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Plenty of praise as Town Ranger Rob steps down

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

THE LONGEST-serving Rugby Town Ranger has hung up his boots after nearly 20 years.

Ranger Rob has helped to save over 20 lives during his two decades in the distinctive red uniform.

Rob - whose surname has not been publicised for security and safety reasons - and his wife have taken up new jobs that will allow them to spend more time together as a family.

During his time in the role, he has dealt with crime and anti-social behaviour, supported police, dealt with multiple first aid incidents, marshalled events, provided customer services and acted as a business liaison.

Rob, who grew up in Rugby, said: "I love the town and people, so it has been a real privilege for me to play a part

in making it a cleaner, safer, friendly and more welcoming environment for businesses, residents and visitors alike.

"I'm a people person and find it very rewarding serving the businesses in the town centre and members of public.

"One of my fondest memories was when the Olympic torch relay came to Rugby - it was an incredible experience and a very proud day for Rugby town centre.

"I have met many people over the years and helped to make a real difference. It's the end of an era and I will really miss the team but it has been an incredible journey for me and an amazing experience."

Linda Lowne, Business Director for Rugby First, expressed her gratitude for Rob's professionalism, outstanding service and dedication to duty.

She said: "He has been a real life hero, having been

instrumental in helping to save over 20 lives while on duty in the town centre.

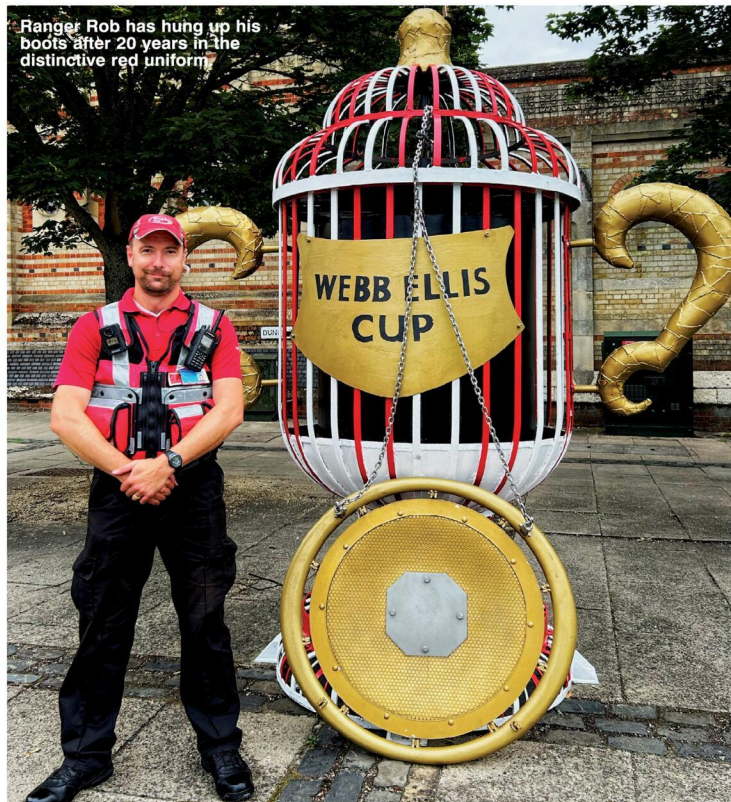
"He has, over the last two decades, received many letters of thanks and appreciation from members of the public, the police and the business community, reflecting the fact that on many occasions he has gone above and beyond to offer an exceptional level of service."

Rob recently accepted the Mayor's Appreciation Award on behalf of the Rugby First Ranger team, in recognition of their continuous support to the community.

Presenting the award, Coun Simon Ward described the team as 'an asset to our town in maintaining a safe, friendly and welcoming environment'.

Linda added: "Rob was at the core of this.

"While we are sad to see him go, this marks the beginning of a new chapter for him. We all wish him and his family all the best."



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Catrina Fenton, head of the Heritage Seed Library based in Ryton, with the seeds which will be preserved in the time capsule.



The time capsule on display at The King's Foundation Awards ceremony at St James's Palace, London. Picture by Ian Jones Photography.

Heirloom seeds to be locked away in time capsule

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

PRECIOUS heirloom vegetable seeds and their stories are set to be preserved for 100 years as part of The King's Foundation's 35th anniversary time capsule.

Heritage beans, peas and tomato seeds from Garden Organic's Heritage Seed Library will be buried in a special oak capsule – and not opened until 2125 – as part of the anniversary celebrations of The King's Foundation.

It could not have come at a better time for the Ryton-based Heritage Seed Library, as the living library celebrates its 50th birthday in October.

The five heritage vegetables seeds, part of the National Collection of Heritage Vegetables, have been specially selected to be part of the time capsule project. They have previously been grown in the gardens at Dumfries House in Ayrshire, Scotland, the headquarters of The King's Foundation – founded by The King in 1990.

King Charles, Garden Organic's patron, launched the time capsule project earlier this year by placing the first items – his secateurs and a personal letter.

During 2025, the foundation is collecting other items for the capsule to



The seeds which will be preserved in the time capsule - left to right - Beetroot Dobbies Purple, French Bean Veitch's Climbing, Runner Bean Gramp Nicolls, and Pea Alex.

represent its achievements and legacy.

Catrina Fenton, head of the Heritage Seed Library, said: "It's an absolute honour to have five of our heritage vegetables from our National Collection included in the time capsule.

"They have been carefully selected to reflect the four King's Foundation historic sites in Scotland and England and include a French bean that was conserved by the Heritage Seed Library in 1990, the same year the foundation was established.

"The work of the foundation and The King in promoting and protecting sustainability, heritage skills and nature closely aligns with our own, so we're delighted to be involved

in this unique and exciting project."

Pam Whittle, Garden Organic vice president and former president of The Caley, Scotland's horticultural society, said it was important to act today to ensure a diversity of seeds in the future.

She added: "I would love to know, perhaps even grow, what my grandparents were growing 100 years ago."

Over the past 35 years, The King's Foundation has started community regeneration projects and education programmes in traditional skills, as well as advocating for living in harmony with nature.

Visit www.gardenorganic.org.uk for more information about Garden Organic and the Heritage Seed Library.



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29






Princethorpe College, left to right: Jack Fleming, Genevieve Slater-Tucker, Oscar Reynolds, headmaster Grove du Toit, Megan Shipton, Anjola Okusanya and Mia Samra.

Students' hard work rewarded with top grades

STUDENTS in Rugby have opened their A-Level, AS Level, T-Level and vocational qualification results - with initial feedback from schools and colleges indicating that Warwickshire has enjoyed another successful year.

While university beckons many, other routes are available for those wishing to travel, start work or apprenticeships - or those who might have been hoping for different results and are now considering their options.

Coun Wayne Briggs, Warwickshire County Council's education spokesperson, said: "Congratulations to all Warwickshire students receiving their further education results. Your hard work, dedication, and resilience throughout your studies is admirable, and you should be incredibly proud of your achievements."

"Initial feedback suggests another successful year for our county, and it's fantastic to see so many young people progressing to their next steps. Whether you're heading to university, embarking on an apprenticeship, entering the world of work, or exploring other exciting opportunities, remember that there are many valid and fulfilling pathways available."

"In Warwickshire we are committed to helping young people pursue happy, healthy and skilled futures to be the best they can be, and I wish them every success for whatever comes next."

Full results are still being collated. Detailed data about Warwickshire's overall performance will be published by the Department for Education in the autumn.

Ashlawn School

School principal Paul Brockwell said his students should rightly be proud of their achievements.

He said: "After marking a significant boost in both grades and student progress last year, we are proud to see so many students doing so well yet again in 2025."

"These results reflect not just academic excellence, but a deep resilience and determination and a commitment to giving 'our best, always' - an ethos that is at the heart of our school community and was praised during our recent Ofsted inspection."

"It has been wonderful to celebrate with these inspiring young people. They have worked hard to achieve their potential and have really shone - they deserve every bit of success."

Lawrence Sheriff

Three-quarters of A-Levels taken at the school achieved grades A*-B.

Headteacher Teresa Mpofo said: "We are delighted to celebrate with our Year 13 students. They have made the most of their time at Lawrence Sheriff Sixth Form: making memories, growing as individuals and achieving a wonderful set of exam results."

"With 75 per cent of all entries achieving grade A*-B, we are delighted that the positive attitude of our students over the last two years has reaped the rewards they so richly deserve."

Princethorpe College

A total of 108 students sat A-Level and BTEC examinations and completed the Extended Project Qualification this summer, with two-thirds of all grades awarded being A*-B, with more than a third being A*-A.

Headmaster Grove du Toit said: "We are thrilled that

our students have received such good grades but also, more importantly, that the overwhelming majority, 95 per cent, are moving on to their first choice of next step.

"These students are so much more than just their grades and they all have many other fine qualities: kindness, generosity, respect and a strong moral compass, which will be tremendously important for them as they move on to the next phase of their lives."

Rugby College

Students were praised for their 'hard work and ambition'.

Students taking A-Levels at the college and its sister site in Leamington scored a 100 per cent pass rate in subjects including business studies, sociology, English literature, and criminology, and more than a 90 per cent pass rate for psychology.

Sara-Jane Watkins, CEO and principal of the WCG group which runs the college, said: "Our learners have faced challenges head-on, and their results are a testament to their hard work and ambition."

"We wish every one of them the very best as they take their next steps."

Rugby High School

Students gained higher grades in their A-Levels this year, outperforming the national trend, and gaining five per cent more A*-B grades than in 2024.

Head teacher Mark Grady said: "These wonderful results are testament to the driven, focused and hard-working students that we have the privilege to work with."

"They should be rightly proud of their achievements, and we wish them every success for what looks like an exciting and successful future."



WCG students celebrate.



Ashlawn School, left to right: Ben Watts, Daniel Twigger and Luke Wakelin.

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Memorial to unsung RAF heroes given the go-ahead

UNSUNG wartime heroes from Warwickshire will be among those honoured by a new memorial.

Plans have been confirmed to recognise members of the RAF's Photographic Reconnaissance Units. It follows a memorial campaign which won cross-party support.

Rugby MP John Slinger and Stratford MP Manuela Perteghelli have both supported the memorial campaign.

The Photographic Reconnaissance Units (PRU) was formed on September 24, 1939.

Throughout the Second World War it operated highly

by Ian Hughes
ian.hughes
@bullivantmedia.com

dangerous, clandestine photographic reconnaissance operations over all theatres of operation, and captured more than 26 million images of enemy operations and installations during the war.

The purpose of the PRU was to provide up-to-date intelligence to strategically plan the Allied actions in the war. Flying Spitfires and Mosquitos, the intelligence it gathered was used by all the armed forces, giving same day intelligence on enemy activity.

The intelligence provided



An aerial camera being loaded into position in a Supermarine Spitfire. Picture Creative Commons Licence.

by the PRU was used in the Cabinet War Rooms – now the 'Churchill War Rooms' located underneath the Treasury in London – and was instrumental in the planning of major operations such as D-Day and the Dambusters Raid, the monitoring of major shipping movements such as the Bismarck and Tirpitz, and the locating of the site of the V1 and V2 rocket launching site at Peenemunde in north-eastern Germany, as well as many other intelligence successes.

Due to the clandestine nature of their operations

– they flew solo operations, unarmed and unarmoured – the death rate was nearly 50 per cent.

But despite having one of the lowest survival rates of the war – life expectancy in the PRU was around two and a half months – there is no national memorial to the PRU.

Since 2021, the Spitfire AA810 Project has campaigned to establish such a memorial to the 1,746 PRU pilots and navigators.

It is also intended that the memorial will recognise the Photographic

Interpreters, who were based at RAF Medmenham, in Buckinghamshire. Using stereoscopy, they analysed the photographs for intelligence, with the intelligence report arriving at the Cabinet War Rooms within 24 hours of a plane landing.

The 635 Photographic Interpreters – a third of whom were women – included the likes of actor, Dirk Bogarde, and Sarah Churchill, the wartime Prime Minister's daughter.

Their role was crucially important to the entire operation, as without their skill

and analysis, the millions of photographs would not have produced the war winning intelligence that it did, ensuring that the pilots' sacrifice was not in vain.

The memorial – which is intended to be placed outside the Treasury, close to the entrance of the Imperial War Museum's Churchill War Rooms, facing St James' Park – also intends to recognise the internationalism of the PRU, with 24 different nationalities confirmed to date as having served in photo reconnaissance, with countries from every continent represented.



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A Spitfire painted in PRU blue. The RAF planes were crucial in gathering photographic intelligence on enemy positions. PRU collected more than 20 million images during the Second World War. Picture by Creative Commons Licence.

Six of the very best to be honoured

WHILE the PRU including many different nationalities, it was made up predominantly by servicemen from throughout the United Kingdom.

Among those who served in the PRU were Rugby-born Geoffrey Emmett, Ralph Farmer, Ernest Fielding and Thomas Osborn, Stratford-born Charles Lousada and Philip John Miles, who was born in Tanworth-in-Arden.

Flight Lieutenant Geoffrey Emmett – Carried out his initial training in 1939 and then navigator training in Coventry. He served operationally through the Battle of Britain. In early 1941 he

carried out ferrying duties over the Atlantic before joining 140 Photographic Reconnaissance Squadron in August 1941. He served with 140 as a navigator mostly in Mosquito aircraft until September 1944 when he took a ground role.

Flight Lieutenant Ralph Bernard Farmer – Joined the RAF in January 1937 and after pilot training he became an instructor. After he transferred to 542 Photographic Reconnaissance Squadron he flew unarmed Spitfires over Europe from October 1944 until the end of the war.

Flight Officer Ernest Angus Fielding – After training as a pilot, he joined 681 Photographic Reconnaissance Squadron flying Mosquito aircraft and was posted to Burma. In November 1943, the then 23 year-old Ernest was flying a photographic reconnaissance mission to Rangoon when he was shot down by a Japanese Hayabusa crew. Ernest and his navigator were killed instantly and both are buried in Burma. This was the first combat engagement of a Mosquito in the Far East during the Second World War.

Charles Rochford Lousada DL – Joined the RAF in 1929,

learning to fly before becoming a flying instructor. He became a Flight Commander and was posted to India. In 1939 he returned to the UK to set up a new squadron becoming the then youngest Group Captain aged 32. He took over 34 Photographic Reconnaissance Wing managing Spitfires and Mosquitos and 140 Photographic Reconnaissance Squadrons ahead of the D-Day invasion. By the end of the war he was an Air Commodore and was Acting Officer in Charge of the RAF Staff Training College.

Philip John Miles – He joined the RAF and after training to

be a pilot he was selected to be streamed into RAF Photographic Reconnaissance. In January 1943 he was tasked with carrying out a practice reconnaissance over Scotland in an aging PR.IV Spitfire. Suffering engine failure, Miles parachuted from the aircraft rather than attempt a forced landing, but his parachute failed to open, and he was killed.

Pilot Officer Thomas William Osborn DFC – Little is known of his war service other than he was operational with 540 Photographic Reconnaissance Squadron where he was awarded the DFC in August 1944.

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Hospitals rated 'Good' after latest CQC inspection

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

HOSPITALS in Coventry and Rugby have been rated 'Good' in a new Care Quality Commission (CQC) report.

The findings come after routine inspections of University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire (UHCW) NHS Trust, which runs University Hospital Coventry (UHC) and the Hospital of St Cross in Rugby, last September and November.

Medical care and surgery services at University Hospital Coventry have again been rated 'Good', but the hospital's ratings for children and young people and for urgent and emergency care services have both dropped from 'Good' to 'Requires Improvement'.

Surgery at St Cross has again been rated 'Good'.

Inspectors said leaders at the trust were capable, compassionate and inclusive, and the trust was a leader in areas of innovation and research. The trust was also praised for having achieved financial balance in its most recent accounts.

However, inspectors identified areas of culture and wellbeing which



needed to be improved, and said the trust needed to demonstrate the impact of its equality, diversity and inclusion work.

Amanda Lyndon, CQC deputy director of operations in the Midlands, said: "Despite finding some breaches in individual services, the strong leadership reassured us that action would be taken to tackle these."

"Senior leaders at board level listened to the views and concerns of people in the trust's care. By listening to feedback and taking action, the trust showed commit-

ment to providing services that meets local population needs and making changes that improved people's experiences."

"We observed a strong learning and improvement culture throughout the organisation. Staff in each service reviewed incidents thoroughly and used findings to improve care and support."

She acknowledged that pressures across the healthcare system affected service quality and people's experiences in urgent and emergency care.

"We recognise the trust can't



solve all these issues alone," she added. "A national increase in people seeking emergency care and insufficient social care provision forces people to remain in hospital beds longer, leading to admission delays from the emergency department. I encourage the local healthcare system to continue working together to identify solutions."

"We also had specific concerns about breaches in regulation related to how staff were able to provide safe care and treatment to some children and young people in crisis."

UHCW chief executive officer Professor Andy Hardy said staff were thrilled that both hospitals had maintained the rating earned at the last inspection in 2019.

He said: "We are delighted the CQC have recognised the high levels of expertise and compassion amongst our teams."

"Whilst the report contains so many positives, there is always room for improvement and we will continuously strive to enhance all aspects of the trust's services with our partners across Coventry and Warwickshire."

"We would like to thank everyone who works for the trust for the pride they show in delivering the best patient experience possible."

Mr Hardy said action plans would be created to address shortcomings.

Work to expand the often crowded waiting room at UHC's Emergency Department started on Monday (August 18).

Full reports can be found on the CQC's website at <https://www.cqc.org.uk/provider/RKB>, and <https://www.cqc.org.uk/location/RKB01> (University Hospital Coventry), and <https://www.cqc.org.uk/location/RKB03> (the Hospital of St Cross).

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Left to right - Emal Ahmadzi, Said Raza and Hanif Rahman.

Violent trio get long jail terms

THREE men have been jailed for their part in a vicious street assault in Coventry.

Said Raza, Hanif Rahman and Emal Ahmadzi attacked two men in Stoney Stanton Road on October 11 last year.

The trio were seen in the company of the two men before splitting off. They then returned to begin the attack.

Ahmadzi could be seen in CCTV footage slashing at one of the men with a large blade.

When the men attempted to run away, Raza kicked their legs and slashed at them again, causing them to fall into the road.

Rahman was nearby during the whole attack, holding a knife and advancing towards the men.

The three men were located two days later in the centre of Coventry.

Raza and Ahmadzi ran away from officers but Rahman was detained, and found to be carrying an axe.

Officers caught up with Raza and Ahmadzi

later that day and arrested them.

When interviewed by police, Rahman claimed that, while he was there and seen holding a knife, he hadn't actually been involved.

He told officers he had witnessed the assault and only picked up the knife because he didn't want anyone to use it.

But Rahman was convicted of his involvement following a trial at Warwick Crown Court, while Raza and Ahmadzi pleaded guilty.

Hanif Rahman, 21, of Rye Hill in Coventry was jailed for five years for wounding, possession of a bladed article and possession of an offensive weapon.

Emal Ahmadzi, 21, of Skelmersdale in Lancashire was jailed for four-and-a-half years for wounding and possession of a bladed article.

Said Raza, 20, of Emscote Road in Warwick was jailed for four years and nine months for wounding and possession of a bladed article.

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New hub aims to transform use of plastic

by Ian Hughes
ian.hughes@bullivantmedia.com

REVOLUTIONISING the use of plastic is the aim of a new £13.6million research hub at the University of Warwick.

Researchers from WMG at the university will work over the next seven years, alongside the University of Manchester and UCL, to improve the way durable plastics – commonly used in cars, buildings, and electronics – are created, reused, and recycled.

The goal of the Manufacturing Research Hub in Sustainable Engineering Plastics (SEP) is to reduce waste, support greener manufacturing practices, and advance the circular economy – where products are reused instead of thrown away.

The work is being supported from more than 60 industry partners, including JLR, Polestar, Siemens, BEKO, Bellway, and Biffa, to tackle some of the UK's biggest



WMG Professor Ton Peijs.

manufacturing challenges.

The WMG hub is one of four, backed by a total of \$44 million through the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC). The new Manufacturing Research Hubs for a Sustainable Future will bring together world-class researchers with more than 180 industry and civic partners to drive practical, sustainable innovation across the UK.

Each hub will focus on a different critical area of manufacturing, from creating net-zero supply chains

and resilient production systems to transforming waste and reducing our reliance on fossil fuels.

SEP will be led by WMG Professor Ton Peijs.

He said: "We're incredibly proud to lead this vital initiative. Until now, most sustainability efforts in plastics have focused on single-use items and packaging. Yet engineering plastics – essential to modern life – present equally complex sustainability challenges that have, until now, largely been overlooked.

"This hub unites researchers, industry leaders, and policymakers to fundamentally rethink how engineering plastic parts are designed, reused, repaired and recycled. We're focused on real-world impact: using greener materials, smarter manufacturing and recycling systems, and more sustainable supply chains.

"This grant underscores the urgent need for innovation in this space, and we're excited to drive meaningful, lasting change."

MP sees how firm evolves

MP MATT Western has been plumbing the depths of what it means for a local company to go green.

The Warwick and Leamington MP visited Wolseley Group's head office for a behind-the-scenes look at the specialist in plumbing, heating, climate, and infrastructure solutions.

Mr Western was given a tour of the firm's HQ in Kingmaker Court in Warwick, and discussed how Wolseley was evolving to meet the needs of a fast-changing industry – from digital transformation to workforce development and sustainability.

The visit also proved an opportunity for Mr Western to learn more about Renewables Centre, Wolseley's latest initiative aimed at supporting tradespeople as they transition into low-carbon technologies. The scheme provides access to technical training, design support, and product guidance.

Simon Gray, CEO of Wolseley Group, said: "It was a pleasure to welcome Matt Western MP to our Warwick head office and share how Wolseley



MP Matt Western talked renewables during a visit to Wolseley's head office in Warwick.

is evolving to meet the needs of a fast-changing industry. From investing in training and digital innovation, to helping our customers navigate the shift toward renewables, we're proud of the role we play both locally and nationally. Engaging with policymakers like Matt is vital as we continue to contribute to the rapidly evolving future of the sector."

Mr Western added: "It's great to see a business like Wolseley, headquartered here in Warwickshire, leading the way in supporting the trade sector.

"Their work to upskill tradespeople and adapt to emerging technologies shows real leadership and is exactly what we need to see from large employers in this space."



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New sculpture to mark World Cup in England

A NEW piece of public art celebrating Rugby's iconic status as the birthplace of the game has been unveiled ahead of the Women's Rugby World Cup.

Raising The Trophy - created by environmental artist Tony Davies - was commissioned by Rugby Borough Council to celebrate England hosting the tournament, which kicks off on Friday (August 22) when the Red Roses take on the USA at Sunderland's Stadium of Light.

The wire sculpture, which features a pair of women's rugby players raising the Women's Rugby World Cup, has been installed on the town centre's gyratory system island, opposite the statue of William Webb Ellis in Dunchurch Road.

The sculpture follows in the footsteps of The Pass, The Kick and The Tackle - a hat-trick of sculptures commissioned for the men's Rugby World Cup in 2015 - and The Try, which was commissioned to mark the bicentenary of rugby union in 2023.

Coun Neil Sandison, Rugby Borough Council's Liberal Democrat group spokesperson for partnerships and wellbeing, said: "All five sculptures are in high-profile locations in the town centre where both visitors and residents can marvel at the unique skills of



Tony Davies putting the finishing touches to Raising The Trophy, a wire sculpture commissioned by Rugby Borough Council to celebrate the Women's Rugby World Cup.

both the artist and the players, reflecting the heritage of Rugby."

Coun Maggie O'Rourke, Rugby Borough Council's spokesperson for partnerships and wellbeing, said the council was delighted to mark the start of the Women's Rugby World Cup by unveiling the new sculpture.

She added: "With England the hosts and tournament favourites, fingers crossed the Red Roses can raise the trophy at the end of the Women's Rugby World Cup - but in the meantime, we're all looking forward to Friday's opening game when England face the USA."

The council has organised a free

event in Caldecott Park on Friday (August 22) where families can watch the Red Roses take on the USA on a big screen at 7.30pm.

The event starts at 4pm and includes free rugby activities, inflatables and street performers, together with stalls, and food and drink.

Roadworks to start on M45 bridge

EIGHT months of roadworks at a road near Rugby are set to begin next week.

National Highways is carrying out a full refurbishment of the Main Street bridge which crosses the M45 between Thurlaston and Dunchurch.

Work will include concrete repairs to the structure, installing a new waterproof membrane, and an improved vehicle barrier. The carriageway and footpath over the bridge will also be resurfaced.

National Highways says the work is necessary to ensure the bridge 'remains safe and reliable for many years to come'.

Work will begin on Tuesday (August 26) and continue to next April.

The bridge will be restricted to a single lane in each direction. The route over the bridge will remain open for pedestrians.

The M45 will be reduced to a single lane in each direction. There will also be short closures of the M45 at the start and end of the scheme to install and remove scaffolding.

A National Highways spokesperson said: "Some other short overnight road closures may be required to ensure the safety of the public and road workers. These will be kept to the minimum and towards the end of the works with further details being publicised nearer the time."

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Myton's first podcast will give an ear to wellbeing and support



The Myton Hospices has launched its very first podcast.

THE MYTON Hospices has launched its own podcast.

by Philippa Mingins

Care Within Care has been created to explore the emotional challenges faced by those working and volunteering in the hospice sector.

Hosted by Myton's employee and volunteer wellbeing co-ordinator, Emily Young, and self-help author, Donna Highton, the podcast offers a compassionate and honest look at the pressures that come with caring for people towards the end of life, and how the charity, which has hospices in Coventry, Rugby and Warwick, can support those who do this vital work.

Each episode delves into topics such as burnout, grief fatigue, emotional resilience, and navigating boundaries in emotionally demanding environments. The podcast combines real-world insights with practical self-help tools, mindset

strategies and stories from those on the frontline of hospice care.

The initiative is part of Myton's ongoing commitment to prioritising the wellbeing of all – providing accessible, meaningful support not just for their own staff and volunteers, but for anyone working in palliative care.

Each episode is delivered in bite-size chunks to make it easier for people to access support whenever and wherever they need it.

Emily said: "I'm so excited about this brand new podcast, which is all about helping people working in hospice care to manage their wellbeing. At Myton, it is incredibly important that we support the emotional needs of our staff and volunteers – and this podcast is one way we're doing that. We hope it

will also provide support to people working in other hospices across the UK and beyond."

Donna added: "It's a real privilege to co-host this podcast alongside Emily and to offer something that supports the wellbeing of those who give so much to others.

"I'm particularly excited to bring my knowledge, expertise and background to the podcast – drawing on mindset tools, compassion-based practices and emotional resilience techniques to help people feel seen and supported in their everyday lives."

Care Within Care is available to stream now on Spotify.

* MONTY is now helping people navigate The Myton Hospices website.

The AI chat assistant is designed to offer instant answers and support, helping people, including patients, carers and supporters, access the information they need quickly and easily.

The assistant – named after the charity's bear mascot Monty – can help people looking for upcoming fundraising events, information on Myton's three hospices and 27 shops, or find out about the palliative and end of life care services available.

Monty will also assist users who

may struggle with website navigation and offer multilingual support to cater to diverse audiences, building on the Recite Me accessibility tool that has already been in place on the Myton website for a number of years.

Extensive testing has been conducted and responses are regularly monitored to ensure accuracy and relevance.

The system will continuously update based on user interactions, allowing Myton to refine responses and improve effectiveness over time.

Visit www.mytonhospice.org/chat find out more.

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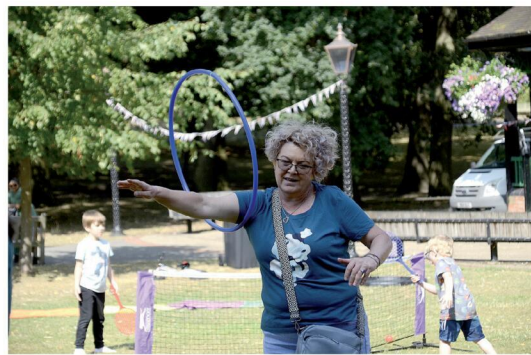
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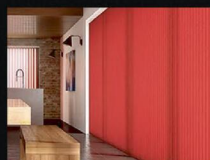
Marking VJ Day Anniversary



LEFT: Taking aim. 3425002MMR1 MIDDLE: Megan Kelly (Town Centre Event and Marketing Manager) and Lillian Burridge (Events Assistant) get into the spirit. 3425002MMR3 RIGHT: Making woollen bumblebees. Pictures by Marcus Mingins 3425002MMR2



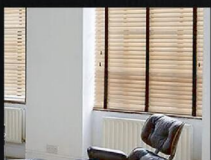
LEFT: Enjoying a game of Connect Four 3425002MMR7 MIDDLE: Flint (three) takes aim. 3425002MMR6 RIGHT: Who says adults can't join in the fun. Pictures by Marcus Mingins 3425002MMR5



VERTICAL



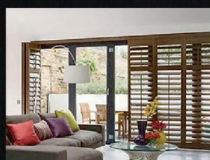
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Marking VJ Day Anniversary



LEFT: Flying the flag.
3425002MMR4

RIGHT: Tanya, Kelly, Molly and Mia enjoy the picnic.
Pictures by Marcus Mingins
3425002MMR8

More pictures opposite.



Enjoying a taste of day of celebration

A NOSTALGIC community event helped Rugby to capture the spirit of VJ Day on its 80th anniversary. Families brought food and blankets to Caldecott Park on Friday August 15 for a Picnic in the Park, to recreate the atmosphere of VJ Day in 1945 when Japan's surrender brought the Second World War to an end.

Visitors enjoyed a range of vintage garden games, including skittles and a coconut shy, while the council's Play Rangers brought a host of fun and games to proceedings, including a scavenger hunt, a sensory tent and a bubble factory.

It was set to a soundtrack of music from the park's bandstand.

Later on VJ Day, Mayor

Barbara Brown attended a Sunset Service at the Hillmorton War Memorial, where residents lit tea-lights to commemorate the anniversary.

She said: "While VJ Day was a time for celebration in 1945, it remains a day to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice fighting for our freedom during the Second World War."



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Picture special



LEFT: Lola, four, and Mason, 10, brought their buckets and spades. 3325007MMR2

RIGHT: Sheltering from the sun. 3325007MMR4

FAR RIGHT: Toni, four, and Graham are all smiles. 3325007MMR3



RIGHT: At one with the sand. 3325007MMR1



Pictures by Marcus Mingins

A day on the beach

A BEACH appeared in Rugby – just in time for the heatwave.

Rugbeians enjoyed some fun in the sun at the temporary beach in Market Place on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday (August 12, 13 and 14).

Parents sat back in deck chairs while their children got busy in the sand with buckets and spades.

The Observer went along to take some summer snaps of sun and sand.

Families flocked to Rugby's beach. 3325007MMR5



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Is Hand Pain Holding You Back?

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

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

Common Hand Conditions and Their Symptoms

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

Symptoms to look out for:

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

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

Symptoms to look out for:

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

Common Cause of a Palm Lump: Thumb Arthritis
Thumb arthritis frequently affects the basal joint at the base of the thumb. This can make everyday small tasks, like doing up buttons, quite challenging.

Symptoms to look out for:

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

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

Symptoms to look out for:

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

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Get In Touch – We Can Help

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

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It's time to prepare for new school year

PARENTS and carers are being reminded of some important things to do to help children be happy, healthy and ready to learn when the new school year starts.

Whether children are starting school for the first time, or moving up a year, Warwickshire County Council's back to school podcast and animated checklist reminds people what is needed to ensure children are sorted for school when they go back next month.

Advice to be September-ready including information about attendance, transport, school meals and post-16 options, is available on the Let's Talk Warwickshire podcast: letstalkwarwickshire.podbean.com/e/back-to-school/ and watch the Sorted for School animation at

www.youtube.com/shorts/vOTuc_dxshl

The animation covers all the things that parents should be thinking about ahead of their children returning to school such as:

*** Uniform, shoes, pencil cases and book bags** – Children may have grown over the summer holidays, so it's worth checking that both uniforms and shoes still fit.

*** Labels** – Items being misplaced at school is a relatively common occurrence, particularly at primary schools, but the risk of this can be minimised by ensuring that all items of clothing, pencil cases are book bags are labelled with the child's name.

*** Check school dates and start/finish times** – General term dates can be found on the Warwickshire County Council website but par-

ents and carers should also check school-specific start and end times on their school's websites.

*** Club sign-ups** – Parents and carers should check with school's websites to see if clubs can be signed up to before the start of term.

*** Healthy lunchboxes** – There is useful guidance from the NHS on ideas for putting together healthy lunchboxes for your children.

*** Plenty of sleep** – as important as all the other elements, parents and carers should ensure that their children get plenty of sleep over the coming week to ensure that they are happy, healthy and ready to learn.

County council education spokesman Coun Wayne Briggs said: "We are sharing this information to help families be prepared for school or



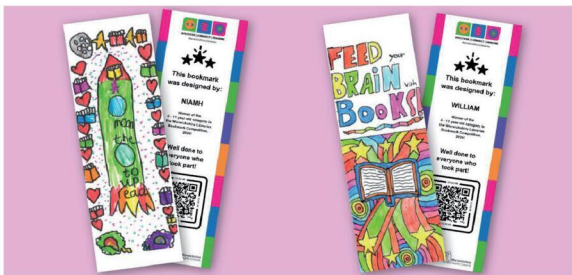
Parents and carers are being urged to ensure children are ready to return to the classroom.

further learning.

"We are committed to supporting our child-friendly county with happy, healthy, heard, safe and skilled young people. Education is central to this and we want all youngsters to have access to good education opportunities which enable

them to be the best they can be. Our dedicated team of professionals at the county council does so much that underpins the amazing work that our schools do."

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



Get creative in bookmark design competition

BOOK-LOVING artists across Warwickshire are being invited to make their mark.

A Bookmark Design Competition, run by Warwickshire Libraries, is calling residents of all ages to get creative and have their artwork professionally printed and distributed across

all of the county's libraries.

Winners will be selected from four categories – children under eight years-old, young people aged nine to 17, and adults aged 18-plus.

Designs can be drawn by hand or created digitally, and bookmark templates are available

from any Warwickshire County Council managed library or can be downloaded online.

Entries must be submitted by September 1 with the winners revealed during Green Libraries Week in October. Winners will see their designs printed and distributed

in libraries countywide. They will also receive national book tokens.

Visit the website at library.warwickshire.gov.uk/bookmark-competition for more details and templates.

Winning designs from last year's bookmark competition by Niamh and William.

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The College will be hosting School Leaver Advice Days - **Thursday 21st August, 10am-6pm** and **Friday 22nd August, 10am-2pm**, as well as late interview sessions throughout August and early September. Please call on **01789 266 245** for further details!



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Mayor makes AI skills his priority

AN AMBITIOUS plan to make the West Midlands the UK's number one place for Artificial Intelligence (AI) skills training has been set out by the region's Mayor.

As part of his Growth Plan, Richard Parker wants to give every adult in the region free training in how to use AI in their everyday lives at home, work or in the community.

He also wants to offer opportunities for thousands more to develop the technical skills needed to land jobs in an increasingly technology dominated workplace.

The Growth Plan's AI training package, backed by £10million, also includes proposals for a pioneering, nationwide AI Academy to be

set up under a joint project between the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA), leading tech companies, colleges, universities, specialist providers and community groups. The Academy would provide local people with clear career routes into AI, digital and data jobs as well as upskilling existing workers so they can help drive economic growth and higher productivity.

The Growth Plan was launched by the mayor last month to provide a blueprint to reboot the regional economy, raise living standards, and put an extra £8,600 back into the pockets of working people.

The mayor announced his AI training plans during a visit to the global headquarters of SCC, Europe's largest inde-

pendent IT service provider, at Tyseley, Birmingham.

SCC uses cutting edge AI and other computer technologies to help companies innovate and become more productive.

Mr Parker said: "In an age where artificial intelligence is revolutionising industries, the need to give all our communities the AI skills to secure high quality jobs is economically imperative.

"As jobs become increasingly digital and data-driven, AI will become a core skill just like English or maths. So, if we don't make AI skills training a priority and readily available to all, then lots of people risk being left behind. That's why I want to make the West Midlands the number one place in the UK for AI skills training. Avoiding an AI



Mayor Richard Parker (second right) and Dan Carter, SCC's director of innovation (left) with Rose Palacios and Callum Woodford, who are AI and innovation consultants at SCC.

skills divide isn't just a matter of fairness – it's crucial to our Growth Plan."

The region has dozens of companies actively developing and applying AI across sectors like manufacturing, healthtech, financial technology (fintech), creative

industries, retail and public services. The University of Birmingham applies AI in health and robotics and is a Turing Institute member. Coventry University and the Digital Futures Institute at Aston University are leading in areas such as cyber-

security, fintech and supply chains, and the University of Wolverhampton has launched the Centre for Cyber Resilience and AI, while pioneering sustainable computing to reduce the power needed to train and run large AI models.

New support service to focus on manufacturing, tech and clean energy

CHANGES to the region's business support offer have been announced by the West Midlands Mayor.

The overhaul of Business Growth West Midlands - the region's business support service - forms part of the mayor's wider West

Midlands Growth Plan, launched last week.

The mayor, Richard Parker, said it will target fast-growing firms in sectors like advanced manufacturing, tech, life sciences and clean energy – sectors that can create the jobs

and investment the region needs.

Mr Parker said: "We've had a business support service that tried to do a bit of everything, but ended up not being focussed enough in the right places.

"That's changing. Our

new Growth Plan is about backing the businesses with the biggest potential to grow, create good jobs and bring investment into our towns and cities. We must do it all in a more joined up way."

The updated service will

go live early next year, with more details to be announced in the coming months. It builds on feedback from businesses and economic experts as part of the Growth Plan's development.

Business Growth West

Midlands is a service coordinated by the West Midlands Combined Authority and delivered in partnership by local councils. It provides free tailored support from expert business advisers to help businesses to achieve growth ambitions.



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Green theme at this year's Big Picture Festival

THE SILVER screen is going green for the Big Picture Festival in Stratford.

To open this year's event, running from August 28 to 31, the organisers Live and Local have partnered up with local environmental groups Stratford Net Zero and River Hope to present Ocean with David Attenborough.

Showing at The Bear Pit Theatre, the documentary takes viewers on a journey beneath the waves, exploring

the critical role our oceans play in sustaining life on Earth.

Across the rest of the festival, which this year has the theme Connection and Disruption, there will be international cinema, more documentaries, animated works, live music scores and filmmaker Q and A's taking place at various locations across Stratford.

Dropping by will be BAFTA-winning filmmakers, the Brothers McLeod, Geoff

Thompson and Michael B. Clifford, as well as BAFTA breakthrough filmmaker Ella Glendinning and international award-winning director Gordon Main.

Festival spokesperson Brian Harley said: "In our search for connection, we have curated films that explore relationships, inspire communities, demonstrate generosity and reveal cultural intersections. For disruption, we've selected films that are rebellious, subversive, shake up traditional storytelling conventions and experiments with bold filmmaking techniques.

"Combined, this year's festival finds balance in work that oscillates between connection and disruption, and we hope audiences will see that relationship play out on screen throughout the weekend."

Visit www.liveandlocal.org.uk/film-schemes/big-picture-film-festival/ for more details.

David Attenborough's documentary Ocean will open the festival.



Artist Emma Talbot with her artwork on display at Compton Verney. Picture by Marcus Mingins 2725010MMR

Her biggest show to date

THE LARGEST ever UK show of British artist Emma Talbot has opened at Compton Verney.

Emma Talbot: How We Learn to Love brings together over 20 new and recent works, from drawings and paintings to poetic texts, animation and sculpture.

The major exhibition explores issues from humanity's relationship with the natural world, to power structures and the nature of love and loss.

Emma said: "How We Learn to Love brings together a number of key recent works, across different media, all exploring registers of the human experience. My work

pieces together what is interior, personal and emotional with the issues and concerns of our times. As humans, we tell our own stories - and love is most often at the centre."

Curator Oli McCall added: "The exhibition will offer visitors total immersion in Talbot's dreamlike world, her ethereal silk paintings, delicate drawings, monumental sculptures and animations constituting a vibrant shifting landscape populated by stylised figures, mythical beings, plants and animals within which her themes can be explored."

Emma Talbot: How We Learn to Love runs until October 5.

★★★★★ Trustpilot

By Coach from Coventry, Rugby

Reader Travel

TORQUAY & DEVON DELIGHTS
TURKEY & TINSEL

Departing Mon 10 Nov '25

It's beginning to look a lot like a Turkey and Tinsel break with all the trimmings! We've picked one of the best spots on the English Riviera for our festivities, to enjoy a merry time with entertainment every night and a bar offer at our welcoming hotel.

SO MUCH INCLUDED...

- ✓ Return coach travel **from Rugby, Coventry**
- ✓ 4 nights at the Riviera Hotel, Torquay (JG3 rating) with dinner & breakfast (includes traditional 'Christmas' dinner)
- ✓ **2 for 1 bar** (7pm-10pm) on selected drinks
- ✓ Light entertainment some evenings
- ✓ Excursions to Dawlish, Teignmouth & Brixham

Optional excursion to Exeter (£14pp)

5 Days by Coach only £279

Single Supplement £80

SCARBOROUGH & WHITBY
TURKEY & TINSEL

Departing Mon 17 Nov '25, Mon 8 Dec '25

Situated on Yorkshire's coast between two large bays, Scarborough has been welcoming visitors for nearly 400 years and provides a lovely setting for some pre-Christmas celebrations. We also discover the seaside town of Whitby and the market town of Beverley.

SO MUCH INCLUDED...

- ✓ Return coach travel **from Rugby, Coventry**
- ✓ 4 nights at a selected hotel, Scarborough (JG2 or JG3 rating) with dinner & full English breakfast (includes traditional 'Christmas' dinner)
- ✓ **2 for 1 bar** (6pm-9pm) on selected drinks
- ✓ After-dinner tea & coffee
- ✓ Light entertainment every evening
- ✓ Excursions to Whitby & Beverley

Optional excursion to York (£14pp)

5 Days by Coach only £269

Single Supplement £80

BOURNEMOUTH & THE NEW FOREST
TURKEY & TINSEL

Departing Mon 1 Dec '25

Let's get excited about Christmas with a seasonal dinner menu, a fantastic bar offer and entertainment every night at our hotel! From our base in Bournemouth, we also get to explore neighbouring nautical Poole and the timeless beauty of the New Forest.

SO MUCH INCLUDED...

- ✓ Return coach travel **from Rugby, Coventry**
- ✓ 4 nights at a selected hotel in Bournemouth (JG2 or JG3 rating) with dinner & breakfast (includes traditional 'Christmas' dinner)
- ✓ **2 for 1 bar** (6pm-9pm) on selected drinks
- ✓ After-dinner tea & coffee
- ✓ Light entertainment every evening
- ✓ Excursions to the New Forest (Lyndhurst, Brockenhurst and Lymington) & Poole

Optional excursion to Dorchester Market & Weymouth (£14pp)

5 Days by Coach only £269

Single Supplement £80

For more information, or to book, please call **03332 342 514** Quote **osg** or visit us online at justgoholidays.com/OSG

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Castle prepares to offer a varied programme of musical treats

Bryan Adams kicks off Warwick Castle Live on Thursday August 28. Picture by Steven Stanley.



THE STAGE is set for Warwick Castle Live 2025.

The four-night concert series features Bryan Adams with special guest Melanie C on Thursday August 28, Texas, who are joined by M People frontwoman Heather Small on the following night, Pet Shop Boys, with special guest DJ Dave Pearce on the Saturday, and Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone In Concert closes the extravaganza on the Sunday.

"We're absolutely thrilled to be bringing such an incredible lineup of artists and shows to the spectacular setting of Warwick Castle," said Owen Kent, director of Events at RG Live.

"From legendary live acts to the wonder of Harry Potter in concert, Warwick Castle Live 2025 promises to be a truly unforgettable experience in one of the UK's most iconic locations."

Bryan Adams has enjoyed global hits throughout the 80s and 90s including the epic Everything I Do

(I Do It For You), Run To You and Summer Of '69.

He has been touring the world for over four decades, and his music has topped charts in over 40 countries. He is the recipient of numerous awards including a Grammy, and is preparing to release his 17th studio album Roll With The Punches.

He will be joined Spice Girl Melanie C, his duet partner for the 1998 smash hit single When You're Gone.

Scottish popsters Texas, fronted by Sharleen Spiteri, will showcase hits from their five decades in music, from debut hit I Don't Want A Lover to the more recent Mr Haze and Keep on Talking.

With over 40 million albums sold, their songs continue to resonate with fans across with world, including the ever popular Say What You Want, Summer Son and Inner Smile.

British soul singer Heather Small, the special guest for this show, is

one of the seminal voices of the 1990s. She rose to fame as the lead vocalist of the band M People, releasing hits including Search For The Hero, Moving On Up and One Night In Heaven.

Heather has also had great success as a solo artist - her single Proud has served as the soundtrack to a host of big events including London's successful 2012 Olympic bid to the 60th anniversary of VE Day in Trafalgar Square.

Electro pop veterans Pet Shop Boys will bring their Dreamworld: The Greatest Hits Live set to Warwick Castle Live, with iconic songs from their long career.

It is the duo's first ever greatest

hits tour and has so far played to audiences in the UK, Europe, and North and South America.

Neil Tennant and Chris Lowe have sold more than 50 million records, released 60 singles spanning five decades and are the most successful UK duo of all time.

Prestigious awards have been numerous across their career including the BRIT Award for Outstanding Contribution to Music in 2009 and the Ivor Novello Award for Outstanding Contribution to British Music in 2000.

Special guest for the show will be DJ Dave Pearce, who has been a driving force in the UK dance scene for many years.

Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone In Concert will feature the London Concert Orchestra performing live, to picture, every note from Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone. Audiences will be able to relive the magic of the entire film in high-definition on a 40-foot screen while hearing John Williams' unforgettable score performed live.

Warner Bros. Discovery Global Experiences and CineConcerts created the Harry Potter Film Concert Series, the only official global concert tour celebrating the Harry Potter films.

Visit warwickcastlelive.co.uk for tickets and further details.

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If you've got questions about care, or one of our care homes, our Trusted Advisors can help.



Philip Rainsford



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Westlands, Rugby Dewar Close, Rugby

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Josephine Rugg

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If you are unable to visit us at our shop for the free valuation of your treasured pieces, we are also holding a **FREE** valuation event at the Greswolde Hotel in Knowle on the

**Saturday 23rd August
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Advice is to extend Child Benefit claim soon

PARENTS who know their teenager's plans in September are being urged to extend their claim now to continue to receive Child Benefit.

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has written to 1.5 million eligible parents reminding them to extend their Child Benefit claim for their 16 to 19-year-old.

Child Benefit is worth £26.05 per week - or £1,354.60 a year - for the eldest or only child and

£17.25 per week - or £897 a year - for each additional child.

Child Benefit can continue to be paid for young people who are studying full time in non-advanced education as well as unpaid approved training courses.

More than 509,000 parents of teenagers, who are staying in full-time education or approved training, have already extended their Child Benefit claim.

A record-breaking 67 per cent have done it online to guarantee their payments will continue in September. Parents need to extend their claim by 31 August or payments will automatically stop.

Myrtle Lloyd, HMRC's chief customer officer, said: "Teenagers can be expensive and Child Benefit is an important source of income for your household. As soon as you know what your teen is doing in

September, don't miss out. You can extend your claim in minutes through the HMRC app or online to ensure your payments continue."

If either the claimant or their partner has an individual income of between £60,000 and £80,000, the higher earner will be subject to the High Income Child Benefit Charge.

For families who fall into this category, the online Child Benefit tax

calculator provides an estimate of how much benefit they will receive and what the charge may be.

HMRC say the quickest and easiest way to ensure payments continue is to extend via the HMRC app or online through the digital service.

Parents can also scan the QR code in their reminder letter which will take them straight to the digital service.

Don't pile pressure on 999 crews

AS THE bank holiday weekend approaches, West Midlands Ambulance Service (WMAS) is urging the residents to take simple steps to protect their health and reduce pressure on emergency services.

With GP surgeries, pharmacies, and other services operating reduced hours, planning ahead is key.

WMAS is asking members of the public to:

- Order repeat prescriptions early - ensure you have enough medication to last through the long weekend.
- Restock your medicine cabinet - Be prepared for common health problems by keeping a well-stocked medicine cabinet at home. Keep essentials such as pain relief, antihistamines, plasters, antiseptic cream, and rehydration salts at home.
- Use NHS 111 online - for urgent but non-life-threatening medical concerns, visit 111.nhs.uk for



advice on the best care.

■ Only call 999 in a genuine emergency - such as chest pain, difficulty breathing, serious bleeding, unconsciousness, or a suspected stroke.

■ Check in on vulnerable and elderly loved ones and neighbours - a quick visit or call to ensure

they are ok and have everything they need could make a huge difference.

■ If you're travelling, be prepared - make sure you take water for long journeys, have what3words downloaded so that we know exactly where to find you in an emergency and ensure you've

packed any medications.

Paramedic, Liam Guy said: "We know that accidents and illnesses can happen at any time, but over the bank holidays we're encouraging everyone to be proactive, don't let a lack of planning ruin your bank holiday.

"Bank holiday weekends can be

notoriously busy for the service, with high demand putting extra pressure on ambulance crews, call handlers, and on hospital teams. By taking small but important steps now, you can help us make sure ambulances are available for those in life-threatening situations who need them the most."

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Gardening

Making the most of the water we have

ADVICE has been offered for gardeners wanting to keep their plots looking lush despite the lack of rain the UK has endured over the past weeks and months.

The increased sunshine and temperatures, along with four UK heatwaves already this year, has meant areas across the country are dry and usually green areas are looking drab.

Add to that water shortages and - although not in our region - hosepipe bans, keeping gardens looking fantastic can be a challenge.

Calum Maddock at HomeHow.co.uk explores ways of keeping gardens thriving in dry conditions.

Use watering cans or buckets

- The simplest and most effective method of watering gardens is using a watering can or bucket. Filling items from a mains tap is permitted and provides an albeit low tech effective solution. It also makes it easier to control where the water goes so people can prioritise plants that really suffer in dry conditions. Among these are plants growing in containers, newly planted species and pod and fruit-producing vegetables. Flowers, such as sweet peas and dhalias also benefit. Do not worry about brown lawns - the green colour return when the rain does fall.



Using a watering can gives more control and makes it easier to target individual plants most in need. s

or trickle irrigation systems can also run if they meet certain conditions - the system must be fitted with a pressure-reducing valve and timer and not be handheld. The system must place water drip by drip onto soil services or beneath and must not disperse it through the air, using a jet or mist.

Mulch to lock in moisture

- Plants in containers and those planted directly in the ground will need extra care during dry spells because they lose moisture quickly. Container plants dry out faster because of roots being confined, but ground plants can also suffer if the soil gets too dry. Add a layer of mulch - such as bark chips, shredded leaves or gravel - around plants to keep moisture locked in, keep the soil cooler and reduce evaporation.

Water at the right time

- Always water early in the morning or late in the evening to prevent losing it to evaporation. This will ensure the maximum benefit to plants. Water deeply, not frequently - a good soak gives plants a better chance at absorbing it.

Gardens do not have to suffer in drought, there are plenty of ways to keep them hydrated without relying on a hose. This ensures gardens thrive - even in a heat-wave.

Reuse greywater - Whilst watering cans can be effective to really conserve water, it is a good idea to make use of recycled water instead of going straight for the mains supply. 'Grey' household water from washing up, baths or laundry can be reused outdoors. It is important not to use it on vegetables and other edible plants, but it is a fantastic option for caring for your lawn and other plants. After washing dishes,

use leftover water for ornamental or garden beds - make sure it is free of strong chemicals, such as bleach or strong detergents as these will damage your plants.

Harvest rainwater with water butts - This takes pre-planning as droughts are not often forecast but if you get one installed, it can prevent future hosepipe bans. Rainwater is great for plants as it is softer and

contains fewer salts and chemicals than tap water. Install a water butt or rain barrel under a downpipe for free soft rainwater that can then be distributed to plants.

Set up a drip irrigation system - Some limited hose use is still allowed, for example, many water companies will permit watering recently planted trees and shrubs or vegetable plots, even during a ban. Automated drip

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PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICES



ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 - SECTIONS 14(1)(a) AND (7) THE A45 TRUNK ROAD, THE M45 MOTORWAY AND THE M1 MOTORWAY (TEMPORARY RESTRICTION AND PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2025

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that National Highways Limited (Company no. 9346363) has made an Order on the A45 Trunk Road, the M45 Motorway and the M1 Motorway, in Warwickshire and Northamptonshire, to enable bridge repairs and resurfacing works to be carried out.

- The effect of the Order, will be to –
 - impose a speed restriction of 50 miles per hour on –
 - the westbound carriageway of the M45 from a point 100 metres west of the tip of the nosing at its junction with the link road leading from the A45 Daventry Road, at Dunchurch, to the roundabout junction of the M45, the B4429 and the A45 Coventry Road, at Thurlaston (Thurlaston Roundabout);
 - the eastbound carriageway of the M45 from its junction with Thurlaston Roundabout, to a point 1100 metres east of that junction; and
 - the eastbound carriageway of the A45 from a point 1150 metres west of its junction with Thurlaston Roundabout, to that junction;
 - close –
 - the westbound carriageway of the M45 from its junction with the M1 at Junction 17, to its junction with Thurlaston Roundabout;
 - the eastbound carriageway of the M45 from its junction with Thurlaston Roundabout, to its junction with the M1 at Junction 17;
 - the link road leading to the westbound carriageway of the M45 from Daventry Road, at Dunchurch;
 - the eastbound carriageway of the A45 from its junction with the exit slip road leading to Lawford Hill Lane and the A4071, near Dunsmore Heath, to its junction with Thurlaston Roundabout;
 - Thurlaston Roundabout; and
 - prohibit any vehicle from entering the eastbound carriageway of the A45 at its junction with the A4071, at Dunsmore Heath.

The works are expected to start on Tuesday 26 August 2025 and continue for approximately 9 months. The closures will be overnight between 20:00 hours and 06:00 hours. The speed restriction will be in place 24 hours per day for the duration of the works. The Order will come into force on 22 August 2025.

Vehicles being used for police, fire and rescue authority or ambulance purposes will be exempt from the closures and speed restriction. Vehicles being used for special forces purposes will be exempt from the speed restriction, and vehicles being used for traffic officer purposes, in connection with the works or for winter maintenance purposes will be exempt from the closures.

Diversion routes via the A45, the A46, the M6 and the M1 and vice versa will be signed.

For further information please contact Richard Tansley on 07718 236 669. **Karen Eustace**, an Officer in National Highways Limited. National Highways Limited (Company no. 9346363) registered office: Bridge House, Walnut Tree Close, Guildford, GU1 4LZ. A Company registered in England and Wales.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Warwickshire County Council

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

Warwickshire County Council has made the following Temporary Traffic Orders:

MOOR LANE, WILLOUGHBY

Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.
Reason for Order: To safely enable the installation of a floor box and laying of approx. 12m duct in verge.
Order Commences: 28 August 2025 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 29 August 2025.
Access & Diversion: Moor Lane, Main Street, London Road, Daventry Road, Woolcott Road, Grandborough Road, Sawbridge Road and vice versa.
Contractor: Core Highways, Tel: 03300 169 688.

CONISTON CLOSE, BROWNSOVER, RUGBY

Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.
Reason for Order: To enable duct laying works.
Order Commences: 29 August 2025 for up to 18 months
Anticipated Completion: 1 September 2025
Access & Diversion: No diversion available.
Contractor: M J Quinn, Tel: 01515 478 800.

D21730 DRAYCOTE ROAD, DRAYCOTE

Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic from Glebe Farm Road to Birdingbury Road.
Reason for Order: Carriageway patching and associated works, 09.30hrs-15.30hrs.
Order Commences: 26 August 2025 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 27 August 2025.
Access & Diversion: Main Street, Straight Mile, Draycote Road, vice versa. NOTE: Beware of low bridge on Draycote Road.
Contractor: Balfour Beatty, Tel: 03452 415 302.

D20160 COALPIT LANE, WOLVEY

Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic from its junction with Withybrook Road.
Reason for Order: Carriageway patching and associated works, 08.00hrs-16.00hrs.
Order Commences: 25 August 2025 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 25 August 2025.
Access & Diversion: Vehicular access will be maintained where possible.
Contractor: Balfour Beatty, Tel: 03452 415 302.

PUBLIC FOOTPATH FROM ALWYN ROAD TO MAGNET LANE, BILTON, RUGBY

Order Effect: Footpath closed to all traffic.
Reason for Order: To safely enable cable overlay works.
Order Commences: 26 August 2025 for up to 6 months.
Anticipated Completion: 3 September 2025.
Access & Diversion: Please use an alternative route.
Contractor: NWP, Tel: 08081 642 252.

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

G213 MARKET HARBOROUGH ROAD (NEWTON ROAD), NEWTON, RUGBY

Order Effect: Road closed between A5 Watling Street and Newton Road/Newton Manor Lane.
Reason for Order: Carriageway resurfacing works, closed 08.00hrs-17.00 hrs, weekdays only.
Order Commences: 10 September 2025 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 19 September 2025.
Access & Diversion: Alternative routes will be signed using Newton Lane, A5 Watling Street, Lilbourne Road, Church Street and Newton Road. Vehicular access & egress will be maintained where possible and safe to do so for businesses and residents only.
Contractor: Balfour Beatty, Tel: 03452 415 302

SOUTHAM ROAD, LEAMINGTON HASTINGS

Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic near its jct with Birdingbury Road and outside Pumping Station.
Reason for Order: To safely enable disconnecting and capping of old mains.
Order Commences: 8 September 2025 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 12 September 2025.
Access & Diversion: Southam Road, Rugby Road, Dunchurch Road, Russelshelm Way, Bilton Road, Lawford Road, Rugby Western Relief Road, Coventry Road, Blue Boar Flyover, Straight Mile, London Road, A45, Northampton Lane, Leamington Road, Oxford Road, Station Road, Marton Road, The Green and vice versa.
Contractor: VOOON, Tel: 03333 448 308.

CAWSTON LANE, DUNCHURCH

Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic from jct with Thurlaston Drive and walkway to Richard Walker Way.
Reason for Order: To safely enable tanker parking ensuring safety for all road users & contractors working on or near the carriage way.
Order Commences: 8 September 2025 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 14 September 2025.
Access & Diversion: Northampton Lane, Alwyn Road, Coventry Road and vice versa.
Contractor: Chevron TM Ltd, Tel: 03300 080 820.

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

To report any problems with these works or for further details of our current & planned roadworks visit our website warwickshire.gov.uk/roadworksmap or call us 01926 412515. **S Duxbury, Director of Strategy, Planning & Governance, Shire Hall, Warwick CV34 4RL** Date 22 Aug 2025

PUBLIC NOTICES

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

Notice is hereby given that **I, ARI SADIQ MUSTAFA** has applied to Coventry City Council for a **NEW PREMISES LICENCE** For **FOLESHILL SUPERMARKET, 611-613 FOLESHILL ROAD, COVENTRY, CV6 5JR**

Details of Application: To provide the sale/supply by retail of Alcohol – OFF the Premises Sales Monday to Sunday 08:00 to 24:00 hrs

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

Or send an email to: licensing@coventry.gov.uk. The application may be viewed during normal office hours at the above address and further information may be available at www.coventry.gov.uk on the public register.

Any Representation relating to this application must be made in writing to the Licensing Authority by 11th September 2025

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

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

Application Number R25/0471 LAND ADJACENT TO 75, RESERVOIR ROAD, RUGBY

Proposed 3 detached dwellings with associated parking
This development may affect a Public Right of Way

Application Number R25/0653 RUGBY RADIO STATION (HOULTON), LAND NORTH OF HANDLEY ROAD, RUGBY

Erection of a 66 bed care home (C2 Use Class) and associated communal facilities, including car parking, landscaping and associated infrastructure.
This is a major development

Application Number R25/0666 17, THE CRESCENT, BRINKLOW, RUGBY, CV23 0LG

Proposed conversion of existing garage to bed/wet room.

This development may affect a Listed Building. This development may affect a Conservation Area

Application Number R25/0667 17, THE CRESCENT, BRINKLOW, RUGBY, CV23 0LG

Listed Building consent for conversion of existing garage to bed/wet room.

This development may affect a Listed Building. 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 12 September 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 MTRPI

PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice to creditors and beneficiaries under Section 27 of the Trustee Act 1925

Re: The Group Money Purchase Plan of H Burden Limited – Scheme Number 60254

The Trustee of the Group Money Purchase Plan of H Burden Limited (the "Plan") hereby give notice that the Plan is in the process of winding-up.

At the date the Plan is wound up, the Trustee has arranged that policies will be assigned to individual members. Announcements regarding the winding-up process have been posted to all known Members of the Plan. The Trustee of the Plan urges that all persons having any claim or demands upon or against the assets of the Plan, or an entitlement to a pension or any benefit from, or interest in, the Plan, should write setting out details of their claim to:

The Group Money Purchase Plan of H Burden Limited, c/o Barnett Waddingham, 2 London Wall Place, 123 London Wall, London, EC2Y 5AU. Email: HBurdenDC@barnett-waddingham.co.uk.

If making a claim, you should include your full name, current address, date of birth, details of the period of employment to which your claim relates (if applicable) and details of any benefits that you think you are entitled to, and **write no later than 31 October 2025**.

The Trustee will continue the process of winding up the Plan, taking into account only those claims for which they receive written notice and the interests of those Members of the Plan known to it, and will not be liable to any other person. Any person who has been contacted by the Trustee at their current address or has already made a claim and received a response need not re-apply to the Trustee.

Issued on behalf of the Trustee of the Group Money Purchase Plan of H Burden Limited.

PUBLIC NOTICES

ALAN REGINALD POOLE (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 47 Pooliers Road Coventry, CV3 5JY, who died on 25/07/2024, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 23/10/2025, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

Brindley Twist Telf & James, Lowick Gals, Siskin Drive, Coventry, CV3 4JF

PUBLIC NOTICES

MORA ROSE MULLAN (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 3 Roobobee Way, Rugby CV22 6EG, who died on 20/04/2021, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 23/10/2025, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

Lawrence Stephens Solicitors, 50 Farrington Road, London, EC1M 3HE

PUBLIC NOTICES

JEAN LILLIAN JAMES (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 Woodville House Care Home 37 Bilton Road Rugby, CV22 7AN, who died on 04/07/2025, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 23/10/2025, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

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

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For an informal chat about the role, please contact Macer Nash, Democratic Services Manager at macer.nash@stratford-dc.gov.uk or Ann Banks, Senior Democratic Services Officer at ann.banks@stratford-dc.gov.uk

Applications will close at midnight on Sunday 14 September. Interviews will be held week beginning 29 September.

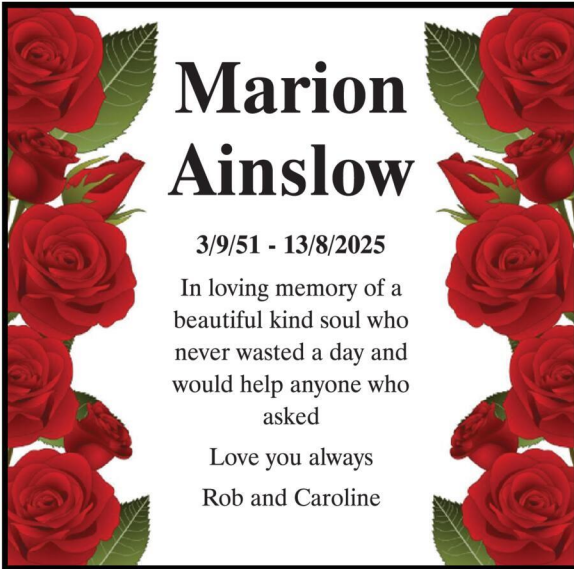
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DEATHS

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Aged 99 Years

Passed away on the 13th August 2025. Much loved husband to Mary, stepfather to John Paul and brother to John Phipps A true gentleman who will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

Funeral Service, 18th September at St. Mary's RC Church, Studley at 10.15am followed by a Committal at the Redditch Crematorium at 11.30am. Stan loved jolly clothes, so please feel free to wear something colourful.

Family flowers only please, donations to the Warwickshire & Northamptonshire Air Ambulance can be sent to:

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COVENTRY CITY TRANSFER NEWS

Thomas 'in talks' to join Blades after £5m bid made

FOOTBALL: COVENTRY City defender Bobby Thomas is 'in talks' to sign for Sheffield United.

The centre-back could command a fee of up to £8million, according to Sky Sports.

Sky also report that some Premier League clubs hold an interest in the defender.

BBC Sport report that the Blades have tabled a bid in the region of £5m for the centre-back.

United are seeking defensive reinforcements after starting the Championship season with successive defeats which included a heavy 4-1 home defeat against Bristol City.

Thomas would likely be a replacement for Anel Ahmedhodzic who left the Blades to join Dutch giants Feyenoord.

The 24-year-old joined the Sky

Blues from Burnley in July 2023.

He has since established himself at the heart of City's defence.

Thomas has made 96 appearances and scored eight goals for the Sky Blues.

He has recorded two clean sheets this season and scored City's opener against Derby County last weekend.

The Sky Blues sold centre-back Luis Binks to Danish side Brøndby earlier in the transfer window.

The Blades have since made moves to sign former Everton defender Ben Godfrey on loan from Serie A side Atalanta and are seeking a permanent deal for Millwall defender Japhet Tanganga.

It is not yet known whether the Blades will return with an improved bid for Thomas if the Sheffield club complete the signings of both Godfrey and Tanganga.

Virik triumphs at Fairmont to earn place in Curry Cup



Arianna Virik is heading to the United States of America. Picture courtesy of Leaderboard Photography.

by Aaron Sutcliffe
aaron.sutcliffe@bullivantmedia.com

GOLF: COVENTRY Hearsall Golf Club player Arianna Virik won the Underrated Golf Tour to qualify for a tournament in the United States of America.

Virik shot a total of two-

under-par to win the event at Fairmont St Andrews' Kitlocks Course.

The 15-year-old shot a first round 72 (-2) only to drop four shots on the front nine on day two.

However, the teenager recovered with a four-under back nine, which included an eagle, to win the event by two shots.

And the victory means Virik

will play in the Curry Cup in the USA from September 10 to 12 at Liberty National Golf Club.

The top-28 boys and girls from the tour contest the Curry Cup.

Virik said: "I played badly to start with as I was three-over through four but I got to the back nine knowing there were lots of holes that I could birdie or eagle."

"I managed to eagle 15 and birdie 17 so I was just trying to keep it going and I was chilled out because whatever the outcome was, it was."

"The girls I played with were so good, everyone was fighting to win and this has given me a real confidence boost to know that I can do it, even if I am down."

"I'd like to thank my mum, dad, nan and sister for all supporting me and bringing me here, and my coach Alan for helping me throughout the whole year."

"I'm so excited to go to New York and I'm excited to see how my game stacks up and to experience an LPGA Tour course."

Sky Blues seek deal for Fulham youngster Godo

COVENTRY City have submitted a bid for Fulham winger Martial Godo.

The Premier League club are 'considering' the bid from the Sky Blues, according to Sky Sports.

The 22-year-old made two appearances for Fulham in the Premier League last season.

Godo also impressed on loan for Wigan Athletic in League One in the 2023/24 campaign.

The England and Ivory Coast youth international scored four goals in 36 appearances for the Latics.

Sky suggest the winger wants more first team football after making just two substitute appearances in the league for the Cottagers last season.

Godo joined Fulham from non-league side Margate after starting his career with Dartford.

Former City keeper Tyler retires early due to injury

FORMER Coventry City goalkeeper Cian Tyler has announced his shock retirement from professional football due to injury.

The Sky Blues released the 23-year-old shot-stopper at the end of the 2024/25 campaign.

He joined City as a seven-year-old and rose through the ranks at the club to feature for Coventry's various academy sides.

Tyler also appeared on the bench for the first team on nine occasions in the Championship, FA Cup and League Cup.

However, he has now confirmed his retirement from the sport due to a long-standing wrist injury.

Tyler posted on Instagram: "It still doesn't feel right to be putting this into words and it's a little surreal now that I actually have."

"I am retiring from professional football. I'll also be stepping back from the game at every other level, for the foreseeable future."

"It's far sooner than I ever could've imagined but the truth is, my wrist simply cannot stand up to the requirements of being a full time goalkeeper anymore."

"I've given myself every possible chance and fought hard along the way but I can't keep torturing myself chasing a

dream that's no longer attainable.

"I'll never get the chance to live the only life I ever wanted."

"I've been forced to retire under circumstances out of my control, which should've been handled differently in the first place."

"It's overwhelmingly frustrating and incredibly hard to come to terms with. The past is where it always will be and these are the cards I've been dealt."

"I never once made an uninformed or reckless decision throughout any point of my rehab so I can take comfort in knowing I gave myself the best chance of coming back."

"I may have lost my only ever purpose and a huge part of my identity but ultimately, there's far more important things in the world than football."

"My life isn't going to end when I stop playing, it'll start. Albeit, I'm back to square one but perspective tells me that's still something to be excited about."

"It's not the way I wanted things to end but at least I've finally got some clarity. In some ways, I'm glad it's all over."

"I'm not sure when you'll see me next but when you do, I hope I've got a smile on my face and I'm living pain free."

History beckons for Bethell with Bears all-rounder to captain England on tour

CRICKET: WARWICKSHIRE all-rounder Jacob Bethell will become England's youngest men's captain in international cricket next month.

The 21-year-old will lead an under-strength England squad on a tour of Ireland in September.

He will replace Monty Bowden as England's youngest men's captain in international cricket.

Bowden was 23 years and 144 days old when he captained England in a Test match against South Africa in 1889.

With white-ball captain Harry Brook rested, Bethell will take on the leadership role for the tour.

Bethell told Sky Sports Cricket: "The first emotion that comes is pride."

"Captaining England is obviously

going to be an honour and I can't wait to do it."

"It'll be a good challenge, I'm looking forward to it."

"I've done a lot of captaincy growing up in terms of under-19s and age group things."

"It'll be different captaining England obviously but I like to think I read the game pretty well."

"I'll be looking to take what I do with my own game and apply it to captaincy."

"A big thing I've noticed with Ben Stokes is that he leads with actions."

"He's always the guy who takes the situation on himself."

"I'll be looking to do that as much as possible with bat and ball."

"The biggest thing is trying to lead by example."

England will play Ireland in three T20 matches in Malahide, Dublin.

Games will take place on September 17, September 19 and September 21.

Bethell has also earned a place in England's squad for three ODI and three T20 matches against South Africa.

The ODIs and T20 games will take place earlier in September.

England men selector, Luke Wright added: "Jacob Bethell has impressed with his leadership qualities ever since he has been with the England squads."

"The series against Ireland will provide him with the opportunity to further develop those skills on the international stage."

Blaze complete roster with Vertanen signing

Finnish defenceman, Jere Vertanen, completes Blaze's roster for the 2025/26 Elite League season. s



ICE HOCKEY: COVENTRY Blaze have signed Finnish defenceman Jere Vertanen for the 2025/26 Elite League season.

The 26-year-old completes

Blaze's roster for the upcoming campaign after an impressive season in Poland with Unia Oswiecim.

He registered 32 points (seven

goals, 25 assists) in 33 regular season games and added a further six points (three goals, three assists) in 11 play-off appearances.

Vertanen also tallied three points (one goal, two assists) in five games in the Champions Hockey League.

Blaze head coach, Kevin Moore said: "Jere is a big, well-rounded defenceman."

"He skates well and uses his reach effectively in the defensive zone."

"Offensively, he's a skilled passer who will help us play our up-tempo game."

"We're excited to have him join us this season."

The 6ft 5in defenceman will bring a commanding presence and powerful shot to Blaze's blue line.

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Unbeaten Borough held by St Neots

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

FOOTBALL: RUGBY Borough maintained their unbeaten start to the season with a goalless draw away at St Neots Town in mid-week.

The visitors had the better of the chances but could not break the deadlock at the Premier Plus Stadium.

And Borough goalkeeper Carl O'Neill made two crucial saves late on to ensure Rugby came away with a clean sheet and a share of the spoils.

The result means Borough sit third in the Northern Premier League Midlands table.

That came after Rugby had moved

Leo Stone scored a hat-trick for Rugby Borough against Loughborough. Picture by Brian Dainty.



top of the division with a 4-2 victory against Loughborough Students.

A hat-trick from Leo Stone and an own goal helped Borough to victory at Kilsby Lane.

Loughborough broke the deadlock after just six minutes as Hussein Issa finished Oliver Downs' cross from close range.

However, the home side drew level on 17 minutes when a Loughborough defender sliced Harry Sawyer's cross into his own net.

And Borough completed the turnaround on 29 minutes as Stone flicked the ball into the air and volleyed a shot into the corner of the net.

Stone grabbed his second of the game on 63 minutes and completed his hat-trick 10 minutes later to put the game to bed.

The visitors reduced the deficit late on after a slip in the Borough defence but the hosts comfortably saw out the remaining minutes.

Rugby are next in action against Sutton Coldfield Town in the club's first-ever game in the FA Trophy on Saturday, August 23 with kick-off at 3pm at Coles Lane.

Nine-man Valley show spirit in Corby defeat

RUGBY Town suffered a 2-1 defeat against Corby Town after having two players sent off early in the second half.

Both Josh Thomas and Olly West saw red for Valley within 10 minutes of the start of the second period at Butlin Road.

That came after Tyrone Lewthwaite's early penalty put Corby ahead before Thomas received his marching orders four minutes after half time.

And Rory McAuley doubled Corby's lead before West's dismissal left Rugby down to nine-men for more than half an hour.

However, the nine-men defied the odds to halve the deficit as Rivel Mardenborough found the net.

Corby had Hugh Alban-Jones sent off in injury time with Valley unable to find an equaliser in the final few moments.

And the result means Rugby sit 13th in the Northern Premier League Midlands table.

The visitors broke the deadlock

on 13 minutes when Lewthwaite scored from the penalty spot after Ethan Hanson fouled the former in the box.

And Rugby then lost Thomas to a straight red card for a foul on Aaron Nuttall on the halfway line just four minutes after the break.

Corby made the most of the man advantage to double their lead on 52 minutes as McAuley looped a header into the net from Alban-Jones' free-kick.

Valley then had West sent off three minutes later as he picked up a second yellow card for a foul on Nuttall.

However, Rugby halved the deficit on 67 minutes when Mardenborough finished from close range from Caine Elliott's clever free-kick.

A third red card came in injury time with Alban-Jones sent off for Corby at the death.

Rugby are next in action against Anstey Nomads on Saturday, August 23 with kick-off at 3pm at Cropston Road.

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