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

Government urged to clear asylum backlog

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

COUNCILLORS in Rugby have called on the government to clear the asylum claims backlog - while acknowledging migrant workers' contributions to the town's economy and community.

Rugby Borough Council has adopted a resolution calling on the government to urgently clear the backlog which has led to hotels being used as asylum accommodation, allowing them to return to community use.

During a debate, councillors recognised that families and children of migrants seeking refuge were being supported in Rugby, and thanked the work of agencies and volunteers.

They also welcomed the council's policy which allows the public to have a say on the density of Houses of Multiple Occupation in the borough.

In a speech to councillors, Coun Claire Edwards, the council's spokesperson for Communities, Homes, Regulation and Safety, highlighted how the first Syrian families who came to Rugby in 2012 were now settled and contributing to the economy through their jobs and taxes, and were now valued members of the community.

She also said families from Ukraine, Hong Kong and Afghanistan had also been welcomed and well-supported.

She added: "Whilst migrants seeking asy-

lum are here in Rugby, we need to treat them with the British values we all hold dear - that of compassion, of tolerance, of respect and dignity in the way that everyone in this chamber expects to be treated and expects to treat other people in our community, whether they are new to Rugby or just passing through.

"That does not mean we continue as usual, but to urge better dialogue, quicker asylum decision making and that everyone is subject to the same rules that we have - which means keeping women and girls safe."

Coun Isabelle McKenzie, Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrat group, said the current system of asylum hotels did not benefit the community, the asylum seekers or the country.

She added: "Cutting the wait time for decisions from years to months will remove the need for asylum hotels and get those who are genuine asylum seekers a chance to work and integrate into our communities."

"This is why we are calling on the government to cut the wait times, remove the backlog and treat this as an emergency."

The council will now seek legal advice on the use of hotels as asylum accommodation, and the options available regarding the further use of local hotels.

It will also formally call on the government to develop a 'sustainable, properly planned, and community consulted approach' to asylum accommodation, and implement an 'urgent programme' to clear the 70,000 asylum-claim backlog.



Coventry and Warwickshire ICB's Trauma Vanguard team at the HSJ Patient Safety Awards.

PROUD AND HUMBLED: A project to help youngsters who have experienced trauma in Coventry and Warwickshire has been recognised at an award ceremony.

The Trauma Vanguard team at NHS Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board has been highly commended in two categories at the HSJ Patient Safety Awards for their Positive Directions project.

The programme tackles the physical, mental, and social challenges faced by children and young people who have experienced significant trauma.

It aims to create a more supportive and understanding environment by addressing the impact of trauma on an individual's health.

Lyn Ranson, Clinical Consultant Lead for the Trauma Vanguard team, said: "We are incredibly proud and humbled."

"This recognition is testament to our multi-agency team, who work tirelessly to support children and families facing complex circumstances."

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LEFT: Permanent reminder - Executive director of BID Leamington Stephanie Kerr, Carole Sleight and David CARGO from Whittle Productions, lights committee member Sidney Syson and Coun Will Roberts by the information panel. RIGHT: The Spotlight Festival, held earlier this year, saw Jephson Gardens lit up once again. Picture by James Callaghan.



Hottest tickets in town

TICKETS are now on sale for this year's Warwick Town Bonfire and Fireworks on Saturday November 1.

Gates at Warwick Racecourse open at 5pm with a range of refreshments available. The racecourse bar will also be open and hot punch on sale. Tables can be booked in the Kingmaker restaurant offering a great view of the show.

Award-winning Fantastic Fireworks will blast things off with a ten minute display at 6pm to keep little ones entertained. The Bonfire will be lit at 6.30pm and then the main 20 minute firework show will start at 6.45pm.

Music will again be provided by the ever-popular Sambassadors of Groove.

Visit www.jockeyclub.co.uk/warwick or www.warwicktownbonfire.org.uk for tickets, priced £9 (£2 for children between three to 15, infants under three free).

Last year's event raised £24,000 for local charities and good causes.

A timely light reminder

A PERMANENT reminder of the Lights of Leamington festival has been installed in Jephson Gardens.

Organised by the then Leamington Borough Council, and first held in 1951, The Lights of Leamington was the town's dazzling contribution to the Festival of Britain, transforming the gardens into a "fairyland of colour".

The festival ran annually until 1961, drawing thousands of visitors each year with its illuminated displays, fire-

works, live music, and even a floating ballet stage.

Now as part of a major project conceived and brought to life by Whittle Productions Community Interest Company, and funding received from The National Lottery Heritage Fund, five illustrative panels have been placed in Jephson Gardens allowing visitors to find out more about the festival and why it was so important to the town and community.

Whittle Productions directors Carole Sleight and David CARGO said: "The Lights of Leamington was a

magical and much-loved event that lit up our town and the lives of so many local people and visitors. To see it now recognised on permanent display in Jephson Gardens is a fitting tribute to all those who created, experienced and remembered it."

Warwick District Council's neighbourhood spokesperson Coun Will Roberts added: "The Lights of Leamington display panels are a welcome addition to Jephson Gardens, reminding people of the joy that this beautiful public space has brought and continues to bring to residents

and visitors to our district over the decades."

In addition to the information panels, the Lights of Leamington project has seen the filming and archiving of over 100 community stories through open days and outreach, with a number deposited with Warwickshire County Record Office, a documentary film, multi-media exhibition, commemorative brochure and community open days.

Inspired by the Lights of Leamington, the Spotlight Festival was held in February, including a light show.

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Grants on offer for anti-crime projects

CASH is available for initiatives across Warwickshire working to prevent crime.

The Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner's Crime Prevention and Diversion Grants Scheme awards funding to community groups, charities and organisations working to address the priority areas of the Police and Crime Plan.

Last year, 27 projects were supported with £275,000 across Warwickshire. This sits alongside commissioned services, which offer support to victims and survivors of crime in Warwickshire. In total, over £3.4 million is provided to protect communities and safeguard people who are most at risk of harm in Warwickshire.

Philip Seccombe, Police and Crime Commissioner for Warwickshire, said: "I am continually impressed by the wide variety of initiatives which apply for my grants fund, reflecting the hard work so many are delivering across the county.

"I encourage anyone who think they may have a suitable project that will benefit from this funding to please get in touch. Applications close at midday on Wednesday November 5.

"I hope to see applications from a wide range of community groups, charities and organisations with innovative projects that can make a real difference to communities. By providing crime prevention schemes to prevent offences taking place, as well as

delivering diversionary activities for those at risk of offending or re-offending, my grant scheme aims to make a real difference in making Warwickshire a safer place for all."

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College campus aimed at helping SEND students set for next year

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

A NEW college campus to help young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) into work will open in Rugby next year.

Creating Tomorrow College (CTC) has announced plans to open a new SEND campus in Rugby next September to provide employment-focused education to young people.

The Rugby campus will offer two specialist study programmes.

Pathway to Employment will combine structured work placements, classroom learning, and community engagement; while Supported Internship, which follows after Pathway to Employment, will comprise intensive, industry-focused placements designed to support a successful transition into paid employment.

The CTC campus will offer a full five-days-a-week programme aiming to mirror the pattern of full-time employment and enable learners to build stamina, confidence and consistency.

A CTC spokesperson said: "Learners benefit from practical training, a college that's embedded within a live workplace, experience of a wide range of roles in the world of work and local work placements in Rugby and the wider Warwickshire area."

"Students typically attend for up to three years, progressing in their second or third year to supported internships that provide valuable industry-specific



experience and a pathway to long-term, sustainable employment."

CTC, which runs similar campuses in Wellingborough, Kettering, Daventry, and Lutterworth, is expanding in response to local demand for post-18 education which prepares young people with SEND for meaningful employment.

National statistics reveal that 86 per cent of adults with a learning difficulty who are not in work want a job, but only 4.8 per cent the UK currently hold paid employment.

CTC Principal Gareth Ivett said: "Warwickshire has a strong commitment to supporting young people with special educational needs and the county is clearly dedicated to creating inclusive opportunities, which makes it the ideal place for us to grow our provision."

"The new Rugby campus will allow us to work closely with local learners, families, schools, and employers to create meaningful opportunities and brighter futures for young people with learning disabilities across Warwickshire."

Applications to the Rugby campus are now open to learners aged 18-25 with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). Visit www.creatingtomorrow-college.co.uk for more information.

The new campus will follow in the footsteps of CTC's existing campuses by providing employment-focused education to young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.



Councillors at WCC's Shire Hall HQ in Warwick have declared a funding emergency for SEND provision. Picture by Marcus Mingins 4520005MMR3 www.buyphotos247.com

Funding emergency declared

A FUNDING emergency for SEND provision has been declared at Warwickshire County Council.

Councillors voted in support of a declaration recognising the increasingly challenging situation faced by many families across Warwickshire, and the urgent need to prioritise children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

The motion acknowledged the financial pressures associated with delivering the services.

Councillors expressed serious concerns about the national funding model for SEND, which they say disproportionately impacts Warwickshire, and places undue pressure on local resources.

With the statutory override due to end next March, WCC is seeking clarity on future funding to ensure it can continue to meet its legal obligations to children and young people with SEND while maintaining the council's overall financial sustainability.

As part of the declaration, WCC agreed to write to the secretary of state for educa-

tion, requesting further information on how national funding arrangements will support local authorities in the coming years.

The council will also call for a review of the funding formula for the Dedicated Schools Grant and High Needs Block, to ensure it reflects the needs of children and families in Warwickshire.

WCC leader Coun George Finch said: "The current financial situation cannot continue indefinitely. Families in Warwickshire are facing real challenges in accessing the support their children need."

"As a council, we are doing everything we can to manage the escalating costs while fulfilling our legal obligations. But let's be clear - this is no longer just a local challenge, it's a national emergency."

"We are calling on the government to act swiftly and decisively to ensure that SEND provision is properly funded in Warwickshire to ensure that we have the resources needed to provide Warwickshire's children and young people with the services they deserve."

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LEFT: Courageous supporters of The Myton Hospices prepare to take the plunge. **ABOVE:** Scaling the heights - some of the 118 daredevils who took on the fund-raising challenge. **RIGHT:** Coventry University Lecturers (left to right) Karen Heywood, Hayley Scuttis, Donna Royle, Laura O'Brien, Carolyn Letchford, Jess Waldron and Kay Blackmore prepare for their daring abseil.

Coming down as the total goes up

DAREDEVILS took fund-raising to new heights when they broke records at the Myton Hospices' annual sponsored abseil down Coventry Cathedral.

Some 118 courageous supporters of the hospice charity abseiled down the iconic building on Saturday (September 27), raising £82,518 to support local people living with life-limiting illnesses.

The daring challenge saw participants descend the city's iconic landmark to help raise vital funds for the charity, with sponsorship still coming in.

Natalie Walker, Events and Campaigns Manager at The Myton Hospices, said: "We are incredibly

grateful to each and every person who joined us on Saturday and braved their fears and stepped out of their comfort zone - quite literally - to raise vital funds for Myton.

"Your support means more people can access the expert, compassionate care they need and deserve. We cannot thank you enough."

Among the participants were lecturers from Coventry University.

The University's Nursing Associates teaching team - including Donna Royle, Laura O'Brien, Jess Waldron, Karen Heywood, Carolyn Letchford, Kay Blackmore and Hayley Scuttis - raised a total of £3,270.

The team was motivated to take the plunge due to their professional and

personal experiences with end-of-life care.

Laura O'Brien, lecturer on Coventry University's Nursing Associate course, said: "Myton has meant a lot to me for years. My daughters and I began fundraising around eight years ago after losing a close relative, often joining fun runs in Coventry and Warwickshire in neon wigs.

"More recently, my nan, Penny McClafferty, passed away peacefully at Coventry Myton Hospice, surrounded by family. The care was outstanding, and I'll always be grateful for that final moment together.

"I'm incredibly proud of our Nursing Associates teaching team for taking part in the abseil - it was an amazing

experience, made even more special by doing it with my work family. I've never felt fear like that before and was still shaking two hours after!"

Karen Heywood, Course Director for Nursing Associates Apprentices, said: "Each of us has been touched by Myton's work.

"As nurses, nursing associates and midwives, we understand the importance of quality end-of-life care. It's especially important to support Myton now, as we honour the compassion and care they offer during life's most difficult moments."

Chloe Hollingsworth, Course Director for Fashion, Brand and Communication, also took part.

She said: "I hope my fund-raising

helps make someone's life more comfortable and encourages others to support this amazing cause."

This year, it will cost £15.3million for The Myton Hospices to continue providing free services at its hospices in Coventry, Rugby and Warwick to patients and their families across Coventry and Warwickshire.

With only 17 per cent of funding coming from the NHS, the charity must raise £12.7million - over £1 million every month - through donations and fundraising events.

Visit www.mytonhospice.org/Events for more information about taking part in future events. Participants can view and buy their photos at www.mytonhospice.org/Abseil-2025.



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Thugs jailed after 'shocking' assault in broad daylight

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

A 'SHOCKING' attack in broad daylight in Coventry has earned the two culprits a combined 18-and-a-half years in jail.

Leonard Hunte, 19, and Horeb Mayukua, 22, attacked a man in Stoney Stanton Road in January this year.

Police said the victim was walking down the road when Hunte and Mayukua pulled up alongside him in a car.

They got out and attacked him, stabbing him multiple times as he fought to defend himself.

The man survived having found refuge in a nearby shop while his attackers fled.

His injuries were not life-threatening despite heavy blood loss.

Following an investigation by



Leonard Hunte.



Horeb Mayukua.

Coventry Local Policing Area's investigations team, Hunte and Mayukua were identified and arrested.

Both were charged later in January and appeared at court on Friday (September 26) where they were both sentenced.

Hunte was jailed for 12 years for wounding, while Mayukua was jailed for six-and-a-half years.

Det Insp Sherrie Kimberley, from Coventry Local Policing Area, said: "This was a shocking attack in broad daylight which could easily have resulted in a man losing his life.

"Every day officers from all our teams work to keep the streets safe with regular patrols and operations.

"Violence on the streets of Coventry is completely unacceptable and we'll continue to arrest those who would carry weapons and use them."



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Man arrested in city centre after police recover Taser

A MAN has been arrested in Coventry after police recovered a Taser in the city.

Officers on foot patrol in Spon End saw a man acting suspiciously and chased him towards Windsor Street.

While running, the man threw an object away. This was recovered and found to be a live Taser.

The man, in his 20s, was arrested on suspicion of possession of a Taser.

A Coventry Police spokesperson said: "Our city centre neighbourhood officers are continuing their work to keep the people of Coventry safe.

"The team carries out patrols and operations on a daily

basis, acting on information we receive from the community.

"Remember, if you see anything suspicious or have concerns about crime or anti-social behaviour where you live, let us know."

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Have your say on play area revamp

A PUBLIC consultation has been launched to give residents the chance to have a say on the refurbishment of the Frobisher Road play area.

Rugby Borough Council has confirmed plans to refurbish the play area and now wants the community to take part in the consultation to help shape the design.

Consultation packs are set to be delivered to nearby schools and homes, while the wider community can have a say by completing an online consultation form on the council's website.

Coun Maggie O'Rourke, the council's spokesperson for partnerships and wellbeing, said: "Public consultations play an important part in our rolling programme of improvements to our parks and play areas, so I'd encourage residents to get involved and have a say on the plans."

"Feedback from this consultation can help shape our masterplan for the refurbishment of the Frobisher Road play area and deliver facilities which meet the community's needs."

The consultation closes at 5pm on Wednesday October 22. Visit www.rugby.gov.uk/frobisher to take part.

£100k donation boosts plans for drop-in centre

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

A NEW high-street health-care drop-in centre planned for Rugby is a step closer, thanks to a donation to the town's hospital charity.

The Rugby Group Benevolent Fund has donated £100,000 to the Friends of St Cross, the charity which supports the Hospital of St Cross and community and mental health services.

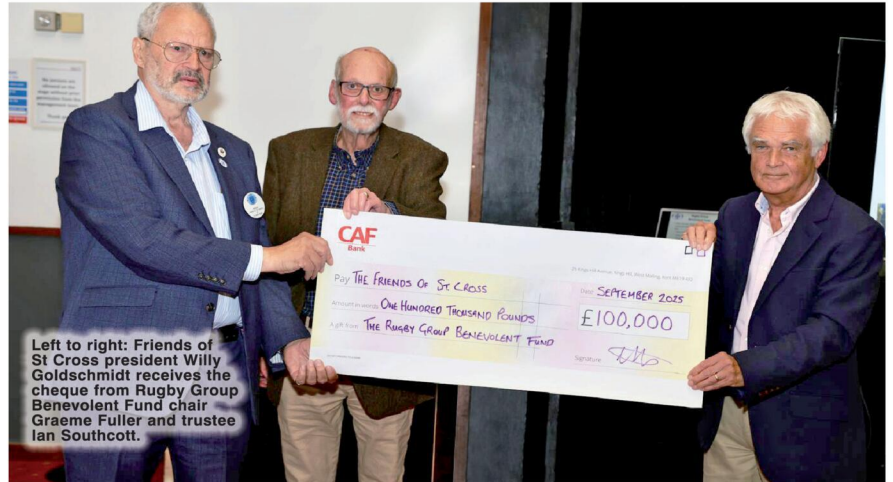
The donation will help establish the new town centre drop-in facility, aimed at improving access to health services for residents.

The centre, which is expected to open in late 2026, will offer advice, support, treatment and referrals for a range of health and wellbeing services.

It is designed to bridge the gap between clinical care and community support, making it easier for residents to engage with health professionals and access preventative care.

Fund chair Graeme Fuller and trustees John Brooks, David Holton and Ian Southcott presented the donation cheque at the Friends of St Cross AGM, also attended by the High Sheriff of Warwickshire and the Mayor of Rugby.

Willy Goldschmidt, president of The Friends of St Cross, said: "The



Left to right: Friends of St Cross president Willy Goldschmidt receives the cheque from Rugby Group Benevolent Fund chair Graeme Fuller and trustee Ian Southcott.

Friends are deeply grateful for all the support we have received from the Rugby Group Benevolent Fund over the years.

"This generous donation significantly empowers us to expand our contribution to this new health facility."

"With this boost, we can bring even more vital services closer to the people of Rugby, making a

meaningful difference in our community."

The Benevolent Fund was established by Rugby Cement in 1955 to support the welfare of employees, former employees, and their dependants.

Over the years, it has expanded its mission to include charitable causes in communities around former and existing cement plants and quarries.

While supported by Cemex UK, the Fund remains independently managed by a board of trustees made up of former employees.

Mr Fuller said: "We are pleased to support the Friends of St Cross in their efforts to bring health services closer to the community. This donation reflects our commitment to improving the lives of people living and working in our local area."

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Gerry Logue presents the cheque to Bradby Club young carers and staff.

Masons club together in donation

A YOUTH club in Rugby can continue providing a break for young carers in the town, thanks to a donation from local Masons.

The Bradby Club gratefully accepted the £2,300 donation, which will fund activities put on for young carers at the club.

Gerry Logue, Worshipful Mastee and founder member of Collegiate Masonic Lodge in Coventry, presented the donation, which was raised by members of the Warwickshire

Provincial Masonic Lodge and the St Philip's Masonic Lodge.

Club trustee Alison Ross said: "We were pleased that the cheques were presented during a young carers session, so that Mr Logue could meet up with the young people and see some of the ways in which the money is spent.

"The donation will be a tremendous help in paying towards the weekly sessions of young carers who meet on a Tuesday afternoon on

alternate weeks – juniors aged from six to 11 and seniors aged from 12-17.

"They take part in a variety of activities – and on this particular afternoon they were busy making blackberry and apple crumbles.

"The Masons' donation makes a tremendous difference by expanding the activities we can arrange for the young people. The club is extremely grateful to both Masonic Lodges for their generosity."

Stories, book fairs & trails in Literary Festival

by Andy Morris
andy.morris
@bullivantmedia.com

THE SECOND chapter of the Rugby Literary Festival begins today (Friday October 3), following a successful inaugural event last year.

During the three-day festival, the town centre will host a variety of events including storytelling, workshops, book fairs, authors, discussion panels, competitions, street art, children's activities and a Story Trail.

The Story Trail map can be collected from the Rugby Literary Festival information point in Rugby Central shopping centre – pointing the way to a variety of fun activities and story-telling adventures, with goodie bags available to all who complete the trail.

Children are encouraged to complete the trail dressed as their favourite character for a chance to win a special prize.

The festival will also fea-



Tom the Story-Teller will give lively readings during the festival.

is the second Rugby Literary Festival that has taken place and I am absolutely delighted with the programme and the amount of interest it has generated.

"A special thanks to all those who have come together to support the event along with Rugby Borough Council, Tritax Big Box, Rugby Central, The Rugby Hotel, The Percival Guildhouse, Warwickshire libraries and local author Lindsay Woodward.

"Please remember to shop locally whenever possible and show your love and support for our Rugby Town Centre businesses."

The Rugby Literary Festival takes place from today (October 3) to Sunday (October 5). Visit the website at www.rugbyliteraryfestival.co.uk for the full programme and bookings. A free festival guide is also available from town centre businesses and Rugby Visitor Centre at Rugby Library.

ture a special Family Day on Sunday (October 5), featuring free workshops and giveaways for children.

The festival is being organised by Rugby First in partnership with Rugby Borough Council and a variety of groups, authors, local businesses and organisations.

Rugby First business director Linda Lowne said: "This

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Get ready for Diwali festival

DIWALI will illuminate the top of the Parade in Leamington next month as the community comes together to celebrate the Festival of Light.

The Diwali light switch-on will take place on Sunday October 12 from 6pm to 8pm. Members of the Indian community will come together with people of all faiths in a harmonious celebration of unity and cultural diversity, to mark the start of the Diwali festivities.

Diwali symbolises the spiritual victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance, and is observed all over the world by the Indian diaspora.

The event will feature a celebration of Indian heritage and culture, with an energetic Dhol Tasha performance and Bollywood songs and dance.

The lights will be switched on by Warwick District Council chairman Coun Naveen Tangri at 7pm.

Coun Tangri said: "Last year's event was such a great success, with hundreds coming together to show that Warwick district is united in its acceptance and celebration of other cultures. I look forward to welcoming everyone to the event for a diverse celebration of Indian heritage and culture."

Businesses quick to join Big Sleep Out appeal

FUNDRAISERS are being called to sign up for the tenth annual Big Sleep Out and Dawn Walk in Leamington.

Participants from across Warwickshire will spend a night outdoors in the grounds of All Saints Church on Friday October 10 to raise funds and awareness for those experiencing homelessness and hardship in the local area.

Several prominent local businesses have already pledged their support, including Thomas Flavell & Sons and Fine & Country, both of which will have teams taking part on the night.

Eleanor Deeley, joint managing director of Deeley Construction, will also be taking part.

She said: "I am pleased to be supporting Helping Hands Community Project by attending their tenth annual sleep out on World Homelessness Day.

"The lack of affordable and social housing has caused the rate of homelessness to soar across the UK, a reality which thousands of vulnerable people face every day.

"More high-quality affordable houses

by Philippa Mingins

are urgently needed to improve quality of life and better futures. When housing costs are reduced, individuals can allocate funds for other necessities."

In addition to the sleepout, participants will also be invited to join the Dawn Walk the following morning. The guided walk through Leamington symbolises 'A New Dawn' and highlights key local sites linked to homelessness, finishing at Helping Hands' Althorpe Street office with breakfast and refreshments.

Stacey Calder, events co-ordinator at Helping Hands, added: "This event is about more than just one night – it's about raising awareness, opening conversations, and showing solidarity with those who face the harsh reality of homelessness every day.

"By joining us on World Homeless Day, our community and local businesses can demonstrate the power we have when we come together to make change happen."

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



Fundraisers are being called to sign up for the Big Sleep Out for Helping Hands.



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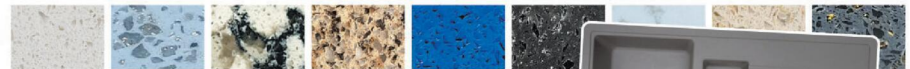


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ARC honoured to collect BBC green award

ENVIRONMENTALLY-MINDED community heroes have picked up a green award.

Achieving Results in Communities (ARC) has been recognised for its outstanding contribution to local green initiatives in Leamington and Warwick, receiving this year's BBC Coventry & Warwickshire Make a Difference Green Award.

The award celebrates those who make a real difference, and ARC was honoured for

its 15 years of dedicated work transforming under-used spaces, supporting well-being, and bringing people together through gardening and nature-based projects.

Kath Pasteur and Kate Haines, who collected the award on behalf of ARC, said the recognition highlights the importance of community-driven environmental action.

"When we started, we transformed a bit of derelict land into Foundry Wood Community Woodland in Leamington, and it's just

grown from there," said Kath, an ARC director.

Since those early beginnings, ARC has expanded to run community gardening projects and groups for people experiencing mental health challenges. Their work helps create green, inclusive spaces that nurture both the environment and the well-being of local residents. They invite adults, children and families to join the various drop-in sessions, courses and community events.

One of their recent ini-



ARC has been recognised for 15 years hard work to local green initiatives.

tatives, the Lillington Community Orchard, was developed in partnership with the local council and Lillington Primary School. ARC planted 25 fruit trees on underused green space between the school and flats, and is now producing plums,

apples, and pears for the local community.

Group facilitator Kate Haines said: "The orchard has really brought people together and shown what's possible when communities and organisations collaborate."

The recognition from BBC

Coventry & Warwickshire highlights ARC's commitment to greener spaces working with the local community, and also their long-standing dedication to community wellbeing across the region.

Visit www.arccc.co.uk for further details about ARC.



There will be plenty of planting and sowing thanks to the climate grants.

Council hands out climate change grants to three projects

CLIMATE change grants have been handed out to three more projects by Leamington Town Council.

A total of £22,500 has been awarded with the aim of tackling climate change and promoting sustainability.

The three community organisations to benefit are Action 21, Leamington Lawn Tennis and Squash Club and Cubbington and Lillington Environmental Action

Now CIC (CLEAN). The funding will support an eco hub and cycle project at Action 21, and LED floodlights at Leamington Lawn Tennis and Squash Club.

CLEAN will use the cash to create a community-led Garden Library of Biodiversity in the green space outside Lillington Library, create educational and recreational resources for the new Community Orchard at Pound Land, including a map

and information board, a thermal camera loan scheme and the planting of 10,000 sunflowers in Lillington, Cubbington and beyond.

The grant applications are open all year to not-for-profit community groups based in the town and can fund a variety of initiatives focused on reducing carbon emissions and promoting sustainable practices.

Town mayor Coun Ruggie

Singh, said: "I look forward to seeing how these projects develop over time, and I would like to extend a big thank you to everyone involved."

"I know many of you give up your own time to support these efforts; without you, we wouldn't be moving forward."

Visit www.leamingtonspatowncouncil.gov.uk/council-services/climate-grants for more information.

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Born out of healthcare and based on the pressure relieving materials used in medical beds on spinal injury units, Mammoth's secret ingredient is Medical Grade™ foam – a naturally cooling, pressure-relieving but supportive material that's shown to be far superior to standard memory foam.

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This is complemented by Mammoth's innovative PostureCells® – independently moving castellations in the foam that provide even support but reduce partner disturbance. Importantly, the air channels between each PostureCell® also serve to wick away the moisture and allergens that typically build up through the night.

Testing excellence

Under laboratory conditions, Medical Grade™ foam mattresses have been found to provide **46% greater pressure relief** and **69% faster cooling** than standard 50kg memory foam. For sleepers that means:

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Determined to go further, Mammoth also put its mattresses through testing at Northumbria University's Centre for Sleep Research. In clinical trials it was shown that Mammoth's mattresses helped sleepers **fall asleep 29% quicker**, experience a **7% increase in sleep efficiency** and report a **21% increase in sleep enjoyment**.

Award wins

Mammoth's unique technologies helped the brand to win a Bright Ideas in Health award for pressure relief and temperature regulation – awards usually reserved for teams working within the NHS.

These impressive results are among the reasons why Mammoth has become the go-to name for elite athletes and professional sports stars – as can be seen through partnerships with the Rugby Players' Association, British Athletes Commission and Professional Cricketers' Association over the years, as well as relationships with Premier League football teams and Olympians.

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The unique properties of Mammoth's sleep and comfort technologies have made it the go-to mattress range for health professionals. By improving pressure relief, enhancing postural support and increasing circulation, physiotherapists in particular love the positive patient outcomes offered by Mammoth. With over 50% of adults now estimated to suffer from back pain in their lives, it's never been more important to invest in the very best sleep surface to ease pain and discomfort.

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Glenis Lewin with Headteacher Julian Kirby.

Plenty of activity at the Museum

A TIME portal opens at Rugby Art Gallery and Museum next month for a Night at Your Museum.

The venue's annual celebration on Friday October 10 takes on a historical theme, from dinosaurs and Romans to Vikings and Victorians.

Visitors can get up close to giant but gentle dinosaurs, or step into the past via a Victorian magic mirror photobooth, before dressing up and striking a pose for the camera.

Young Vikings can test aim and accuracy in the inflatable axe throwing arena, and budding Robin Hoods can aim for the bullseye with a bow and arrow at the archery range.

Visitors can transform into Roman gladiators or emperors courtesy of historic re-enactment specialists Guarderobe, and roll up for Dan the Hat's Victorian Circus, where Dan performs magical tricks and youngsters of all ages can explore a treasure trove of Victorian toys and games.

Tom the Tale Teller entertains time travellers in need of a break, spinning tales from the distant past which take audiences to ancient lands to meet legendary heroes.

Visitors seeking a pause from the time portal can meet Far Out Faces face painting and be transformed into historical figures, while a Night at Your Museum also has a neolithic-inspired relaxed room, featuring tactile play and ambient lighting to mimic the glow of a campfire.

Coun Maggie O'Rourke, Rugby



Rugby Art Gallery and Museum will take a trip back in time for the annual Night at Your Museum celebration.

Borough Council's portfolio holder for partnerships and wellbeing, said: "A Night at Your Museum has been a firm favourite with visitors for many years and we're looking forward to hosting another fantastic event at Rugby Art Gallery and Museum."

"The 'portal through time' promises to take visitors on a magical journey through history, with plenty

of activities and attractions on offer for all the family."

A Night at Your Museum starts at 5.30pm on Friday October 10. Admission can be booked for 5.30pm, 6.30pm or 7.30pm, with places priced £4 per person, or free for under twos.

Visit www.ragm.co.uk NightatYourMuseum to book online

FOND FAREWELL: A MUCH-loved member of staff at a Lutterworth secondary school has been given a fond farewell after 41 years of service.

Glenis Lewin started working at Lutterworth High School in August 1984 and has worked as a valued member of the catering team and also as a cleaner.

A former student herself, having joined the school back in 1971,

she fondly recalls serving tea to the Headteacher, and still remembers every word of the old school hymn.

Headteacher Julian Kirby said: "Glenis is not only a much-loved colleague but also a cherished part of the wider school community."

"We are so grateful for her hard work, kindness, and the countless contributions she has made. Thank you, Glenis - you will be greatly missed!"

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Club joins others in fight on polio



Members of Rotary Rugby Dunsmore Club and the Clutton family will take part in the John Clutton Memorial Walk at Draycote Water to raise funds and awareness of the End Polio Now campaign.

THE campaign to end polio will be supported in Rugby to mark World Polio Day next month.

Rotary Rugby Dunsmore Club will be one of thousands of Rotary clubs across the world taking action to raise awareness, funds and support to end polio on and around Friday October 24.

Past District Governors Paul and Bala Jaspa will address members on the End Polio Campaign.

Rugby Borough Council will light up Rugby Town Hall with purple light - inspired by the colour of the dye painted on the little finger of a child to signify they have received a polio

vaccine - to mark World Polio Day.

And club members will take part in the John Clutton Memorial Walk at Draycote Water, starting at 10am on Sunday October 26.

John Clutton was a founder member of the Rotary Club of Rugby Dunsmore, and a champion of the campaign to End Polio Now.

Members of his family will meet with Rotarians to walk in his memory and raise funds for End Polio Now. All are welcome to join in.

Programme Lead Kate Lawrence said: "Rotary members along with our partners have contributed more than £1.5billion and countless volunteer hours to protect nearly three billion

children in 122 countries from this paralyzing disease.

"Rotary's advocacy efforts have played a role in decisions by governments to contribute more than £7.4billion to the effort.

"Today, polio remains endemic only in Afghanistan and Pakistan. But it's crucial to continue working to keep other countries polio-free. If all eradication efforts stopped today, within 10 years, polio could paralyze as many as 200,000 children each year."

Visit www.endpolionow.org for more about the campaign, and www.rotaryrugbydunsmore.uk for more on the Rotary Rugby Dunsmore Club



Still rocking - Jim gives Talon the thumbs-up.

Music to his ears

A DELIGHTED Eagles fan at a Rugby came home has turned back the clock after staff arranged for him to watch a tribute to his favourite band.

Jim Sheils, who is staying on respite at Overslade House Care Home, saw the legendary rock band in concert many years ago and is a lifelong fan.

Upon hearing he would love to see them play again, the home's Activities Lead Julie Bateman sprang into action as she has friends who perform in an Eagles tribute act called Talon.

She managed to snap up tickets to a gig they were playing at Kilworth House Theatre near Lutterworth, and took Jim along.

Jim, who has become a popular

figure at the home during his stay, said: "It was a lovely surprise and a great night.

"Talon were excellent. My favourite song is Hotel California and they performed it brilliantly.

"Julie knows the band, so I got to have a picture with them which was also a surprise.

"It is such an amazing feeling to know that such a loving group of people care so much about me that they helped me to live out a wish - and I didn't even ask."

Genoveva Tamasi, General Manager at the home, said staff all wanted to see the smile on Jim's face when the surprise was revealed.

She said: "It was wonderful to see how happy Jim was - and the staff loved being a part of this as well."



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Triumphant - Nicky Pattinson and Yu Ting Zhang Smaller at the second Raise Up Conference.

Town tops poll for county's best



Warwick topped Muddy Stiletto's reader poll for Warwickshire. Picture Creative Commons Licence.

NEARLY 100 women turned out to celebrate triumph over adversity in Leamington.

The second Raise Up Conference, organised by the Leamington Soroptimists, heard inspirational stories from leading lights in the worlds of business, advocacy and charity while also fundraising for local causes.

Their deeply personal tales touched on a host of topics, from physical and mental health challenges, through to overcoming addiction, loss, trauma and domestic abuse.

The event also raised £2,750 for local charities Safeline and Arts Uplift. It was the latest passion project - and swansong - of outgoing Soroptimists president Catherine Williamson.

She said: "Last year, Raise Up began almost spontaneously - a bold idea to harness the diverse talents of Leamington Soroptimists.

What unfolded exceeded every expectation: a day of energy, creativity, and generosity that proved what was possible when women came together with purpose.

"There were standing ovations, friendships formed, and that rare, unforgettable electricity that comes when women raise each other up. The result - £2,750 raised for charities, bringing our total giving across two years to an extraordinary \$33,800.

"This year, as I prepare to step down as president, I wanted my swansong to be nothing short of emphatic. True to the spirit of the past two years, we raised the bar once more.

"To have led this group of tenacious, talented, heart-led women has been the privilege of a lifetime. As I step back into the arms of the membership, I do so with a song in my heart and the quiet knowing of a job well done."

WARWICK has topped a poll of the best places to live in Warwickshire.

Lifestyle site Muddy Stiletto's asked readers to vote for the best local village, town or city to call home in 2025 using its Top 300 Places to Live guide.

And in a regional vote across 35 counties, Warwick topped the poll of ten potential candidates in Warwickshire.

From towns to villages, hamlets to commuter favourites, each of the initial 300 locations were independently researched and picked by the Muddy editorial team, and then over 30,000 readers went on to vote.

The results revealed passion for each town or village's sense of community, quality of access to schools, restaurants, shops and culture, as well as their feeling towards their

overall immediate surroundings.

In Warwickshire, Warwick won top spot with its Georgian townhouses, Queen Anne mansions, half-timbered medieval buildings such as Lord Leycester's Hospital and world-famous castle, along with tea shops, antique stores and artisan bakeries.

There are a wide choice of schools nearby, making Warwick a favourite choice of families. The average house prices sits at around £385,199 (over the last year), with detached properties selling for an average of £537,841.

The Top 10 most popular towns and villages in Warwickshire for 2025 were Warwick, followed by Leamington, Stratford, Ilmington, Henley, Kenilworth, Newbold-on-Avon, Alcester, Long Itchington and Ettington



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Left to right: sopranos Chiara Vinci and Grace Nyandoro will lead the performances.



Big wheel set to roll back into city

A BIG wheel and a Christmas market are set to return to Coventry city centre for the Christmas period.

The 100ft-tall big wheel opens in Broadgate on Saturday November 22 - giving panoramic views of the city throughout the day and evening - alongside market stalls selling seasonal food, drinks and gifts.

On the same day, the city centre will host a one-off free family event - the Festival of Christmas - from 3pm-8pm - featuring activities and entertainment across various locations.

It will feature street theatre, live performances, illuminated processions and an appearance by Father Christmas.

Coun Abdul Salam Khan, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Events at Coventry City Council said: "Last year's Festival of Christmas event received a huge amount of positive feedback from those who attended, so we've decided to host the event again this winter."

"Everyone is invited to attend. It really will bring festive magic to our city centre as we see breathtaking performances, comedy shows and traditional Christmas characters in different locations. The event is suitable for all ages and is the perfect way to start the winter season."

"Our popular Christmas market is also set to return Broadgate along with the big wheel which has been enjoyed by so many over recent years."



The 100ft-tall big wheel will give panoramic views of the city.

The council's city centre car parks will be free to use after 3pm on Saturday November 22, Saturday December 20, Monday December 22 and Tuesday December 23.

Coun Patricia Hetherington, Cabinet Member for City Services, added: "The arrival of our big wheel, Christmas market and Festival of Christmas really does mark the beginning of the festive season here in Coventry."

"Our festive lights will be switched on for our Festival of Christmas event, and they can be enjoyed by visitors whilst they are spending time in our city centre shopping

or enjoying time in restaurants and bars and entertainment venues.

"I'm also pleased that we can offer free after 3pm parking in our car parks for the Festival of Christmas event and also for three days in the final run up to Christmas day."

"As well as Christmas, the lights are used for a number of occasions including Remembrance Day and Diwali. For Diwali, lights will also be switched on along Foleshill Road and Stoney Stanton Road."

The big wheel and Christmas market will operate every day until Sunday January 4, except Christmas Day.

FREE Opera performances are popping up around Coventry this autumn.

Professional singers and musicians from the Songs for Survivors of the 21st Century group - a new opera theatre project - will be bringing opera to new spaces and new people in the city.

On Wednesday October 8, they will perform with soprano Grace Nyandoro and Musical Director Barrack Dyer at the Wellness Junction in Broad Street Hall from 11am, Coventry Cathedral at 1.30pm and Central Library at 3.30pm.

On Friday October 24, soprano Chiara Vinci and pianist Jim Bate

will perform at the Mind allotments in Spon End at 11.30am, the Lower Precinct Shopping Centre at 2pm and the Betty Ennis Hub in Willenhall at 3.30pm.

The public performances have been curated by the Opera Buddies group, who came up with a shortlist of spaces in Coventry where they would like to hear opera.

Producer Vanessa Oakes said: "Please drop in to one of the pop-up venues to hear a sample from Songs for Survivors of the 21st Century and brighten up your day with some opera."

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/4bmyjw4> for more information.

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Luke, aged 9 years.

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The first-night takeaway has become a tradition.

Fish and chips can be a moving experience

FISH and chips is the most popular takeaway for people on their first night in a new home, according to a new survey by family-run firm Tripps Removals.

The survey, which asked 2,000 UK adults what they would most likely order on their first night in a new home, found 22 per cent of the region's residents would opt for the British classic.

A Chinese takeaway was in second place locally at 18 per cent, followed

by pizza at 16 per cent - completing the same top three shared by the whole of the UK.

However, Chinese food dominated the poll in Scotland and Northern Ireland, while Chinese tied with fish and chips in Wales. Other takeaway choices mentioned included Indian, fried chicken, Mexican, Vietnamese, Thai and sushi.

Interestingly, five per cent of UK respondents said they would not order a takeaway at all, perhaps

choosing to get to grips with their new kitchen from night one.

Ben Tripp, owner and managing director of Tripps Removals, which has been moving people across the UK and abroad since 1867, said: "We've been moving families for over 155 years and we know just how exciting - and exhausting - moving day can be."

The first-night takeaway has become a bit of a tradition, and our fun survey shows that across the

region, it's the familiar comforts that people turn to most.

"Whether it's fish and chips, Chinese or pizza, these top choices clearly help people relax, settle in and start making their new place feel like home, wherever they've moved to."

The survey was conducted by Censuswide on behalf of Tripps Removals in June 2025, with a nationally representative sample of 2,000 UK adults.

Severn Trent has new faces on tap

SEVERN Trent has welcomed more than 60 new apprentices and graduates - one of its biggest intakes - as part of its commitment to inclusive employment and creating jobs across the Midlands.

The new starters, who completed their induction in National Inclusion Week, include a mix of school leavers, career changers and those retraining in new skills.

Severn Trent says its apprentice programme is open to everyone regardless of age, or background - and has made a commitment to remove barriers to people applying.

This includes hosting assessment centres in multiple locations to reduce travel, adjusting dates to avoid exams and having in-house English and maths support, meaning it is not necessary for applicants to already have those qualifications.

With 90 different apprenticeships on offer, new recruits will be taking



Severn Trent has welcomed one of its biggest intakes of new apprentices and graduates.

up various roles across the business, including waste network technicians, HR consultants, electro-mechanical engineers and data analysts.

Graduates will be able to choose different career paths via programmes in project management,

engineering design and environmental leadership.

Kellie Emery, new talent lead at Severn Trent, said: "We're delighted to welcome this year's cohort of apprentices and graduates to the business."

"Each year, we welcome people who arrive with fresh ideas and are eager to learn and I'm looking forward to seeing their new careers flourish."

"This year, we have a great mix of people starting their journey, with

almost 15 per cent of those joining us aged 25 and over, showing that apprenticeships are open to everyone, no matter their age who can bring new thinking and experiences to what we do."

The company recently shared its commitment to create 400 work experience placements for care-experienced young people in the Midlands and has developed a programme with local job centres which has allowed people experiencing barriers to work to find jobs.

It also regularly hosts large scale jobs fairs across the region, bringing together jobs, communities and other like-minded businesses.

Each year, the water company welcomes young people ready to kickstart their career, as well as those already in work, but looking for a new challenge.

Severn Trent's apprenticeship schemes will reopen for applications early next year.

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Sell-out premiere for latest from TV writer Andrew Davies

Evergreen classic finds new home on the stage



The perennial Jane Austen favourite Emma comes to the stage at the Talisman in Kenilworth. Picture by Robert Warner.

Theatre review

Emma
Talisman Theatre,
Kenilworth

One of the best-loved works by perhaps the nation's best-loved author arrives by carriage at the Talisman in the shape of Jane Austen's Emma.

If the calibre of the novelist were not enough then the name of adaptation-in-chief Andrew Davies, the pen behind many of TV's golden drama moments and the theatre's own staging of *Pride and Prejudice*, is enough to have filled the auditorium and added two extra sold-out shows.

Having had such a box office success with *Pride and Prejudice* the Talisman, and director Corrina

Jacob understandably keep the formula intact. A repeat order on setting, costumes and style feels almost like a brand is emerging.

Bringing such an expansive novel to the stage is not without its challenges. Cramping the full scope of Austen's book into an evening without inducing yawning and cramp in equal measure is not easy, but on the whole it is handled well.

The action is presented as a series of swift vignettes with no scene seemingly lasting more than a couple of minutes. This gives the theatre a problem. Where Andrew Davies could always rely on establishing shots and pastoral views to bridge the gaps on TV, the Talisman has to work at breakneck speed to shift chairs, false windows, carriage benches and even a pianoforte with only the odd burst of music to cover.

But they do it well and the overall

effect, though far from seamless, is efficient and enjoyable.

It's a big cast. Plenty of moments see a couple of characters in conversation with half a dozen or more lined up behind. Good to report then that all seem to play their parts well in such an ensemble piece.

The central characters of self-centred matchmaker Emma and patient critic Knightley are in good hands with credible and confident performances from Rose Kenny and Chris Bird. Both characters have

evident faults and foibles but the fact that we forgive them and follow them warmly shines through in these two performances.

Elsewhere there are strong contributions from Graham Buckingham-Underhill as the hypochondria father, Sion Grace as the over-effusive vicar and Kathy Buckingham-Underhill as the gauche butt of many raised eyebrows.

Steve Sanday's design offers a convincing period feel while also allowing the necessary versatility.

The need to shoehorn in so much narrative and so many characters means there is no real opportunity to delve into character beyond the superficial and precious little chance to relax.

But, setting aside Austen's trenchant observations on the society of which she writes, there's enough in the story and its gentle wit to entertain and this ambitious and faithful production does not disappoint.

Matthew Salisbury

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Impact of JLR cyber-attack felt by many

OVER three-quarters of West Midlands firms have felt the impact of the Jaguar Land Rover cyber-attack, a survey from the region's three Chambers of Commerce has revealed.

The Greater Birmingham, Black Country and Coventry & Warwickshire Chambers of Commerce conducted a snap survey in a bid to understand the impact of the cyber-attack across the region.

A total of 84 businesses, representing nearly 30,000 employees in the West Midlands, were consulted.

Of the firms surveyed, 77 per cent said the cyber-attack has had a negative impact on their business, with 44 per cent describing the impact as 'significant'.

And 45 per cent reported a negative financial impact - including loss of revenue, increased costs and a slowdown in customer payment slow down.

A further 33 per cent reported operational disruption, such as delays and system downtime, while 26 per cent said the attack has caused disruption to the supply chain, including delays with goods and services.

More than half (57 per cent) want to see financial support - in the form of grants, compensation and access to credit - to negate the impact.

And 19 per cent are calling for specific protection from exposure under the Insolvency Act until the crisis ends.

Businesses have adopted a number of measures to mitigate the impact - including reducing staff hours (35 per cent), seeking additional financial advice (17 per cent) and strengthening their own cyber security procedures (35 per cent).

Raj Kandola, acting deputy CEO of Greater Birmingham Chambers of Commerce, said: "The results from our snap poll make it eye wateringly clear the direct impact the JLR cyber security attack has had on businesses across the region with many citing a notable drop in revenue, spiralling costs and huge operational disruption.

"Whilst we recognise it's a small sample window, the fact these businesses collectively employ almost 30,000 people across the West Midlands reinforces the need for the government and its partners to act decisively and support firms that are facing enormous uncertainty right now.

"We will be sharing this vital data with key stakeholders regionally and nationally - including the West Midlands mayor, regional MPs and contacts in Westminster - to ensure the severity of the situation is fully reflected in any proposed policy programmes designed to mitigate the impact of the attack.

"These businesses have made it clear they need immediate financial support to get their operations back on track as time is of the essence."



Lending a listening ear - Telephone support volunteers mark their first anniversary.

THE MYTON Hospices is celebrating one year of lending a listening ear.

The charity's telephone support volunteers have officially marked their first anniversary.

They spend time chatting with patients and/or their carers, offering regular social phone calls that help people feel heard, supported and less alone. These conversations are not clinical, and instead focus on everyday connection.

Volunteers talk about hobbies, daily life and the things that matter to the patients, bringing comfort and companionship to people living with a life-limiting illness.

In the first year of the service, the 11 telephone support volunteers made over 550 calls, spending a total of 130 hours on the phone.

Before this service was introduced, Myton's wellbeing nurses made these calls. By introducing the trained telephone support volunteers, the charity's nurses are now able to focus on more patients who need clinical intervention, for example help with pain management and symptom control, as well as reducing waiting

lists for their services.

Sally, one of the telephone support volunteers, said: "Often, when people think of hospice care, they imagine the very end of life. But Myton supports people right from the start of their journey. The people we speak to often just want a friendly chat with someone who isn't a carer, a friend, or a family member - someone outside their usual circle. It's a fantastic way to offer support."

Michelle Linnane, the hospices' associate director of service development and Improvement, added: "We are incredibly proud of the work our telephone support volunteers have done in their first year. We recently took the opportunity to celebrate and thank them for the huge difference they have made by giving their time to make these calls.

"The support they provide is vital in reducing isolation and increasing connection for those living with a life-limiting illness. Their friendly conversations help patients and their carers feel valued and listened to, offering companionship at a time when many may feel alone."



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Unique hub is preparing for the worst

A UNIQUE training centre to help prepare transport providers and the emergency services for major incidents on the railway has opened in Birmingham.

The Birmingham Rail Resilience Hub has been created by Network Rail's Central route to train and develop teams alongside train operators, the police, fire and ambulance services.

The true-to-life training ground - which includes tracks, trains, level crossings, and all the other equipment and hazards found on the railway - have been mocked up in a purpose-built facility so teams

involved in managing emergency situations are prepared and ready to deal with them.

It allows for close partnership working between organisations, a better understanding of the challenges there will be in real life scenarios, and the opportunity to learn and improve together in a safe environment.

The new centre puts the West Midlands at the forefront of emergency planning and will be a focal point for supporting training and learning nationwide.

It was officially opened by Denise Wetton, Network Rail's central route director, and Martin Colmey, central



route's operations director, before hosting its first emergency exercise to demonstrate the types of scenarios and learning which can take place there.

Denise Wetton, Network Rail's Central route director, said staff worked around the clock to ensure railways ran safely for passengers and freight.

"Every day, we work round-the-clock to keep the railway running

safely for passengers and freight across Britain.

"We hope the scenarios which will be tested here never happen, but training and learning in this way will help everyone be prepared and ready."

The emergency exercise demonstrated how the rail industry and emergency services would respond to vehicles being struck by a train on a level crossing.

The Birmingham Rail Resilience Hub enables train operators and emergency services to prepare for emergency incidents. Picture by Network Rail. s

With passengers on board, it was shown how the area would be assessed and made safe, before trapped and injured people were rescued, and an investigation into what happened began ahead of reopening the railway.

Organisations involved in the exercise included West Midlands Police, British Transport Police, West Midlands Ambulance Service, West Midlands Fire Service, and Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service.

Rebecca Hodgkins, Operations Station Commander at West Midlands Fire Service, said it was fantastic to collaborate with Network Rail and their fellow blue light partners.

Other organisations involved and in attendance included Nimski which provided role-play actors for the exercise and the Rail Accident Investigation Branch (RAIB) which independently investigates accidents to improve railway safety, and inform the industry and the public.

Focus on inclusion as rail staff members offer advice

RAIL staff members have given their advice to women applying for roles in the industry in the latest edition of West Midlands Railway's 'On the Rails' podcast.

The edition coincided with National Inclusion Week which ran from September 15 to 21 and aimed to inspire companies to take action to create inclusive workforces.

The rail industry is traditionally thought of as a male dominated

sector, with women reported to make up less than 20 per cent of the UK rail workforce.

Half take up non-operational roles such as marketing, finance and HR.

WMR - which carries millions of passengers every month along with sister company London Northwestern Railway (LNR) - is working to encourage more women into operational roles.

This year more than 20 per cent of those starting driver or engineering apprenticeships with WMR and LNR were women - surpassing the companies' target.

One contributor on the podcast was Kate Taylor, joint project manager for the delivery of WMR and LNR's new electric Class 730 fleets which now operate on Birmingham's Cross City Line and routes to and from London Euston.

She said she generally navigated the gender imbalance by being as good as she could.

"Women can be engineers, women can be directors, women can be administrators, women can be project managers.

"Women can be any of the things that men can."

During National Inclusion Week, WMR shared advice and career stories from women across the

business via its social media channels, including train service managers, its head of performance and a member of the company's graduate scheme.

Visit: wmr.uk/podcast to stream or download the podcast which also features with White Ribbon UK, WMR's head of drivers and the company's EDI lead.

And go to: wmr.uk/careers for more on careers with WMR.



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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



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The next award arriving... is for new rail fleet satisfying millions

THE WEST Midlands Railway (WMR) train fleet has carried more than 12 million passengers since it was rolled out a year ago and has picked up a prestigious national award.

Passengers on the Cross City Line, which connects Lichfield to Bromsgrove and Redditch via Birmingham, first boarded the new Class 730/0 electric train fleet in March 2024.

The full roll-out officially completed on September 26, 2024.

Each three-carriage Class 730 train has capacity for 546 passengers. As the trains run in pairs on the Cross City Line, providing six carriages for customers to use, every service can comfortably carry more than 1,000 people.

In their first year, the new trains have proven popular with commuters and leisure travellers alike with more than a million journeys made every single month.

WMR reported a 19 per cent rise in customer satisfaction on the route since the new trains entered service, citing their spacious carriages, intelligent air conditioning and modern features as factors behind the uplift.

The new trains - part of WMR's \$1billion investment in the railway - brought a significant increase in capacity to the line as well as customer benefits including air conditioning, improved accessibility and



The new West Midlands Railway fleet has carried more than 12 million passengers in its first year and won a national award. Picture by West Midlands.

the biggest upgrade to the Cross City Line since the 1990s.

"The trains have proved incredibly popular with our customers and their arrival has certainly contributed to the increasing number of passengers we are seeing using the route each year.

"Introducing a new train fleet is never an easy task with a lot of moving parts and I am pleased to see the hard work of everybody at West Midlands Railway in bringing the trains into service recognised at the National Rail Awards."

Another accolade

As well as serving Birmingham New Street, the line includes the award-winning University Station, which saw over 3million passengers use the new fleet in its first year, since the transformation.

As well as the Cross City Line, Class 730 trains run on routes connecting central Birmingham with destinations including Walsall, Wolverhampton, Rugeley and Birmingham International.

Visit: westmidlandsrailway.co.uk/travel-information/whats-new/new-trains/class-730-fleet for more on the Class 730 fleet.

power points at every seat.

Jonny Wiseman, West Midlands Railway's customer experience director, said: "This new fleet is the flagship for our \$1billion investment into new trains and infrastructure.

"We want to provide the best possible passenger experience, and we are so pleased that the Class 730/0s are making such a positive impact on customer satisfaction already.

"The Cross City Line is the busiest

commuter route outside of London, so boosting capacity was hugely important to us.

"The new three-carriage trains run in pairs, comfortably offering space for over 1,000 people on every Cross City Line service."

Award-winning

The roll-out of the new fleet was recognised at the prestigious National Rail Awards ceremony in

London on September 17 where it won for 'Fleet Achievement of the Year'.

The National Rail Awards is run by RAIL magazine and is often referred to as the 'Oscars of the railway'.

Judges said the trains had made a significant difference for passengers in the West Midlands.

John Doughty, WMR engineering director, said: "The introduction of the Class 730/0 fleet represented




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HARD

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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.

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 W R L R M U I E Y L B E D E S
 E H E D A D E R A O U I S K C
 L H P E P H N M M A S O L E I
 L C O S N A I A L O I U S N D
 A H J S F A T S A R I M A E S
 R T T K L U T E B B E K N L R
 L O E B R O N S E L A C C H A

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			

ACROSS

- 7. Damp (5)
- 8. Calculate (7)
- 9. Unfathomable (7)
- 10. Centre (5)
- 12. Tyranny (10)
- 15. Inexpert (10)
- 18. Call forth (5)
- 19. Withdraw (7)
- 21. Deliberative assembly (7)
- 22. Awaken (5)

DOWN

- 1. Spotless (10)
- 2. Prophetess (5)
- 3. Check (4)
- 4. Of the eye (6)
- 5. Stress (8)
- 6. Crazy (7)
- 11. Unable to speak out (6-4)
- 13. Sham (8)
- 14. Bold decorative style (7)
- 16. Seldom (6)
- 17. Indistinct (5)
- 20. Weary (4)

Scribble pad

LADDER

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

- Feeble
- Knighted woman
- Risk
- Pointed projectile
- Dessert



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.

- 7394** gives a Biblical character;
- 85821** gives a Biblical character;
- 176294** gives a Jewish prophet.

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

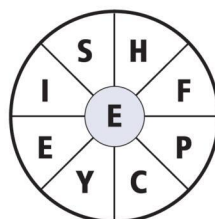
CODEWORD

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.

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

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.

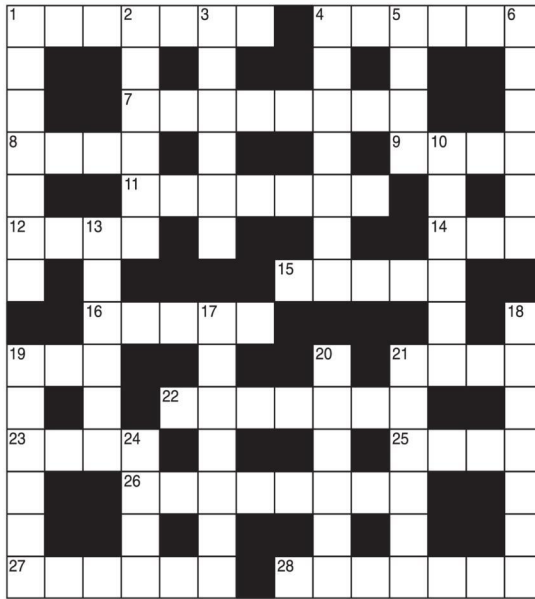


How you rate
 6 words: average
 9 words: good
 12 words: very good
 15 or more: excellent.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Liquid, silvery-white metal used in barometers (7)
- 4 The Roman god of fire, and patron of metal workers (6)
- 7 Badges of office or honour (8)
- 8 Transparent structure behind the pupil of the eye (4)
- 9 In music, below the right pitch (4)
- 11 A violent wind storm (7)
- 12 District of London, south of Oxford Street and west of Charing Cross Road (4)
- 14, 18, 16 & 2 Romance by Alexandre Dumas, whose hero is Edmond Dantes (3,5,2,5,6)
- 15 Wine produced in a district of the Gironde department (5)
- 16 See 14
- 19 Small pocket for a watch (3)
- 21 See 4 Down
- 22 & 26 Romantic novelist who earned a place in the Guinness Book of Records for writing 26 books in 1983 (7,8)
- 23 Capital city of Latvia (4)
- 25 County of Northern Ireland (4)
- 26 See 22
- 27 Surname of the killer of Jean Paul Marat in 1793 (6)
- 28 Chief executive officer of a shire or county, in charge of law and order (7)



DOWN

- 1 Animal such as a cuttlefish, oyster or limpet (7)
- 2 See 14
- 3 A summary, precis or condensed statement (6)
- 4 & 21 Across Marble statue of Aphrodite, now in the Louvre (5,2,4)
- 5 Hinged part or flap of a table (4)
- 6 Stinging plant growing on waste land (6)
- 10 Sweetish, pulpy fruit with a shell and single seed (6)
- 13 Peppermint-flavoured boiled sweet (6)
- 17 "Up above the world you fly, like a -- in the sky" (Alice in Wonderland) (7)
- 18 See 14
- 19 & 24 Colourless, corrosive, fuming liquid, occurring in ants and in various plants (6,4)
- 20 Light, low carriage with a movable hood (6)
- 21 Plant whose root yields a red dye (6)
- 24 See 19 Down

SOLUTIONS

General Knowledge Crossword
 ACROSS: 1 Mercury; 4 Vulcan; 7 Insignia; 8 Lens; 9 Flat; 11 Tempest; 12 Soho; 14 The; 15 Medoc; 16 Monte; 19 Job; 21 Millo; 22 Barbara; 23 Riga; 25 Down; 26 Cartland; 27 Corday; 28 Sherriff. DOWN: 1 Mollusc; 2 Crato; 3 Resume; 4 Venus de; 5 Leaf; 6 Nettle; 10 Litch; 13 Humbug; 17 Teatry; 18 Count of; 19 Formic; 20 Calash; 21 Madder; 24 Acid.

Crossword
 Across: 7 Moist; 8 Compute; 9 Abyssmal; 10 Heart; 12 Oppression; 15 Amateurish; 18 Evoker; 19 Retract; 21 Council; 22 Rouse; Down: 1 Immaculate; 2 Sibly; 3 Stem; 4 Ocular; 5 Emphasis; 6 Lunatic; 11 Tongue tied; 13 Pretence; 14 Baroque; 16 Rarely; 17 Vague; 20 Tire.

Wordwheel Pathfinder
 Jane Austen, Phillip Pullman, Douglas Adams, Harper Lee, George Orwell, Charlotte Bronte, Sebastian Faulks, Joseph Heller, Daphne du Maurier, Malorie Blackman, Charles Dickens, Louisa May Alcott, Louis de Bernieres, Thomas Hardy, Margaret Mitchell, Lewis Carroll, John Steinbeck.

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

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



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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:

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 Good 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.

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.

TEESWATER 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.

LONGSTOK 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.

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.

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: Callian 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: 9 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.

HELVELLYN WAY, RUGBY

Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.

Reason for Order: To enable continued works to locate leak(s) and repair water pipe.

Order Commences: 5 October 2025 for up to 18 months.

Access & Diversion: Helvellyn Way, Dunnerdale, Millbeck, Hollowell Way and vice versa.

Contractor: For STW, Chevron Tm Ltd, Tel: 03300 080 820.

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

GIBRALTAR LANE, LEAMINGTON HASTINGS

Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.

Reason for Order: Works to cut off old water pipe.

Order Commences: 20 October 2025 for up to 18 months.

Anticipated Completion: 21 October 2025.

Access & Diversion: Gibraltar Lane, Calias Lane, Southam Road, Hospital Lane and vice versa.

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

MONKS KIRBY LANE, MONKS KIRBY

Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.

Reason for Order: Works to rebuild air valve chamber.

Order Commences: 20 October 2025 for up to 18 months.

Anticipated Completion: 22 October 2025.

Access & Diversion: Monks Kirby Lane, Bond End, Main Street, Millers Lane, Fosse Way, Coal Pit Lane and vice versa.

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

D3234 WINDSOR STREET, RUGBY

Order Effect: Road closed between Clifton Road and Sun Street.

Reason for Order: Remove/replace block paved speed ramp and associated works, closed 09.30hrs-15.30hrs.

Order Commences: 20 October 2025 for up to 18 months.

Anticipated Completion: 24 October 2025.

Access & Diversion: Clifton Road, Cambridge Street, Sun Street and vice versa. Vehicular access & egress will be maintained where possible and safe to do so for businesses and residents only.

Contractor: Balfour Beatty, Tel: 03452 415 302.

D3224 GROSVENOR ROAD, RUGBY

Order Effect: Road closed between Clifton Road and Wells Street.

Reason for Order: Removal/replacement of speed ramp with tarmac surfacing, closed 09.30hrs-15.30hrs.

Order Commences: 20 October 2025 for up to 18 months.

Anticipated Completion: 24 October 2025.

Access & Diversion: Clifton Road, Whitehall Road Roundabout, Murray Road, Wells Street and vice versa. Vehicular access & egress will be maintained where possible and safe to do so for businesses and residents only.

Contractor: Balfour Beatty, Tel: 03452 415 302.

AQUA PLACE, RUGBY

Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.

Reason for Order: To safely enable installation of a small hydrant.

Order Commences: 22 October 2025 for up to 18 months.

Anticipated Completion: 24 October 2025.

Access & Diversion: No diversion available.

Contractor: Chevron TM Ltd, Tel: 03300 080 820.

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

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

S Duxbury, Director of Strategy, Planning & Governance, Shire Hall, Warwick CV34 4RL Date 3 Oct 2025

PUBLIC NOTICES

Warwickshire County Council

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

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

B41130 STONELEIGH ROAD, STONELEIGH

Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic from Westhill Road to Stareton Lane.

Reason for Order: Drainage, culvert replacement and associated works.

Order Commences: 17 October 2025 for up to 18 months.

Anticipated Completion: 20 October 2025.

Access & Diversion: Stoneleigh Road, A452, Ashow Road, St Martins Road, Coventry Road, Stoneleigh Hill, Stoneleigh Road and vice versa.

Contractor: Balfour Beatty, Tel: 03452 415 302.

WOOD END LANE, FILLONGLEY

Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.

Reason for Order: To enable pole replacement works.

Order Commences: 22 October 2025 for up to 18 months.

Anticipated Completion: 22 October 2025.

Access & Diversion: Nuneaton Road, Coventry Road, Wood End Lane and vice versa.

Contractor: M J Quinn, Tel: 01543 547 118.

D2096 HEATHER ROAD, BINLEY WOODS

Order Effect: Road closed between Oakdale Road and Birchwood Road.

Reason for Order: Footway reconstruction works, closed 08.00hrs-17.00hrs, weekdays only.

Order Commences: 20 October 2025 for up to 18 months.

Anticipated Completion: 21 November 2025.

Access & Diversion: Oakdale Road, A428 Rugby Road, Birchwood Road and vice versa. Vehicular access & egress will be maintained where possible and safe to do so for businesses and residents only.

Contractor: Balfour Beatty, Tel: 03452 415 302.

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

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

S Duxbury, Director of Strategy, Planning & Governance, Shire Hall, Warwick CV34 4RL Date 3 Oct 2025

PUBLIC NOTICES

Warwickshire County Council

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

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

D60720 CHURCH ROAD, CHESTERTON GREEN

Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic from The Old Gated Road to Windmill Hill Lane.

Reason for Order: Drainage and associated works, 09.30hrs-15.30hrs.

Order Commences: 24 October 2025 for up to 18 months.

Anticipated Completion: 24 October 2025.

Access & Diversion: The Old Gated Road, Banbury Road (Chesterton Hill), Fosse Way, Windmill Hill Lane and vice versa. Please be aware that The Old Gated Road has a cattle grid on the road.

Contractor: Balfour Beatty, Tel: 03452 415 302.

D5302 CURLIEU CLOSE, HAMPTON MAGNA

Order Effect: Road closed in its entirety from Arras Boulevard.

Reason for Order: Carriageway patching works, closed 08.00hrs-16.00hrs.

Order Commences: 23 October 2025 for up to 18 months.

Anticipated Completion: 24 October 2025.

Access & Diversion: No suitable diversion. Vehicular access & egress will be maintained where possible and safe to do so for businesses and residents only. Access/Egress to from South View will also be restricted whilst works are in progress.

Contractor: Balfour Beatty, Tel: 03452 415 302.

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

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

S Duxbury, Director of Strategy, Planning & Governance, Shire Hall, Warwick CV34 4RL Date 3 Oct 2025

PUBLIC NOTICES

Department for Transport

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

The Secretary of State hereby gives notice of the proposal to make an Order under section 247 of the above Act to authorise the stopping up of a southern part width of Hermes Crescent at Henley Green in the City of Coventry.

If the order is made, the stopping up will be authorised only in order to enable development as permitted by Coventry City Council under references R/2008/1801 and PL/2024/0001129/RESM.

Copies of the draft order and relevant plan will be available for inspection during normal opening hours at Coventry City Council, Highways Development Control, City Services, Floor 8, One Friargate, Coventry, CV1 2GN in the 28 days commencing on 3 October 2025, and may be obtained, free of charge, from the Secretary of State (quoting SU04515307) at the address stated below.

Any person may object to the making of the proposed order by stating their reasons in writing to the Secretary of State at nationalcasework@dtf.gov.uk or National Transport Casework Team, PO Box 1393, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE99 5FQ, quoting the above reference. Objections should be received by midnight on 31 October 2025. You are advised that your personal data and correspondence will be passed to the applicant/agent to enable your objection to be considered. If you do not wish your personal data to be forwarded, please state your reasons when submitting your objection.

N Crass, Casework Manager

PUBLIC NOTICES

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Roadwise Transport Ltd of Clifford House, 38-44 Binley Road, CV3 1JA is applying for a licence to use Clifford House, 38-44 Binley Road, CV3 1JA as an operating centre for 1 goods vehicles and 0 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 Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

PUBLIC NOTICES

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

Notice is hereby given that Aria World Market Limited has applied to Coventry City Council for a NEW PREMISES LICENCE for Aria Empire Restaurant, 4-6 Hay Lane, Coventry, CV1 5RF

Details of Application: To provide: sale/supply of Alcohol, Late Night Refreshments and Regulated Entertainment ON SALES.

Reg Ent, Sunday - Thursday 12:00 - 23:00, Friday - Saturday 12:00 - 02:00, Alcohol, Monday - Sunday (7 day's) 12:00 - 23:00, Late Night Refreshment, Monday - Sunday (7 day's) 23:00 - 03:00

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

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

Any Representation relating to this application must be made in writing to the Licensing Authority by 23rd 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.

PUBLIC NOTICES

ERIC MARSDEN (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 52 Broadwells Crescent, Coventry, CV4 8JD, who died on 15/07/2025, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 04/12/2025, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

Field Overall LLP, 52 Broadwells Crescent, Coventry, CV4 8JD

PUBLIC NOTICES

PETER JOHN CRUMP (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of 3 Gregory Avenue, Coventry, CV3 8DU, who died on 12/08/2025, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 04/12/2025, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

Classified

TELEPHONE 01527 588688 FACSIMILE 01527 584371

PUBLIC NOTICES

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence
 OF2064829 trading as Deddington Liquid Waste Disposal Ltd of The Poplars, Eydon Road, Woodford House, Northamptonshire, NN11 3RG is applying to change an existing licence as follows: to keep an extra 2 goods vehicles and 1 trailer at the operating centre at Lowerfields Farm, Brickyard Road, Napton, Southam, Warwickshire, CV47 8NT. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centres who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Quarry House, Quarry Hill, Leeds, LS2 7UE stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice.

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

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

Application Number R25/0661
Land To East Of, Wolvey Road, Stretton Baskerville

Variation of both Condition 12 (Access Improvement Works) and Condition 13 (Construction Traffic Management Plan) of R23/1047 (Construction of a motorway service area)

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 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 **24 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 (search for application number and select comment) - or in writing by that date to The Chief Officer Growth and Investment, Town Hall, Rugby, CV21 2RR.

If an application is determined by the Planning Committee, members of the public may have the opportunity to speak at the meeting. More details about public speaking are available from the Council or on-line at: www.rugby.gov.uk/speakingatplanning

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

Nicola Smith
 Chief Officer - Growth and Investment MRTPI

Application Number R25/0661
Land To East Of, Wolvey Road, Stretton Baskerville

Variation of both Condition 12 (Access Improvement Works) and Condition 13 (Construction Traffic Management Plan) of R23/1047 (Construction of a motorway service area)

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Members of the public may inspect copies of the application, the plans and documents submitted with it online at: www.planningportal.rugby.gov.uk or in an electronic form at: Town Hall, Evreux Way, Rugby CV21 2RR between the hours of 9.00 am and 5.00 pm Monday to Friday until **24 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 (search for application number and select comment) - or in writing by that date to The Chief Officer Growth and Investment, Town Hall, Rugby, CV21 2RR.

If an application is determined by the Planning Committee, members of the public may have the opportunity to speak at the meeting. More details about public speaking are available from the Council or on-line at: www.rugby.gov.uk/speakingatplanning

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

Nicola Smith
 Chief Officer - Growth and Investment MRTPI

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Cheema powers to European gold medal on international stage

by Aaron Sutcliffe
aaron.sutcliffe@bullivantmedia.com

POWERLIFTING: A POWERLIFTER from Leamington won gold in the 90kg senior class at the European Single Deadlift Championships.

Bally Cheema won his first European title in Horncastle, Lincolnshire to add to his two world titles.

The victory also marks Cheema's first international triumph for 19 years.

Cheema said: "This victory means a lot personally.

"But it wouldn't have been possible without the support of my parents, my wife, and my two daughters Nimret and Simret, who have been behind me every step of the way."

He overcame a back injury sustained just weeks before the event to come out on top in the 90kg senior class and win gold.

The 37-year-old has also raised just over £1,000 through his #DeadliftsForADifference campaign.

The money raised will support families affected by the Punjab floods.

Cheema lives in Whitnash and trains at Nelson Gym in Leamington.

Trained by his dad Nirmal, Cheema began competing in the sport at the age of 14-years-old.

ABOVE: Bally Cheema showed his strength to win gold. Picture by Nirmal Cheema.

RIGHT: Bally Cheema stands with his gold medal. Picture by Nirmal Cheema.



Blaze beat Steelers but lose to Panthers

ICE HOCKEY: COVENTRY Blaze claimed an impressive win at Sheffield Steelers before suffering a home defeat against Nottingham Panthers in the Challenge Cup.

Blaze won 2-0 against the Steelers at the Utilita Arena only to lose 3-0 against the Panthers at the Skydome Arena on home ice.

The results leave Coventry in third place in Group A with the group winners and runners-up to advance directly to the semi-finals.

Coventry battled to a hard-fought win against Sheffield despite losing Elijah Barriga to injury just minutes before the face-off.

Blaze killed an early penalty before Sheffield's Stephen Harper struck the inside of the post only for the puck to bounce to safety.

The first period ended goalless before Coventry broke the deadlock at 27:02 when Archie Hazeldine fired past Steelers netminder Matthew Greenfield.

And Blaze doubled their lead at 42:33 as captain Kim Tallberg found the net after good work from Alessio Luciani and Jack Hopkins.

The visitors then survived three Sheffield powerplay opportunities as Mat Robson and the Blaze defence held firm.

Coventry almost extended their lead late on only for Greenfield to deny Grayson Constable following a mix-up in the Sheffield zone with Blaze shorthanded.

The Steelers pulled Greenfield for an extra

skater with 2:13 left to play and applied late pressure only for Robson to record a 40-shot shutout.

However, Blaze then suffered defeat at home to Nottingham to lose for just the second time this season.

Kevin Moore's side made a strong start but could not find a way past Panthers netminder Kevin Carr despite having 20 shots on goal in the first period.

However, that came after Nottingham broke the deadlock after just 48 seconds as Matthew Marcinev finished on the rebound after Robson initially denied Brendan Harris.

Blaze's best chance to draw level saw Colton Saucerman's stick shatter when he lined up a slapshot.

The second period ended scoreless as the Panthers took a narrow one-goal lead into the final 20 minutes.

And the visitors eventually doubled their advantage at 56:29 when Chase Pearson deflected David Noel's point shot into the net.

Blaze pulled Robson for an extra skater with 2:14 remaining only for Zsombor Garat to seal victory for Nottingham at 58:35 with an effort from long range.

Coventry continue their Challenge Cup campaign against Cardiff Devils on Saturday, October 4 with the face-off at 7pm at the Vindico Arena.

Blaze then host Guildford Flames on Sunday, October 5 with the face-off at 5:30pm at the Skydome.

Woakes calls time on England career

CRICKET: WARWICKSHIRE and England all-rounder Chris Woakes has retired from international cricket after missing out on a place in the Ashes squad.

Woakes played in 62 test matches, 122 one-day internationals and 33 T20 games for England after making his debut for his country in 2011.

The 36-year-old helped England win the 50-over World Cup in 2019 and the T20 World Cup in 2022.

Overall he represented England in 217 matches, taking 396 wickets which includes eight five-wicket hauls.

He also scored 3,705 runs, including an international career high of 137 not out against India.

In a statement posted on social media, Woakes said: "Playing for England was something I aspired to do since I

was a kid dreaming in the back garden, and I feel incredibly fortunate to have lived out those dreams.

"Representing England, wearing the Three Lions and sharing the field with teammates over the last 15 years, many of whom have become lifelong friends, are things I'll look back on with the greatest pride.

"Making my debut in 2011 in Australia seems like yesterday, but time flies when you're having fun.

"Lifting two World Cups and being part of some amazing Ashes series is something I never thought was possible, and those memories and celebrations with my team-mates will stay with me forever.

"I look forward to continuing to play county cricket and exploring more franchise opportunities in the near future."

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Henry just misses out on gold for GB

by Aaron Sutcliffe
aaron.sutcliffe@bullivantmedia.com

ROWING: LAUREN Henry finished an agonising second representing Great Britain at the World Rowing Championships in Shanghai, China.

The Rugby-born rower won silver in the women's single sculls event, missing out on gold by just 0.03 seconds to Ireland's Fiona Murtagh.

Henry went into the final after posting the fastest time in both her heat and semi-final.

Henry said: "Obviously, I'm really pleased to come away with a medal, but it is disappointing.



Lauren Henry won silver in China. Picture by Benedict Tufnell for British Rowing.

"I said I was coming here for the gold and it's sad to miss out by less than a centimetre.

"All credit to Fiona, she's a fantastic sculler.

"I'm going to use this during the winter and come back better and stronger next season.

"Hopefully I can win that elusive women's single sculling gold for Great Britain at a World Championships."

Henry qualified for the final after posting the fastest time in both the heats and semi-finals.

However, Ireland's Murtagh pipped Henry to gold by the smallest of margins as the latter crossed the line in 7 minutes 12.30 seconds.

Henry ends her first season as a single sculler having won a medal in every race she has taken part in this season.

The 23-year-old won European gold in Bulgaria earlier this year.

Borough up to second as Valley enter drop zone

FOOTBALL: BRYAN Kohyrelon scored a dramatic last-minute winner as Rugby Borough extended their unbeaten run to four matches with a 2-1 victory against Coleshill Town.

Kohyrelon netted a stunning solo goal to seal the points after Tendai Daire's penalty put Borough ahead at Kilsby Lane.

Coleshill had Tyreece Brown sent off just past the hour mark only for Taylor Carter-Byrne to draw the visitors level seven minutes from time.

However, substitute Kohyrelon scored a late winner for the home side with Borough up to second in the Northern Premier League Midlands table.

Rugby broke the deadlock one minute before half time when Daire scored from the penalty spot.

And Coleshill then had Brown sent off on 66 minutes after he received a second yellow card.

Despite playing with a man less, Coleshill equalised on 83 minutes as Carter-Byrne rose highest at a corner to loop a header over Brandon Ganley.

However, Borough reclaimed the

lead in the final minute when Kohyrelon weaved his way past three defenders before coolly finding the bottom corner.

Borough are next in action against Bedworth United on Saturday, October 4 with kick-off at 3pm at The Oval.

Elsewhere, Rugby Town dropped into the relegation zone after surrendering an early lead in a 2-1 defeat against Boldmere St Michaels in midweek.

An early goal from Stan Anaebonam put Valley ahead after Boldmere's Harry Wakefield saw his fourth-minute penalty saved at Butlin Road.

However, Darryn O'Callaghan drew the visitors level before the break and struck again from the penalty spot on 77 minutes to complete the turnaround.

Rugby's Bleu McNeil saw red after conceding the penalty which led to Boldmere's winner with Valley unable to find an equaliser in the remaining minutes.

Rugby play Worcester City in the FA Trophy on Friday, October 3 with kick-off at 7.45pm at Sixways Stadium.

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