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Your FREE edition - just pick one up and keep up with the news

## Standing together to salute The Few

YOUNG and old came together in Rugby to pay their respects on Battle of Britain Sunday.

Members of the Royal Air Forces Association, the British Legion and Rugby Air Cadets joined Mayor Barbara Brown and the congregation of St Andrew's Church to remember the men and women of the Royal Air Force. The service, led

by the Rev'd Canon Edmund Newey, paid tribute to those who were memorably referred to by Sir Winston Churchill as 'The Few'.

Members of the Royal Air Forces Association, the British Legion and Rugby Air Cadets joined Mayor Barbara Brown at St Andrew's Church to mark Battle of Britain Sunday. Picture by Peter Realf.



# Walk highlights health concerns

A DETERMINED Rugby man who has Down's syndrome will walk from his hometown to Coventry to raise awareness of the barriers people with learning disabilities face in accessing healthcare.

TV and film actor Rishard Beckett will take on the 16-mile canal route walk on Thursday (September 25) alongside health workers from local charity Grapevine, and his fellow members of their 'H Team' who educate peers and professionals on living longer, healthier lives.

He hopes to spread awareness of the findings of a much-delayed report entitled Learning from Lives and Deaths of People with a Learning Disability and Autistic

by Andy Morris  
andy.morris@bullivantmedia.com

People (LeDaR), which found that people with a learning disability die 19.5 years younger than the general population, and are almost twice as likely to die from an avoidable cause.

Rishard, who has appeared in TV shows No Offence and Doctors, said: "I want to show people my journey, taking on barriers we are facing, for anyone that can't."

"I've been inspired by other athletes and TV personalities that have taken on challenges like this - but to do it in a way that speaks up for other people."

Rishard, who trains at David Lloyd



Gym in Rugby early each morning, wants to see as many people as possible supporting his journey and spreading the message that people with learning disabilities deserve the same level of healthcare as everyone else.

He said: "People with learning disabilities are twice as likely to die from an avoidable death. That is a death that could have been prevented, perhaps by an annual health check. But the targets for these checks have now been scrapped."

"We're in the year 2025 and we are seeing disabled people die from constipation. This cannot continue."

"The 2023 LeDeR report has just been released over a year late. Our lives are not seen as a priority and

by delaying this report and its data, our deaths are also not a priority. "These people are not numbers. They are human beings with whole lives, passions and people who love them."

"They're people who could still be alive and standing with us now. Something needs to change."

Rishard's acting training and experience will come in handy as the walk incorporates dramatic performances to drive home his message, taking place at Lime Farm Marina in Rugby (8.40am), between Bridge 38 and Brinklow Castle (9.35am), at Brinklow swing bridge (11.05am), Ansty (12.40pm), The Greyhound Pub in Coventry (2.30pm), and Coventry Canal Basin (4.30pm).



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# Tour on TV puts a focus on county's fantastic cycling

**CYCLING in Warwickshire is braced for a boom on the back of the Lloyds Tour of Britain.**

by Philippa Mings

Thousands lined the streets to cheer on some of the world's best riders when the county hosted a stage which took in all five districts and boroughs on its way to the stage finish atop Burton Dassett Hills.

And many more watched live on TV as the action was broadcast live to a national audience by ITV4 and to an even wider international audience on TNT Sports.

The coverage showcased the Warwickshire scenery and also highlighted the National Cycling Network and off-road routes and greenways.

Romain Grégoire, the Warwickshire stage winner and 2025 Tour of Britain champion, was himself full of praise. The 22-year-old Frenchman described

Warwickshire as "a really nice place to race" and was hugely appreciative of the welcome from the many spectators at Burton Dassett.

Riders from several cycling clubs chose to ride a section of the 116-mile long Warwickshire stage en route to the finish at Burton Dassett.

Members of Holmes Chapel Velo, a Cheshire-based cycling club formed in 2016, watched the final stretch of the Warwickshire stage after embarking on a 50-mile ride to the country park.

Club founder Matthew Townsend said: "We've all said we'd consider Warwickshire now as a cycling trip destination after seeing the scenery and the landscape."

"We were very impressed by the part of the county we rode through and we'd like to explore more of it."

After meeting at the club shop in Hockley Heath, members of Dynamic Rides Cycling Club also followed a section of the route before arriving at Burton Dassett.

Club chairwoman Eleanor Betts said: "We saw riders from clubs right across the Midlands and expect that will be the norm now. The route has shown what an amazing place Warwickshire is to cycle in."

"There's not many sports where you can be right next to your heroes watching them and then go out on the same roads. That's one of the beauties of cycling."

Phil Davis already has the cycling bug, despite only taking up the sport in March.

He and fellow members of Shipston Cycling Club took the day off work to watch the tour pass through the streets they know so well.

He said: "It was a great opportunity to see some of the world's best on your doorstep. It was screened



On the map - Club chairwoman Eleanor Betts with other members of Dynamic Rides Cycling Club.

to an international audience on TNT Sport so the potential impact it could have is huge."

Kenilworth Wheelers also organised a ride to different points of the route.

Club chairman Adam Witchell added: "It was a fabulous way of

putting our county on the map from a local cycling point of view and as a cycling destination. We're so lucky in Warwickshire to have such a great network of roads to ride on, whatever your level or experience, and the Tour of Britain celebrated that so well."



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<b>October</b>		
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11th Windsor.....	£27.50	£22.50
18th Blackpool Illuminations.....	£29.50	£24.50
25th Camden Market.....	£29.00	£24.00
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<b>November</b>		
1st Bury Market.....	£27.00	£22.00
22nd London Shopper.....	£29.00	£24.00
27th Christmas Lunch & Entertainment.....	£36.00	
<b>December</b>		
2nd Melton Mowbray.....	£25.00	£20.00
6th Stratford Victoria Christmas Market.....	£18.00	£10.00
6th Hampton Court at Christmas.....	£58.00	£50.00
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20th Black Country Museum.....	£35.00	£22.00
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# £680k funding to pay for more early years places

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

## MORE school places for SEND and early years pupils are coming to Rugby after new funding was announced.

Warwickshire County Council's (WCC) Cabinet has approved a £680,000 investment in the Education Capital Programme to support five projects across Rugby and in the north of the county.

St Gabriel's CofE Academy will receive £93,000 to establish a new Resourced Provision for up to eight pupils with communication and interaction needs, providing them with specialist teaching staff and a tailored environment designed to meet individual needs.

A total of £591,000 will be allocated to create additional early years and nursery places at Rugby's Griffin Primary School and Wellingtons Day Nursery – along with nurseries in Atherstone and Polesworth – to meet the growing need for childcare, particularly for younger children and working parents.

WCC's education spokesperson Coun Wayne Briggs said: "This investment is a direct response to the growth in population we are seeing in our communities and what our communities have been telling us.



"The increased availability of early years places is a response to what we have been asked for by parents and carers and will allow more people to return to the workplace while their child receives high quality education.

"The other scheme to benefit – the new resourced provision at St Gabriel's Academy – shows a proactive approach to allowing children with SEND to thrive in the mainstream school in their own

communities with the support they need. It is a far more cost-effective approach and will be far more beneficial to the children than transporting them to be educated away from their local care, health and community networks."

The investment is funded mainly through developer contributions, the High Needs Provision Capital Allocation, and the DfE Early Years Capital Expansion Grant.

The council's finance and prop-

erty spokesperson Coun Stephen Shaw said: "By using developer contributions and targeted grants, we are able to deliver these essential projects efficiently and sustainably. This is a responsible and strategic use of funds that will benefit families and communities for years to come."

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/4yeu9mn> for more information on Specialist Resourced Provisions.

## Police hunt for stolen motorbikes

DETECTIVES investigating the theft of 26 motorbikes and buggies from a depot in Newton have released a full list of VIN numbers so buyers can be on the lookout.

The batch of pre-registered vehicles was stolen in the early hours of Tuesday September 2, and police are working to track down the offenders.

They are warning buyers to be on the lookout for anyone offering pre-registered bikes or buggies for sale for a price that seems too good to be true.

A Warwickshire Police spokesperson said: "The sellers will likely know that the bikes are stolen. They will not care that at best your new purchase will have to be seized by police and at worst, they're putting you at risk of investigation for handling stolen goods."

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/4ryudbpb> to see the full list of vehicles.

Anyone who comes across any of the vehicles is asked to call police on 101, quoting crime reference number 23/38351/25.

News online: [www.rugbyobserver.co.uk](http://www.rugbyobserver.co.uk)

## Call to rethink council ban on flying Pride flag at HQ

LGBTQ+ staff at Warwickshire County Council (WCC) are calling for an urgent rethink over the decision not to fly the Pride flag at the council's headquarters.

WCC's new leader Coun George Finch declared last week that only three flags will now be flown outside Shire Hall in Warwick – the Union Flag, the St George's Cross and the County Flag of Warwickshire, while future decision-making about flags has been stripped from the council's chief executive Monica Fogarty and put into the hands of WCC chairman Coun Edward Harris.

The move followed a heated row over the decision to fly a Progress Pride Flag outside Shire Hall during Pride Month in June.

Reform councillor Finch had asked for the flag to be removed when he was elected as leader of the council, but Ms Fogarty refused.

The council's cabinet voted in favour of its new flag policy at a meeting on September 4 but that decision is now on hold after some councillors requested a review.

A special WCC meeting on September 22 will decide whether the cabinet should be asked to reconsider its decision.

The Pride Progress flag is



The decision not to fly the Progress Pride Flag outside Shire Hall could be overturned.

a redesigned rainbow flag, with additional colours to represent a wider range of marginalised communities.

In a letter to the council, chairwoman of the LGBTQ+ staff network Angela Dunne said visible celebrations of diversity, such as flying the Pride flag, played a vital role in reinforcing an inclusive environment at the authority.

She continued: "During the recent staff engagement sessions, many employees highlighted the council's inclusive culture as one of the key reasons they chose to work here and a major factor in their decision to stay.

"This reputation is not

only a source of pride, it is a strategic asset."

Ms Dunne also argued that granting the flag a permanent place on the flag-flying schedule would demonstrate the council's obligations towards diversity and inclusion.

Coun Finch said the move has been made in the name of unity.

He added: "It's not about the colour of your skin, your sexuality, who you love, it's not about any of that. It's about whether you can do the job.

"This county, everyone that's in it, is identified by three things – the United Kingdom, England and our county."

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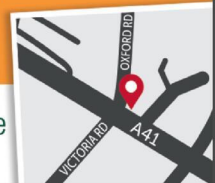
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# 100 new homes will help cut waiting list

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

**THE first new homes at Rugby Borough Council's (RBC) £22million Navigation Way development have been handed over to the council.**

Willmott Dixon, the council's construction partner, officially handed over the first phase of homes built on the former Biart Place site last week - with the first tenants set to move in within weeks.

All 100 homes at Navigation Way will be allocated to eligible households registered on the council's housing waiting list.

The development includes 60 one and two-bedroomed apartments, 20 maisonettes and 20 two, three and four-bedroomed houses.

Homes have been designed and constructed sustainably to include electric vehicle charging points, solar panels and air source heat pumps.

Coun Claire Edwards, RBC's spokesperson for communities and homes, regulation and safety, took a tour of the development ahead of the handover of the first phase of homes.

She said: "Nearly seven years after the council decided to develop the Biart Place site, we're now in the final stages of the development and looking forward to welcoming the first tenants at Navigation Way within weeks.

"Working with Willmott Dixon, and with support from Homes England and the government, we have built 100 modern, sustainable and energy efficient properties which look set to make great



**Coun Sam Edwards, RBC acting chief executive, Dan Green, RBC chief officer for communities and homes, Michelle Dickson, Coun Claire Edwards, Coun Tricia Trimble, Homes England's Alex Chirica, Coun Neil Sandison, and Coun Noreen New at Navigation Way.**

homes for eligible households on our housing waiting list.

"As we enter the final stretch of the development, I'd also like to thank the community who live near the site for their patience and understanding while the construction work has taken place."

Homes England backed the development with a £6.8million grant from its Affordable Homes Programme 2021-2026, which allowed the council to allocate all homes at Navigation Way to households on the council's housing waiting list.

The development also secured a further £2million from the Government's Getting Building Fund.

Following the handover of 51 homes in the first phase, Willmott Dixon looks set to hand over the second phase of 49 homes to the council in the new year.

Michelle Cotterill, delivery director at Willmott Dixon, said:

"Willmott Dixon and RBC have been working in close collaboration on this flagship project for several years and it's wonderful to see how the site has evolved since we broke ground 20 months ago.

"The redevelopment of the site from two high-rise tower blocks to a variety of 100 sustainable, modern homes has helped meet the needs of the community, and Navigation Way is a true credit to all of the key stakeholders."

Councillors voted to name the new road serving the development Navigation Way to celebrate the role the railway and canal networks played in Rugby's rapid industrial growth in the 19th century.

Coun Jerry Roodhouse, leader of RBC's Liberal Democrat group, said: "I welcome this move for more council housing, especially energy efficient homes, and we're looking forward to welcoming tenants from households on the council's waiting list.



**The Nutcracker.**

## A cracking Christmas season planned for popular theatre

BALLET and a fun family adventure are coming to a theatre in Rugby for its festive season.

The Macready Theatre has unveiled its shows for the Christmas season - the Kings International Ballet's rendition of The Nutcracker, and Stuff & Nonsense Theatre's funny retelling of The Gingerbread Man.

The Nutcracker, which features a timeless score by Tchaikovsky, runs from Saturday December 6 to Thursday December 11.

The Gingerbread Man is told through a combination of pup-

etry, live action, music and humour. It runs from Sunday December 14 until Sunday January 4.

Theatre Manager Amie Johnson said: "We're absolutely thrilled to present such a magnificent festive line-up this year.

"We've got the timeless beauty of The Nutcracker, followed by the return of the riotously fun Gingerbread Man that's guaranteed to have everyone laughing."

Visit [www.macreadytheatre.co.uk](http://www.macreadytheatre.co.uk) for more information.



**The Gingerbread Man.**

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A brief synopsis of each talk is available on the website  
[www.CoventryGrosvenorRdChristadelphians.com](http://www.CoventryGrosvenorRdChristadelphians.com)

## City gets dog friendly tag

COVENTRY has been named as the sixth best city in the UK for dog-friendly work environments.

Capital on Tap analysed 30 major cities in the country for dog-friendly workplaces.

According to the research, 55 per cent of UK dog owners would be more likely to accept a job which allowed dogs in the workplace.

That figure rose to 62 per cent among those aged between 25 and 34.

The figures showed Coventry had 12 dog-friendly job listings within a 10-mile radius.

The study said: "Employers here are beginning to see the value of pet-friendly perks in helping to attract talent and support employee wellbeing.

"While the trend is still developing, Coventry's growing reputation as a modern, adaptable city suggests this number will rise in future."

Coventry was only beaten by Leeds, Brighton and Hove, Manchester, Bristol and London, which occupied the top spot with 283 dog-friendly workplaces within 10 miles.

Visit: [capitalontap.com/en/blog/posts/best-uk-cities-to-open-a-pet-business/](http://capitalontap.com/en/blog/posts/best-uk-cities-to-open-a-pet-business/) for more on the study.

# PD Zade nabs wanted man

A WANTED man who tried to flee from police in Coventry was stopped in his tracks by a trusty police dog.

PD Zade sprang into action after the 39-year-old, who was wanted on recall to prison, was spotted by officers on Berry Street on Friday September 5.

The man attempted to run off but was soon chased down by the three-and-half year-old Belgian Malinois, who brought him to a halt before he was arrested.

The man was checked out by hospital staff before being taken into custody.

A Coventry Police spokesperson said: "We couldn't do this job without our amazing handlers and their dogs."

Follow @WMPdogs on X for more about the work of West Midlands Police's dogs and their handlers.



PD Zade helped officers detain a wanted man.

# Woman handed 10-year ban on keeping animals

A DOG owner from Coventry who failed to provide vet care for her seriously unwell pet has been given a suspended prison sentence and banned from keeping animals for 10 years.

Lynn Ashby, 58, of Canal Road, pleaded guilty to an animal welfare offence following an investigation and prosecution by the RSPCA.

The animal welfare charity began an investigation after it was contacted by vets with concerns for Ashby's dog, a American bulldog called Tyson.

Ashby presented Tyson for euthanasia when he became unable to stand, suffering from both a large tumour and from a deep pressure sore ulcer.

He was found to be emaciated and suffering from severe hunger, and was covered in urine and faeces.

by Andy Morris  
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Tyson had developed a large tumour on his right foreleg. Despite a previous removal in June 2024 with a high likelihood of recurrence, Ashby sought no further veterinary attention.

A veterinary expert said the tumour, which had spread to multiple organs, had likely been causing Tyson debilitating pain for a number of weeks.

In their report, the vet said: "Ashby only decided to seek veterinary attention when Tyson was no longer able to stand - none of the other factors had prompted her to make that decision at an earlier point in time.

"In my professional opinion, on a veterinary basis, she failed to take reasonable steps to protect Tyson from pain, suffering, and dis-

ease and failed to provide an appropriate diet to the extent required by good practice."

Alongside the 10-year animal disqualification order, which she cannot appeal for five years, Ashby was sentenced to a 10-week prison sentence, suspended for 12 months, with 25 Rehabilitation Activity Requirement Days.

She was also ordered to pay a £154 victim surcharge when she was sentenced at Coventry Magistrates Court.

RSPCA Inspector Jon Ratcliffe, who investigated for the animal welfare charity, said: "Animals feel pain and suffering just like we do and always deserve to be shown kindness and compassion, especially when they are in pain and in need of urgent veterinary care.

"If any pet owner is struggling to care for their animal, we'd encourage them to reach out to a local charity or organisation who can help."



Police are trying to find Jasvir Singh.

# Warrant issued following court fraud case no-show

A WANTED man with links to Coventry and Solihull is being sought by police.

Jasvir Singh, 46, is wanted on warrant for failing to appear before Northampton Magistrates' Court in March 2024 to face a charge of fraud by false representation.

Police said he has

links to the Coventry, Solihull, Oldbury, Wolverhampton and Stoke on Trent.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Northamptonshire Police on 101, or the independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111, quoting incident number 24000145773.

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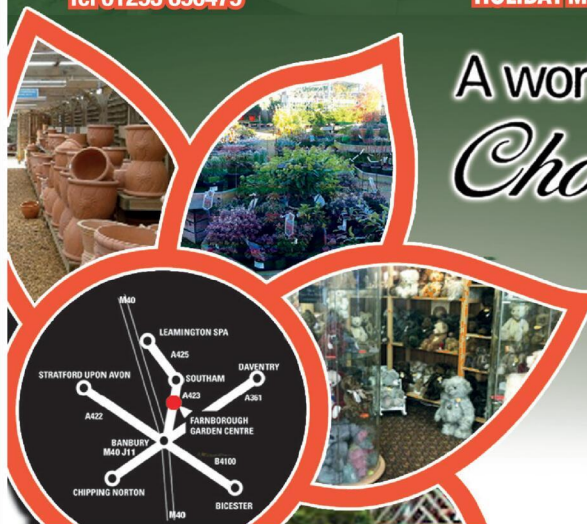


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# Wildlife corridor to link country parks

by Andy Morris  
andy.morris@bullivantmedia.com

## PLANS for a new wildlife corridor in Lutterworth are being drawn up by Harborough District Council (HDC).

The council plans to link Lutterworth Country Park to Bittesby Country Park with a publicly accessible wildlife corridor along the former railway line, extending northwards into central Leicestershire.

HDC is hoping to collaborate with surrounding landowners and businesses on the project, and is working on a number of working groups, public meetings, and a volunteers event to bring the idea to fruition.

It is part of the council's Rewilding Harborough programme to restore nature-depleted areas to key sites across the district.

An HDC spokesperson said: "We aim to restore and reconnect habitats at scale across the district, creating a resilient and healthy environment, accessible for people, teeming with nature and rich with opportunities for learning, health and wellbeing."

The programme is also looking at major rewilding projects to the north of Market Harborough extending from the River Welland



Lutterworth Country Park.

to the Grand Union Canal, and at land surrounding Tin House Farm in Great Bowden.

Other potential sites have been identified in a number of areas of the district which will continue to be explored, and other locations will also be supported where sites are put forward.

Cllr Phil Knowles, Leader of Harborough District Council, said: "The Rewilding Harborough programme presents an amazing opportunity to restore nature in our district on a nationally important scale."

"The strategic partnership will rewild large swathes of nature-depleted countryside, protecting it as public open space for genera-

tions to come and bringing nature back to the district

"I think it is wonderful news for our district and local communities that we will be looking to expand our focus on nature recovery across other areas of our large district in time."

Partner organisations and landowners who have joined the project include Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust, Anglian Water, Market Harborough and The Bowden's Charity, and the Canal and River Trust. Specialist organisations and agencies include East Mercia Rivers Trust, The Environment Agency, The Forestry Commission and Natural England.



## £5,000 grant provides a grassroots football boost

A LUTTERWORTH-based football club can continue its work with community groups after it secured a £5,000 donation from a housebuilder.

AFC North Kilworth received the windfall from Persimmon Homes Midlands as part of its Community Champions initiative.

The club offers a safe and fun environment to play football to over 150 children and 60 adults. The men's team has just been promoted to the highest standard of football in the club's history, meaning they will take part in the FA Vase and FA Cup.

AFC North Kilworth welcomed Persimmon Regional Managing Director Zac Hurst, who presented the cheque to club members alongside the Chairman

of Harborough District Council, Coun Peter James.

Nick Patrick-Ingram from AFC North Kilworth said: "We are very grateful to Persimmon Homes for their generous donation, which will go towards improving the facilities and kit for the club."

Coun James said: "It was a pleasure to hand over the cheque, having secured this money from a Community Fund from Persimmon Homes. I was very pleased to meet the club's Committee members and to see how beneficial the funds will be to the club."

Club representatives receive the cheque from Persimmon Regional Managing Director Zac Hurst and Harborough District Council Chairman Coun Peter James.



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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.

www.midlandhandclinic.com

# Covid fraud leads to 3-year jail term

**A FORMER junior accountant from Leamington has been jailed after pocketing £180,000 in a Covid claim fraud.**

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

Daniel Jee, submitted 49 false Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and Self-Employment Income Support Scheme claims over an 18-month period from March 2020. A court was told.

The now 32-year-old targeted clients of the Exeter-based accountancy firm he worked at, and used their details to submit false claims. He directed the stolen

cash into his own bank accounts.

He used the details of 10 businesses and two elderly clients to submit claims totalling £230,369, £179,218 of which was paid to Jee.

The rest was withheld by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC).

Jee admitted 12 counts of Fraud by False Representation and was sentenced to three years and four months when he appeared at Exeter Crown Court.

Jee was caught after HMRC questioned some of the claims and the firm he worked for launched an internal investigation.

An HMRC spokesperson said: "As an accountant Daniel Jee should have known better than to try and cheat the system. He stole from the taxpayer at the height of a national crisis.

"Accountants hold a position of enormous trust and this sentence should serve as a warning to the minority of dishonest professionals who wrongly believe they can use their knowledge to commit or facilitate tax crime."

## Teen guilty of drug offences

A TEENAGER has been sentenced to more than two years in a Young Offenders' Institution after he admitted possessing crack and heroin.

In February, officers from the Warwickshire Police saw George Clack carrying out a suspected drugs deal in Leamington town centre, a court heard.

As they tried to arrest him, the 19-year-old ran away and threw

an object in the River Leam, which was later found to contain 105 individual wraps of heroin and crack cocaine.

When officers searched him, he also had multiple individual wraps of crack cocaine, heroin, and a large amount of cash on him.

Clack, of Allesley Hall Drive, Coventry, was charged with possession with intent to supply a controlled drug

of class A – cocaine – and possession with intent to supply a controlled drug of class A – heroin.

He pleaded guilty to both charges at an earlier hearing and was sentenced at Warwick Crown Court to 27 months in a Young Offenders' Institution.

He was also made to pay a victim surcharge of £228 and had more than £250 cash forfeited.



George Clack has been sentenced to more than two years in a Young Offenders' Institution.



Community wardens in Warwick are being granted extra powers to tackle anti-social behaviour.

## Wardens given extra powers

EXTRA powers have been granted to community wardens in Warwick to tackle anti-social behaviour.

The powers allow them to seize alcohol or tobacco from minors and to require names and addresses from people suspected of committing anti-social behaviour.

Wardens will need to be accredited by Warwickshire Police under the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme before they can make use of the powers.

Those who do not comply with a request from an accredited community warden would be

committing an offence under the and could be arrested by police.

The new powers aim to allow wardens to more effectively assist with low-level incidents throughout the town.

Warwick District Council's community protection spokesperson Marianne Rolfe said: "This is a welcome step for the community wardens. They are already recognised as a reassuring and supportive presence across our district and these new powers will enable them to provide increased support to our police colleagues, as we work collectively to keep our communities safer for residents and visitors."

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# Putting new talent and plays In the Spotlight

**HOMEGROWN** talent will be in the spotlight as part of a Coventry theatre's weekend celebrating local creatives.

The Albany Theatre will showcase three new plays dreamt up by writers from Coventry and Rugby this weekend (September 21-22).

The In the Spotlight festival features the premiere of a daring new play about the life of a dominatrix, an original musical fresh from the Edinburgh Fringe, and an acclaimed dystopian tale chronicling the fallout of a totalitarian regime in the UK.

The festival, funded by Arts Council England, aims to nurture new talent and champion work with strong ties to the region.

Unleashed, a brand-new play by Rugby-based writer Siobhan Healey, which has been developed through the Albany's playwriting workshops, will kick off the festival on Saturday at 5pm.

The play, which unpacks themes of shame and sexuality with raw honesty and wit, will be free to watch.

Saturday also sees the return of One Kiss, a one-woman musical by Earlsdon-based Lara J West, presented by One Voice Theatre Company, after featuring at the Edinburgh Fringe.

On Sunday from 4pm, audiences are invited to a free Creative Panel and Q&A, chaired by Coventry-based multidisciplinary artist and producer Nyasha Daley and featuring industry guests and local theatre makers.

Closing the festival on Sunday evening is At Last, a haunting new play presented by critically acclaimed Proforca Theatre

At Last, directed by Walsgrave-born David Brady, is one of three plays which feature in the festival. Picture by Ross Kernahan.



Company and directed by Walsgrave-born David Brady, which explores the aftermath of a far-right government's fall after 10 years in office.

The two-day festival is the first major public showcase led by the Albany's new Theatre Director, Alan Pollock.

The celebrated playwright behind One Night in November, who grew up in Coventry and joined the Albany this summer, hopes the event will inspire more in the city to explore their creative talents.

He said: "We hear a lot about discovering new voices – but what I'm really interested in are local voices and stories. The industry's great at spotting talent, but we want to make sure we are sustaining it."

"In the Spotlight isn't just a launchpad for a brilliant new play, but a chance to give two existing pieces the second outing they deserve as we look to inspire and empower the next generation of local writers and performers."

"As a Coventry kid myself, this is exactly the kind of work I believe in – offering meaningful platforms, nurturing creative careers, and helping our city's talent shine on the Albany stage and beyond."

All events will take place in the Spotlight Studio Theatre, a multi-purpose space which was created as part of the Albany's £3million redevelopment, completed in 2024.

Visit [www.albanytheatre.co.uk](http://www.albanytheatre.co.uk) for more information.



## Take a closer look at city's historical gems

FREE tours, activities and events are on offer at buildings and spaces in Coventry this weekend as the annual Heritage Open Days celebration draws to a close.

Visitors to St Mary's Guildhall, one of the venues taking part, will be able to explore centuries of historical architecture and interiors along with the renowned medieval Coventry Tapestry.

Also on the line-up is the Grade I listed former monastery the Charterhouse, The Albany Theatre, Canley Ford Nature Trail, and Daimler Powerhouse.

Coun Abdul Salam Khan, Coventry City Council's Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Events, said: "Heritage Open Days is the perfect way to discover Coventry's past, present and future, completely free of charge."

"With new venues like Daimler Powerhouse and Spirit Bridge Studio and old favourites like St Mary's Guildhall and Coombe Abbey, there's something for everyone."

Coun Naeem Akhtar, Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities, added: "This year's programme celebrates our city's creativity, resilience and unique spaces while highlighting this year's theme of architecture. I encourage residents and visitors to the city of all ages and interests to explore and enjoy."

Heritage Open days runs until Sunday (September 21).

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/y66fhs7> for more information, including a full list of venues and events.



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# Music Hub will hit right note for youngsters

**A NEW year of opportunities is on the bill at the Heart of England Music Hub in Coventry.**

Coventry City Council has unveiled the first major initiatives being delivered through the hub for the 2025-26 academic year, following the announcement of a £1.7million Arts Council England grant last month.

Highlights include the inaugural Heart of England Music Hub Conference,

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

entitled *Breaking Barriers: Empowering Music Curriculum Access, Diversity and Quality for All*. Led by the hub's lead schools and leadership team, the conference will bring together music educators, school leaders, cultural organisations, and industry professionals for workshops, performances and knowledge-sharing sessions.

Coventry families will also benefit from expanded access to free and discounted music lessons and group activities through the city's Go CV scheme.

The scheme offers free access to Coventry Music-run groups for all members, and a 25 per cent discount on direct-billed lessons for Go CV+ members.

Another major focus this year is the return of the Digital Music Festival in March 2026, building on the



**Coventry Music Hub will offer more opportunities for children and young people to explore their creativity through music during the academic year.**

success of the 2025 event. The festival will showcase the creativity and talent of young musicians from across the region through online performances.

Coun Dr Kindy Sandhu, Cabinet Member for

Education and Skills at Coventry City Council, said: "With this funding, we're able to deliver a year full of creativity, collaboration, and opportunity. From our conference to the Digital Music Festival, we're making

sure that music education is inspiring, inclusive, and accessible to every child."

Visit the website at [www.coventrymusic.co.uk](http://www.coventrymusic.co.uk) for more information about Coventry Music and upcoming events.



**Police teams seized illegal e-bikes and stolen cars during patrols last week.**

## Illegal e-bikes seized in city centre police operation

POLICE in Coventry have been seizing illegal e-bikes, picking up stolen cars, dealing with anti-social behaviour and catching speeding drivers during patrols last week.

The City Centre team was joined by officers from the Road Harm team for an operation against illegal e-bike use in the city - during which eight such bikes

were seized. The St Michael's team carried out late night patrols in Lady Herbert's Garden after concerns around anti-social behaviour were raised by residents.

The Wainbody neighbourhood team was called to Pershore Place regarding an abandoned car which was found to have been stolen. It was recovered for further examination.

Another stolen car was tracked down and picked up by officers in the North West of the city.

The Henley and Longford team carried out a speed-watch operation in Lentons Lane, Shilton Lane and Wigston Road, during which 20 out of 73 vehicles were found to be breaking the 30mph limit. The drivers will receive penalty notices in

the post. The Hillfields Team joined up with Police Cadets for an engagement operation in Craners Road after feedback from residents about anti-social behaviour in the area.

The team handed out leaflets and spoke to the public about their work, while the cadets gained an insight into the day-to-day work of a serving police officer.



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# Lost portrait of the Bard's patron found from 400 years ago

**A LOST portrait of Shakespeare's patron – and possible lover – has been uncovered after more than 400 years.**

by Philippa Mingins

A previously unknown miniature portrait of Henry Wriothesley, 3rd Earl of Southampton, has been discovered in a private collection.

The owners contacted art historian Dr Elizabeth Goldring, honorary reader at the University of Warwick, after reading her book *Nicholas Hilliard: Life of an Artist*, as they suspected the tiny portrait in their collection might be the work of the renowned miniaturist, and also wished to identify the sitter.

The painting has now been confirmed as a work by Hilliard, Queen Elizabeth I's favourite portraitist, with the subject identified as Henry Wriothesley.

The miniature's style indicates it was painted in the early 1590s.

Dr Goldring said: "The Earl's pearl earring, bracelets, beauti-

fully embroidered clothing and long hair held close to his head may present an initial impression of a woman, but this is a faithful representation of Wriothesley's appearance.

"A noted patron of the arts, Wriothesley was celebrated by his contemporaries for his androgynous beauty and his love of poetry and drama. He was known, too, for his vanity and for the great pride he took in his appearance, especially his long hair."

Shakespeare dedicated two lengthy erotic poems, *Venus and Adonis* and *The Rape of Lucrece*, to the Earl of Southampton, and Wriothesley has long been conjectured to be the androgynous 'fair youth' to whom many of Shakespeare's sonnets are addressed, with some scholars suggesting he was also Shakespeare's lover.

Intriguingly, a small but significant detail on the reverse of this miniature offers a potential clue to the nature

of Wriothesley's personal relationship with Shakespeare.

Dr Goldring continued: "Miniatures were inherently private artworks that were frequently exchanged as love tokens.

"This miniature is pasted onto a playing card, which is customary for the time. The reverse of this playing card was originally a red heart, but most unusually, the heart has been deliberately obliterated and painted over with a black arrow. It could, arguably, be a spade – but I think it more strongly resembles a spear, the symbol that appears in Shakespeare's coat of arms.

"It's impossible to say when this deliberate defacement took place, but it was certainly done with a purpose.

"One tantalising interpretation might be that Shakespeare was the original recipient of the miniature but returned it to the Earl at some point – perhaps around the time of Southampton's marriage in 1598 – with his personal mark

firmly obscuring the heart.

"Such a scenario would help to explain why and how the miniature remained in a branch of the Southampton family for hundreds of years."

Dr Goldring, in partnership with art historian Emma Rutherford and Bard scholar Professor Sir Jonathan Bate, has spent the last eight months authenticating and researching the oval artwork, measuring just two and a quarter inches in height, and which they believe adds a striking new dimension to the mystery of Shakespeare's muse.

**TOP: The miniature portrait of Henry Wriothesley, 3rd Earl of Southampton has been discovered in a private collection.**

**RIGHT: The arrow on the back of the portrait could be the symbol that appears in Shakespeare's coat of arms.**





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# Senior students handed key roles

**NEW senior students have been appointed at a Rugby secondary school.**

The Avon Valley School and Performing Arts College has appointed Kallum Mackley and Naomi Mba as respective head boy and head girl for the 2025-2026 academic year.

They were chosen to represent the school's student body following a rigorous selection process that included written applications, interviews and a student vote.

Kallum and Naomi will serve as ambassadors for the school by supporting school events, representing student voices, and working with staff and the leadership team to promote an ambitious, respectful

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

and caring school environment. A school spokesperson said: "These outstanding students have been chosen for their leadership qualities, academic achievements, and ongoing commitment to the school community."

Headteacher Blake Francis added: "We are incredibly proud of both Kallum and Naomi. They consistently demonstrate everything we try to achieve as a school, along with showing maturity and a commitment to their studies."

"In their interviews, they both showed a genuine passion for making a positive impact and a keen

desire to take on more responsibility. I have every confidence they will lead by example and inspire students across the school throughout the year."

Also appointed to the student leadership team were Shaylen Ratley and Isabella Silver-Vallance as deputy head boy and deputy head girl, and Alfie Gibson and Grace Sharples as assistant head boy and assistant head girl.

Rimsha Saeed, Zoha Saeed, Abha Masuti, and Anvi Masuti will fulfil the roles of events captains, and Troy Gono was appointed to the role of global majority captain.

Head of Year 11, Craig Hartfield, added: "I was astounded with the quality of the student interviews.



**The new senior student leaders at AVS – Alfie, Shaylen, Kallum, Naomi, Isabella and Grace.**

The students prepared themselves so well and were able to discuss their strengths, weaknesses, and ideas for the role.

"Experiences like this will help them in the future, when I am sure they will show ambition by applying for post-16 and university places."



**Crescent School's Green Team with their Green Flag Award.**

## Pupils flying Green Flag after environment campaign

'THRILLED' staff at a Rugby primary school have congratulated its eco-friendly pupils for helping it to win a major environmental accolade.

The efforts of Crescent School to create a sustainable environment have been recognised with a prestigious, internationally acclaimed Eco-Schools Green Flag accreditation.

Last academic year, pupils led the way in promoting sus-

tainability and raising environmental awareness among the community.

The school's Green Team - comprising 14 pupils from Year 2 to Year 6 - identified three key focus areas for sustainability improvements: Energy, Litter and Marine.

Across the year, the children launched numerous activities and campaigns, including the 'Cut Your Carbon Campaign', a 'Switch

Off Fortnight', and the 'Keep Britain Tidy Great Big School Clean'.

Pupils also set targets for energy usage, completed an audit of single use plastics, introduced crisp packet and glue stick recycling, undertook regular litter picks, agreed a school ban on laminating and even worked with the school caterers to replace single use dessert bowls with reusable ones.

Jacqui Johnson, the teacher leading the Green Team at the school, said: "We are proud of the enthusiasm of our pupils to make real change for the benefit of our planet."

Headmaster Joe Thackway added: "The dedication and passion of the children has been inspiring, and they deserve their recognition at the highest level by the Eco School Awards."

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# Sustainable Saturday to focus on creative skills

**A MAN who spent seven years weaving a dress from foraged stinging nettles following the death of his wife visits Rugby Art Gallery and Museum this weekend for Sustainable Saturday.**

Textile artist Allan Brown's story was told in the critically-acclaimed documentary *The Nettle Dress*, which followed Allan's labour of love after finding inspiration in the Hans Christian Andersen fairytale *The Wild Swans*.

In addition to watching Allan demonstrate nettle spinning, visitors to Sustainable Saturday can see the nettle dress on display and also book a seat for a free screening of the documentary.

The museum is offering a free day of creativity for the climate-

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

conscious community. Visitors can meet the alpacas from Alpaca Pals and speak to representatives from Garden Organic, Rugby Eco Hub and Rugby Wildlife, joined by artist Sue Ainley.

Local artists who embrace sustainability – including Anca Sanpetrean Ceramics, Beespoke Bird Houses and Sonya Vengrova – host a mini-makers market where visitors can buy environmentally-conscious crafts, while artist Zoë Burt hosts botanical ink drop-in workshops throughout the day, helping visitors experiment with botanical extracts, seasonal plant colours and pigments from kitchen waste.

The Rugby Youth Board has

curated a line-up of local live music for Sustainable Saturday, with bands performing outside the Little Elborow Street venue's entrance throughout the event, while a series of free outdoor craft sessions have been organised for younger visitors, including the traditional Japanese art form of tatakizome – or flower hammering – to create colourful, botanical prints.

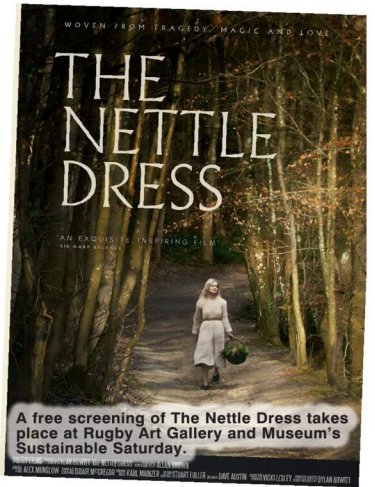
Artists Sue Kirk and Rosalind Stoddart will host a 'meet-and-greet' session in the art gallery to discuss the current *Woven from the Field* exhibition of organic willow weaving and textiles created from alpaca fleece.

Coun Maggie O'Rourke, Rugby Borough Council's spokesperson for partnerships and wellbeing, said: "Sustainable Saturday brings

together the borough's climate-conscious community for a day of creativity and informative fun, with a range of free activities on offer for all the family.

"It's a great opportunity to discover how the artistic community has responded to the climate crisis in imaginative and creative ways, and how the borough's climate-conscious community continues to innovate and inspire with new ideas to tackle climate change."

Sustainable Saturday runs from 11am to 3.30pm, with the screening of *The Nettle Dress* starting at 4.30pm.



Free places at the screening must be booked in advance due to limited seating.

To book, visit [www.ragm.co.uk/sustainable-saturday](http://www.ragm.co.uk/sustainable-saturday)



Regent Street treats will be on the menu this Saturday.

## Tuck into fantastic food and drink at festival

**THE STREETS** will be filled with treats in Rugby on Saturday (September 20) as the Autumn Food and Drink Festival returns to the town centre.

Regent Street and St Andrew's Church Gardens will be filled with the aromas of German sausages, Indian street food, Greek food, pork and chorizo

burgers, flatbreads, gourmet brownies, Punjabi street food, Jamaican cuisine, cheeses and jams – among just some of the items on the menu.

A pop-up kitchen will host a variety of demonstrations by local chefs, who will offer their top tips along with a taste some of their creations

including Scotch eggs, sweet focaccia, cupcakes, pizza dough, cocktails and one or two surprises.

The event will also feature live music and family entertainment including face painting, a mini ride, and street entertainment.

Linda Lowne, business director of event organiser Rugby First, said: "The

Autumn Food and Drink Festival is always extremely popular with visitors and stallholders, and it is great that we are fully booked again."

The festival takes place from 11am to 5pm on Saturday.

Visit the website at [www.rugbyfirst.org](http://www.rugbyfirst.org) for more information.



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# Take a walk on the wild side with TV's Michaela Strachan

by **Tristan Harris**  
tristan.harris@bullivantmedia.com

**RENOWNED TV presenter and BAFTA award-winning wildlife enthusiast Michaela Strachan will be bringing her brand new live theatre show to Coventry next year.**

'Not Just A Wild Life' on tour celebrates Michaela's 50 years of television and comes to Coventry's Warwick Arts Centre on April 22.

She could be seen 'Wide Awake' on Saturday mornings, cuddling orangutans, wrangling Chris Packham and skating to the final of Dancing on Ice.

Now, to mark her four decades on the box, she will be taking centre stage during a high-energy, heartwarming evening of shared highs, lows and unexpected moments as she celebrates her remarkable and varied career.

From The Wide Awake Club, The Hitman and Her, The Really Wild Show, Countryfile, Springwatch and beyond, this live show will laugh at the chaos



of TV, celebrate the beauty of nature and reflect on what it means to grow up - and grow older - on screen.

Whether people grew up watching Michaela on children's TV, tuned into Springwatch, or stayed up late for The Hitman and Her, Not Just A Wild Life promises to be a night of laughter, nostalgia, and great memories from her long and successful life on the box.

Michaela said: "When I started presenting in the 80s, I thought it would be incredible to last even 10 years.

"It's been an extraordinary career and I'm excited to share my memories of what's been a 'Really Wild' ride at times.

"I'm really looking forward to taking a trip down memory lane and inviting audiences to reminisce and laugh along with me!"

Not Just A Wild Life is a night of inspiration and nostalgia for nature nerds, 80s children and anyone who has ever wondered how a rubber chicken can change the course of their life.

Tickets are now on sale. Visit [awildevening.co.uk/michaela](http://awildevening.co.uk/michaela) for more and to book.

**Michaela Strachan will bring her 'Not Just A Wild Life' show to Coventry's Warwick Arts Centre next year. s**



**Zoe Gast and Andrew Haill from the NHS at the event where Amazon BHx4 staff registered to give blood. Picture by Richard Grange / UNP (United National Photographers). s**

## Amazon centre backs drive to get more blood donors

COVENTRY'S Amazon receive centre hosted an NHS blood donor registration drive as part of the company's efforts to help communities across the UK.

The NHS Blood and Transplant Service (NHSBT) event saw a total of 31 new donors register as well as 23 appointments to donate.

Andrew Haill, from NHSBT, said: "Giving blood is a unique opportunity to make a real difference in people's lives.

"We want to thank the team at Amazon in Coventry for their time and generosity.

"Just one donation can save up to

three patients so contributions like these are always greatly needed."

Oana Stoica, an Amazon Coventry employee and regular blood donor, said donating blood was a simple thing to do.

She added: "This one-hour act can save lives. I'd encourage everyone to consider doing it."

A single blood donation can save the lives of up to three adults and six infants or children. The NHSBT processes nearly two million blood donations annually from hospitals nationwide, also supporting patients, donors and families through the transplantation process.

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# Star to make a return to RSC

**KENNETH Branagh is set to return to the RSC stage in Stratford for the first time in 30 years.**

The multi award-winning actor and filmmaker will be joined in the RSC Spring Season by Oscar-winning actress Helen Hunt and double Olivier Award-winning actor Mark Gatiss in their RSC debuts.

Branagh will play Prospero in a new staging of Shakespeare's *The Tempest* (The Royal Shakespeare Theatre May 13 to June 20) directed by Sir Richard Eyre, and Lopakhin alongside Hunt as Madame Ranyevskaya in a new version of Anton Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard* (The Swan Theatre July 10 to August 29), by Olivier Award-winning playwright Laura Wade and directed by co-RSC artistic director Tamara Harvey.

Branagh will take up the role of master magician Prospero for the first time, having worked on 35 productions of Shakespeare across his celebrated career. *The Tempest* also marks Eyre's first time directing in Stratford following an esteemed career as a director, writer and former artistic director of the National Theatre.

Gatiss will take on the title role of gangster Arturo Ui in Bertolt Brecht's biting political satire on Hitler's ascent to power, *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui* (The Swan

Theatre April 11 to May 30), in a version by Stephen Sharkey, directed by Sean Linnen, in his debut for the company.

Other productions in the season will see Martina Laird make her playwrighting debut with *Driftwood* (The Other Place April 17 to May 30) - an evocative story of self-determination, family and belonging set against the backdrop of colonial Trinidad on the edge of political independence.

The Unicorn Theatre's artistic director Rachel Bagshaw directs a riotous re-telling of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (The Other Place June 19 to August 30) created for children and families.

Co-artistic directors Tamara Harvey and Daniel Evans said, "When we set out as the co-artistic directors of the Royal Shakespeare Company, we were united by a belief in the RSC as a home for radical and resonant theatre - inspired by Shakespeare and made by the most exciting artists from across the globe. Two years after our arrival, that commitment remains at the heart of everything we do."

Visit [www.rsc.org.uk](http://www.rsc.org.uk) for further details.

**Helen Hunt takes on the role of Madame Ranyevskaya, alongside Branagh, in *The Cherry Orchard*.**



Mark Gatiss will take on the title role of gangster Arturo Ui in Bertolt Brecht's biting political satire on Hitler's ascent to power, *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui*.



Kenneth Branagh will play Prospero in a new staging of Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, and also Lopakhin in a new version of Anton Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard*.



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# Bloomin' great news for florist

**BUSINESS is blooming for an independent Rugby florist after her first year in the town centre - thanks to a support programme which helped her plant the seed.**

After giving up teaching at the height of the Covid pandemic, Gemma Kettle established Teapot Flowers in 2020 as home-based business selling domestically grown flowers, to cut down on the carbon-footprint required to import them.

Her cousin Jane - who Gemma describes as one of her biggest cheerleaders - offered land on a small holding to grow the flowers.

Wanting to draw on her teaching roots and run more workshops, Gemma began the search for new premises - and found support was available through the Business Growth Warwickshire programme, delivered by Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber

of Commerce on behalf of Warwickshire County Council.

Her business adviser Saffron Medway offered time management strategies to help Gemma to better cope with running the business at home alongside completing orders.

She also focused on marketing and communications strategies as well as instilling confidence that Gemma was getting her pricing right.

Comprehensive marketing, business and financial plans were developed - and Gemma's trusty cousin Jane found the perfect location for the business in Railway Terrace.

The move has meant Gemma can stage more of her increasingly popular workshops.

She said: "I'd been a teacher for 16 years and during the pandemic I decided it was time to move on from it."

"I was working from home during the pandemic but that was from



my cellar and, increasingly, it was becoming unmanageable.

"I also wanted to find more customers because I was too reliant on word of mouth.

"Saffron gave me lots of practi-

cal support around marketing and finance, but it was the confidence she gave me that was the biggest help. It made me believe that I could do it.

"I wanted to be different. The

flowers are grown just four miles from 'The Studio' and while I do buy from other growers and wholesalers, the carbon footprint is reduced massively.

"I am so glad I did it, and it's great to be celebrating one year in Rugby town centre."

Saffron said: "I am so pleased to see all of the work that Gemma has put in paying off.

"Gemma has taken on all of the advice and support and I am confident she can continue to grow - in more ways than one!"

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/yeuhbaeh> for more information about the programme.

**Gemma Kettle from Teapot Flowers, Jason Barnes from the Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce, and Rebecca Corr from Warwickshire County Council.**



## Double figures for town care home

DELIGHTED staff and residents at a Rugby care home are celebrating scoring a perfect 10.

Overslade House has finally reached its goal of an overall score of 10 on the independent internet care home reviews page, [carehome.co.uk](http://carehome.co.uk).

The website is independently run to ensure all reviews are vetted and come from people who have genuine experience of the homes they are reviewing.

The care home's General Manager Genoveva Tamasi said: "We are beyond thrilled to finally reach an overall score of 10 on [carehome.co.uk](http://carehome.co.uk) and it just goes to

show what a credit to the home the team at Overslade House really are.

"I am so proud of all of their hard work and dedication to the people they care for, and that's definitely why we have this score - because they truly are people who care."

Deputy Manager Merline Geevamoney added: "It means the world that the reviews we get are all from relatives or residents who have taken the time to voice their opinions. Thank you to you all."

Overslade House staff with Regional Director Violeta Baesu celebrate their perfect 10 review score.

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# Salute to county's ChangeMakers

**PEOPLE** who make a positive difference to Warwickshire life have been recognised.

More than 100 individuals have been honoured as Warwickshire ChangeMakers, in the first annual celebration of people who dedicate themselves to improving life in the county.

At the start of her tenure, High Sheriff of Warwickshire Karen Lynch had the idea of changing the traditional High Sheriff's Garden Party in favour of Warwickshire ChangeMakers, an event to recognise and celebrate unsung heroes and frontline champions who represent community spirit, quiet determination, and collaborative action.

In its first year, the event drew participants and supporters from across Warwickshire, embodying Ms Lynch's high sheriff theme 'Collaboration for Greater Impact'.

County officers and community partners used their contacts to



unearth the county's unsung heroes and tell their stories.

Hosted by the High Sheriff, and supported by the Lord Lieutenant, civic leaders and the wider community, the day began with an awards

ceremony at St Mary's Collegiate Church, followed by a procession through the town and a garden party at Warwick Castle.

Awardees included volunteers, fundraisers, innovators, youth men-

tors, and professionals from police, fire, ambulance, probation, and judiciary services.

Ms Lynch, said: "If people can't see it, they can't be it. We created the ChangeMakers initiative

to shine a light on the people in Warwickshire who model what it means to serve others. In doing so, we also show the next generation what's possible – and invite them to be part of it.

"Our ChangeMakers have innovated to solve problems, stood in the face of danger, fundraised relentlessly, and volunteered without hesitation. They have role-modelled what it means to care for their county – and to build cohesion at a time when we need it most.

"This isn't just a one-off event. It's about creating a culture of visibility, belonging, and shared responsibility. The kind of county where people say – this is for me too."

Each awardee's name will now be added to the newly established Warwickshire ChangeMakers' Roll of Honour – a public and lasting tribute to those making a meaningful difference.

## Roadshows will highlight changes in new digital phone switchover

ROADSHOWS are being run across Warwickshire to prepare residents for the digital switchover.

The UK's telephone network is changing. Most providers including BT, Virgin Media and O2 will be moving customers from traditional landlines to a new digital landline service by 2027. This nationwide Digital Switchover is designed to make phone systems more reliable and future ready.

For most households and busi-

nesses, the change will be as simple as plugging a phone into a broadband box instead of the wall socket. However, residents who rely on landlines for telecare devices such as fall monitors, lifelines, or personal alarms will need to contact their providers and the company that supplied the device to advise how service might be affected after the switchover.

It is important to understand that digital landlines do not work

during power cuts and providers will offer a solution on how to make emergency phone calls. However, mobile phones can still be used.

To help residents understand the changes and prepare for the switchover, BT is hosting a series of free face-to-face events. These events are open to anyone with questions or concerns about the changes. There is no need to pre-book. The roadshows will take place at:

\* 2 Market Way in Coventry today (Friday) from 9am until 3pm.

\* British Garden Centre on Straight Mile, Frankton in Rugby on September 23 from 10am to 4pm

\* Regent Court shopping centre in Livery Street, Leamington on September 24 and 25 from 9am until 3pm

\* Waterside, Stratford on September 26 and 30 from 10am to 2pm.

Warwickshire County Council's digital spokesperson Coun Jennifer Warren said: "While most residents will find the transition simple, it's crucial that those who rely on landlines for telecare devices understand how the change may affect them and seek advice. I'm pleased to see BT taking proactive steps to support residents through local events, ensuring everyone has the information they need to stay connected and safe."

**By Coach from Coventry, Rugby**

Reader Travel

### WARNER ISLE OF WIGHT ENTERTAINMENT BREAK

**Departing Thu 15 Jan '26, Mon 19 Jan '26**

Join us at Warner Norton Grange Coastal Village for a few days away with entertainment and a range of activities on offer. There's also the opportunity to enjoy a lovely trip to two of the island's most recognisable locations, Newport and the Needles.

**SO MUCH INCLUDED...**

- ✓ Return coach travel & ferry crossings **from Coventry**
- ✓ 2 nights at the Warner Norton Grange Coastal Village, Isle of Wight (JG3 rating) with dinner & breakfast
- ✓ Daytime activities in the resort
- ✓ Use of leisure facilities
- ✓ Entertainment every evening

Optional excursion to Newport & the Needles (£12pp)

**3 Days by Coach only £149**

Single Supplement £40

### WESTON-SUPER-MARE & HISTORIC BATH TURKEY & TINSEL

**Departing Mon 10 Nov '25**

If you love all things Christmas, then this turkey and tinsel trip is perfect for you! Enjoy a hotel stay in popular Weston-super-Mare along with entertainment, a visit from Santa himself, traditional festive fare and excursions to historic Bristol and Bath.

**SO MUCH INCLUDED...**

- ✓ Return coach travel **from Rugby, Coventry**
- ✓ 4 nights at the York Hotel, Weston-super-Mare (JG2+ rating) with dinner & full English breakfast (includes traditional "Christmas" dinner)
- ✓ Mince pies on arrival
- ✓ After-dinner tea/coffee every evening
- ✓ Entertainment some evenings
- ✓ Excursions to Bristol & Bath

Optional excursion to Wells & Cheddar including a scenic drive through Cheddar Gorge (£14pp)

**5 Days by Coach only £299**

Single Supplement £80

### ISLE OF WIGHT HOUSE PARTY

**Departing Fri 7 Nov '25**

Enjoy a break away to the Isle of Wight for a fun weekend of sightseeing and entertainment by the bucket (and spade) load! There's also a fabulous drinks offer at our hotel and excursions to Newport and Ryde to enjoy.

**SO MUCH INCLUDED...**

- ✓ Return coach travel and ferry crossings **from Rugby**
- ✓ 3 nights at the Shanklin Beach Hotel, Shanklin (JG2+ rating) with dinner & breakfast
- ✓ **2 for 1 bar** (6pm-9pm) on selected drinks
- ✓ Entertainment every evening
- ✓ Afternoon with tea, coffee & cake
- ✓ Excursion to Newport & Ryde

Optional excursion to Cowes, Yarmouth & Ventnor (£14pp)

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# Charity in appeal for unwanted furniture

A CHARITY is offering to collect unwanted furniture from Coventry and Warwickshire residents to help homeless people in the area.

Homelessness charity Emmaus Coventry & Warwickshire is gearing up for national Recycle Week by asking for any unwanted, resalable furniture.

The charity offers a free furniture collection service across the region, with appointments available six days a week.

Each donated item helps fund support for people who have experienced homelessness – such as Dave, who Emmaus now provides with accommodation, support, and work opportunities.

He said: "I lost my job and then my flat, and I ended up homeless. I slept under bridges along the canal banks. Now at Emmaus, I feel welcome and safe."

Emmaus provides a home, work opportunities, and tailored support for up to 17 people who have experienced homelessness and social exclusion, helping them to rebuild their lives and regain independence.

Through the free collec-



Dave (left), who is supported by Emmaus, helps a staff member to load donated furniture into the charity's van.

tion service, the charity saves more than 1,500 items of furniture from landfill each year which are sold at its Coventry stores in Red Lane and Bodmin Road.

David Turner, enterprise manager at Emmaus Coventry & Warwickshire, said: "We've always appreciated the generous support we've had from the community."

"Now we're reaching out to ask for donations of unwanted furniture to help stock our shop."

"Each piece of furniture we resell helps us continue to support people to move away from homelessness. By col-

lecting and reusing furniture, we're also ensuring that quality items find a new home instead of being discarded, which is a great way to help the environment."

The charity accepts most household furniture in good condition, including sofas, wardrobes, dining sets, wooden furniture, white goods and electricals.

Free furniture collection appointments are available across Coventry, Rugby, Stratford, Kenilworth, Warwick and Leamington. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/mve2y6ht> or call 024 7666 1466 to book a collection.

# Council will invest £730k in AI projects to cut costs

ARTIFICIAL Intelligence is to be used by Warwickshire County Council (WCC) in an effort to save money and improve services.

by Andy Morris  
[andy.morris@bullivantmedia.com](mailto:andy.morris@bullivantmedia.com)

computing, data processing, and licensing."

The council's cabinet has agreed to invest up to £730,000 in a new programme of AI projects – taken from WCC's Revenue Investment Fund – to be used over the next two years to 'explore and implement AI solutions' in a bid to help meet its target of saving £419,000 by 2027-28.

A WCC spokesperson said: "The decision was made after recognising the rapid growth of AI and the potential for it to help the council deliver more efficient and effective services."

"The new approach will allow the council to take a strategic and coordinated approach to AI, moving away from ad-hoc projects."

"The funding will be used to establish dedicated subject matter expertise, grow internal capabilities, and cover the costs of cloud

They added that each AI project would be evaluated with a business case to ensure it delivered financial and efficiency benefits before being approved.

WCC customer and localities spokesman Coun Michael Bannister added: "This new programme will allow us to safely, ethically, and cost-effectively explore how AI can help us improve our services and support our staff."

"We're not just jumping on a trend; we're taking a sensible, measured approach to a technology that is already changing how we work."

"By investing in a clear, coordinated programme, we can make sure we're focusing on the right projects that deliver real benefits for our residents and help us meet our financial goals."

## Questions about care? We can help

We know moving into residential care is an emotional and difficult decision with lots to think about.

With over 30 years' experience, we can help you navigate the process of finding the right care home, so that you feel confident about the decision you make – whether that's choosing a WCS Care home, or one outside our group that's more suited to your needs.

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



Philip Rainsford



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Josephine Rugg



# What to look forward to sowing in your garden this September

**AS SUMMER fades and the cooler autumn air begins to settle over the UK, September can be an exciting month for gardeners.**

It is the ideal time to plant perennials, giving them a strong head start to grow roots and bloom beautifully in the next year.

British Garden Centres is here to share expert advice on the best perennials to plant in September, helping create a garden full of colour and life year after year.

### Why September?

Planting in September helps plants establish strong root systems in autumn's mild, moist conditions, reducing transplant shock and avoiding summer heat stress. The still-warm soil encourages root growth while cooler air and rainfall ease plant stress. By planting perennials now, they can settle before winter and return stronger with fresh growth and blooms in spring and summer.

### Perennial picks

Peonies are loved for their lush, full blooms and delightful scent. When planted in September, their roots have plenty of time to establish during the cooler months, leading to spectacular flowers in late spring and early summer. Their

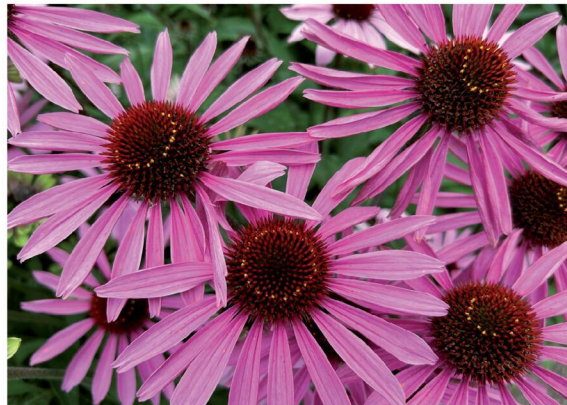
large, often fragrant blooms in soft pinks, whites, and reds add a touch of elegance and charm that can transform any garden. They are also highly durable, often thriving for decades with the right care.

Chrysanthemums are synonymous with autumn gardens. Their bright and bold flowers come in rich shades of yellow, red, orange, and purple, bringing warmth and vibrancy as other plants start fading. These robust perennials brighten borders and containers and keep gardens colourful well into autumn when many other flowers have finished.

Phlox is a favourite for gardeners looking for both colour and fragrance in their outdoor space in the late part of the year. Their dense clusters of flowers bloom over a long period, from summer through to autumn, in shades ranging from pure white to pink, purple and red. Phlox plants add height, texture, and a sweet scent, attracting butterflies and pollinators to the garden.

Coreopsis brings a cheerful burst of golden yellow to the garden. Known for its long flowering season and easy care, coreopsis is perfect for brightening up borders, edging, or containers. It is also drought tolerant once established, helping the garden stay sunny and bright throughout the season.

Salvia offers striking spikes of flowers in blues, purples, reds, and whites. Its upright form adds verti-



cal interest, while also attracting bees, butterflies and other beneficial insects. Salvias thrive in sunny, well-drained areas and keep blossoming right into autumn. Their aromatic foliage adds another sensory layer to the garden and is a popular late garden favourite.

Sedum or stonecrop is a succulent perennial known for its fleshy leaves and clusters of pink or red flowers that bloom late into the year, making it a September star. Sedum is incredibly hardy and low-maintenance, perfect for adding

texture and colour during autumn when many other plants begin to fade. Its blooms also attract pollinators well into the cooler months.

Rudbeckias stand out with their bright yellow petals and dark centres, bringing a cheerful splash of summer warmth well into the autumn months. These hardy plants are drought tolerant and attract butterflies, adding life and colour to garden borders.

Nerines flower spectacularly in shades of pink, coral, and occasionally white, bringing a vivid splash

of colour to the garden just as many other plants begin to fade. Flowering reliably from late summer into autumn, their slender, arching stems are topped with clusters of starchy, spider-like petals that seem almost sculptural, perfect for late season displays in mixed borders, containers, or cut-flower arrangements. Nerines thrive in sunny, sheltered spots, rewarding the gardener with weeks of blooms.

Echinacea is celebrated for both its herbal qualities and its striking garden display. These hardy perennials bear daisy-like flowers with raised central cones and petals in shades of pink, purple, white, or orange. Blooming from midsummer into autumn, they provide lasting colour and are highly attractive to bees, butterflies, and other pollinators. Their seed heads add winter interest and food for birds, making them as functional as they are beautiful.

Julian Palphramand, British Garden Centre's head of plants, said: "September is a wonderful time to get planting."

"By picking the right mix of perennials, you can enjoy a garden that's full of changing colours and gentle fragrance from the first signs of spring right through to the end of autumn."

**Echinacea is celebrated for both its herbal qualities and its striking garden display.**

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# Taking steps to beat the winter blues

AS WE approach autumn and days get shorter, it is worth giving a thought to how we can look after our mood and mental health as we move towards the cold season.

Overwintering in the Northern Hemisphere conjures thoughts of retreating indoors and roaring log fires and, for those who spend most of their day indoors, it means limited exposure to daylight.

Daylight, and in particular the early morning sunshine, plays a vital role in helping us maintain a positive outlook and warding off the winter blues - now is the time to pay particular attention.

Around 2million people in the UK are affected by a form of depression known as seasonal affective disorder (SAD) during winter months. This is related to a drop in serotonin, a neurotransmitter and the body's natural feel-good chemical.

The good news is exposure to sunshine can affect serotonin production, because its regulation is dependent on vitamin D - crucial for immune health amongst other things - which is made in the skin when we are exposed to light.

Light plays a central role in regulating circadian rhythm, the body's internal 24-hour clock that regulates our sleep-wake cycle. It affects the production of melatonin, an essential sleep-promoting hormone.

Low mood can manifest in a number of ways including lack of energy, becoming less sociable and feeling anxious.

Like physical health, mental health is something people need to work at in order to build resilience against life's inevitable ups and downs.

So, whilst being aware of the symptoms during winter months, there are steps which can be taken to mitigate the chances of feeling down.

Incorporating more sunlight into the daily routine can be a simple yet effective way to enhance your mental health and overall wellbeing.

Clocks go back on October 26, which might scupper those plans, so people should get exposed to the light whilst they can.

### Top tips for increasing your serotonin levels

Adjust the morning routine - Consider getting up earlier to fit in a short walk before work. Aim to spend at least 20 minutes in the daylight within two hours of waking. If working flexible hours, consider an earlier start. Finishing sooner will provide another opportunity to head outside for some daylight exposure.

Take short outdoor breaks - If spending more time indoors, take short breaks



A walk in woodland is always great at this time of year - particularly with the array of autumnal colours on offer. Photo Pixabay

outside and incorporate a walk during lunchtime.

Eat real - Food matters - particularly the quality of what we eat and drink. Focus on a diet which consists of real food and avoid overly processed and junk food. Stay hydrated and go easy on the caffeine (which can exacerbate anxieties) and alcohol (which is a depressant).

Keep physically active - Regular exercise acts like an antidepressant and also stimulates the release of serotonin. In addition, it helps balance the hormones responsible for stress - like adrenaline - and keeps these from getting too high.

Making exercise a regular part of the routine in winter can therefore have a hugely positive impact on our mental wellbeing.

Social connection - Humans are social

creatures, so it is important people make the effort to schedule time with friends and family, particularly if they live alone. Social connection can really boost the mood, so do not retreat into social isolation. Yes, it's dark at night and the weather can be off-putting, but make an extra effort to have something in the diary to look forward to.

Volunteering - It is the perfect way for people to make new friends and feel they are contributing something positive to society in these conflicted times. Research has shown volunteering offers significant health benefits, especially for older adults, including improvements in physical and mental health.

It's important to know when help is needed. Always seek advice from a healthcare provider if really struggling with mood.

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# Motorfair Hyundai: A Legacy of Exceptional Service and Quality Cars in Birmingham.

Situated on the outskirts of Birmingham, Motorfair Hyundai is more than just a car dealership — it's a trusted partner for drivers across the West Midlands. As a family-run business with over 70 years of experience, we are committed to providing exceptional service that goes beyond customer expectations. Whether you're looking for a brand-new Hyundai, a quality used car, or expert advice on fleet services, Motorfair Hyundai is here to meet your needs with professionalism and care.

## Our Legacy and Values

The Motorfair Hyundai story is part of a much longer family tradition in the motor trade. Our parent company, Worcester Carsales, was founded in 1953 by Mr Derrick Grieveson, and from those beginnings we have grown steadily while maintaining the same customer-first philosophy that has made us a cornerstone of the West Midlands automotive scene. Motorfair Hyundai was established later as part of that growth, and today we are proud to operate as an authorised Hyundai main dealer, offering a full range of vehicles and services — from the latest electric and hybrid models to tailored fleet and business hire solutions. As a family-owned business, we remain committed to providing service that extends well beyond the initial sale. Our dedicated team works hard to ensure every aspect of car ownership is as smooth and rewarding as possible. Whether you're choosing the perfect vehicle for personal use or seeking a reliable solution for your business fleet, you can depend on us for the right advice and support.

## What We Offer

- New Hyundai Models – from the all-electric IONIQ to the versatile Tucson Hybrid.
- Electric & Hybrid Vehicles – greener driving without compromise on quality or performance.
- Approved Used Cars – over 1,000 carefully checked vehicles in group stock, with options for every budget.
- Flexible Finance – a wide range of leasing and finance packages to suit individual needs.
- Motability Specialists – helping eligible customers to gain greater independence.



## Community & Local Ties

Motorfair Hyundai is proud of its deep roots in Birmingham and the wider West Midlands. Over the years, we have supported countless community initiatives, from sponsoring local sports teams to working with charities and schools. Most recently, we have partnered with Parkinson's UK, helping to raise awareness and support vital research into the condition. We also invest in apprenticeships and training opportunities, nurturing the next generation of automotive specialists right here in Birmingham. For us, being part of the community is about more than selling cars — it's about giving back and building long-term relationships.

## Hyundai Technology & Innovation

Hyundai continues to lead the way in innovation, with advanced safety systems, cutting-edge connectivity and award-winning design. From features such as SmartSense driver assistance to state-of-the-art infotainment systems, every model in the Hyundai range is designed with the driver in mind. At Motorfair Hyundai, our team are fully trained to guide customers through the latest technology, ensuring they get the very best from their vehicle. Whether it's understanding how to get the most out of an EV battery, configuring in-car tech, or exploring new safety features, we're here to help make the transition into modern driving simple and enjoyable.

## Our Commitment to Service Excellence

At Motorfair Hyundai, we believe exceptional customer service is the foundation of our long-term success. For more than seven decades, we have built our reputation on trust, transparency and community engagement. We continue to reinvest in modern facilities, staff training and customer support to ensure every visit to our dealership is a positive experience. Our aftersales department is fully equipped with the latest diagnostic technology and staffed by highly trained technicians. While we specialise in Hyundai vehicles, we are proud to service and repair all makes and models. From routine care to complex repairs, we make it easy for drivers to keep their vehicles in peak condition. We offer a comprehensive range of servicing options, including minor, major and full services, each designed to keep your car safe, reliable and efficient. Customers can also take advantage of our air conditioning re-gas service, ensuring comfort all year round, and our in-house MOT testing, helping vehicles stay road legal and safe. To make essential maintenance more affordable, we also work with Bumper, a service that allows drivers to split repair bills into easy, interest-free monthly payments. This means you can approve the work your car needs without worrying about large upfront costs — keeping your vehicle in tip-top condition without breaking the bank. Whether you need a simple oil change, brake replacement, MOT, or major mechanical repair, our expert team is on hand to deliver dealership-level quality at competitive prices.

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## Conclusion

For over 70 years, Motorfair Hyundai has been a trusted name in the automotive industry. As a family-run business, we remain committed to delivering quality service, honest advice and a personalised approach to every customer. Whether you're looking for a new car, a reliable used vehicle or expert servicing, we have the solution for you.



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# How to plan an affordable stress free festive season this Yuletide

**WITH Christmas less than 100 days away and, with household budgets stretched, Lisa Stanley, Chief Sustainability Officer at Zero - zero.co.uk - shares 10 clever ways people can plan now so they can enjoy a Christmas they can afford - without overspending or over-consuming.**

Lisa said: "Christmas is about joy, not debt.

"By starting now, families can enjoy the festive season within their means, while making choices that are kinder to the planet.

"Smart money habits don't just save pounds - they save the planet too."

1. Work out a 'Christmas number' now - People can set a realistic total budget that gives them 100 days to save. Divide the Christmas number by 100 to ascertain what to put aside each day.

Apps like Zero enable people to track a GreenScore, a tool which shows the environmental impact of spending. At Christmas, when impulse buying and excess packaging can creep in, keeping an eye on both budgets and GreenScores helps save smarter and cut down on wasteful over-consumption.

2. Shop on shelves first - Do an audit of what's already at home - unopened toiletries, unread books or children's unused toys. Some can be re-gifted, repurposed, or upcycled

into gifts. Giving items a second life keeps them out of landfill and reduces the carbon impact of buying new. Even reusing just one toy rather than buying new can cut carbon footprint by around 0.6kg of CO2 equivalent per year - roughly the same as driving two miles in an average petrol car.

3. Go pre-loved and charity shopping - From vintage fashion to classic toys, pre-loved is booming. Charity shops and platforms like Vinted or eBay are treasure troves. Never underestimate consumer spending choices - choices are power, choosing pre-loved lowers demand for new production, cutting emissions and supporting a circular economy.

4. Plan experiences, not just things - Offer a home-cooked dinner date in January, babysitting tokens, or a DIY spa day. These cost little, mean a lot and spread Christmas joy into the new year. Simply put, experiences create memories without generating waste or clutter.

5. Use loyalty schemes and cash-back wisely - From supermarket loyalty cards to online cashback offers, stack rewards now to offset Christmas costs. A smart use of rewards means less overspending and fewer impulse buys that often go unused as a result.

6. Make the most of Black Friday - Start a Christmas gift list now and only buy during the sales if the item was already on the list and



is genuinely discounted. Sticking to a pre-made list reduces over-consumption, which keeps both the wallet and the planet in check.

7. Self-crafting - DIY hampers, homemade chutneys, or knitted scarves bring personal value. Start now to spread the effort. Handmade gifts cut down on mass-produced items and often use fewer resources, lowering your festive footprint - often they are far more valued by the recipient too!

8. Secret Santa for adults - Instead

of multiple gifts, pool with friends or family and each buy just one. Fewer gifts mean less packaging, less production, and less waste at the end of the season - and less shopping stress.

9. Freeze now, feast later - Start bulk-cooking and freezing meals or festive bakes with seasonal produce while prices are lower. Cooking in batches reduces food waste and saves the energy - and time - that would be used for multiple cooking sessions.

10. Embrace mindful wrapping - Avoid shiny foil papers that can't be recycled. Opt for brown paper or aesthetically pleasing and reusable fabric wraps. According to a Wired magazine study, the UK throws away 227,000 miles of wrapping paper every Christmas - that is the distance to the moon. Choosing reusable or recyclable alternatives help slash this waste, saving landfill space and cutting the emissions tied to producing new wrapping paper.

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**\*\*Optional Coach Pick Up**

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Monday 29th Sept - Friday 3rd Oct	Was £329 <b>NOW £279pp</b>
Monday 6th Oct - Friday 10th Oct	Was £325 <b>NOW £265pp</b>
Monday 13th Oct - Friday 17th Oct	Was £325 <b>NOW £265pp</b>
Monday 20th Oct - Friday 24th Oct	Was £325 <b>NOW £265pp</b>

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**\*\*Four Course Evening Meal \*\*Live Nightly Entertainment**  
**\*\*Optional Coach Pick Up \*\*FREE BAR 6pm-10pm**

Friday 19th Sept - Monday 22nd Sept	Was £325 <b>NOW £265pp</b>
Friday 26th Sept - Monday 29th Sept	Was £325 <b>NOW £259pp</b>
Friday 3rd Oct - Monday 6th Oct	Was £319 <b>NOW £255pp</b>
Friday 10th Oct - Monday 13th Oct	Was £309 <b>NOW £249pp</b>
Friday 17th Oct - Monday 20th Oct	Was £309 <b>NOW £249pp</b>
Friday 24th Oct - Monday 27th Oct	Was £309 <b>NOW £249pp</b>








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# SUDOKU

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

## EASY

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

## HARD

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

# PATHFINDER

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

## UK Airports

<b>E</b>	N	O	R	O	W	P	S	T	I	R	N	G	F	F
A	N	O	W	G	S	R	E	W	B	M	I	H	I	D
S	T	T	I	C	A	L	C	I	L	O	M	A	D	O
I	M	U	L	H	S	G	K	I	S	T	C	A	R	N
D	L	A	S	A	T	W	B	R	H	S	R	S	A	C
L	L	N	D	N	S	O	R	H	E	F	E	T	N	C
E	A	E	E	T	T	E	A	T	I	F	N	D	O	I
Y	V	S	A	M	D	D	E	H	E	L	O	L	Y	T
N	C	A	H	R	U	A	Y	L	D	E	E	E	L	
E	W	S	T	E	W	Q	W	N	A	R	D	T	B	F
V	I	L	L	N	L	L	A	R	D	B	S	S	S	A
E	R	S	E	S	C	K	C	O	F	O	B	E	T	C
O	P	Y	R	T	I	W	T	M	D	R	E	O	E	I
O	O	H	A	M	N	O	A	A	H	E	G	R	G	T
L	J	N	L	E	N	N	G	N	C	S	T	E	R	Y

Solutions opposite

# CROSSWORD

1		2		3			4		5		6
7							8				
						9					
10									11		
12						13					
						14				15	16
						17				18	
19		20							21		
22						23					
24							25				

## ACROSS

- 7. Skilled (6)
- 8. Acme (6)
- 10. Feeling (7)
- 11. Clear (5)
- 12. Rational (4)
- 13. Sham (5)
- 17. Avidity (5)
- 18. Couple (4)
- 22. Object (5)
- 23. Decisive (7)
- 24. Outcome (6)
- 25. Venerate (6)

## DOWN

- 1. Opposite (7)
- 2. Nominate (7)
- 3. Exhaust (5)
- 4. Fervent (7)
- 5. Nip (5)
- 6. Obscurity (5)
- 9. Guiltlessness (9)
- 14. Squirm (7)
- 15. Sailor (7)
- 16. Small truck (7)
- 19. Narrative (5)
- 20. Foremost (5)
- 21. Odd (5)

Scribble pad

# LADDER

Using the clues provided, fill in each step of the ladder with a new word, changing one letter at a time.

- Phoned
- Crooned
- Beach grains
- Spoke
- Cruise



# NINER

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

- 87553** gives a religious man;
- 531264** gives a religious man;
- 5789** gives a poet.

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

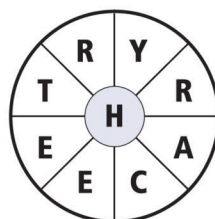
# CODEWORD

This puzzle has no clues. Instead, every number printed in the grid represents a letter, with the same number always representing the same letter. For example, if 8 turns out to be a V, you can write in V wherever a square contains 8. Using your knowledge of words, complete the puzzle.

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

# WORDWHEEL

You have 10 mins to find as many words as possible using the letters in the wheel. Each must use the hub letter and at least 3 others. Letters may be used only once. You cannot use plurals, foreign words or proper nouns. There is at least one 9-letter word to be found.

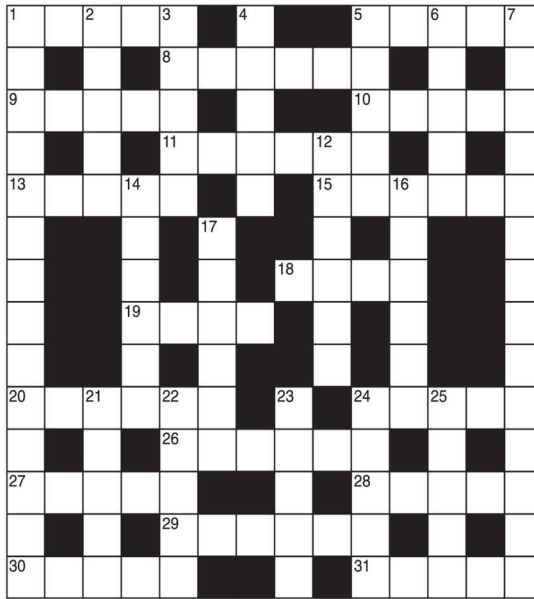


How you rate  
 15 words: average  
 25 words: good  
 35 words: very good  
 40 or more: excellent.

# GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

## ACROSS

- 1 Trousers, usually of blue denim (5)
- 5 Part of the front of a coat, continuing the collar (5)
- 8 & 18 Across Natural cave near Wells, Somerset (6,4)
- 9 Swiss heroine of a story by Johanna Spyri (5)
- 10 Island in the Pacific and an independent republic since 1968 (5)
- 11 The --- Society, Socialist organisation founded in 1884 (6)
- 13 River rising in the South Pennines and flowing through the Midlands to the Humber (5)
- 15 Neglect to follow suit at cards (6)
- 18 See 8 Across
- 19 & 5 Down One of the best-known works of Mrs Henry Wood (4,5)
- 20 Greek lyric poet famous for his Olympian Odes (6)
- 24 Our planet (5)
- 26 Musical instrument, one of a pair (6)
- 27 Mass of gold, silver or steel (5)
- 28 Water bird remarkable for the distance it stays submerged (5)
- 29 Group or stanza of eight lines (6)
- 30 One of the gigantic children of Uranus and Gaea (5)
- 31 A competition for motor vehicles over public roads (5)



## DOWN

- 1 Saint and prophet executed at the instigation of Salome (4,3,7)
- 2 Christopher Robin's companion "at Buckingham Palace" (5)
- 3 Surname of the author of The Battle of the Books (5)
- 4 Antechamber of a legislative hall (5)
- 5 See 19 Across
- 6 God of the underworld (5)
- 7 American film comedians, one thin, one fat (6,3,5)
- 12 Great merchant ship of Ragusa or Venice (6)
- 14 One of the daughters of the sea-god Nereus (6)
- 16 The capital of Austria (6)
- 17 String of beads used by Roman Catholics as a guide to devotions (6)
- 21 Time from sunset to sunrise (5)
- 22 Adopted first name used by Anne Bronte (5)
- 23 German submarine (1-4)
- 24 Low tree or shrub with white flowers and black berries (5)
- 25 French composer born in 1875 (5)

# SOLUTIONS

ACROSS: 1 Jeans; 5 Lapel; 8 Wootkey; 9 Heidi; 10 Nauru; 11 Fabian; 13 Trent; 15 Revoke; 18 Hole; 19 East; 20 Pindar; 24 Earth; 26 Cymbe; 27 Ingot; 28 Diver; 29 Revoke; 30 Titan; 31 Rally. DOWN: 1 John the Baptist; 2 Alice; 3 Swift; 4 Lobby; 5 Lyme; 6 Putter; 7 Laurel and Hardy; 12 Argosy; 14 Nereid; 16 Vienna; 17 Rosary; 21 Night; 22 Acton; 23 U-boat; 24 Elder; 25 Ravel.

**General Knowledge Crossword**  
 20 First; 21 Queer.  
 4 Zealous; 5 Pinch; 9 Innocence; 14 Wriggle; 15 Mariner; 16 Trolley; 19 Story; 22 Thing; 23 Crucial; 24 Result; 25 Reverse; Down: 1 Reverse; 2 Appoint; 3 Drain.

**Crossword**  
 Across: 7 Expert; 8 Zenith; 10 Emotion; 11 Lucid; 12 Sane; 13 Bonus; 17 Greed; 18 Pair; 22 Thing; 23 Crucial; 24 Result; 25 Reverse; Down: 1 Reverse; 2 Appoint; 3 Drain.

**Wordwheel Pathfinder**  
 East Midlands; Luton, Northwich, Stansfeld, Durham Tees Valley; Newcastle, St Mary's, Liverpool John Lennon, Gatwick, Cornwall; Newquay, Heathrow, Glasgow Prestwick, Bristol, Birmingham, Cardiff, Doncaster Sheffield, London City, Leeds Bradford, Manchester, George Best Belfast City.

**Ladder**  
 Rung, Rang, Sang, Sand, Said, Sail, Rail.

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

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



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## PUBLIC NOTICES

### PUBLIC NOTICES

#### Warwickshire County Council

##### ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

Warwickshire County Council has made the following Temporary Traffic Orders:

##### EASENHALL ROAD, HARBOROUGH MAGNA

**Order Effect:** Road closed to vehicular traffic.  
**Reason for Order:** To enable works for air valve rebuild chamber.  
**Order Commences:** 23 September 2025 for up to 18 months.  
**Anticipated Completion:** 25 September 2025.

**Access & Diversion:** Easenhall Road, Rugby Road, Pailton Road, The Green, Coventry Road, Stretton Road, Main Street, Lutterworth Road, The Crescent, Broad Street, Brinklow Road and vice versa.  
**Contractor:** Chevron TM Ltd, Tel: 03300 080 820.

##### OLIVER STREET, RUGBY

**Order Effect:** The road will be closed to eastbound traffic between Dale Street and A426; traffic exiting the roundabout westerly from A426 into Oliver Street will be unaffected.  
**Reason for Order:** To enable open cut works for existing main connection.  
**Order Commences:** 22 September 2025 for up to 18 months.  
**Anticipated Completion:** 26 September 2025.

**Access & Diversion:** Oliver Street, Lawford Road, Corporation Street, Evreux Way and vice versa.  
**Contractor:** VICOON, Tel: 03333 448 308.

##### CAWSTON LANE, DUNCHURCH

**Order Effect:** Road closed to vehicular traffic from Penland to Marshalls Rise.  
**Reason for Order:** To enable cabling & associated works.  
**Order Commences:** 22 September 2025 for up to 18 months.  
**Anticipated Completion:** 1 October 2025.  
**Access & Diversion:** Northampton Lane, Alwyn Road, Coventry Road, Cawston Lane and vice versa.  
**Contractor:** Callan Connect, Tel: 01213 275 167.

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

##### D20540 COTON ROAD, CHURCHOVER

**Order Effect:** Road closed to vehicular traffic from the A426 to Lutterworth Road.  
**Reason for Order:** Carriageway patching and associated works, 09.30hrs-15.30hrs.  
**Order Commences:** 7 October 2025 for up to 18 months.  
**Anticipated Completion:** 7 October 2025.  
**Access & Diversion:** A426, Lutterworth Road and vice versa.  
**Contractor:** Balfour Beatty, Tel: 03452 415 302.

##### MAIN STREET, NEWTON

**Order Effect:** Road closed to vehicular traffic.  
**Reason for Order:** For repair/replacement of defective manhole cover and frame.  
**Order Commences:** 9 October 2025 for up to 18 months.  
**Anticipated Completion:** 9 October 2025.  
**Access & Diversion:** Main Street, Newton Lane, Watling Street, A5, Market Harborough Road, Newton Road and vice versa.  
**Contractor:** Customer Solutions Plus, Tel: 07918 298 599.

##### TESWATER CLOSE, LONG LAWFORD

**Order Effect:** Road closed to vehicular traffic.  
**Reason for Order:** To enable repair/replacement of defective manhole cover and frame.  
**Order Commences:** 9 October 2025 for up to 18 months.  
**Anticipated Completion:** 9 October 2025.  
**Access & Diversion:** No diversion available.  
**Contractor:** Customer Solutions Plus, Tel: 07918 298 599.

##### HIGH STREET, MARTON

**Order Effect:** Road closed to vehicular traffic from a point adjacent to property number 46 outside properties 50 to 52.  
**Reason for Order:** To enable new water connection works.  
**Order Commences:** 7 October 2025 for up to 18 months.  
**Anticipated Completion:** 9 October 2025.  
**Access & Diversion:** No diversion available.  
**Contractor:** Network Plus, Tel: 01332 820 920.

##### LONGSTORK ROAD, RUGBY

**Order Effect:** Road closed to vehicular traffic.  
**Reason for Order:** To enable repair/replacement of defective manhole cover and frame.  
**Order Commences:** 9 October 2025 for up to 18 months.

**Anticipated Completion:** 9 October 2025.  
**Access & Diversion:** Crackthorne Drive, Tower Furlong and vice versa.  
**Contractor:** Customer Solutions Plus, Tel: 07918 298 599.

##### MAIN STREET, THURLASTON

**Order Effect:** Road closed to vehicular traffic.  
**Reason for Order:** Works to lay approx 300 metres of duct in the carriageway & verge.  
**Order Commences:** 6 October 2025 for up to 18 months.  
**Anticipated Completion:** 6 October 2025.  
**Access & Diversion:** No diversion available.  
**Contractor:** Callan Connect, Tel: 01213 275 167.

##### HOSKYN CLOSE, HILLMORTON, RUGBY

**Order Effect:** Road closed to vehicular traffic.  
**Reason for Order:** Works to lay approx 30m of duct in footway and approx 7m of duct in carriageway.  
**Order Commences:** 8 October 2025 for up to 18 months.  
**Anticipated Completion:** 9 October 2025.  
**Access & Diversion:** No diversion available.  
**Contractor:** M J Quinn, Tel: 01543 547 118.

##### BRANDON ROAD, WOLSTON

**Order Effect:** Road closed to vehicular traffic between the junctions of Coventry Road/Fosse Way and Brandon Road/Queens Road.  
**Reason for Order:** To enable parapet repairs following accident damage.  
**Order Commences:** 6 October 2025 for up to 18 months.  
**Anticipated Completion:** 7 November 2025.  
**Access & Diversion:** Bretford Road, Brandon Road, Rugby Road, A46 Coventry Eastern Bypass, A45 London Road, B4455 Fosse Way and vice versa. Vehicle access up to Bretford Bridge will be maintained as works and site safety permit.  
**Contractor:** Balfour Beatty, Tel: 03452 415 302.

##### CROSS STREET, LONG LAWFORD

**Order Effect:** Road closed to vehicular traffic.  
**Reason for Order:** Works to lay approx 20m of duct.  
**Order Commences:** 7 October 2025 for up to 18 months.  
**Anticipated Completion:** 7 October 2025.  
**Access & Diversion:** School Street, Baileys Lane, Main Street, Cross Street and vice versa.  
**Contractor:** Omnis Highway Solution, Tel: 01724 786 286.

##### D20530 LUTTERWORTH ROAD & SCHOOL STREET, CHURCHOVER

**Order Effect:** Road closed to vehicular traffic from Church Street to Coton Road.  
**Reason for Order:** Carriageway patching and associated works, 09.30hrs-15.00hrs.  
**Order Commences:** 9 October 2025 for up to 18 months.  
**Anticipated Completion:** 9 October 2025.  
**Access & Diversion:** Lutterworth Road, A426, A4071, Newbold Road, Main Street, Harborough Road, Rugby Road, Pailton Road, Montilo Lane and vice versa. Access to Churchover is not suitable to Heavy Goods Vehicles. Access to Churchover via Churchover Lane is restricted due to Ford and Low Bridge (height restricted to vehicles lower than 3.6m or 11'9" in height). Please access village via Lutterworth Road.  
**Contractor:** Balfour Beatty, Tel: 03452 415 302.

##### HUNTER STREET & CHESTER STREET, RUGBY

**Order Effect:** Hunter Street closed to vehicular traffic. In addition, the One-way traffic flow on Chester Street will be temporarily suspended.  
**Reason for Order:** To enable boundary box installation and associated works.  
**Order Commences:** 6 October 2025 for up to 18 months.  
**Anticipated Completion:** 7 October 2025.  
**Access & Diversion:** Corbett Street, Chester Street, Abbey Street, Cambridge Street, Hunter Street and vice versa.  
**Contractor:** For STW, Chevron TM Ltd, Tel: 03300 080 820.

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

To report any problems with these works or for further details of our current & planned roadworks visit our website [warwickshire.gov.uk/roadworksmap](http://warwickshire.gov.uk/roadworksmap) or call us 01926 412515. S Duxbury, Director of Strategy, Planning & Governance, Shire Hall, Warwick CV34 4RL Date 19 Sept 2025

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### GRANT of a PREMISES LICENCE

Name of applicant: **Reginald Pathmanathan** Premises: **Lower Local**, The Former Royal Warwick Club, Tower St, Coventry CV1 1S. License Activities: Sale of Alcohol Monday to Sunday 09:00 to 00:00 Off Sales Only, late night refreshments 23:00 to 05:00 Hours. Licensing authority: Coventry City Council, The Council House, Earl Street Coventry CV1 5SR. Or send an email to [licensing@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@coventry.gov.uk). The application may be viewed during normal office hours at the above address and further information may be available at [www.coventry.gov.uk](http://www.coventry.gov.uk) on the public register. Any person or responsible authority may make representations to the above address no later than 7TH October 2025. Any representations must be in writing. It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. The offence is punishable on summary conviction by a fine of any amount.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

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

**Application Number R25/0278**  
**9, CHURCH STREET, RUGBY, CV21 3PH**  
 Change Of Use of First Floor Offices to 1 Bed Flat Including Ground Floor Extension to create office space  
**This development may affect a Conservation Area**

**Application Number R25/0675**  
**13, HILLMORTON ROAD, RUGBY, CV22 5DF**  
 Listed Building consent for proposed replacement of 2 window panes from single glazing to double glazing  
**This development may affect a Listed Building. This development may affect a Conservation Area**

**Application Number R25/0706**  
**LAND AT PADGE HALL FARM, WATLING STREET, BURBAGE**  
 Reserved matters application for the provision of access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale details for Unit 2, further to permission Ref. R24/0081

**This application is accompanied by an Environmental Statement. This development is a departure from the Development Plan. This development may affect a Public Right of Way. This is a major development**

**Application Number R25/0757**  
**ST ANDREWS PARISH CHURCH, CHURCH STREET, RUGBY, CV21 3PT**  
 New lighting on posts in churchyard  
**This development may affect a Listed Building. This development may affect a Conservation Area**

**Application Number R25/0758**  
**LAND AT PADGE HALL FARM, WATLING STREET, BURBAGE**  
 Reserved matters application for the provision of appearance, landscaping, layout, scale and access details for Unit 3, further to permission ref. R24/0081

**This application is accompanied by an Environmental Statement. This development is a departure from the Development Plan. This development may affect a Public Right of Way. This is a major development**

Members of the public may inspect copies of the application, the plans and documents submitted with it online at: [www.planningportal.rugby.gov.uk](http://www.planningportal.rugby.gov.uk) or in an electronic form at: Town Hall, Evreux Way, Rugby CV21 2RR between the hours of 9.00 am and 5.00 pm Monday to Friday until **10 October 2025**. Please note a planning officer would not be present.

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

For household or minor commercial applications, in the event of an appeal against a refusal of planning permission, deal with on the basis of representations in writing, any representations made will be sent to the Secretary of State, and there will be no further opportunity to comment at the appeal stage.  
**Nicola Smith** - Growth and Investment Chief Officer  
**MRTP1**

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### Warwickshire County Council

#### ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

Warwickshire County Council has made the following Temporary Traffic Orders:  
**BASCOTE ROAD, UFTON**  
**Order Effect:** Road closed to vehicular traffic.  
**Reason for Order:** Repairs to leaking water network.  
**Order Commences:** 23 September 2025 for up to 18 months.  
**Anticipated Completion:** 25 September 2025.  
**Access & Diversion:** Bascote Road, Southam Road, Leamington Road, Banbury Road, Southern Bypass, Coventry Road, The Green, Church Road and vice versa.  
**Contractor:** Chevron Traffic Management Ltd, Tel: 03300 080 820.

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

To report any problems with these works or for further details of our current & planned roadworks visit our website [warwickshire.gov.uk/roadworksmap](http://warwickshire.gov.uk/roadworksmap) or call us 01926 412515. S Duxbury, Director of Strategy, Planning & Governance, Shire Hall, Warwick CV34 4RL. Date 19 Sept 2025

### Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

APNA Skip Hire Limited of 86 Henry Baxter Drive, Coventry, CV7 8QT is applying for a licence to use Unit 1 to 3 Leofric House, Waterman Road, Coventry, CV6 5TP as an operating centre for 4 goods vehicles and 1 trailer.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Quarry House, Quarry Hill, Leeds, LS2 7UE, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representatives must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available at [www.gov.uk/object-hgv-operator-licence](http://www.gov.uk/object-hgv-operator-licence).

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

Notice is hereby given that Amanj Mahdi Mahmood has applied to Coventry City Council for a PREMISES LICENCE for Kebab Express, 261 Tile Hill Lane, Coventry, CV4 9DW. The applicant proposes to carry out the following licensable activities: **To provide Late Night Refreshments (Indoors), Monday to Sunday - 23:00 to 04:00**. Any person wishing to lodge a representation concerning this application may write to: Licensing Authority, The Council House, Earl Street Coventry CV1 5SR. Or send an email to: [licensing@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@coventry.gov.uk). The application may be viewed during normal office hours at the above address and further information may be available at [www.coventry.gov.uk](http://www.coventry.gov.uk) on the public register.

Any representation relating to this application must be made in writing to the Licensing Authority by **Tuesday 14th October 2025**. Please note it is an offence to knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. The maximum fine on summary conviction for this offence is Unlimited.

### GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

**D42 Limited** trading as **D42 Car Logistics of Holly Grange Holly Lane, Balsall Common, Coventry, CV7 7EB** is applying for a licence to use **Lisiers PDI Centre, Lawford Heath Industrial Estate, Lawford Heath Lane, Lawford Heath, Rugby, CV23 9EU** as an operating centre for 4 goods vehicles and 4 trailers.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Quarry House, Quarry Hill, Leeds, LS2 7UE, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representatives must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available at [www.gov.uk/object-hgv-operator-licence](http://www.gov.uk/object-hgv-operator-licence).

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

CBW Resources Limited trading as AMCO of Amico Park, Ravensbank Business Park, North Moors Moat, Redditch, B98 9EX, GB, is applying change an existing licence as follows: To keep an extra 5 trailers at the operating centre at Leadbe, 460 Torrington Avenue, Tile Hill, Coventry, CV4 9HL, GB. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the office of the Traffic Commissioner, Quarry House, Quarry Hill, Leeds, LS2 7UE stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representatives must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-guide-to-making-representations-objections-and-complaints-goods-vehicle-operator-licensing>.

**TERENCE FREDERICK OAKLEY** (Deceased) Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 anyone having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the deceased, late of 54 Armfield Street, Coventry, West Midlands, CV6 7GE, who died on 21/10/2023, must send written particulars to the address below by 20/11/2025, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests notified.  
**Chris Walton**  
 c/o The Will Associates  
 Asset Management Limited,  
 Old Magistrates Court, Cheshire Street, Market Drayton, TF9 1PH  
 Ref: Oakley- KT

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### BRIAN HOLLOWAY (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 6 Cameron Close Lillington Leamington Spa Warwickshire CV32 7DZ, who died on 11/08/2025, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 20/11/2025, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.  
**DIXON ALBERTON LAW LIMITED,**  
 Prospero House, 44 Dorner Place, CV32 5AE

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### BRENDA MARIA BROOKES (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 Avalon Court, Care Centre 1 Glendale Way Coventry, CV4 9VQ, who died on 07/10/2024, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 20/11/2025, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.  
**BRINDLEY THWIST TAFF & JAMES LLP,**  
 59-61 Coten End Warwick CV34 4HU

### NORMA ANN LINDLEY (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 98 Parkside Road, Coventry, CV6 4GD, who died on 08/09/2025, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 20/11/2025, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.  
**JOHNS GILBERT & FRANKTON LLP,**  
 3 Regent Pl, Warwickshire, CV21 2PJ

### DAVID JOHN GARDNER (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 96 Parkside Road, Coventry, CV6 4GD, who died on 08/09/2025, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 20/11/2025, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.  
**Angels Solicitors LLP,** 117-119 New Union Street Coventry CV1 2NY

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Public Notices

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Application packs can be found on the church website:  
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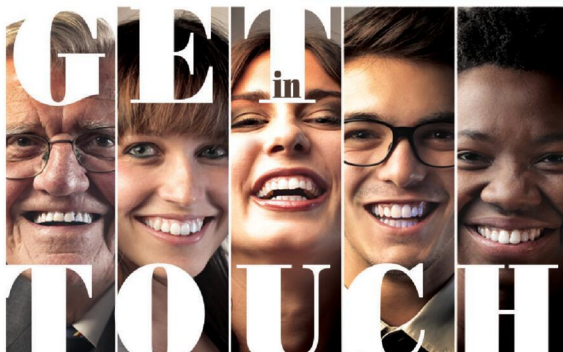
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# Sky Blues chairman King happy with 'lean' squad after transfers

by Aaron Sutcliffe  
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**FOOTBALL:** DOUG King has revealed Coventry City turned down 'significant offers' for a number of the club's key players during the summer transfer window.

Coventry owner and chairman King addressed the club's supporters in a video interview, answering a series of questions sent in by Sky Blues fans.

Some of the topics covered included the club's recent purchase of the Coventry Building Society Arena, the summer transfer window and potential improvements to the ground.

Reflecting on the club's summer transfer business, King felt City enjoyed a 'pretty good' window which saw the club sign four new players and allow five senior players to depart.

King also revealed Coventry turned down a number of bids for the club's key players with the chairman intent on keeping the core of the squad together.

King said: "The critical thing we needed to do this summer was to retain our quality and that was difficult."

"There were a lot of suitors for our top talent and the club turned down significant offers for several players."

"We wanted those players for this season. Myself, the head of recruitment Dean Austin and Frank Lampard worked extremely closely together."

"The head coach picks the team so ultimately he has to have the sign off on every player coming to the football club. Otherwise it doesn't work."

"We believe, from the momentum we got from when the head coach came in in November, if we kept the core together and

Doug King answered a series of questions submitted by Coventry City supporters.



enhanced the first team that would not cause too much disruption to stop the momentum.

"By and large I think we did a pretty good deal. We achieved a lot of what we wanted to do. The stadium purchase didn't affect that."

"The one thing I like, and this is a personal preference, I like a squad to be quite lean because it brings togetherness and everybody has to be on it every day."

"If your squad is a little bit too big, it can distract from that pure focus we need to get out of the league."

The club completed the purchase of the CBS Arena last month in a landmark deal for the Sky Blues.

However, King refused to be drawn on the financial details of the deal which saw City buy the ground from previous owners Frasers Group.

King added: "Running a Championship club

is a challenge for a lot of reasons.

"The main one being that the Championship itself is an unfair playing field with the parachute payment clubs coming down and having more to spend."

"We're running an operating loss of around £7 to 8million a year which is a huge undertaking."

"The stadium coming in will help us for sure and it can help us a lot if we drive the revenues to where we hope we might be able to get to."

"The acquisition price - I won't go into the details of that. Traditionally, when you're buying a property, there'll be some equity and some debt."

"That tends to be how you finance assets and you wouldn't be too far wrong if you think that's probably how this was structured."

To watch the interview in full, visit this story online at: [coventryobserver.co.uk/sport](http://coventryobserver.co.uk/sport)



## Women claim national title on home green

**BOWLS:** ROYAL Leamington Spa Bowling Club became the first side from Warwickshire to win the women's top club competition at the Bowls England National Championships.

The team of Emily Kernick (singles), Michelle Meadowcroft and Kirsty Richards (pairs), Dawn Horne, Anita Cowdrill and Janice White (triples), Caroline Edwards, Chris Leigh, Jenny Wickens and Heather Mills (fours) helped Leamington claim the prestigious national title.

Reserve player Caroline Williams played in several earlier rounds while

Jacqui Ashley also supported the team managed by Jerry Horne.

Leamington beat Kings from Devon 3-1 in the final on their home green at Victoria Park.

Kernick beat Kings' Sophie Tolchard 21-12 in the singles before the double of Meadowcroft and Richards won their match 21-9.

Kings responded to win the triples 26-14 before Leamington's four triumphed 12-11 to clinch the national title.

**Royal Leamington Spa Bowling Club's women won the top club prize at the National Championships. s**

## Henry to represent GB on world stage

**ROWING:** RUGBY-born Lauren Henry has earned a place in the Great Britain squad for the upcoming World Rowing Championships.

Henry forms part of a 48-strong Team GB squad who will head to Shanghai, China from September 21 to 28.

The 23-year-old will race in the women's single sculls event after winning gold in the same discipline at the European Championships in Plovdiv, Bulgaria earlier this year.

British Rowing director of performance, Louise Kingsley said: "We have had a strong start to the LA cycle topping the medal table at the European Rowing Championships and winning the overall World Rowing Cup."

"Now we're at the business end of the season and expect to meet some fierce competition in China as we face crews from across the world."

"Lining up in Shanghai, we have some unchanged crews who have produced impressive results this year."

"We also have some new combinations, where we are welcoming athletes back into the squad including those who have been away at University."

"We're looking forward to seeing how they all perform at the Shanghai Water Sports Centre."

**Lauren Henry in action at the 2025 European Rowing Championships. Picture by Benedict Tunnell/ British Rowing.**



## Blaze respond to defeat in season opener with victory against Storm in Challenge Cup

**ICE HOCKEY:** COVENTRY Blaze began the season with two thrilling encounters against Manchester Storm in the Challenge Cup.

Blaze suffered a 6-4 defeat in their season opener at Planet Ice Altrincham as Storm scored two late goals to triumph.

However, Coventry responded to win 5-4 in the return fixture at the Skydome Arena as Alessio Luciani scored an overtime winner.

Kevin Moore's side made the worst possible start to the season as Blaze conceded three goals in the first 10 minutes at Planet Ice Altrincham.

A powerplay goal from Brandon Cutler at 5:23 broke the deadlock before Brady Gilmour struck at 7:51 and Tyler Hinam netted at 8:39 to leave Coventry with a mountain to climb.

Moore called a timeout to settle his side and the delay paid off as Luciani reduced the deficit shorthanded at 10:58 to score Blaze's first goal of the new season.

However, Manchester restored their three-goal lead in the second period at 27:37 as Joseph Nardi scored on the powerplay.

Penalties swung the momentum back in Coventry's favour as William Boysen capitalised on a five-on-three situation to strike at 30:24.

And defenceman Colton Saucerman then hammered home on the powerplay at 33:49 to close the gap to a single goal.

Coventry eventually drew level in the third period at 47:40 as Elijah Barriga finished Matthew Gleason's drop pass.

However, Storm reclaimed the lead at 55:32 when Loren Ulett slipped the puck through the pads of Blaze netminder Mat Robson.

And the home side sealed the win at 58:31 as Gary Haden finished into an empty net after Blaze pulled Robson for an extra skater.



Blaze secured an overtime win against Manchester. Picture by Scott Wiggins.

Coventry responded to the setback by picking up their first win of the season in the return fixture at the Skydome.

Blaze opened the scoring at 3:57 as Gleason scored his first professional goal from Barriga's assist.

Manchester equalised at 12:31 when former Blaze forward JD Dudek converted Ulett's feed at the far post.

And Storm completed the turnaround in the second period at 35:31 as Kaleb Ergang finished Cutler's wrap-around pass.

Blaze drew level just 29 seconds into the third period when Gleason pounced to finish a rebound from Archie Hazeldine's initial shot.

And Coventry reclaimed the lead at 43:14 as Saucerman blasted home only for Storm to equal-

ise at 45:26 through Ulett on the powerplay.

Moore's side went back in front on 51 minutes when Luciani scored his second shorthanded goal in as many matches.

However, Manchester took the game to overtime as Brady Gilmour finished from close range at 55:34.

Blaze secured an extra point in overtime as Luciani scored his second of the game at 63:18 from Gleason's assist.

Coventry continue their Challenge Cup campaign against Guildford Flames on Saturday, September 20 with the face-off at 6pm at the Guildford Spectrum.

Blaze then host Cardiff Devils at the Skydome on Sunday, September 21 with the face-off at 5.30pm.

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## Borough too strong for high-flying Corby

**FOOTBALL:** RUGBY Borough returned to winning ways with a commanding 3-0 home victory against Corby Town.

Borough leapfrogged Corby in the table after Tendai Daire, Bryan Kohyrelon and Will Grocott all found the net at Kilsby Lane.

The result means Rugby sit third in the Northern Premier League Midlands table, two points behind leaders Coventry Sphinx who have a game in-hand.

Borough broke the deadlock on 31 minutes as Daire's fine effort put the home side in front.

And Rugby sealed the points in the first minute of injury time in the second half as Kohyrelon beat four players before finding the net.

Borough struck again four minutes later when Grocott scored from the penalty spot to put the seal on an impressive victory.



Will Grocott in a tight spot. Picture by Brian Dainty.

Rugby are next in action against Shepshed Dynamo on Saturday, September 20 with kick-off at 3pm at the Dovecot Stadium.

## Valley stun Students with late comeback

CAINE Elliott scored with virtually the last kick of the game as Rugby Town struck twice late on to draw 2-2 at Loughborough Students.

Elliott levelled the game six minutes into injury time after Rivel Mardenborough's 83rd-minute strike kept Valley in the contest at Loughborough Stadium.

That came after goals from Marcus Gilpin and Hussein Issa put Loughborough in command only for Rugby to stage a dramatic late comeback.

The result means Valley sit 19th in the Northern Premier League Midlands table, one point from safety in the relegation zone.

All four goals came

after the break as Gilpin put Loughborough ahead on 54 minutes after good work from Issa.

And Issa doubled Loughborough's lead on 78 minutes with a clinical finish past Rugby goalkeeper Tomasz Bukowski.

However, Rugby halved the deficit seven minutes from time when Mardenborough's low effort on the turn set up a grandstand finish.

And Elliott snatched a point for Valley six minutes into stoppage time when his deflected free-kick drifted into the net.

Rugby are next in action against Belper Town in the FA Trophy on Saturday, September 20 with kick-off at 3pm at Butlin Road.

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