.
Access & Diversion: No diversion available.
Contractor: Callian Connect, Tel: 01213 275 167.

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

A426 LEICESTER ROAD, RUGBY
Order Effect: Road closed between Central Park Drive and Newton Manor Lane.
Reason for Order: Road marking and associated works, closed 20.00hrs-06.00hrs.
Order Commences: 18 August 2025 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 24 August 2025.
Access & Diversion: A426, A5, A361, A45, (Non HGV route: Daventry Road, Coventry Road, Western Link (Symmetry Park)) M45, A45, A4071, A426 and vice versa.
Contractor: Balfour Beatty, Tel: 03452 415 302.

CAWSTON LANE, DUNCHURCH
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.
Reason for Order: Works to connect onto water mains and install 125mm PE bypass and meter.
Order Commences: 18 August 2025 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 22 August 2025.
Access & Diversion: Northampton Lane, Alwyn Road, Coventry Road and vice versa.
Contractor: McAndrews, Tel: 07399 662 559.

D3496 BAWMORE ROAD, RUGBY
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic from Longroad Road to Plantagenet Drive.
Reason for Order: Carriageway resurfacing and associated works, 0930-1530hrs weekdays only, excluding Bank Holiday.
Order Commences: 18 August 2025 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 1 September 2025.
Access & Diversion: Bawmore Road, A426, Northampton Lane, Alwyn Road, Longroad Road and vice versa. Access/egress to/from Overslade Lane will be via A426 Dunchurch Road only whilst works are in progress. Access/egress to/from Highgrove, Whittle Close and Bawmore Park may be restricted whilst works are in progress.
Contractor: Balfour Beatty, Tel: 03452 415 302.

DRAYCOTE ROAD, DRAYCOTE
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.
Reason for Order: Works to lay approx 190 meters of duct in the verge.
Order Commences: 18 August 2025 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 25 August 2025.
Access & Diversion: Draycote Road, Lias Line Cycleway, Straight Mile, Main Street and vice versa.
Contractor: Callian Connect, Tel: 01213 275 167.

NORTH ROAD, CLIFTON UPON DUNSMORE
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic between 42 to 44.
Reason for Order: To Enable new water connection works.
Order Commences: 20 August 2025 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 22 August 2025.
Access & Diversion: Church Street, Main Street and vice versa.
Contractor: Network Plus, Tel: 01332 820 920.

RUGBY ROAD, BLUE BOAR, DUNCHURCH
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic there will be no access to A45 however, traffic exiting the A45 will not be affected.
Reason for Order: To safely enable essential road testing works.
Order Commences: 17 August 2025 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 17 August 2025.
Access & Diversion: Rugby Road, Blue Boar Flyover, Straight Mile, A45, London Road and vice versa.
Contractor: Callian Connect, Tel: 01213 275 167.

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

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

S Duxbury, Director of Strategy, Planning & Governance, Shire Hall, Warwick CV34 4RL Date 1 Aug 2025

PUBLIC NOTICES

Warwickshire County Council

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

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

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

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

COVENTRY ROAD, BAGINGTON
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.
Reason for Order: To enable kirbing and carriageway works.
Order Commences: 18 August 2025 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 29 August 2025.
Access & Diversion: Coventry Road, Mill Hill, Howes Lane, St Martins Road, Bubbenhall Road, Chantry Heath Lane, Stoneleigh Road and vice versa.
Contractor: L Healy Ltd, Tel: 07708 905 661.

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

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

S Duxbury, Director of Strategy, Planning & Governance, Shire Hall, Warwick CV34 4RL Date 1 Aug 2025

PUBLIC NOTICES

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

Application Number R25/0471
75, Reservoir Road, Rugby, Warwickshire, CV21 1BW
Proposed 3 detached dwellings with associated parking.
This development may affect a Public Right of Way
Application Number R25/0625
53, HILLMORTON ROAD, RUGBY, CV22 5AE
Proposed single storey rear extension.
This development may affect a Conservation Area
Members of the public may inspect copies of the application, the plans and documents submitted with it online at: www.planningportal.rugby.gov.uk or in an electronic form at: Town Hall, Evreux Way, Rugby CV21 2RR between the hours of 9.00 am and 5.00 pm Monday to Friday until 22 August 2025. Please note a planning officer would not be present.
If you wish to make an appointment to discuss the application, please contact the case officer.
Any person who wishes to make representation to the above mentioned Council about the applications should make them online - www.planningportal.rugby.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
For household or minor commercial applications, in the event of an appeal against a refusal of planning permission, dealt with on the basis of representations in writing, any representations made will be sent to the Secretary of State, and there will be no further opportunity to comment at the appeal stage.
Nicola Smith
Chief Officer - Growth and Investment
MRTP1

PUBLIC NOTICES

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence
Parminster Singh trading as **Proship Transport Ltd of 22 Langdale Close Rugby, CV21 1JY** is applying for a licence to use **Mitchell Potatoes Ltd, Boots Farm, Burton on Dunsmore, Rugby, CV23 9QQ** as an operating centre for 2 goods vehicles and 2 trailers.
Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Quarry House, Quarry Hill, Leeds, LS2 7UE, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representatives must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence
GBA Services Ltd of 429 Moss Lane, Hesketh Bank, Preston, PR4 6XJ is applying for a licence to use **Overflow Parking, Europark A5, Wating Street, Rugby, CV23 0AL** as an operating centre for 3 goods vehicles and 3 trailers
Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centres who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Quarry House, Quarry Hill, Leeds, LS2 7UE stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representatives must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-guide-to-making-representations-objections-and-complaints-goods-vehicle-operator-licensing

PUBLIC NOTICES

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence
Philip Gray trading as **Gray P SOT Limited of 20 Northampton Rd, Welford, NN6 6HP** is applying for a licence to use **Old Barn Farm, Swinford Rd, Lutterworth LE17 6DQ** as an operating centre for 1 goods vehicle and 0 trailers.
Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centres who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Quarry House, Quarry Hill, Leeds, LS2 7UE stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representatives must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-guide-to-making-representations-objections-and-complaints-goods-vehicle-operator-licensing

PUBLIC NOTICES

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence
Caill Brothers Plant Ltd of 184 Fletchamstead Highway, Coventry CV4 7BB, is applying for a licence to use **194 Fletchamstead Highway Coventry, CV4 7BB** as an operating centre for 3 goods vehicle(s) and 1 trailer(s). 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 Office of the Traffic Commissioner, Quarry House, Quarry Hill, Leeds, LS2 7UE, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representatives must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available at: [https://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)

JANET LULLIAN THORPE
(Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of Beechwood Care Home 73 Rochester Road Coventry, CV5 6AF, who died on 15/05/2025, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 02/10/2025, 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

JANE ANN PICKERING (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 41 Thistley Field South Coventry, CV6 2DU, who died on 07/07/2025, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 02/10/2025, 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

DELIA MARGARET CRAGG (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 Weavers Care Home, 66 -68 St Nicholas Street, Coventry, CV1 4BP, who died on 28/03/2025, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 02/10/2025, 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

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A NEW PREMISES LICENCE UNDER THE LICENSING ACT 2003
Notice is hereby given that **Elliott Lomas (Puff Social Coventry)** has applied to Coventry City Council for a Variation of Premises Licence for **Puff Social Coventry, 98-100 Lower Precinct, Coventry, CV1 1DX**.
Details of Application To vary the licence to add up to six small tables to the external of the building on the West frontage (opposite Corporation Street) for consumption of alcohol and food between the hours of 12 noon and 9.00 pm during days of favourable weather.
Any person wishing to lodge a representation concerning this application may write to: Licensing Authority, The Council House, Earl Street Coventry CV1 5FR
Or send an email to: licensing@coventry.gov.uk.
The application may be viewed during normal office hours at the above address and further information may be available at www.coventry.gov.uk on the public register.
Any Representation relating to this application must be made in writing to the Licensing Authority by **Midnight on 15th August**
Please note it is an offence to knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. The maximum fine on summary conviction for this offence is Unlimited

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WOODEN Step Ladder £20 Phone 02476413633

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MOTORCYCLE carrier fits standard car tow bar £120 ono 07933 245121

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MISCELLANEOUS

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NIKE Air MX-720-818 Trainers, 'White Indigo Fog' UK Size 4, Hardly worn, £30. Tel.no.0121 742-2513

GREY filing cabinet with 2 drawers £20 L65.5 x W47 x H73 cms 07831488658

SINGLE bed only used for grandchild's visits £50 07831488658

KASCO Carry cart golf bag (used once), folding golf trolley, 6 men's RH clubs / irons. The lot £25. 0121 744 1003

BOTTLE Green Corner Sofa 8 ft x 8ft - Arms 32" depth £150 07506677447

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MISCELLANEOUS

SMALL TV Oak Effect Corner Unit As New £50 ono 07879015716

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GOOD Condition £100 ono 07879015716

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

SAMSUNG Surround Sound Speaker Set (6 in total) - £60 ono 07879015716

WAHL salon styling hair tongs, new in box £9 07813 706 158 (Shirley area)

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MISCELLANEOUS

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DORA the Explorer watch set with 4 changeable faces, brand new £10 07813 706 158 (Shirley area)

NEXT ladies denim shorts, size 12, brand new with tag £10 07813 706 158 (Shirley area)

BREAD tv series 1 & 2 (watched once) and 3 & 4 (new) £20 07813 706 158 (Shirley area)

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Women promoted while men secure best finish since 1952

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

TENNIS: WARWICKSHIRE Women clinched promotion to Group Three with a dramatic victory against closest rivals East of Scotland in County Week.

The county ladies returned to Group Three at the first attempt despite missing a number of players through injury in Cheltenham.

With promotion secured, the ladies then thrashed Norfolk on the final day to secure the Group Four title.

The squad of Holly Reid, Louise Kilshaw, Mary Hoggard, Georgie Jones, Lucie Butler and Elizabeth Massie sealed an unlikely promotion.

Team captain, Lianne Candappa said: "I'm delighted at the way everyone played their hearts out to beat East of Scotland so narrowly, and looked really assured against Norfolk."

"I'm absolutely thrilled that Lucie and Elizabeth managed to beat the very strong Scottish first pair.

"It was great that Louise loyally came back when so many people were injured and only fitting that she and Holly took the winning rubber in style.

"Giorgie and Mary have been a standout pair all week, and it's a huge relief to win promotion – and win the Group Four Championship after what's been a disappointing run of relegations over recent years."



The women's side claimed a clean sweep of wins against Essex, North Wales, Lincolnshire, East of Scotland and Norfolk.

Elsewhere, Warwickshire's men's side achieved a runners-up finish in the Elite Group One behind reigning champions

Surrey at Eastbourne. Playing in the top division for the first time since 2010, the Bears were level with Surrey on three match wins heading into the final fixture.

However, Surrey's dominant win against South Wales ended Warwickshire's title chances

although the Bears still recorded their best finish since 1952.

The squad of Cameron Malik, Mason Recci, Luca Pow, Max Stewart, Jake Hersey, Oliver Plaskett and Richard Partridge secured a number of upset wins to finish in second place.

Warwickshire captain, Gavin

Henderson said: "I am unbelievably proud of how the whole squad chased down every ball and battled away, coming so close to taking the title.

"Every single pair beat much higher ranked opposition, so no wonder we achieved our best result since 1952, the last time we won the title, and we certainly didn't have the best team on paper.

"Two of our top teenage stars, Billy Moxon and Ferran Redza, who both played in the Wimbledon juniors, were away in Romania on international duty.

"Our fighting spirit and teamwork was second to none, and we finished on the same number of wins as Surrey who've won the Championship for the last three years.

"Dan Evans was playing a tournament in Washington but he massively contributed encouragement and advice on WhatsApp, which gave the side a real boost.

"I'm already talking to our players about their availability for next year, because if we can come this close with a depleted squad, there's absolutely no reason why, with a stronger lineup to pick from, we shouldn't go one better in 2026."

The Bears claimed wins against North of Scotland, East of Scotland and Northamptonshire and only lost to eventual champions Surrey.

Warwickshire's men celebrate after securing a runners-up finish. Picture by Sally Jones.

Medals for Schembri martial artists at Taekwondo World Championships

Helen Audus-Norman won bronze at the Taekwondo International World Championships.



MARTIAL ARTS: A COUPLE of martial artists from Warwick competed in the Taekwondo International World Championships in Scotland. Schembri TKD Warwick

Elizabeth Hunt won team gold at the Taekwondo International World Championships.



pair Elizabeth Hunt and Helen Audus-Norman both competed on the international stage at Braehead Arena in Glasgow. Audus-Norman came away with a bronze medal in the

women's executive division following a narrow defeat in her semi-final bout.

She won her first two fights in a highly competitive division but just came up short in the semi-finals.

And Hunt just missed out on a medal in the girls' black belt individual patterns event as she finished fourth in a packed field.

Hunt then suffered a quarter-final exit in the individual sparring event as she lost to the eventual winner in a close fight.

However, Hunt recovered from the setback to win gold in the team sparring event.

Hosts Scotland secured a clean sweep of victories in the premier international team events at the World Championships.

The host nation won both the men's and ladies divisions.

Almost 2,000 competitors took part in the World Championships from 20 countries over three days of action.

This included martial artists from Australia, United States of America, Canada, South Africa, Norway, Italy, Republic of Ireland and across the United Kingdom.

Anyone interested in joining Schembri TKD Warwick should contact the club on: 07850 327507

Graham Timms is presented with his England cap by manager Danny Ward.



International call-up for Timms

WALKING FOOTBALL: A PLAYER from Racing Club Warwick's walking football team recently received a call-up to the England squad.

Graham Timms only joined Racing's walking football team a few months ago.

The Whitnash resident has been playing in goal for Warwick's over-55s men's walking football team.

Despite Warwick not playing in a league, he received a call-up to play for England's over-75 team at a walking football trial tournament at Evesham United.

He eventually earned a place in the squad as one of England's goalkeepers.

Timms was awarded an England cap for being part of the squad for a

friendly match against Guernsey.

He received a cap despite being unable to travel to Guernsey.

Timms has since played in regional tournaments against teams from all over the country.

He recently played in a tournament for England Central over 80s as an underage player.

Timms said: "It came as a big surprise when I was selected to take part in an England over 75s walking football tournament.

"Unlike the other players who all play in leagues for different teams regularly, myself and all at our club were delighted to be recognised at international level.

"It goes to show that age is no barrier."

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

Valley set for FA Cup test at Coton Green

FOOTBALL: GRANT Joshua admits he wanted to 'transform the culture' of Rugby Town during his first pre-season in charge of the club.

Valley received a belated reprieve from relegation ahead of the 2025/26 campaign following Joshua's appointment as manager.

The club have played six pre-season fixtures ahead of the new season with Joshua keen to bed in a number of new signings.

And Valley won four, drew one and lost one of their six matches which included big victories against Walsall Wood and Bedworth United.

However, Rugby suffered their only defeat in their final pre-season outing - a 2-0 loss away at higher division Redditch United.

Joshua said: "The main aim when I joined was to totally transform the culture of the football club.



"Results in pre-season are irrelevant but performances aren't and I am pleased with what we've seen in our six games.

"The support at Redditch was incredible - it was unlike anything I've seen from an away following at our level.

"We have a group that care about the football club and the supporters can see that and we now need to take this into the competitive season.

"Plugging these two together only makes us stronger."

Rugby begin the competitive season with a trip to Midland Football League Premier Division side Coton Green in the FA Cup this weekend (Saturday, August 2, kick-off 3pm).

And Joshua anticipates a tough test against the newly-promoted side.

Joshua added: "I fully expect [the game] to turn into a difficult and tricky tie to navigate through

"I have huge respect for what the management group have done there.

"I urge our supporters to make this game feel like a home game."

Rivel Mardenborough in action for Rugby against Redditch. Picture by Martin Pulley.

Bears Women fall to Finals Day defeat

CRICKET: BEARS Women missed the chance to become the first-ever women's T20 Blast champions following a five-wicket defeat against Surrey in the final.

The Bears finished on 153-9 at the end of their 20 overs as Issy Wong top scored with the bat at the Kia Oval.

However, hosts Surrey reached the required target with five wickets and 20 balls to spare as Grace Harris produced a sparkling knock.

Alistair Maiden's side had earlier claimed a 20-run win against The Blaze as Wong starred with bat and ball in a Finals Day eliminator.

However, the Bears struggled to build a

strong enough partnership with the bat against Surrey in the final with Wong (31) one of four batters to reach the 20-run mark.

Laura Harris (25), Nat Wraith (23) and Millie Taylor (20 not out) all scored useful runs but Surrey took wickets at regular intervals to restrict the Bears to a total of 153 all out.

And G Harris (63 not out) inspired Surrey to victory in a 33-ball knock which included nine boundaries supported by Sophia Dunkley (23).

Both Amu Surenkumar (2-13) and Em Arlott (2-29) took two wickets apiece in vain as Surrey tasted victory on their home pitch.

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