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Extra cash is good news for county's family hubs

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

FAMILY hubs will return to Warwickshire following the announcement of new government grants.

The government has allocated £216,158 to the county to begin detailed planning on ensuring every community has a Best Start Family Hub.

It will help Warwickshire to rebuild Sure Start-style services in the county after funding was cut under the previous government, leaving thousands of parents cut off from community support networks and specialist services.

The new Best Start Family Hubs are to be rolled out across the county by April next year. They will aim to act as a one stop shop for parents seeking a range of support on issues such as difficulty breastfeeding, housing issues or children's early development and language.

Rugby MP John Slinger said: "This investment, preparing for the opening of a local Best Start family hub, will be transformative.

"As a new dad I used the sure start centre in Rugby. I saw with my own eyes the support they gave

to parents from all backgrounds to help them at an exciting - but sometimes difficult - time in life."

Education Secretary Bridget Phillipson said it was a mission of the government to 'break the link between a child's background and what they go on to achieve'

She added: "Our new Best Start Family Hubs will put the first building blocks of better life chances in place for more children.

"I saw first-hand how initiatives like Sure Start helped level the playing field, transforming the lives of children by putting in place family support in the earliest years of life. We're building on its legacy for the next generation of children.

"Making sure hard-working parents are able to benefit from more early help is a promise made, and promise kept - delivering a lifeline of consistent support across the nation, ensuring health, social care and education work in unison to ensure all children get the best start in life."

Warwickshire's new Best Start Family Hub will complement existing efforts to expand government-funded childcare to 30-hours, increase the reach of school-based nurseries, and roll out free breakfast clubs in every primary school to support working parents.



Barnardo's Online Operations Manager **Jonathan Cage** and **Head of Volunteering** **Cristiana Cermola** with some of the new shop's bargains. Picture by **Marcus Mingins** 4325001MMR1

DOORS ARE OPEN: BARGAINS are on offer at a 'one-of-a-kind' new charity shop in Rugby. Children's charity Barnardo's is offering clothing, accessories, toys, games, books and more for just £5 each or less.

It also features a cosy reading corner where children can discover a new favourite book from the

in-store library.

Barnardo's Online Operations Manager Jonathan Cage said: "It's perfect for finding affordable gifts in the lead-up to Christmas. Come along, grab a bargain, and help make a difference."

See page 13 for more.

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World Cup winner pays a visit

A WORLD Cup winner inspired the next generation of female rugby players during a visit to a club in Coventry.

Jade Shekells from England's Red Roses visited Barkers Butts RFC - and was wowed by the club's opportunities for women's and girls' rugby.

She was joined by England Women's Performance Manager Charlie Hayter, and Coventry North West MP Taiwo Owatemi.

The trio visited the club on its Mini Festival

day, where around 800 youngsters from U7 to U12 from across the UK came together to play rugby.

During her visit Jade signed shirts, balls, flags, boots and water bottles, and hosted a Q&A with girls from Barkers Butts and Keresley RFC.

Freya Southwell, who plays in the back row for Barkers' U16 Girls team, said: "I can't believe I've met a World Cup winner at my club. I loved watching her on TV and now she's here talking to us!"

Barkers Butts, based just outside Coventry, has been offering men's rugby for almost 75 years, producing World Cup winner Neil Back and England stalwarts Danny Grewcock and Tom Woods, among others.

The club started offering a pathway for girls' rugby eight years ago and it has gone

from strength to strength.

The section now includes more than 100 girls in teams from U10s to U18s, and a women's team who have been playing league rugby for two seasons. Two girls from the team have gone on to represent England at U18 and U20 levels.

Notice of the Annual General Meeting of Citizens Advice South Warwickshire

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Citizens Advice South Warwickshire (a company limited by Guarantee) will be held on

Thursday 13th November 2025 at 10.30am
at Stratford Town Trust Community Hub,
Venture House, Avenue Farm, Birmingham Road,
Stratford Upon Avon CV37 0HR

for the following purposes:

1. To receive and consider the Report of the Directors and Trustees and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025, together with the Independent Examiners' Report
2. To appoint Independent Examiners.

By order of the Board
Irene Stark
 Chair

Charity Number 1106631

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TOP OF PAGE: Jade Shekells and England Women's Performance Manager Charlie Hayter with girls from Barkers Butts RFC and Keresley RFC. Pictures by Nick Browning / www.nickbimages.com

ABOVE: Jade Shekells with members of Barkers Butts U16 Girls team.

LEFT: Jade delivers a Q&A session to Barkers Butts RFC Girls players.



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See page **29**

Man jailed for modern day slavery offences

A VIOLENT and controlling man has been sentenced for modern day slavery offences after he coerced another man to run a large-scale cannabis factory in Rugby.

Dung Nguyen, 31, of Chesterfield in Derbyshire, was sentenced at Warwick Crown Court to three years and seven months imprisonment after he pleaded guilty to holding a person in slavery or servitude, being concerned in the production of cannabis, and fraud by false representation.

The Vietnamese national will also be subject to a Deportation Order.

The court heard that between March and July 2024, Nguyen used fraudulent documents to

secure a tenancy at an address in Manor Road.

He then recruited a man in his 20s to live there and tend to the large-scale cannabis factory that had been set up.

Nguyen used violence against the victim and threats to his family to maintain control over him over a period of several months, until the victim eventually sought support from a member of the public, who then reported it to police.

Following a police investigation, Nguyen was arrested and charged in April.

Police seized varying classifications of drugs and evidence of fraudulent documents during raids in Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and West Yorkshire.

Following the court hear-

ing, DCI Dave Andrews, from Warwickshire Police, said: "Our officers worked tirelessly on this protracted investigation which demonstrated the complex nature of this type of offending."

"This result is Warwickshire Police's first Human Trafficking conviction for several years and is a testament to the passion and dedication of our officers."

"Nguyen's crimes not only caused harm in Rugby, but also elsewhere in the UK and overseas. His conviction should be a clear message that criminal exploitation will not be tolerated in Warwickshire and we will continue to work with our partners to disrupt this type of criminality."

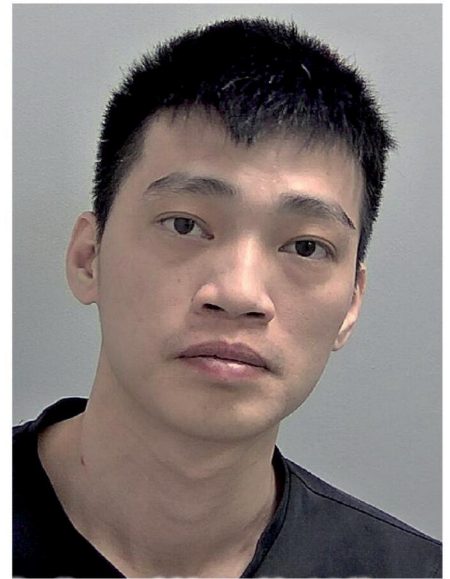
"The victim received ongoing support from specialist services to aid them in their recovery."

ing support from specialist services to aid them in their recovery."

DI Vicki Newton said: "We know that modern slavery, human trafficking and exploitation continue to impact communities in Warwickshire, and our Trafficking and Exploitation team will continue to work in partnership to combat these threats and support those individuals affected by them."

"We cannot do this work without the support of our communities. If members of the public have any concerns regarding modern slavery, human trafficking and exploitation, please report them to us."

"Specialist support for victims is available in Warwickshire."



Dung Nguyen used violence and threats to his victim's family to maintain control over him.



Mohammed Aevazi has been jailed for four-and-a-half years.

BIGZ drugs dealer given four-and-a-half years in prison

A HEROIN and crack dealer has been jailed after being caught in Rugby running a drugs line called 'BIGZ'.

Mohammed Aevazi, 29, was sentenced at Warwick Crown Court to four-and-a-half years in prison for being concerned with the supply of crack cocaine and heroin, and with two counts of

possession of class A drugs with intent to supply.

In January, a police investigation revealed that Aevazi was involved in the drugs line.

In a pre-planned operation, detectives arrested him in a Rugby alleyway and found he was carrying a 'burner' phone, three wraps of crack cocaine

and cash. In custody, he was found to have been hiding 45 wraps of crack cocaine in his underwear.

At the address in Rugby where he was staying, police found the phone that he had been using to send bulk texts advertising crack cocaine and heroin for sale.

DI Alan Hands, from

Warwickshire Police, said: "This sentence is very welcome. These toxic substances destroy lives and cause misery in our communities."

"Aevazi clearly didn't care about that - he just wanted to make cash."

"He now has plenty of time to reflect on his actions."

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Donations flooding in to repair Hall's Croft

by Philippa Miggins

DONATIONS have come in from around the world after a driver damaged one of Shakespeare's family homes in Stratford.

Grade I-listed Hall's Croft, once home to William Shakespeare's daughter Susanna and her husband John Hall, was already undergoing a major conservation project to preserve it before a driver accidentally reversed into it on Friday (October 17).

Substantial damage was caused to the building, including several 17th century timbers and exposing the oldest parts of the interior to the elements.

The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust (SBT), who look after all the Shakespeare family homes, said the car backing into the building had been an accident and no one had been injured.

It is now assessing the full extent of the damage in consultation with structural engineers and heritage specialists.

Rachael North, SBT's chief executive, said: "While we are relieved that no one was injured, we are deeply saddened to see damage to one of Stratford's most beautiful and historic buildings.

"Our teams responded quickly to stabilise the affected area, and we are now working closely with conservation experts to determine the repairs required."



The damage at Hall's Croft. Picture by Marcus Miggins 4325005MMR

The incident underscores the broader challenge facing organisations like SBT, which care for centuries-old buildings at a time of rising costs, skills shortages, and limited public funding.

Ms North added: "Every day we face the enormous responsibility of preserving five Grade I and II listed buildings – the very homes and places that tell Shakespeare's story. Yet the costs of conservation are increasing rapidly, and the specialist skills required are in short supply. Incidents like Friday's are a stark reminder of how vulnerable our heritage is, and how vital it is that we continue to invest in its protection."

Other parts of Hall's Croft are already undergoing a major conservation programme, funded by American philanthropist and playwright Ken Ludwig.

The damage caused in Friday's accident may accelerate the need to move into the next wider phase of conservation requiring several million pounds of investment, which SBT is unable to fund from its own resources.

News of the incident has already led to messages of support and donations from people around the world.

Visit the website at givealittle.co/c/4jeSoSAVUj9hCD3E6oSQro to donate.



Sanctuary – Kay Sheriston with her bloomin' marvellous Art Box display.

Kay's bloomin' great idea

THE SMALLEST art gallery in Leamington has become a sanctuary for some bloomin' marvellous art.

The Art Box on Clarendon Avenue is currently home to a display curated and installed by deputy town clerk Kay Sheriston showcasing the entries to the 2024 Leamington in Bloom photography competition.

The theme for the 2024 competition was Sanctuary and the colourful installation shares how this was interpreted by

entrants, with images of local places of quiet and calm for wildlife and humans alike.

The exhibition runs until November.

Art Box, once a listed red telephone box, is owned by Leamington Town Council and managed by Friends of Christchurch Gardens. It is available, free of charge, for community or school exhibitions.

Contact artboxleam@gmail.com to enquire about availability.



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Drugs gang sent to jail for more than 40 years

A DRUG supply ring with bases in Coventry produced and sold millions of pounds worth of cannabis across the UK.

Seven men have been given prison sentences totalling almost 40 years for their involvement in the group, which converted properties in the city and elsewhere in the UK to grow cannabis – illegally bypassing electricity to do so.

In May 2022, officers from West Midlands Police and the West Midlands Regional

Organised Crime Unit (WM ROCU) started an investigation into the group.

Seven men, arrested and charged as part of the investigation, all pleaded guilty to conspiring to supply and produce cannabis.

Among them were the leaders of the group – Erikson Kararaj, 34, of Perry Wood Road, Birmingham, who was jailed for eight years, and Arben Sinjari, 48, of Esher Road, Birmingham, who was jailed for seven years.

The other men were involved in the maintenance

of the grows, and would then be involved in selling and delivering several kilograms of it at a time across the country.

Islam Toro, 31, of Railway Street, Tipton, was jailed for five years and eight months; Klajdi Zyka, 28, of Station Street, Darlaston, for five years; Gemal Sakaj, 29 of Borrowdale Road, Birmingham, for four years six months; Avdullah Delbashi, of Fountain Road, Birmingham, for four years four months, and Soni Gremshi, 37, of Greenholm



Top row, left to right: Erikson Kararaj, Arben Sinjari, Islam Toro, Klajdi Zyka; bottom row: Gemal Sakaj, Avdullah Delbashi, and Soni Gremshi.

Road, Birmingham, for three years four months.

In total, 17 properties converted to grow cannabis were linked to the group, including in Coventry More than 4,000 cannabis plants were seized during the investigation, with a potential street value of mil-

lions of pounds. Officers also recovered tens of thousands of pounds in cash, several kilograms of cannabis, and equipment for drugs cultivation.

Det Sgt Ryan Matthews, from West Midlands Police, said: "This was a complex investigation which led officers

from the West Midlands across the country, unravelling a high-level drug supply network. The harm that drugs and drug dealing bring to communities should not be underestimated, and we remain absolutely committed to tackling it and bringing those involved to justice."

Smugglers used drones to drop contraband into prison



The group used a drone to fly drugs and illegal contraband into HMP Onley near Rugby.

SMUGGLERS – including a former police officer – who used drones to drop drugs and other contraband items into a prison near Rugby are due to be sentenced next month.

At Coventry Crown Court, Peter King, 53, previously of Wolverhampton; former Staffordshire Police detective constable Clare Davenport, 50, of Staffordshire; Kent George, 63, previously of Milton Keynes; and

Mervyn Foster, 46, previously of Wolverhampton were all found to be involved in the criminal enterprise.

The incidents took place throughout 2021 and 2022 when drones containing prohibited items were 'flown-to-order' into HMP Onley near Rugby and also into HMP Gartree in Leicestershire.

The packages inside the drones contained Class A and B drugs,

tobacco, mobile phones and other contraband. One contained heroin and cannabis with a combined prison value of more than £37,000.

At an earlier hearing, King pleaded guilty to conspiring to bring/throw/convey a List A prohibited article into/out of a prison, conspiring to bring/throw/convey a List B prohibited article into/out of a prison, and conspiring to acquire/use/possess criminal property. Kent

and Foster were found guilty of the same offences following a trial. Davenport pleaded guilty to conspiring to acquire/use/possess criminal property.

A gross misconduct hearing held by Staffordshire Police in 2023 concluded that Davenport would have been dismissed if she had not already retired.

All four offenders will be sentenced at Coventry Crown Court on November 17.

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Donkeys help salute animal war heroes

by Philippa Mingsins

REAL-LIFE donkeys stole the show at the launch of a special exhibition commemorating war animals in Warwick.

Pooka and Donald were introduced to town mayor Jackie D'Arcy when she visited the 'Brave Tails: Animals who Served' exhibition at The Museum of The Queen's Royal Hussars.

She also marvelled at the Richmond Purple Poppies – a cascade of crafted purple poppies commemorating animals that have served in theatres of war past and present, that has been gifted to the Donkey Breed Society's Northern Region.

During the day, visitors participated in crafting workshops, cre-



Warwick mayor Coun Jackie D'Arcy meets Pooka.

ating poignant scenes of animals going to war, in the style of the Bayeux Tapestry.

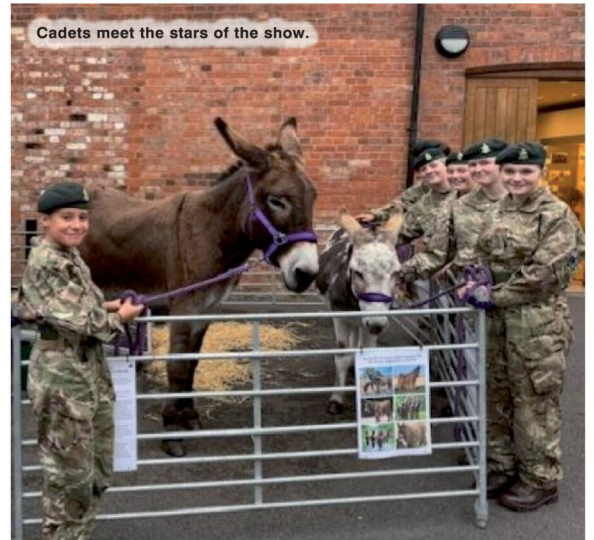
They also shared extraordinary stories of the animals and birds that have shouldered the duty of transportation, communications and as heroes in specialist operations on the battlefield.

Museum curator Andy Milton said: "As our museum is based on cavalry heritage with an overall theme from 'Horses to Tanks', the Donkey Breed Society's fantastic display is incredibly appropriate.

"The exhibition highlights the importance of animals in war and their contribution that was carried out in some of the most appalling conditions.

"We had a marvellous turnout from the local community, including Army and Sea Cadets, who supported the evening's crafting activities. A huge thank you to everyone that joined us."

Anna Turner, regional delegate for the Western Region of the Donkey Breed Society, added: "it is so exciting to be supporting the museum and welcoming The Richmond Purple Poppies to Warwick. The



Cadets meet the stars of the show.

crafting of the poppies is exquisite and Donald and Pooka were beautifully behaved."

'Brave Tails: Animals Who Served' runs at The Museum of The Queen's Royal Hussars until November 30.

The poppy cascade is ready to be unfurled in time for Remembrance Day. Picture by Marcus Mingsins



Poppy cascade to be unfurled from tower once more

POPPIES will again cascade from St Peter's Church tower in Wellesbourne.

This year's cascade is 21 metres tall and five metres wide and is made up of 3,104 knitted and crocheted poppies.

Villager Kate Skinner said "So many people have enjoyed the cascade for the last two years and there was great enthusiasm

for it to be repeated for 2025."

After the cascade was taken down it was dried out and stored away and is now ready to be unfurled again. The ladies at the Wednesday Crafternoon group, which was set up as a result of the first poppy cascade, have also made some new displays for around the village.

Kate added: "The project has

been a huge amount of fun and has brought many people together in the local community as well as attracting visitors from further afield.

"We are all very excited for everyone to come along and enjoy the amazing installations once more. In addition this year we have a just-for-fun trail for people to hunt for clues and

enjoy all the displays around the village as they go."

The cascade can be seen from tomorrow (Saturday, October 25) to November 15.

As well as the decorations around the village, there are displays of poppies inside St Peter's and also at The Methodist Church in Bridge Street.

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Councils unite in taxi checks

A TAXI driver was suspended following safety checks in Leamington.

Warwick District Council's (WDC) licensing team recently undertook a joint operation with the City of Wolverhampton Council's Compliance Department to inspect private hire vehicles operating in the town but originating from outside of the district.

The operation was timed to coincide with the return of students to the University of Warwick, which typically results in an increased demand for taxis.

A total of 27 vehicles were inspected, and as a result one driver was suspended for not having their



taxi plate affixed to their vehicle and for having tints on the windows.

A further two vehicles were found to have tyres which were borderline to requirements; but have since provided evidence

A total of 27 vehicles were inspected in the councils' taxi safety check.

that the tyres have been changed.

WDC safety spokesman Coun Jim Sinnott said: "Taxis are a vital service and are a huge support to the night-time economy, it's not illegal for taxis, licensed by other authorities to operate across our district, but we must ensure as far as possible that these vehicles meet the high standards required by our council and we have a regular and robust

Further inspections are planned over the coming months.

Cannabis driver jailed after crash killed girlfriend

A DRUG-FUELLED driver has been jailed for ten years after his dangerous driving led to the death of his girlfriend.

Police said 25-year-old Joshua Bromley, of Wackrill Drive, Leamington, was speeding at around 80mph in heavy rain and under the influence of cannabis when he lost control of his car on the A423 near Marton in November 2022.

Police said he had passed his test just ten months earlier.

Jessica Lees, aged 27, from Stockton, who was the front seat passenger, was seriously injured in the collision and later died in hospital.

Bromley was sentenced to ten years in prison for killing his passenger by dangerous driving, and disqualified from driving for five years.

Speaking after the sentence



Joshua Bromley.

DS Drew Ballantyne, from Warwickshire Police, said "It's been a long investigation period for Jessica's family who also had to endure a trial as Bromley pleaded not guilty.

"We hope that Bromley now takes responsibility for what he has done and that other new and inexperienced driv-

ers take the opportunity to learn from this tragic case."

Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership is calling for greater measures to be put in place to improve the safety of young and inexperienced drivers to help protect them, their passengers and other road users.

This includes reducing the number of peer-aged passengers in the vehicle to minimise risk-taking and distractions, limiting in-car music or conversations that divert attention from the road and ensuring mobile phones are put away and not used while driving, and getting parents to ask young drivers about their travel plans, destinations, and expected return times.

M40 U-turn in police pursuit

A DANGEROUS driver has been sentenced to prison following a police pursuit on the M40.

Warwickshire Police received a report of a van driver who was behaving suspiciously in Stratford at around 11.35pm on Saturday June 14.

As officers approached the van, the driver, Stuart Jones, of Himley Road, Dudley, rammed the police vehicle and followed it before fleeing the scene.

Police said the 48-year-old sped out of Stratford, often on the wrong side of the road, and without lights on. On the M40, the van did a U-turn and drove the wrong way, before officers managed to stop it and detain Jones. He subsequently pleaded guilty to dangerous driving, driving while disqualified, driving without insurance and assaulting police.



Stuart Jones was pursued by police from Stratford to the M40.

He was sentenced to 71 weeks in prison when he

appeared at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

Sgt Sadie Shearsby, from Warwickshire Police, said: "The officer who was driving the police vehicle was assaulted during this incident - something emergency service workers shouldn't have to face while on duty.

"This job could have easily escalated, and serious harm could have been caused to the officers, our police dogs, members of the public and the defendant so the quick stop of the vehicle on the M40 was a great tactical response.

"The teamwork shown and the officers hard work and efforts have helped to bring this case to a successful conclusion."

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Mayor Barbara Brown has urged residents to wear a poppy with pride.

Long service lands prestigious honour

AN 'HONOURED and humbled' councillor has received a prestigious honour after more than three decades serving Rugby and Warwickshire.

Coun Jerry Roodhouse, Warwickshire County Council's (WCC) longest standing member, has been given the title of Honorary Freeman of the County of Warwickshire – the first time it has been awarded to an individual this millennium.

WCC councillors from all parties unanimously endorsed the honorary award for Coun Roodhouse, recognising his significant and valuable services rendered to the county.

The award recognises the 35 years of service that Coun Roodhouse has given to the communities of Warwickshire – first as a member of Rugby Borough Council (RBC) from 1990 and then as a member of the County Council from 1993.

Coun Roodhouse represents Paddox Ward at RBC, and Eastlands Ward at WCC. He leads the Liberal Democrat group on both councils, and served as Mayor of Rugby in 1999-2000.

He has earned the respect of his WCC peers across the political spectrum for his campaigning on health and social care, local policing and protecting green areas, as well as for



his work in supporting community groups and children.

Coun Roodhouse said: "I am honoured and humbled to be awarded the Freemanship of Warwickshire."

"Although my roots are in Yorkshire, Warwickshire and Rugby is my home. Warwickshire's history, its landscapes, and above all its people have shaped my life in ways I will never forget. To be recognised in this way by the place and community I hold so dear is so deeply moving.

"The guiding principles that I have always followed are to represent the

people who elected me and to be their community champion, to fight against inequality, and to fight for fairness and support for individuals.

"This honour is not something I could ever have achieved alone. It reflects the support, encouragement, and kindness I've received over the years from my family and especially my wife Sue, along with friends and colleagues - including Officers of the County Council and the Eastlands and Paddox community in Rugby. To all of you, I owe a debt of gratitude.

"Thank you for bestowing this rare and special honour upon me. I will treasure it always."

WCC leader George Finch said Coun Roodhouse was one of the most distinguished and dedicated public servants in the county.

He added: "For many years he has carried the considerable responsibility of leading the Liberal Democrat group with integrity, consistency and a deep commitment to public service and his political party."

"His leadership has been thoughtful, principled and pragmatic, working in collaboration, but always placing the needs of his residents at the heart of his work."

Coun Jerry Roodhouse has been given the title of Honorary Freeman of the County of Warwickshire.

 THE MAYOR of Rugby has urged residents to wear a poppy with pride in support of this year's Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, which launches on Saturday (October 25).

Coun Barbara Brown said: "Remembrance is part of modern British life, culture and heritage. It becomes a particular feature of the public calendar each year when public, private, formal and informal Remembrance events take place throughout the UK.

"This year marked the 80th anniversaries of VE Day on May 8 and VJ Day on August 15. The Royal British Legion was founded more than 100 years ago and, whilst Remembrance Sunday is a day for the nation to remember and honour

those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the World Wars, it is also about those involved in the many conflicts since and those still fighting for the freedom we enjoy today.

"Donating to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal and wearing the official symbol of Remembrance is greatly appreciated by those it helps – those currently serving in our Armed Forces, our veterans, their families and dependants.

"I would, therefore, urge everyone to join with me and wear a poppy with pride."

Rugby Borough Council will be co-ordinating arrangements for the Remembrance Service at the Memorial Gates in Hillmorton Road, which this year falls on Sunday November 9.


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Procession set to harvest fun

A MUCH-loved harvest festival which attracted thousands to central London is being revived in Coventry – and families are invited to help bring its 10ft centre-piece to life.

The October Plenty, which delighted crowds along Bankside and Borough Market for more than 25 years, is being reimagined for the streets of Coventry with a free, family-friendly celebration of harvest traditions, storytelling, food and theatre.

Festivities begin at St Mary's Guildhall, where members of the public are invited to help create the festival's iconic Corn Queene – a three-metre-tall figure made from wheat, fruit and vegetables which will lead the city's harvest procession.

Up until Saturday (October 25), visitors can drop in to the 700-year-old venue to help weave corn into skirts, string vegetables into garlands, and contribute handmade decorations and seasonal produce, while learning about the harvest traditions behind the celebration.

The festival culminates on Sunday (October 26), when the completed Corn Queene will lead a colourful, musical procession from the Cathedral Ruins through the city centre to FarGo Village, alongside the autumnal Berry Man – a figure dressed in wild foliage and fruit – as well as dancers, musicians, and performers.

At FarGo Village, celebrations will continue with an afternoon of live folk music, traditional dancing, food from local traders and interactive street theatre.



Connor Alexander, the artistic director of Coventry theatre company Bladder & String, who has helped produce the October Plenty since 2016, said he was excited to be bringing the celebration to the city.

He said: "It's a real privilege to help bring the October Plenty to Coventry and share it with new audiences after some hugely successful years in the capital attracting thousands of people each year."

"Coventry has a rich cultural heritage and a strong tradition of community celebration, so its historic centre feels like the perfect place for this festival to grow and thrive, and we hope to see plenty of people joining us throughout the week."

The colourful, musical procession will progress from the Cathedral Ruins through the city centre to FarGo Village, where it will culminate in an afternoon of live folk music, traditional dancing, food from local traders and interactive street theatre.



St Mary's Guildhall will host a Ghostly Guildhall event. Picture by FStop Press Ltd / www.fstoppress.com / www.rkpphotography.co.uk

WICKED days out and events are coming to Coventry for Halloween.

St Mary's Guildhall will host daily Halloween tours of the historic building and a Ghostly Guildhall Special event on October 30 and 31.

Planet Ice at Coventry Skydome will bring spooky surprises to its family-friendly Trick or Treat event on Friday October 31.

FarGo Village is set to welcome back the Halloween Makers Market on October 25 and 26 with makers, designers and creatives showcasing their wares, alongside hands-on workshop activities.

Go Ape Coventry will also be open throughout October half-term, with ziplines, treetop adventures and more.

The Albany Theatre will welcome Real-Life Halloween Horror to the stage with real-life tales of terror from Coventry's history.

The Belgrade Theatre will host a Ananspired family trail throughout the half-term

week, The Little Yak recycling crafts on October 30, and free family drop-in sessions for nature inspired arts and crafts on October 30 and 31.

Adult thrill-seekers can attend Friday Fright Night at Planet Ice, where zombies and characters will create a haunting atmosphere, or an immersive and interactive Murder Mystery Experience at Ansty Hall on Thursday October 30.

Halloween-themed cocktails will be served up at the Telegraph Hotel, and 147 Nightclub will host a Halloween party on October 31 and A Haunting on Far Gosford Street on November 1.

A full week of events takes place at the British Motor Museum in Gaydon, and the Heart of England Conference Centre will host Kids Halloween from October 27 to 30.

Visit www.visitcoventry.co.uk for more information.

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Evie and Elsie will head to the United States next year to compete in the 2026 ICU Junior World Cheerleading Championships.

TWO young cheerleaders have something to shout about after they were selected to compete in a major tournament across the Atlantic. Elsie Ascroft and Evie Hall, both Year 9 students at The Avon Valley School and Performing Arts College, will head to the United States next year to compete in the 2026 ICU Junior World Cheerleading Championships. They have both been selected to represent Team England in the Youth All Girl Advanced squad for the world championships, which are set to take place in Florida at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex in April 2026. As part of their team, they

will compete against teams from all over the world, including the USA and Japan. In addition to the world championships, the AVS duo will also compete with the Lady Grenades, who are part of their club team, Coventry Dynamite, in the under-18 level 5 category in the same week. Avon Valley Headteacher Blake Francis said: "I was very impressed to hear that Elsie and Evie will have been selected for the Team England Squad and will also get a chance to represent their club team while they're in America. "This really is a fantastic opportunity for them both."

Healthy campaign with a bit of bite

YOUNG volunteers were all smiles as they took centre stage at an event at Rugby Library to promote dental hygiene.

Warwickshire's young library champions hosted 85 children and adults at a lively 'Tooth-tastic' Fun Palace to promote children's dental health.

The event, designed and delivered by members of the Warwickshire Libraries Youth Advisory Board, turned the venue into a hub of family fun and learning, aiming to help children understand the importance of healthy teeth.

Families enjoyed hands-on experiments and creative activities throughout the day - including an 'eggshell experiment' showing the effects of sugary drinks on tooth enamel, a giant tooth model for practising brushing, and lively story sessions.

Phoebe Thomas, 15, who came up with the dental health theme, led the planning and even secured free toothpaste samples from local businesses to share with families.

She said: "I was really excited to be involved in the Fun Palace."

"When we discussed possible themes, I suggested dental hygiene because it's something I'm passionate about - and I'd love to pursue a career in dentistry."

"Helping children learn how to look after their teeth felt like a great way to make a difference." Youth Board member Rafi Khan entertained younger visitors in a dentist's outfit.

She said: "I really enjoyed dressing up and sharing stories with the children. It was such a fun way to make dental health exciting."

Parents praised the event, with one saying: "This is an excellent opportunity for kids to learn about teeth health - and in such a fun way."

Phoebe has now been invited to visit local schools to talk to Key Stage 1 pupils about oral health.

Coun Mike Bannister, Warwickshire County Council's Portfolio Holder for Customer and Localities, praised the young organisers.

He said: "What these young people have achieved is truly inspiring. They've shown that when you give young people the tools and trust to lead, they can make a real difference in their communities."

"This event not only promoted better health but also highlighted the creativity and leadership of Warwickshire's next generation."

The Fun Palace is part of Warwickshire Libraries' wider programme of events designed to empower young people, promote wellbeing, and bring communities together.

Members of the Warwickshire Libraries Youth Advisory Board shape services, lead events, and champion issues that matter to young people. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/382rj9tj> to get involved.

Phoebe Thomas, 15, came up with the dental health theme and led the planning of the event.



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LEFT: Product Lister Supervisor Lauren Drogan keeps the in-store library stocked. Picture by Marcus Mingins 4325001MMR5



RIGHT: Online Operations Manager Jonathan Cage with a potential Christmas gift. Picture by Marcus Mingins 4325001MMR2

Opening with a new approach



A ONE-of-a-kind charity shop has opened in Rugby. All products at the Barnardo's Rugby Outlet Store are priced at £5 or less.

The store at Triton Park in Swift Valley stocks clothing, accessories, toys, games, books and more, including many brand-new items with tags.

It also features a dedicated children's 'Book Nook', a cosy reading corner where children can discover a new favourite book from the in-store library.

Jonathan Cage, Online Operations Manager for the children's charity, said: "We are thrilled to bring this new concept store to Rugby. It's perfect for finding affordable gifts in the lead-up to Christmas.

"Not only does it offer exceptional value for families, but every purchase supports Barnardo's vital work with children, young people, and families across the UK. "Come along, grab a bargain, and help make a difference."

The store is open seven days a week (Monday to Saturday, 9:30am-4:30pm; Sunday, 10am-4pm).

LEFT: Bonnie, two, in the Book Nook at Barnardo's new 'one-of-a-kind' charity shop. Picture by Marcus Mingins 4325001MMR6



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Visit highlights work of Guide Dogs for MP

by Philippa Mings

MP MATT Western has been hearing about the daily challenges facing staff and guide dog owners during a visit to Guide Dogs National Centre in Leamington.

The state-of-the-art facility in Bishop's Tachbrook is where all guide dogs begin their journey as puppies, with more than 10,000 guide dog puppies passing through the site's doors since it opened in 2011.

The Warwick and Leamington MP met with local constituent, and guide dog owner, Lydia Hayden, who's currently partnered with her first guide dog Rotary, as well as representatives from the charity's policy and campaigns team.

Lydia, who lives in Leamington, said: "It was amazing having the chance to talk with Matt. I was able to highlight how vulnerable



MP Matt Western talks to Lydia Hayden and Jessica Luke during a visit to Guide Dogs National Centre.

and anxious pavement parking and access refusals make me feel.

"I was so glad I had the chance to share my negative experiences with Matt and learn how the campaigns team are working to push for changes in the law."

Jessica Luke, regional policy and campaigns manager at Guide Dogs, said: "It's fantastic that we've been able to welcome Matt Western to our National Centre to learn

more about our charity and campaigning work.

"At Guide Dogs, we campaign on a range of issues which affect people with a vision impairment, from access refusals to places such as shops and restaurants, to pavement parking and street clutter.

"We hope that Matt has enjoyed his time with us and will be able to take forward the actions we've discussed."

Mr Western added: "It is deeply concerning that individuals who rely on guide dogs for independence and safety continue to face unacceptable barriers in our community. Pavement parking forces people with sight loss into dangerous situations, and access refusals from local businesses are not only discriminatory but illegal.

"We must do more to ensure our streets and public spaces are truly inclusive. I fully support the efforts of Guide Dogs UK and everyone working to make our towns more accessible and welcoming for all."



ABOVE: Wag and Walk participants make a photo stop by the Priory Park mural. BELOW: Maple with her certificate and rosette.

Wag and walk boosts centre fund

DOG walkers put their best foot forward in Warwick to raise cash for a much-needed new community centre.

Priory Pools hosted its first-ever Wag and Walk raising £100.

The cash will go towards the new Priory Pools Community Centre, which will be bigger and better than the current Packmores Community Centre.

It will have a large hall and smaller rooms to hire out, allowing more clubs, activities and societies meetings to take place. There will be a permanent food pantry and a new community cafe too.

Simon Pargeter, chair



of Priory Area Community Group, said: "We were delighted to welcome 16 friendly furry friends (and owners) who all enjoyed a

sunny stroll around Priory Pools area, with a photo stop by the amazing Black Labrador mural next to the railway underpass.

"Thank you to everyone who joined us. They all seemed to love our certificates and rosettes. It's amazing what we can do when we come together and have fun as a community, and hope that we can do this again and raise even more money for Priory Pools Community Centre. We hope to run one again in December so watch this space."

So far £1.7 million has been raised for the new centre, which will cost £2 million to build.

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Plaque celebrates 100 years of centre

CENTENARY celebrations at Rugby's home of lifelong learning have come to a close with the unveiling of a bespoke plaque at a special event.

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

The Percival Guildhouse invited supporters, donors, staff, trustees and dignitaries to an evening of music, literature and fun at Rugby School to mark the day 100 years ago when the learning centre first opened its doors.

Mayor Barbara Brown revealed the plaque, which reads 'The Percival Guildhouse. Celebrating 100 years of lifelong learning 1925-2025. Enriching Every Stage of Life.'

The plaque will be fixed to the wall by the Guildhouse front door.

Named in honour of a Dr John Percival, a former headmaster at Rugby School, the Guildhouse promoted his ambition for education to be available to adults from all walks of life.

The Old Rugbeians, former Rugby School pupils, bought antiquarian Matthew Holbeche Bloxam's house in St Matthew's Street, opening a centre there in 1925.

Tim Day, the school's Director of Development and Alumni, said the Rugbeian Society was proud of its role in founding the Guildhouse and was pleased to have helped in organising the closing centenary event.

The society now focuses on supporting youth education through organisations such as The Arnold Foundation, its transformational boarding bursary scheme, which it created in 2003, and which has provided fully-funded places for 200 talented students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Rob Close, Guildhouse chair of trustees, applauded each generation of students and volunteers that had seen the Guildhouse through periods of severe economic downturn, a world war and withdrawal of all municipal funding - enabling it to continue today as an organisation unique to Warwickshire.

He spoke of the post-pandemic challenge being faced to restore student numbers - but also of the determination to work towards



Left to right: Centenary Committee chairman David Dove, Mayor Barbara Brown, Guildhouse chair of trustees Rob Close, and Tim Day of the Rugbeian Society.

future anniversaries. A highlight of the closing event was a presentation of prizes to winners of a short story writing competition among secondary schools in Rugby which was organised by Guildhouse member Andy Roughton, and the reading of the winning stories. Music at the start of the evening was

provided by four talented Rugby School pupils.

Guildhouse Centenary Committee chairman David Dove thanked all who had helped, and said he hoped the 100-year anniversary and the public platform it had provided would serve as the springboard to a secure future.



Project co-ordinator Becky Cave bangs the drum for child-led play.

New funding helps group bang the drum for children

A CHARITY which helps families with young children in the Lutterworth area can continue running its successful therapeutic play project in schools and homes after it secured new funding.

Home-Start South Leicestershire has obtained a further three years' funding for its Play-Full Families initiative from The National Lottery Community Fund.

The project, which launched in 2022, focuses on the benefits of child-led play in children aged five to 11.

Staff deliver play sessions in schools to pass on skills to parents and carers, encouraging more child-led play at home.

The charity's manager Stella Renwick said: "The ultimate aim of the project is to create healthier family dynamics by encouraging the understanding and valuing

of play and its benefits.

"A recent external evaluation demonstrated what a great success the project has been. Most care-givers stated they had kept up the increased child-led play time with their children, significantly improving their family relationships."

The project will continue until September 2028 and will include the delivery of new workshops for parents and their

children referred from the partner schools. All Harborough District primary schools are invited to contact the charity for staff training and support on the importance of child-led play.

The public is invited to the charity's AGM on November 11. Call 01858 467982 or email info@home-startsouthleics.org.

Visit www.home-startsouthleics.org.uk for more details.



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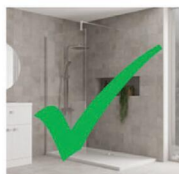
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Helping guide them through seasonal change



A CHARITY is reminding people to check in on loved ones, friends and neighbours living with dementia as the days grow shorter and colder.

Seasonal changes can be unsettling, and colder temperatures may bring extra challenges. People with dementia may not always recognise when they're cold or be able to communicate discomfort, which makes this time of year particularly difficult.

Angelo Makri, Senior Knowledge Officer for Wellbeing at Alzheimer's Society, has shared useful tips to help keep people living with dementia safe and well during autumn and winter.

Clock change advice October 26

Many people are caught out by the extra hour lost or gained. But for people with dementia, the time change may cause more than just a surprise.

- Having a routine during the day and at bedtime can help regulate a person's disrupted body clock. Doing regular activities at the same time each day can help a person with dementia make sense

of the time.

- Going outside in the morning can help set a person's body clock, making them feel sleepier during the evening. If the person is unable to go outside, the same effect can be created by switching on a lamp or lightbox.
- Alzheimer's Society's online shop sells various 'Day and Night' clocks which have all the features of a traditional clock but also include simple day and night visual symbols to help people with dementia distinguish the time of day. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/y9mzj9u6> for more information.

Cold Weather Support

- Dress warmly – Cotton, wool or fleece materials are best for maintaining body heat.
- Keep rooms warm – Use heating, draught-proofing and thermal curtains to maintain a steady temperature.
- Encourage movement – Gentle activity such as stretching, walking around the house, or even wiggling toes helps boost circulation.
- Make the most of light – Natural light supports mood and helps reduce confusion linked to shorter

days.

- Stick to a routine – Consistency and familiarity are important for people with dementia and may help avoid confusion or distress.
- Be careful outdoors – Perception issues mean wet or icy pavements may not be easily recognised. Support the person to go outside and go with them if possible.
- Eat and drink regularly – Cold weather uses extra energy and dehydration can creep in unnoticed. Warm meals and drinks provide comfort and health benefits.
- Get a benefits check – The person may be eligible for winter fuel payments, cold weather payments or a warm home discount.

Bonfire Night – November 5

Loud bangs, flashing lights and crowds may be distressing or confusing for someone with dementia. Alzheimer's Society suggests:

- Preparing in advance – Let the person know fireworks are happening and close curtains to reduce light flashes. Music or television may help block out some of the noise.
- Providing reassurance – Stay calm and offer comfort if they feel unsettled. Being engaged in an activity can be a good distraction.
- Creating a calm space – Soothing music, a warm drink or a favourite blanket may help reduce anxiety.
- Celebrating differently – Watching a firework display on TV can provide enjoyment without the stress. Watching old displays online may help prompt memories of earlier times, such as the Millennium celebrations.

Seasonal activities

Autumn and winter can also be rich with opportunities to create positive experiences through the senses. Simple seasonal activities can boost wellbeing, spark memo-

ries, and provide comfort:

- Bake a seasonal dish – Preparing a seasonal dish such as apple crumble, mince pies or spiced soup allows your loved one to enjoy the smells of autumn and winter cooking.
- Bring nature indoors – Touching, smelling and seeing autumn leaves, conkers, pinecones or acorns can stimulate the senses and prompt conversation about past autumns and winters.
- Homemade autumn and winter potpourri – Simmer cinnamon sticks, cloves, citrus peelings and apple slices on the hob to fill the home with comforting seasonal aromas.

Support and Advice

Visit www.alzheimersociety.org.uk/joinus or call the Dementia Support Line on 0333 150 3456 to get involved.

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Community projects urged to apply for extra funding

MORE funding is available to help make communities stronger.

Every year, Warwickshire County Council allocates each of its 57 councillors £8,000 to support small scale projects within their wards which empower the community to support the ambitions of the county council.

Local community and voluntary groups could be eligible for support. These projects' aims may help improve access to services, reduce loneliness and isolation, improve physical, mental health and wellbeing of residents and support the local area's sustainability ambitions.

Applications need to be submitted through the council's website, and will involve the completion of an online form. As this is the second round of funding this year, some funding will have already been spent, therefore the amount available may vary from ward to ward.

Applications close on November 2. Previous winners include local not-for-profit community interest company, SPARK Youth Music. The local group benefitted from the Warwickshire County Council's Councillor Grant Scheme, enabling the organisation to deliver life-changing music programmes to hundreds of young people

and vulnerable residents across the county.

Clare Thomas founder of SPARK Youth Music said: "The Councillor Grants have been a lifeline for Spark Youth Music. Unlike national funding bodies that often overlook areas like South Warwickshire local councillors understand the specific needs of their communities. Their support has allowed us to continue delivering programmes that make a real difference by teaching life and work skills, building confidence, and creating a sense of belonging."

WCC spokesman Coun Mike Bannister said: "This fantastic initiative allows us to empower Warwickshire's communities through small scale projects that will bring demonstrable benefits to their local areas."

"The Councillors' Grant Fund enables us to bring about real change in Warwickshire creating opportunities for our residents supporting happier, healthier communities throughout the county."

"If you feel you can benefit from access to the fund, fill out an application today and let us make a positive difference in Warwickshire, together."

Visit www.warwickshire.gov.uk/cllr grants for more information about the grant and to submit an application.



People will be able to dedicate a light to those they have lost.

THE MYTON Hospices annual Light Up A Life service will be held at each of its three hospices this Christmas.

Communities will come together to remember loved ones passed and in return for a donation, dedicate a light on Myton's Christmas tree.

In doing so they will help light up the hospices at Christmas and ensure the charity can be there for more people, now and in the future.

A screen will project the names of loved ones as the service takes place, lit by candle-light.

Each service will take place outside and last approximately 30 minutes. Everyone is welcome to attend. The services are led by Myton's team and include festive carols and readings, with light refreshments available.

Light Up A Life takes place at Coventry Myton Hospice on Sunday December 7 at 5pm, Rugby Myton Support Hub on Friday December 12 at 7pm and Warwick Myton Hospice on Sunday December 14 at 6pm

Sue Medlock, ward manager at Coventry Myton Hospice Inpatient Unit said: "By attending a Light Up A Life service this December and making a dedication in memory of someone special, you'll be helping us continue to care for patients and families that need us most."

"Your donation will ensure more people with life-limiting conditions can access Myton's services, so they can receive the specialist care and support they need and deserve."

Visit www.mytonhospice.org/LUAL for more details.

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University is at the top of Times table

THE UNIVERSITY of Warwick has been named the best in the Midlands.

The university is celebrating multiple successes in The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2026, including winner of 'University of the Year in the Midlands', being named 'Highly Commended Russell Group University of the Year', and having risen one place in the overall rankings to eighth.

Celebrating Warwick's triple success, Professor Stuart Croft, vice-chancellor and president, University of Warwick, said:

"Being named University of the Year in the Midlands, highly commended among the Russell Group, and rising in the rankings reflects the impact we're making locally, nationally, and globally through internationally-leading research and world-class teaching.

"Achieving highly commended in the Russell Group category shows that Warwick is continuing to deliver an outstanding educational experience. We continue to be a thriving academic community because of the incredible dedication, talent, and passion of everyone associated with Warwick.

"As Warwick celebrates our 60th anniversary, these results show that you can make a big difference in a small amount of time. I'm immensely proud of what

we've achieved together, how we prepare our students to make a positive difference in the world, and I'm excited for what's to come as we continue to grow our academic offering and our community."

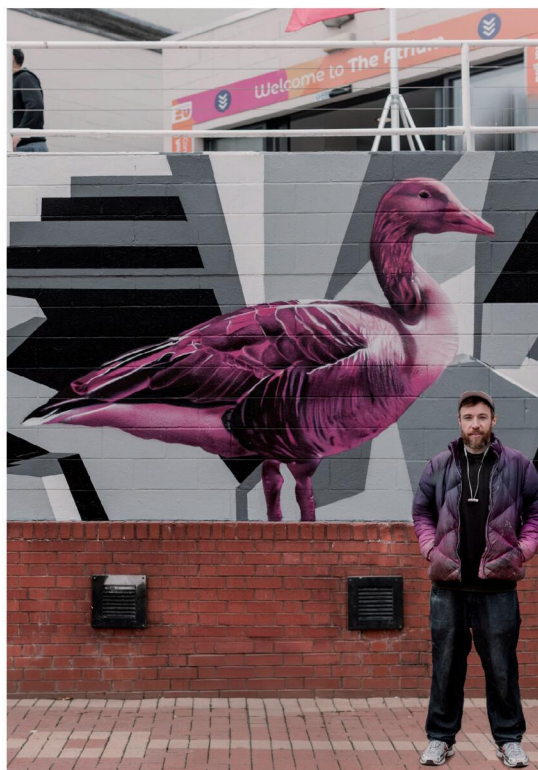
In the subject league tables, Warwick had three subject areas ranked first in the country Dance, drama and cinematics, Economics and Liberal arts

A further 17 subject areas were ranked in the top ten for their fields by the influential annual guide. Warwick received particular praise for both its research and its teaching.

Describing Warwick, The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide, said: "An academic powerhouse celebrating its 60th anniversary, the University of Warwick has always had epic ambitions, from its 750-acre campus to its Venice palazzo to its base in The Shard. A \$425 million Science and Engineering Precinct is now being created to combine disciplinary excellence with interdisciplinary working, and is the biggest single investment since its foundation.

"Warwick consistently excels across all metrics, from research quality to graduate prospects. Life on its self-contained campus near Coventry offers a "mini city" experience, with everything on site. The social scene is lively, both on campus and in nearby Leamington Spa, where many students live after their first year."

Have a gander at new art



Artist David Speed with his completed neon goose named Temporary Home.

A GIANT neon goose has landed at the University of Warwick,

Created by neon art specialist David Speed in collaboration with students to mark the university's 60th anniversary, the mural named Temporary Home, was inspired by David's 60-hour Retreat To Create campus residency.

During this time, he found an unlikely muse in Warwick's resident Greylag geese, a familiar presence in student life and behind the geese, a geometric backdrop references the award-winning Faculty of Arts Building staircase.

David said: "This mural is a true collaboration. I spent over 60 hours on campus, connecting with faculty members, the wider community, and over 100 students to understand their experiences of life here. Together with students I workshopped a range of ideas on how to visualise those feelings.

"The Warwick geese emerged as a powerful symbol. They're the icons of the campus and a reflection of its spirit. Like students, geese are social birds and flock together. They migrate each year and find temporary homes and form strong family bonds."

The work, on the outside of the Piazza building, was revealed during Welcome Week to mark the start of term and the new students arriving on campus.

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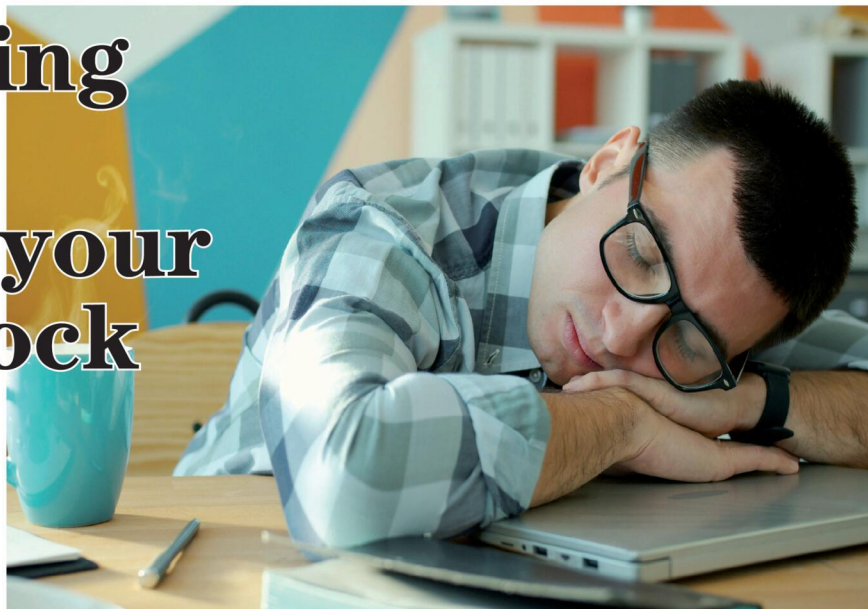
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When resetting for winter - don't forget your own body clock



AS THE UK prepares to turn the clocks back this weekend (Sunday October 26), wellbeing experts at www.beginfeeling.com are warning that the switch to GMT could trigger a short-term 'energy hangover' for millions - especially for those who rely on caffeine to get through the day.

According to feeling., our internal body clocks are far more sensitive than we think - and the combination of shorter daylight hours, mistimed coffee, and inconsistent sleep routines can leave people feeling groggy, anxious, and out of sync for up to a week.

"The clocks going back might sound like an extra hour in bed, but in reality it's a mini time-zone shift," says Kiera Lawlor, wellbeing expert and co-founder at feeling.

"Your body clock doesn't just

snap to the new schedule overnight. Add caffeine too late in the day and you're effectively confusing your brain into thinking it's still daytime."

The science behind the autumn 'energy dip'

Research shows most people gain just 30-40 minutes of extra sleep after the clock change - not the full hour.

The change also delays your body's production of melatonin, the sleep hormone, which can cause evening restlessness and morning grogginess.

Caffeine has a half-life of five to six hours, meaning a 3pm coffee can still be active in your system at 9pm.

The experts at feeling. share five ways to reset naturally

- Time your caffeine - avoid coffee or energy drinks after 2pm for three days before

and after the change. Switch to herbal teas or decaf if you need the ritual.

- Get morning light exposure - natural daylight before 10am helps your circadian rhythm recalibrate faster.
- Don't force a long lie-in - keep wake-up times consistent, even with the extra hour.
- Wind down earlier - dim lights and screens an hour before bed to help your body

produce melatonin naturally.

- Fuel smarter - eat balanced evening meals rich in magnesium and protein to stabilise energy and reduce sugar spikes that can impact sleep.

"Think of it like jet lag without the flight," adds Lawlor. "You wouldn't drink a double espresso at 4pm if you were trying to adjust to a new time zone - and the same principle applies here."

Why it matters

Experts at feeling say sleep misalignment affects productivity, mood, and mental health, with workplace fatigue typically spiking in the week following the clock change.

With caffeine sales also rising in autumn, feeling says this is the perfect time to re-evaluate how we use energy, not just how we chase it.

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Arrests made as police teams target crimes

POLICE teams in Coventry have seized stolen vehicles and made arrests during a week of patrols.

The Radford and Holbrook neighbourhood team picked up a stolen motorbike, while officers from the city centre team recovered a van which was found to have had no tax for 12 months.

In the north west of the city, the Radford and Holbrook team seized two cars after their drivers were found to have no licence or insurance.

The team also recovered a Mercedes after it was reported stolen from Staffordshire.

Elsewhere, the city centre team carried out high-visibility patrols around the area, including in Lady Herbert Gardens, in response to community concerns over anti-social behaviour.

Officers also paid a visit to the schools in the area to engage with pupils and teachers with a safety talk and demonstration of police vehicles.

In the south of the city, the Binley and Willenhall team joined up with Speedwatch volunteers in response to reports of dangerous driving in Willenhall Lane.

A Coventry Police spokesperson said: "Every day, officers across Coventry take part in patrols and operations designed to keep you safe and respond to issues raised by the public."



Follow Coventry police teams on social media or sign up to WM Now at www.wmnow.co.uk for updates on police activity in the city's neighbourhoods.

Officers and Speedwatch volunteers conducted speed checks in Willenhall Lane in response to reports of dangerous driving.



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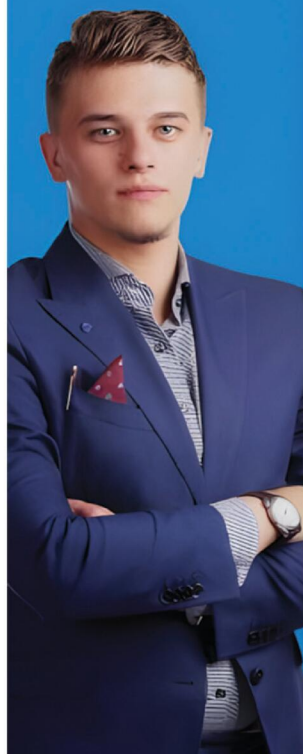
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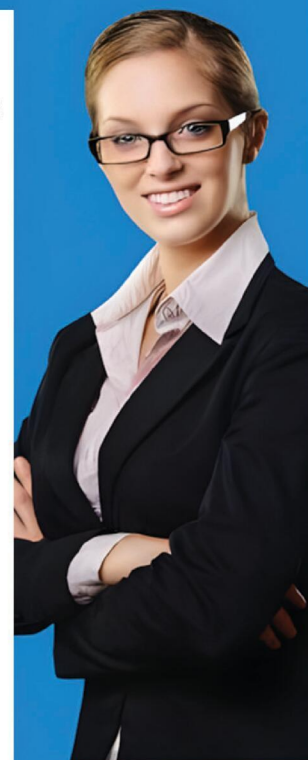
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PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICES

Warwickshire County Council

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

Warwickshire County Council has made the following Temporary Traffic Orders:

A426 LEICESTER ROAD, CHURCHOVER & A426 LEICESTER ROAD, GIBBETT HILL

Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic from the A5 Gibbett Hill roundabout to the M6 northbound exit slip including the east bound side of junction 1 roundabout.

Reason for Order: To enable overnight works linked to M6 improvement works, 20.00hrs - 06.00hrs.

Order Commences: 29 October 2025 for up to 18 months.

Anticipated Completion: 1 November 2025.

Access & Diversion: Will be appropriately signed.

Contractor: Kier Transportation/Highways, Tel: 07751 733 753.

BATH STREET, RUGBY

Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.

Reason for Order: To safely enable works to repair/replace defective manhole frame and covers.

Order Commences: 30 October 2025 for up to 18 months.

Anticipated Completion: 30 October 2025.

Access & Diversion: Railway Terrace, Craven Road, Murray Road, Whitehall Road, Clifton Road and vice versa.

Contractor: CSP, Tel: 07918 389 363.

CAMPBELL STREET, NEW BILTON, RUGBY

Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.

Reason for Order: To enable pole installation works.

Order Commences: 27 October 2025 for up to 18 months.

Anticipated Completion: 27 October 2025.

Access & Diversion: Campbell Street, Pinfold Street, Lawford Road and vice versa.

Contractor: Core Highways, Tel: 03300 169 688.

LILBOURNE ROAD, CLIFTON-UPON-DUNSMORE

Order Effect: Road Closed to vehicular traffic.

Reason for Order: To safely enable overhead cabling works.

Order Commences: 31 October 2025 for up to 18 months.

Anticipated Completion: 31 October 2025.

Access & Diversion: Lilbourne Road, Watling Street, A5, Market Harborough Road, Newton Road, Church Street and vice versa.

Contractor: Sunbelt Rentals Ltd, Tel: 03700 500 792.

REGENT PLACE, BENN, RUGBY

Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.

Reason for Order: Works for 2 joint holes in modular footway for link box replacement/installation, closed 08.00hrs - 16.00hrs.

Order Commences: 29 October 2025 for up to 18 months.

Anticipated Completion: 29 October 2025.

Access & Diversion: Regent Street, Regent Place and vice versa.

Contractor: Network Plus, Tel: 08001 642 252.

ALWYN ROAD, BILTON, RUGBY

Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.

Reason for Order: Works to remove trees and hedge row for Homes England project.

Order Commences: 28 October 2025 for up to 18 months.

Anticipated Completion: 1 November 2025.

Access & Diversion: Alwyn Road, Longrood Road, Bawmmore Road, Dunchurch Road, Cycleway from Dunchurch Road To Rugby Road, Rugby Road, Northampton Lane and vice versa.

Contractor: Atm Ltd, Tel: 07706 342 453.

EASTWOOD GROVE, HILLMORTON, RUGBY

Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.

Reason for Order: Works to lay duct in the footway and the carriageway.

Order Commences: 27 October 2025 for up to 18 months.

Anticipated Completion: 27 October 2025.

Access & Diversion: No diversion available.

Contractor: Omnis Highway Solutions, Tel: 01724 786 286.

ALWYN ROAD, RUGBY

Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic from a point outside property number 40.

Reason for Order: To enable repair/replacement of defective manhole cover and frame.

Order Commences: 27 October 2025 for up to 18 months.

Anticipated Completion: 27 October 2025.

Access & Diversion: Main Street, Lawford Lane, Magnet Lane, The Green, Bawmmore Road, Longrood Road and vice versa.

Contractor: CSP, Tel: 07918 389 363.

HAWLANDS, RUGBY

Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic from the junction of Bow Fell.

Reason for Order: To enable works to repair/replace a defective manhole cover and frame.

Order Commences: 27 October 2025 for up to 18 months.

Anticipated Completion: 27 October 2025.

Access & Diversion: Hawlands, Crothorns and vice versa.

Contractor: CSP, Tel: 07918 389 363.

SHILTON ROAD, BRINKLOW

Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.

Reason for Order: Trial holes works in footway and carriageway.

Order Commences: 27 October 2025 for up to 18 months.

Anticipated Completion: 27 October 2025.

Access & Diversion: Shilton Road, Ansty Road, Ansty Lane, Brinklow Road, Main Road, Hinkley Road, A46, Coventry Eastern Bypass, Woodway Lane, Clifford Bridge Road, University Hospital Service Road, Belgrave Road, Harvesters Close, Coventry Road and vice versa.

Contractor: GTM, Tel: 07918 294 888

ENNERDALE, RUGBY

Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.

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

Order Commences: 27 October 2025 for up to 18 months.

Anticipated Completion: 29 October 2025.

Access & Diversion: No diversion available.

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

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

HOLBROOK AVENUE, RUGBY

Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic. In addition, the one-way traffic flow on Holbrook Avenue will be temporarily suspended.

Reason for Order: To enable repair/replacement of defective manhole cover and frame.

Order Commences: 14 November 2025 for up to 18 months.

Anticipated Completion: 14 November 2025.

Access & Diversion: Manor Road, Park Road and vice versa.

Contractor: Customer Solutions Plus, Tel: 07918 298 599.

SCHOOL LANE, STRETTON-ON-DUNSMORE

Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.

Reason for Order: To safely enable replacement & repairs of manhole frame & covers.

Order Commences: 14 November 2025 for up to 18 months.

Anticipated Completion: 14 November 2025.

Access & Diversion: Brookside, Church Hill, Fineacre Lane, Oxford Road, Freeboard Lane, Platt Lane and vice versa.

Contractor: Customer Solutions Plus, Tel: 07918 298 599.

MAIN STREET, WILLEY

Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.

Reason for Order: To enable repair/replacement of defective manhole cover and frame.

Order Commences: 14 November 2025 for up to 18 months.

Anticipated Completion: 14 November 2025.

Access & Diversion: Coal Pit Lane, Watling Street and vice versa.

Contractor: Customer Solutions Plus, Tel: 07918 298 599.

BROWNSOVER LANE, BROWNSOVER, RUGBY

Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.

Reason for Order: Works to lay HV cable from site to POC.

Order Commences: 10 November 2025 for up to 18 months.

Anticipated Completion: 21 November 2025.

Access & Diversion: No diversion available.

Contractor: Lydon Contracting Ltd, Tel: 01327 811 533.

D32650 LOVEROCK CRESCENT, RUGBY

Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic from Morsion Crescent to Linnell Road.

Reason for Order: Carriageway patching and associated works, 09.30 - 15.00hrs.

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

Anticipated Completion: 5 November 2025.

Access & Diversion: Linnell Road, Lower Hillmorton Road, Loverock Crescent and vice versa.

Contractor: Balfour Beatty, Tel: 03452 415 302.

PUBLIC FOOTPATH FROM ROBERTSON CLOSE TO HADFIELD CLOSE, CLIFTON UPON DUNSMORE

Order Effect: Footpath Closure to all traffic as follows: Phase 1: 06/11/25-07/11/25 Rear of 21 Handfield Close to rear of 8 Robertson Close, Phase 2: 10/11/25-11/11/25 Rear of 1 Robertson Close to rear of 7 Robertson Close.

Reason for Order: To enable duct laying works.

Order Commences: 6 November 2025 for up to 6 months.

Anticipated Completion: 11 November 2025.

Access & Diversion: Public Footpath from Hadfield Close to Robertson Close and vice versa.

Contractor: Callan Connect, Tel: 01213 275 167.

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

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

THE WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (BOROUGH OF RUGBY) (CIVIL ENFORCEMENT AREA) (WAITING RESTRICTIONS, ON-STREET PARKING PLACES AND RESIDENTS' PARKING, (CONSOLIDATION) (VARIATION NO. E.V1) ORDER 2025

Warwickshire County Council propose to make the above named Order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which will be to vary the existing Warwickshire County Council (Borough of Rugby) (Civil Enforcement Area) (Waiting Restrictions, On-Street Parking Places and Residents' Parking) (Consolidation) Order 2017, as described (by approximate measurements) in the Schedules below. A copy of the proposed Order, together with a copy of the Order to be varied, and a statement of the Council's reasons for proposing to make the Order, are available to view at Shire Hall, Market Place, Warwick, and online on the Council's website at https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/20208/rugby-borough

Any objections, representations or expressions of support to the proposals, which must be in writing and specify the grounds on which they are made, should be addressed to Candie Humphreys, County Highways Minor Works, Communities Directorate, Shire Hall Post Room, Northgate Street, Warwick, CV34 4RL or sent by email to chminorworks@warwickshire.gov.uk using the subject heading "Countywide EV Project - Rugby". (Objections, representations, and the name of the objector or person making a representation, will normally be treated as public information and may be published. For further information on how Warwickshire County Council processes personal data please refer to the Customer Privacy Notice which is available at https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/privacy). Objections and representations must be sent so as to be received by 17th November 2025.

SCHEDULE

Barby Road, Rugby (East side)

Electric Vehicles Only (i) from its junction with the northern side of Oak Street, northwards for 2 metres (4 no. bays)

Lancaster Road, Rugby (South side)

Electric Vehicles Only (i) from a point 15.5 metres west of its junction with Sycamore Grove, westwards for 24 metres (4 no. bays)

Regent Place, Rugby (West side)

Electric Vehicles Only Pay & Display 2 Hours No Return 4 Hours Mon-Sat 8am-6pm (i) from a point at the boundary between property number 41 and the F09550 footpath, northwards for 33 metres (6 no. bays)

S Duxbury, Director of Strategy, Planning & Governance, Shire Hall, Warwick CV34 4RL. Date 23 Oct 2025

Classified

TELEPHONE 01527 588688 FACSIMILE 01527 584371

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICES

Warwickshire County Council

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

Warwickshire County Council has made the following Temporary Traffic Orders:

BUBBENHALL ROAD, BUBBENHALL

Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic between Stoneleigh Road (Bubbenhall) and Stoneleigh Road (Baginton) at Bubbenhall Bridge.

Reason for Order: To enable essential parapet repairs, weekdays only.

Order Commences: 28 October 2025 for up to 18 months.

Anticipated Completion: 6 December 2025.

Access & Diversion: C33 Bubbenhall Road (between Bubbenhall Bridge to C32 Stoneleigh Rd), C32 Bubbenhall Road (between Coventry Rd to Stoneleigh Rd West), C32 Bubbenhall Road (between Coventry Ln to Chantry Heath Ln), D22040 Chantry Heath Lane, X33 Silver Eagle Way, C33 Silver Eagle Way, X33 Silver Eagle Way, X33 Bubbenhall Road, C33 Bubbenhall Road (between Silver Eagle Way and Bubbenhall Bridge) and vice versa.

Contractor: Balfour Beatty, Tel: 03452 415 302.

C18 WHEELWRIGHT LANE, NEALS GREEN

Order Effect: Road Closed to vehicular traffic from Winding House Lane to Carsal Close.

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

Order Commences: 28 October 2025 for up to 18 months.

Anticipated Completion: 28 October 2025.

Access & Diversion: Winding House Lane, A444, Newtown Road, Heath Road, Goodyears End Lane, Royal Oak Lane, Ash Green Lane, Wheelwright Lane and vice versa.

Contractor: Balfour Beatty, Tel: 03452 415 302.

A45 BIRMINGHAM ROAD (ENTRY SLIP ROAD), GREAT PACKINGTON

Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic between the junction with Maxstoke Lane and the A45 Eastbound.

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

Order Commences: 31 October 2025 for up to 18 months.

Anticipated Completion: 31 October 2025.

Access & Diversion: Maxstoke Lane, Birmingham Road, Showell Lane, entry slip road to the A45.

Contractor: Balfour Beatty, Tel: 03452 415 302.

MERIDON ROAD, FILLONGLEY

Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic from the T-junction with Green End Road.

Reason for Order: To enable works to replace an existing pole.

Order Commences: 28 October 2025 for up to 18 months.

Anticipated Completion: 28 October 2025.

Access & Diversion: Meridon Road, Fillongley Road, Birmingham Road, Maxstoke Lane, Dunchurch Highway, Pickett Way, Holyhead Road, Coundon Wedge Drive, Sayer Drive, Well Hill Road, Long Lane, Tamworth Road, Tamworth Road Service Road, Hollyfast Lane, Rock Lane, Coventry Road, Ousterne Lane and vice versa.

Contractor: Omnis Highway Solutions, Tel: 01724 786 286

COVENTRY ROAD, COOMBE FIELDS

Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.

Reason for Order: To safely enable trial hole works.

Order Commences: 28 October 2025 for up to 18 months.

Anticipated Completion: 29 October 2025.

Access & Diversion: Shilton Road, Ansty Road, Ansty Lane, Brinklow Road, Main Road, Hinkley Lane, A46, Coventry Eastern Bypass, Woodway Lane, Clifford Bridge Road, University Hospital Service Road, Belgrave Road, Harvesters Close, Coventry Road and vice versa.

Contractor: GTM, Tel: 07918 294 888

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

WIXFORD ROAD, EXHALL

Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.

Reason for Order: To enable wastewater pipework repair.

Order Commences: 10 November 2025 for up to 18 months.

Anticipated Completion: 14 November 2025.

Access & Diversion: Wixford Road, Exhall Road, Grafton Road, Bidford Road, Temple Grafton Road, Ardens Grafton Road and vice versa.

Contractor: Customer Solutions Plus, Tel: 08007 834 444.

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 23 Oct 2025

PUBLIC NOTICES

Warwickshire County Council

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

Warwickshire County Council has made the following Temporary Traffic Orders:

STOCKTON ROAD, NAPTON-ON-THE-HILL

Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.

Reason for Order: To safely enable tree trimming works.

Order Commences: 30 October 2025 for up to 18 months.

Anticipated Completion: 30 October 2025.

Access & Diversion: Stockton Road, Napton Road, Station Road, Calcult Lane, Tomlow Road and vice versa.

Contractor: Go Traffic Management, Tel: 08006 783 105.

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

KNIGHTCOTE ROAD, BISHOPS ITCHINGTON

Order Effect: Road Closed to vehicular traffic.

Reason for Order: To enable new water connection works.

Order Commences: 10 November 2025 for up to 18 months.

Anticipated Completion: 12 November 2025.

Access & Diversion: Knightcote Road, Northend Road, Blacksmiths Lane, Bottom Street, Dasset Road, Village Road, Banbury Road, Gaydon Road and vice versa.

Contractor: Go TM Ltd, Tel: 01158 965 832.

WELSH ROAD EAST, SOUTHAM

Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.

Reason for Order: Repair/replace defective manhole frame and covers.

Order Commences: 12 November 2025 for up to 18 months.

Anticipated Completion: 12 November 2025.

Access & Diversion: Welsh Road East, Holt Road, Napton Holt Road, Thorntons Lane, Chapel Green Road, New Street, High Street, Hackwell Street, Vicarage Road, Butt Hill, Southam Road, Daventry Road and vice versa.

Contractor: Customer Solutions Plus, Tel: 07918 298 599

HARDWICK ROAD, PRIORS MARSTON

Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.

Reason for Order: Works to install boundary box and water meter.

Order Commences: 11 November 2025 for up to 18 months.

Anticipated Completion: 12 November 2025.

Access & Diversion: Hardwick Road, Main Road, The Green, Southam Road, Welsh Road and vice versa.

Gold for Fenemore on European stage as masters crew top the podium in Turkey

by Aaron Sutcliffe
aaron.sutcliffe@bullivantmedia.com

ROWING: TIM Fenemore won gold representing Great Britain at the European Rowing Coastal Championships in Antalya, Turkey.

Fenemore, from Rugby, won gold alongside Hollowell Scullers teammate Sean Sinclair racing in a state of the art coastal quad racing boat.

The pair raced with Jon Osborn from Eastbourne Rowing Club and Ricky Rouille from Jersey Rowing club with Andi Davies from Dolphin Rowing Club at cox.

The crew finished 13th overall and first in the men's masters category for rowers aged 43-years-old and above.

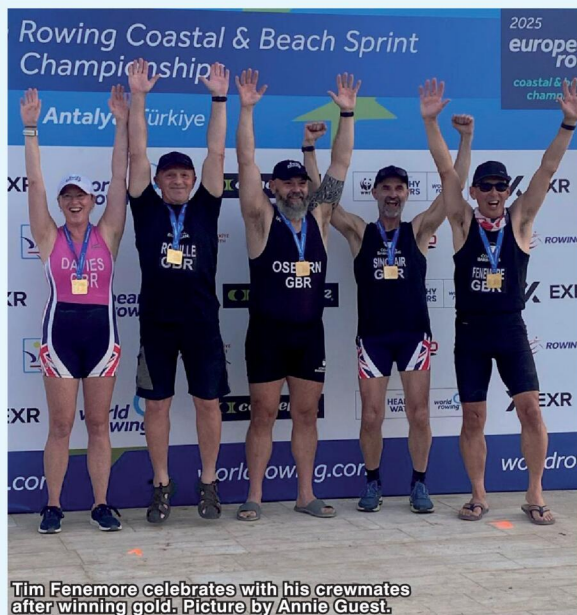
Fenemore and Sinclair previously won the British Championships in 2021 in a double boat.

They teamed up with Osborn, Rouille and Davies to mount a challenge against the top clubs from across Europe in 2025 under a Coastal Barbarians Rowing Club banner.

Strong winds and big waves prevented the organisers from allowing the crews to train before the race which proved a problem for Fenemore and his crew who had never rowed together as a team before.

The organisers eventually scheduled a short training session before the race, allowing crews to adjust their boats accordingly.

And Fenemore's crew made a smooth start but found themselves behind the pack of 19 boats speeding towards the first buoy situated



Tim Fenemore celebrates with his crewmates after winning gold. Picture by Annie Guest.

one kilometre offshore. Davies at cox helped the crew make ground on their opponents and completed overtakes on a few crews to pull close to masters leaders Czechia. A two-kilometre tussle ensued as Fenemore and his crew eventually overtook Czechia and set their sights on a young Turkey crew in front of them. The British crew ultimately had

to settle for 13th place overall as Fenemore ran across the beach to the finish gate. And the crew's efforts proved enough to win gold in the masters category despite being the oldest crew at the event with an average age of 58-years-old. Fenemore signs off the season having won at European, British, Scottish, Welsh and Irish Championships in 2025.

Cov let 19-point lead slip as visitors stunned by strong Chinnor comeback

RUGBY UNION: COVENTRY Rugby surrendered an early 19-point lead in a 47-26 defeat against Chinnor as the home side produced a stirring comeback.

The visitors made a blistering start as Morgan Strong, Ewan Baker and David Opoku-Fordjour all crossed for tries inside the first 15 minutes at the Rectory Pavilion.

However, Chinnor closed the gap to five points at half time and carried their momentum into the second half to leave Alex Rae's side stunned.

Chinnor scored seven tries in total while Suva Ma'asi crossed for Coventry's bonus point try late on in Oxfordshire.

And the result means Coventry sit ninth in the Champ Rugby table after three matches.

The visitors made a blistering start as captain Strong wrestled his way over the line to score

the game's first try after just six minutes.

And Coventry dotted down again on 13 minutes when Baker scored his first try of the season after the visitors worked the ball out wide following a five-metre scrum.

The away side scored their third try two minutes later as Opoku-Fordjour collected Tom Ball's pass, stepped past one defender and dived over in the corner.

However, Chinnor hit back on 27 minutes when Luke Carter sold three Coventry players with a dummy and dove over near the posts.

And the home side struck again on 35 minutes as Connor Slevin dotted down following an incisive break from Carter.

Chinnor completed a remarkable turnaround three minutes after half time when Robin Hardwick powered over follow-

ing another Carter break.

And the home side extended their lead on 46 minutes as Slevin scored his second try of the game after gathering Grant Hughes's kick over the top.

Chinnor continued to punish Coventry when Alun Walker broke free from a destructive maul to score seven minutes later after the visitors lost Senitiki Nayalo to the sin-bin.

And Jamie Carr dotted down for Coventry's Matt Johnson sent to the sin-bin as Chinnor registered 40 unanswered points.

The visitors scored their bonus point try on 72 minutes as Ma'asi crashed over only for Carter to burst through for Chinnor two minutes later to score the game's final try.

Coventry are next in action against Ealing Trailfinders on Saturday, October 25 with kick-off at 3pm at Butts Park Arena.

Woakes extends Bears stay after international retirement

CRICKET: CHRIS Woakes has signed a two-year contract extension to remain with Warwickshire CCC after the all-rounder confirmed his international retirement last month.

The 36-year-old's new deal will see him feature for the Bears in the County Championship, T20 Blast and One-Day Cup formats.

Woakes has spent the entirety of his professional domestic career with Warwickshire after first joining the club as a 10-year-old.

Woakes said: "For obvious reasons, Warwickshire has always remained close to my heart."

"From training at the academy to signing my first professional contract, the club has been at every pivotal career moment over almost two decades."

"Extending my commitment to Warwickshire for another two years, feels like the start of a new chapter with a club that properly feels like home."

"Looking ahead, 2026 already promises to be a fantastic year for domestic cricket, especially with the introduction of the new DPP [Domestic Playing Programme]."

"We've got a talented squad, with a good mix of youth and experience and I genuinely believe we are in a great position to be challenging for trophies

throughout the new season." Warwickshire's performance director, James Thomas added: "Securing Chris's signature for another two years means so much to everyone at the club."

"A true one-club legend and a Bear through and through, he embodies everything that playing for Warwickshire should mean."

"He's someone all our aspiring young players can look up to, as an example of how to perform to the very top level over such a long period of time."

"Chris's experience with both bat and ball will be invaluable as we look to improve and develop our squad which is now capable of challenging for major honours."

Woakes graduated from the club's academy as a teenager and made his first team debut in 2006.

He has made 249 appearances for the Bears and has scored more than 3,800 runs and taken 371 wickets for the club in 102 first-class matches.

The former England international helped Warwickshire win the T20 Blast title in 2014 and the One-Day Cup in 2010 and 2016.

And he also played his part as Warwickshire lifted the County Championship title in 2012 and 2021.

Disability squad place for Gilks

GOLF: COVENTRY golfer Heather Gilks has been named in England Golf's first-ever disability squad.

Gilks, who plays out of Coventry Golf Club, forms part of a 12-player disability performance squad.

The Coventry golfer beat her mum Martine to the English Open title earlier this year.

And the 12-player squad for the 2025/26 season sees golfers split into four different bands.

This will determine the teams and tournament selections for the different competitions England take part in.

The bands have been put in place by EDGA (European Disabled Golf Association).

Gilks is joined by Aimi Bullock and Kipp Popert in the Band Three squad.

The new squad forms part of England Golf's wider strategic plan - the 2025 to 2030 disability golf plan.

England Golf hope to make the sport the leading choice for disabled people in England.

England Golf deputy performance director, Steve Burnett said: "After two successful campaigns at the European Team Championships for

Golfers with a Disability, we have taken the proactive step of introducing the England Disability Squad."

"This is with a view to providing this elite group of players with the opportunities for coaching and development afforded to our existing England Squads."

"By having this squad, we hope to inspire golfers with a disability to try and reach their potential and represent their country, where they will not only get access to the best facilities and coaching, but have the opportunity to win medals."

England Golf disability manager, Tom Dobson added: "Golf is a game for everyone, and we want all aspiring players with a disability to enjoy our sport in whatever capacity they wish, and to challenge themselves to be the best they can be."

"We'd like to see more players competing and signing up to be assessed for their EDGA passes, which in turn will provide greater depth and more entries for the English Open for Golfers with a Disability - a championship which has seen increased entries year on year since 2023, and the growing number of disability golf events in England."



Heather Gilks has earned a place in England Golf's first-ever disability squad. Picture courtesy of Leaderboard Photography.

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

Resurgent Valley rise up the table

by Aaron Sutcliffe
aaron.sutcliffe@bullivantmedia.com

FOOTBALL: RIVEL Mardenborough's goal earned Rugby Town a third straight league win with a 1-0 victory against Loughborough Students in mid-week.

Mardenborough produced the game's decisive moment on 22 minutes at Butlin Road as Valley recorded a third successive win and clean sheet.

The result means Rugby sit 10th in the Northern Premier League Midlands table, two points outside of the play-off places.

Mardenborough scored the winner midway through the first half with a low shot past Jude Sadler in the



Loughborough goal after he carried the ball into the box from Sam Tye's pass.

That came after Valley claimed back-to-back league wins for the first time this season with a 3-0 victory against rivals Coventry Sphinx.

After a goalless first half, Tye, Josh Thomas and Stan Anaebonam all found the net to stun Sphinx at Butlin Road.

The game burst into life on 48 minutes when Patrick Zito fouled

Mardenborough in the box and the referee pointed to the spot.

Midfielder Caine Elliott saw his penalty saved by Sphinx goalkeeper Charlie Woods only for Tye to follow up and find the net.

And Valley doubled their lead on 73 minutes when Thomas nodded in from close range after Tye headed a corner back across the face of goal.

The home side sealed the points five minutes from time as Anaebonam pounced on some slack defending and duly scooped the ball over Woods to complete the scoring.

Rugby are next in action against Long Eaton United on Saturday, November 1 with kick-off at 3pm at Grange Park.

Rivel Mardenborough scored the winning goal for Rugby against Loughborough. Picture by Martin Pulley.

Borough end winless run with victory at lowly Sutton

TENDAI Daire's first-half goal helped Rugby Borough return to winning ways with a 1-0 victory away at Sutton Coldfield Town.

Daire scored the game's only goal just past the half-hour mark at Coles Lane as Borough ended a run of three games without a win.

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

Sutton spurned a glorious chance to break the deadlock on 11 minutes after Luke Rowe's challenge in the box led the referee awarding the home side a penalty.

However, James McGrady blazed the resulting spot kick high over the crossbar as the scores remained level.

And Borough made Sutton pay on 32 minutes when Daire latched onto a through ball and coolly finished under advancing Sutton stopper James Beeson.

That came after Rugby surrendered a two-goal half-time lead in a 2-2 draw

against Micklover last weekend.

An own goal put Borough ahead before Antonio Cristofaro's strike doubled the away side's lead at the Don Amott Arena.

However, Josiah Dyer halved the deficit after the break before Paddy Webb drew the home side level minutes later.

Borough broke the deadlock on 38 minutes when Ashton Ofler turned the ball past his own goalkeeper following a mix-up at the back.

And Rugby doubled their lead one minute before half time as Cristofaro fired home from the edge of the penalty area following a short corner from the right.

However, substitute Dyer kept Micklover in the contest on 68 minutes when he finished from Webb's pass.

And fellow sub Webb equalised for the home side four minutes later as he headed in Thabang Dube's cross.

Rugby are next in action against Lichfield City on Saturday, October 25 with kick-off at 3pm at Kilsby Lane.

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