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Lastest plan for stadium fails to convince groups

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

A NEW proposal to bring motor-sports back to Coventry Stadium in Brandon alongside new housing has been branded a 'sham and a deception' by campaigners.

Stadium owners Brandon Estates have drawn up revised proposals for up to 115 new homes alongside a 'fully restored' speedway track.

In 2014, the company first proposed to demolish the stadium – the former home of the Coventry Bees speedway racing team – and build homes on the site, with the venue closing in 2016.

Rugby Borough Council's planning committee refused a revised application in 2022, with a subsequent appeal rejected by the Planning Inspectorate last year.

A Brandon Estates spokesperson said: "We are committed to finding a viable future for this site, and have spent many months considering our options following the refusal of our previous applications.

"Since 2016, the site has remained in a significant state of disrepair with speedway unable to return without substantial investment.

"We understand that living alongside a derelict site has created concerns for local residents and we are committed to working with the local community to secure a sustainable



Coventry Stadium in Brandon has fallen into a dilapidated state since its closure in 2016.

use for the site."

The company says it intends to lease the track to a local speedway operator.

But the Save Coventry Speedway and Stox (SCSS) campaign group,

alongside members of a consortium who wish to buy the stadium, greeted the plans with scepticism.

A spokesperson said: "Brandon Estates have no intention of ever reinstating the stadium for speed-

way racing."

They speculated that the company would try to 'get around the Planning Inspector's decision' by building the 115 homes before submitting another application

to demolish the stadium and build more housing.

They said: "Given that Brandon Estates and their agents have repeatedly stated their belief that speedway is not viable, and that satisfactory venues exist elsewhere, it appears very surprising that they are now proposing a speedway facility."

The group added the poor condition of the site was due to Brandon Estates' failure to secure the site from travellers, vandals and arsonists – for which the company was fined £10,000 in 2022 after the stadium was broken into a number of times and set on fire.

The Brandon Estates spokesperson 'wholeheartedly disagreed' with SCSS's concerns.

They said: "Brandon Estates is fully committed to the long-term ownership and maintenance of this site.

"Our revised proposals will secure mutual benefits for residents and speedway supporters, balancing the need for new homes alongside the delivery of sport facilities, and ensuring a sustainable financial model for the future of speedway racing.

"We intend to submit our application in coming weeks, and are keen to hear from local residents as we shape the plans."



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LEFT: A young Ed with Nizlopi's Luke Concannon during the soon-to-be superstar's stint as guitar tech. RIGHT: Nizlopi are reforming to support Ed on his European Tour, including a date in Coventry on December 5. BELOW: Ed Sheeran performing at the official launch of the HMV Empire Coventry in 2021.

Old friends get the call from Ed

ED Sheeran will be joined by a couple old friends on his European tour which kicks off next week.

Leamington duo Nizlopi – Luke Concannon and John Parker – are reforming to support the chart-topping singer-songwriter on five dates of the European leg of his Loop tour – including Coventry Building Society Arena's Indoor Arena on Friday December 5.

Ed credits the folk-pop duo, best

known for their 2005 number one single JCB Song, as a massive influence.

In an interview for Desert Island Discs in 2017, Ed said: "Basically, everything from my live set, the way I control my voice, the way I control the audience, the way I play the guitar even, the way I used beat box... this comes from this band."

The relationship stretches back to the time the then 14-year-old Ed became a Nizlopi "superfan" after seeing them play at London's Shepherd's Bush Empire.

He then wrote to them repeatedly asking for 'work experience' and the duo finally agreed and invited him to become their guitar tech.

The friendship has endured and Ed even sponsored John £10,000 when he did a marathon in aid of Myton Hospice who had supported the bass player's mother at the end of her life.

The invite to join Ed at the



most successful British live musician of all time." "Ed is a young master at this singer-songwriter thing and it's amazing that he counts Nizlopi as a part of his formation. I'm excited and nervous to be opening for him on his European tour."

Despite Nizlopi calling it a day some 15 years ago, they have still played together on and off over the years, but now both mainly pursue their own musical paths.

Luke went travelling following the split and finally finished up settling in the USA while continuing to release new music. Invigorated by a hitch-hiking trip to Palestine, Luke wrote his first solo album Give It All, released in 2013.

Luke, who now lives in rural Vermont with his wife and newly arrived son, has just released his latest solo album Midnight Bloom.

It marks a welcome return after he was diagnosed with IBS and burn-out, leading to three years of

poor health, fatigue and lost creativity.

His Nizlopi other half, former Trinity School best friend John, keeps himself musically busy mainly through session work.

Coventry has become a regular haunt for pop superstar Ed in recent years.

In 2021 he performed at the official launch of the HMV Empire Coventry, and in January this year he visited three venues across the city where he was introduced to Coventry Music service's inclusive programmes and the breadth of inspiring work they do.

He took part in a creative beat making, rap and grime session at Coventry Academy, led a creative music making session hosted by Barr's Hill School and attended by pupils from schools across the city, before he rounded off his visit at grassroots music venue The TIN Music and Arts, where he was introduced to groups involved in local music initiatives Live On Stage, Positive Choices and Band Together.

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See page **29**

Teacher top of the class to receive physics prize

A 'THRILLED' teacher at a Rugby secondary school has been crowned the best in her field.

Susan Mighall of Rugby High School has won the Physics Teacher of the Year Award 2025 from the Institute of Physics.

Susan, the school's Curriculum Lead for Physics and GCSE Combined Science, received the award in recognition of her work in growing the number of girls taking A-Level physics at her school – and in the wider midlands area by supporting the professional development of physics teachers.

Her lessons mix academic aspiration with fun activities, such as using a methane rocket to study the conservation of momentum or using a foil wire and magnet to play music.

She has organised Year 10 careers events to promote STEM careers, trips to CERN, the European Organisation

by **Andy Morris**
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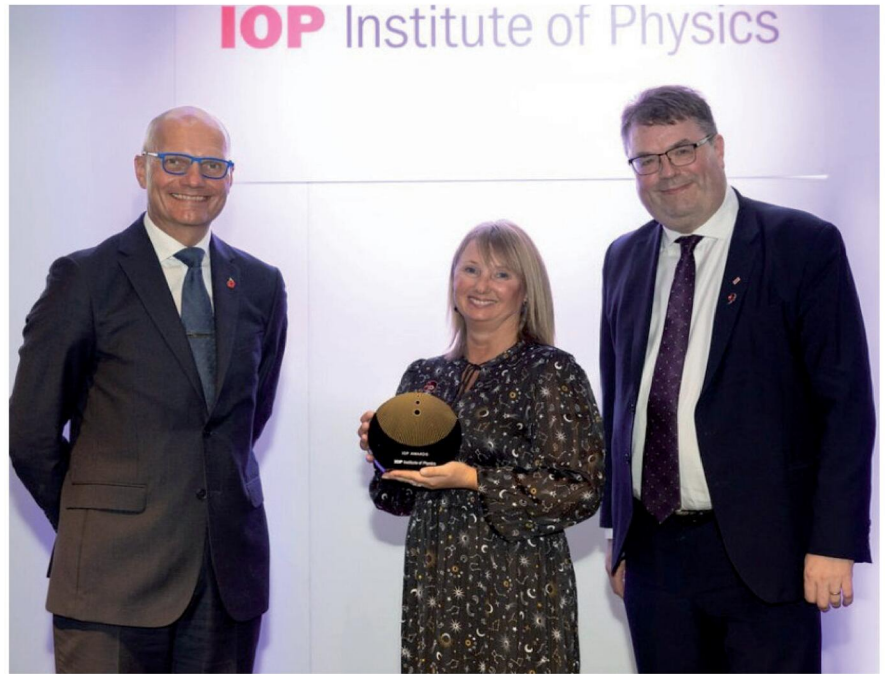
for Nuclear Research, on the France-Switzerland border, and collaborative ventures with the art/drama department during activities week.

Susan has also been involved in many projects to share and develop good practice in physics teaching.

She told The Observer: "I was really thrilled to receive the award.

"I've had such a wonderful response from students, staff and friends. It's feels very special to be recognised for my many years of teaching and developing physics in the classroom for myself and others.

"I've always been really passionate about the fun and joy in physics and have embraced the challenge of the misconception that 'physics is difficult' and 'not many girls do physics'.



Susan Mighall receives her award at the Institute of Physics.

"Showing cool demonstrations and embedding meaningful practical work really engages and excites.

"My own physics studies were in very male-dominated labs and classrooms, and I saw that girls are just as able as boys.

"As a nation becoming more reliant on technology, we need

the best physics minds in careers in this sector – and those minds can be male or female."

Rugby High headteacher Mark Grady said the award was richly deserved.

He added: "Susan's dedication to physics teaching, and the development of young physicists and new physics teachers, is truly

exceptional. "We are very lucky to have her insight, wisdom and skill, and our students tell us time and again what a phenomenal teacher she is.

"This award only confirms what those of us who have worked with Susan already know – she is an inspiration to students and colleagues alike."

MP highlights a variety of road issues to be addressed

CONCERNS over road safety issues in Rugby have been taken to the top by Rugby's MP.

John Slinger says his constituents have spoken to him about a number of issues in the borough, including the lack of pedestrian crossings on Coventry Road near Nature Trails Nursery, the speed limit on the A426 into Rugby, reckless driving by HGV drivers, and legal loopholes that allow uninsured or drink drivers who cause fatalities to receive lighter sentences.

Residents have also raised concerns over speeding, dangerous driving, poor enforcement, and pedestrian safety – particularly near schools, residential areas, and busy junctions.

Mr Slinger has raised the issues with either Warwickshire County Council or the Department for Transport.

During Road Safety Awareness Week, he joined Minister for Local Transport Lilian Greenwood to support the government's upcoming Road Safety Strategy – the first national plan in more than a decade to tackle the rising number of deaths and serious injuries on Britain's roads.



John Slinger says his constituents have spoken to him about a number of issues in the borough which he has raised with Warwickshire County Council and the Department for Transport.

my constituents in memory of their daughter who was killed by a dangerous driver in London many years ago. The awards commend Met Police officers for their service to justice when catching road criminals and comforting families.

"At the ceremony I spoke about how all road deaths caused by crashes are avoidable, so we need a 'Safe System' and 'Vision Zero' approach. And I discuss road safety regularly with the Road Safety Minister.

"Every year, 1,600 people lose their lives on our roads, and thousands more are seriously injured. We would not accept this in any other area of public life – a tragedy for families and a huge cost of over £2billion a year to our NHS.

"Labour's commitment to restoring order to our roads and protecting all road users is long overdue."

The Road Safety Strategy is expected to be published soon.

Mr Slinger said: "I've listened to people in Rugby who are calling for action, not excuses. Road safety isn't just a transport issue – it's about protecting lives, supporting families, and restoring confidence in our streets.

"I will continue to raise constituents' concerns regarding road safety; it is an issue that is important to many in the constituent and to me too personally.

"I spoke last week at the Livia Awards – set up by

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An inspirational design

A FLORIST has joined forces with a Leamington hotel to bring artistic inspiration to its in-room china collections.

Sarah Horne, the Chelsea Gold Medal-winning florist who runs Sarah Horne Botanicals in Leamington, has created bespoke designs for the bedroom china at Mallory Court Hotel.

The collaboration with Mallory Court, which was crowned Best Large Hotel at the VisitEngland Awards for Excellence 2025, features hand-drawn illustrations inspired by the magnolia trees in Mallory Court's gardens.

Each piece, rooted in the tradition of Victorian botanical drawings, is handcrafted in small batches in Stoke-on-Trent.

Sarah said: "It's a great feeling knowing guests visiting a place as special as Mallory Court can enjoy these designs in their rooms."

"It's been a fantastic experience, from coming up with the design to witnessing the care that goes into every single piece that comes out of the kiln."

Josefine Blomqvist, general manager at Mallory Court Hotel, which is part of the Eden Hotel Collection, said they were always keen to champion talented local artists and suppliers.

She added: "We've worked with Sarah previously at our sister property, The Arden Hotel in Stratford, we knew her attention to detail and sensitivity to design would be a perfect fit for Mallory Court."



Award-winning florist and artist Sarah Horne has a new china collection for Mallory Court Hotel.

Young carers are new book's stars

KINDNESS is at the heart of a new children's book celebrating young carers.

Mum & Me: The Perfect Team has been written by Whitnash Primary School counsellor Fiona Sharpe to highlight the all too often unnoticed role played by an estimated 800,000 young carers in the UK.

And the mum-of-three was joined by headteacher Donna Ellison and pupils to mark the launch of the picture book.

It follows the journey of Katie, a young girl who helps care for her disabled mum. The story gently highlights the everyday responsibilities many young carers take on, and encourages understanding, compassion and emotional wellbeing.

Mrs Ellison said: "The story raises important awareness about young carers and shines a light on the kindness and empathy we encourage within our school community."

As the school counsellor, Fiona supports children on a daily basis and sees first-hand how important recognition and kindness are for young carers.

She told The Observer: "Many young carers don't realise the incredible strength and love they carry each day. I wanted this book to help them feel seen, supported, and proud of themselves."

The book is part of Fiona's wider work to promote emotional literacy, inclusion, and kindness within schools. She is also



launching Katie's Emotional Tool box which features various cards to help children recognise and talk about their own feelings and emotions.

Mum & Me: The Perfect Team is available from Amazon, Waterstones and other book-sellers.

Fiona also welcomes enquiries for school workshops and author visits at www.bonnieheartsbooks.co.uk, from where the book can also be purchased.

Whitnash Primary School pupils, counsellor and author Fiona Sharpe and headteacher Donna Ellison mark the launch of Mum & Me: The Perfect Team. Picture by Marcus Mingins 4725003MMR






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Top prize for nursery after ‘going above and beyond’ for Dougie

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

A NURSERY in Coventry has won a national award for welcoming with open arms a two-year-old with a devastating rare condition.

Tiddlers Nursery has been crowned Educational Professional of the Year at the Little Moments Matter Awards, run by charity Dravet Syndrome UK.

The awards celebrate professionals who have made a profound difference to the lives of families affected by the condition.

Dravet Syndrome is a severe form of epilepsy requiring 24/7 care, which includes frequent seizures, intellectual disability and a range of difficulties including issues with speech, language, mobility, behaviour, eating and sleep.

Tiddlers Nursery was nominated by Heidi Nicholson for going above and beyond for their two year-old son Dougie.

The nursery took him on after Heidi had struggled to place

Douglas at another nursery due to his complex needs.

Heidi said: “My son was diagnosed with Dravet two months before starting nursery. The nursery he was meant to start at kept holding off and eventually, after three months, said they would not take him.

“In came Tiddlers Nursery, and without hesitation they said they could accommodate him, got the whole staff trained and were so welcoming and accepting of Dougie.

“Having a nursery which is more than willing to support, guide and understand is huge. They treat him like every other child and he is happy, safe, and developing brilliantly there.”

Michelle Wolstenholme, Co Owner and Manager at Tiddlers, said she and her staff were honoured to receive the award.

She said: “Our whole team feels privileged to support Heidi and her family as they navigate the ups and downs of this complex condition.

“We have learnt so much from them – not just about Dravet Syndrome, but also about resilience



and love – and it is a joy having Dougie in our nursery group.”

Galia Wilson, Chair of Trustees at Dravet Syndrome UK, said the Little Moments Matter Awards aimed to shine a light on inspiring professionals whose efforts help families face the daily challenges of Dravet Syndrome with hope and strength.

She added: “Tiddlers Nursery really stepped up for Heidi and her family, showing that even in the toughest circumstances, it’s the little moments of care, compassion and understanding that can make the biggest difference.

“We hope that Tiddlers – and, indeed, all our finalists – know the life-changing impact their support has made to the quality of life of families affected by this very complex condition.”

Visit www.dravet.org.uk for more information about Dravet Syndrome.

Tiddlers Nursery’s Special Education Needs Co-Ordinator and Deputy Manager Tara Matthews, and Co Owner and Manager Michelle Wolstenholme.

Fine for city landlord after illegal eviction

A LANDLORD who changed the locks of his Coventry property while his tenants were on holiday has been prosecuted for illegally evicting them.

Wajid Hussain, the landlord of a property in Holbrooks, changed the locks to the property without obtaining a possession order in September 2023 while his tenants were on holiday.

An investigation by Coventry City Council’s Landlord and Tenant Liaison Officer discovered evidence that Hussain had received rent from the tenant less than a week before he changed the locks unlawfully.

Although Hussain stated he believed the tenants no longer lived

at the property, he admitted in interview that he had received the money from the tenants and that the tenants still had belongings in the property.

At Coventry Magistrates Court, the offence of illegal eviction was proven before a district judge, with both the council officer and tenants giving evidence.

Hussain was ordered to pay just over £3,990, including the Council’s costs.

The Landlord and Tenant Liaison Officer who led the investigation praised the bravery and fortitude of the tenants who acted as witnesses through the investigation and trial.

Adrian Chown, Head of Safer

Housing and Communities, said: “This case emphasises the critical importance for landlords to adhere rigorously to proper procedures when managing tenant relations.

“The recently introduced Renters Rights Act further strengthens tenant protections, making compliance even more imperative and I hope this serves as a clear reminder to the minority of landlords that the council is steadfast in its commitment to supporting tenants and where appropriate is prepared to take decisive action to protect residents from unlawful eviction and harassment, providing tenants with the security they rightly deserve.”

Man arrested after stabbing in city centre

A MURDER suspect has been charged in connection with the death of a man who was fatally stabbed in Coventry.

Police arrested a man on suspicion of murder after they were called to an address in Aldrich Avenue in Tile Hill on the morning of Tuesday November 18, where Anthony Priestley, 53, was found with serious injuries.

Nothing could be done to save him and he was pronounced dead at the scene.

Alexander Neilson, 28, of no fixed address, has been charged with murder and aggravated burglary.

He was remanded in custody and

appeared before Coventry Magistrates Court on Friday (November 21).

The family of Anthony released a statement paying tribute to him.

They said: “Anton, we loved you so much and we cannot imagine that we’re never going to see you again. Our love for you will never end.”

Anthony’s daughter also paid tribute to her father, saying: “Thanks for all the lovely memories I have of you. Your loving daughter.”



Anthony Priestley was stabbed to death in Tile Hill on Tuesday November 18.

TWO children have been injured following a collision on the M6.

At around 12.30am on Monday (November 24), a Black Range Rover Evoque and a Black Land Rover Discovery Sport collided between junctions 2 and 3 on the northbound carriageway.

Police, firefighters and medics from West Midlands Ambulance Service attended the scene where, on arrival, one car was found to be smoking and on its

side. A West Midlands Ambulance Service spokeswoman said: “The first patient, a girl, was found outside the vehicle.

“Ambulance staff treated the child for serious injuries before she was conveyed to Birmingham Children’s Hospital.

“A second patient, also a young girl, was treated for minor injuries and was conveyed to University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire.”

A Warwickshire Police spokes-

person said none of the injuries were believed to be life-threatening.

Road closures were in place until around 5am. No arrests have been made.

Anyone who witnessed the collision, has any dashcam footage or other information that could help with police enquiries is asked to call 101 or visit www.warwickshire.police.uk/ro/report quoting incident number 7 of November 24.

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Christmas spirit on offer to help homeless, lonely and vulnerable

FOOD, shelter, warmth and companionship are on offer this Christmas for people in Coventry who are homeless, lonely or vulnerable.

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

Voluntary organisation Coventry Open Christmas will be open 24 hours a day from December 24

to 29 at Queens Road Baptist Church in the city centre.

Anyone who needs a safe place to go is welcome – whether for a hot meal, a chat, overnight shelter or to avoid being alone.

Operations manager Natasha Leese said: “Coventry Open Christmas exists for one simple reason: no one in our city should have to face Christmas alone.

“For many of our guests, the holidays can be the hardest days of the year. A hot meal, a warm bed, and – most importantly – a friendly conversation can make a world of difference.

“What is truly humbling is seeing how people transform when they feel safe and welcomed. You see shoulders relax, you hear laughter return, and you realise how powerful human connection really is.

“Our volunteers give their time freely, and the compassion they show is extraordinary. They turn a church hall into a place of belonging.

“This project proves what Coventry does best: we look out for one another. And every donation, every hour volunteered, every shared smile helps ensure that spirit reaches those who need it most.”

Coventry Open Christmas



Volunteers at Coventry Open Christmas will be welcoming the homeless, lonely and vulnerable this Christmas.

will also host a Christmas Day Lunch at Queens Road Baptist Church from noon until 4pm.

The charity is taking over the lunch event, which will no longer take place at the Methodist Church Hall as in previous years due to budget cuts.

Natasha added: “This will put

extra financial burden on us, but we cannot see people go without on Christmas Day.”

The charity is looking for volunteers who can help with serving food, chatting with guests, overnight supervision, logistics and donations handling.

A volunteer information

evening takes place on Monday (December 1) at Queens Road Baptist Church starting at 7pm.

Donations of cash, food, bedding, clothes and other items are welcome. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/yr74kydr> to donate money.

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Police leaders call for budget funding help

WARWICKSHIRE'S two most senior policing leaders - the chief constable and the county's police and crime commissioner - jointly called on the chancellor to prioritise policing in this week's Autumn Budget.

Their call follows stark findings from the National Audit Office (NAO), which reveal Warwickshire has experienced the largest decrease in government police funding per capita in England and Wales, despite having the highest population growth.

Between 2015 and 2024, Warwickshire's population grew by approximately 12 per cent, yet government funding per head fell by a matching 12 per cent, according to the NAO's latest report on police productivity. This double pressure - rising demand and falling central support - places Warwickshire Police under increasing financial pressure.

Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner Philip Seccombe said: "Warwickshire is growing faster than anywhere else in the country, yet our police funding is shrinking. This is a clear and urgent signal that the current funding formula is broken. It fails to reflect the real pressures on our force and the needs of our communities."

The commissioner urged the chancellor to use the budget to allocate additional resources to the Home Office, enabling a full and fair review of the police funding formula - something that has not been updated since

2013.

Currently, around 50 per cent of Warwickshire Police's budget comes from the local Police Precept, meaning the burden of funding increasingly falls on local taxpayers. While the commissioner has worked to protect frontline services, he warns that relying on reserves and annual council tax increases is not a sustainable solution.

He continued: "Warwickshire deserves a fair share of national police funding - one that reflects our population growth, the complexity of modern crime, and the need to invest in technology and infrastructure. The chief constable and I are committed to delivering a high-quality police service and we have carefully structured our budgets year on year to deliver improvements, despite the inherent imbalance the current funding formula deals us.

"In the longer term this is unsustainable and we need a fair funding settlement, which properly recognises the increases in population, demand and capabilities that we face."

Warwickshire Police Ch Con Alex Franklin-Smith said the latest data demonstrated Warwickshire Police was getting an unfair funding deal at a time when the county's population had grown by more than any other policing area.

He added: "Policing demand is going up and funding is going down. This is neither right for policing services in our county and nor is it right for Warwickshire taxpayers."

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Air Ambulance staff at last year's carol service in St Andrew's Church, pictured with then Mayor Simon Ward.

Singing to boost charity

THE LIFESAVING Air Ambulance Service charity is hosting a Christmas carol service in Rugby next month to keep its helicopters flying and its critical care teams on the road.

The service at St Andrew's Church will feature uplifting music and festive readings, inviting supporters, families, and friends to celebrate the season and reflect on the power of giving.

As the charity receives no government funding for its daily missions, the Air Ambulance Service relies on donations to stay airborne.

Support raised at the carol service will help fund the work of the Warwickshire and Northamptonshire Air Ambulance, as well as the charity's critical care transfers for

children across the UK through the National Children's Air Ambulance.

Events Manager Morgan Turnbull said: "Our Christmas carol services are a meaningful way for us to connect with our communities during a special time of year.

"As a charity funded solely by donations, these events help us sustain our lifesaving missions. Every hymn sung, every donation made, and every person who attends supports our crews and ensures we can be there when seconds count."

The carol service takes place at St Andrew's Church on Wednesday December 10. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/9vaj784a> for tickets.

Pupils top the table thanks to healthy approach

MAKING strides – pupils at a Rugby primary school have topped a national league table celebrating children who walk or wheel to school.

Eastlands Primary School came first in the WOW Top Ten leaderboard for October, just pipping long-standing Lancashire champions, Stoneyholme Primary in Burnley, to the post.

WOW, the walk to school challenge from charity Living Streets, awards monthly badges to those who walk, wheel, cycle, scoot or 'park and stride' to school.

Eastlands pupils took part in the autumn WOW Top Ten, which asked them to walk to school as many times as possible during October.

Despite only starting WOW a year ago, 94 per cent of journeys recorded on the interactive WOW Travel Tracker by pupils at Eastlands Primary during October were active, and there were 16 per cent fewer car journeys to the school gates.

Eastlands Primary Head Teacher Samantha Warrington said: "I'm immensely proud of our pupils' remarkable achievement. We began WOW in April 2025 and we have seen a marked shift in the everyday life of the school community.

"Our children arrive more energised and ready to learn, our families are engaging more actively in sustainable travel, and the school has noticed a positive impact on well-being and community spirit.



"Together, we've reduced congestion around our school and improved the air quality in our locality. We hope that our success will inspire others to join and experience the benefits of active travel."

Schools that take part in WOW see 59 per cent fewer car journeys to the school gates and 18 per cent more journeys walking and wheeling to school.

Catherine Woodhead, Chief Executive of Living Streets, said: "Congratulations to pupils from Eastlands Primary for coming first in the WOW Top Ten.

"Walking and wheeling to school keeps us fit, healthy and happy – and it reduces congestion, air pollution and road danger outside the school gates.

"It's great that pupils at Eastlands Primary are benefitting from walking to school. I'm sure that they'll encourage other children and their families to follow in their footsteps.

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Campaign's cup of Christmas cheer

'BE KIND this Christmas' – that is the message of a campaign launched by a Coventry businessman to raise money and awareness for a local mental health charity.

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

Mark Farr, the CEO of Purple Planet Packaging, has drawn on personal experience to unveil a Christmas cup with a message of support for Coventry, Warwickshire and Worcestershire Mind (CWWM).

The company, which sells sustainable packaging and containers for the food and drink industry, will donate £2 of profits on each case of its Christmas cups ordered.

The cups feature the simple message 'Be kind this Christmas', as well as a QR code which links to a

webpage where people can donate to CWWM – and explore mental health support available over the festive period.

Mark said: "I know from personal experience that people still find it hard to talk about mental health issues because there is still that stigma. There is still a thought for some people, especially men, that we should hide our feelings."

"I have been through it myself so I know what it is like and that is why I wanted to support CWWM."

"It is a brilliant charity to work with and we're encouraging businesses to get involved with supporting the campaign. Of course, it's

about raising funds but also about awareness too, so we can get more people speaking out."

CWWM will earmark any funds raised to support its community allotments near the Arches Industrial Estate in the city. The allotments offer a sanctuary to those facing mental health issues where they grow fresh produce, much of which is sold on or turned into products such as chutney.

The charity's CEO Steven Hill said: "We are delighted to be working with Purple Planet Packaging on this campaign. We like to dedicate this kind of fundraising to our allotments because then everyone who supports it can see the tangible benefits of their donations."

The campaign has already gained



Left to right: CWWM Mind CEO Steven Hill, Lord Mayor Rachel Lancaster, and Mark Farr of Purple Planet Packaging.

support from Coventry Lord Mayor Coun Rachel Lancaster and the Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce.

Coun Lancaster added: "Purple Planet Packaging is a great example of a Coventry company that wants to give back to the city in so many ways and this is a fantastic initiative in the run-up to Christmas."

"Be kind this Christmas is a simple but very powerful message and

one that we can all get behind."

Gurprit Singh, of the Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce, said: "We're encouraging businesses to get behind this campaign – it might mean purchasing just one case of cups, which will see vital funds being donated to CWWM Mind."

Visit www.justgiving.com/page/purpleplanetpackaging for more information, or to donate.



Albany to raise curtain on biggest-ever festive show

THE 'BIGGEST-EVER' Christmas show at Coventry's Albany Theatre will take cues from its 90-year history.

The venue's festive adaptation of Beauty and the Beast will hit the stage on Saturday December 6.

Acclaimed Coventry-born set designer Abby Clarke – reuniting with the Albany Theatre following last year's stage production of The Bear Who Went to War –

said the show would embrace the theatre's storied past.

She said: "We've embraced the Albany's pre-war history, architecture, and Art Deco design throughout this show, and I think it's something that will not only resonate with Coventry audiences but also create an immersive experience."

"The result is a completely new, high-quality restaging of a much-loved adaptation which

has all the classic theatre magic you'd expect, while raising the bar for The Albany's produced theatre."

The Christmas retelling of Gabrielle-Suzanne Barbot de Villeneuve's original 18th-century fairy tale will star Hannah Victoria in the leading role of Bella.

Six talented community performers will join the ensemble cast in a nod to the theatre's

origins as a hub for local performers.

The show runs at the Albany Theatre from Saturday December 6, with matinee and evening performances, until Sunday January 4.

Visit www.albanytheatre.co.uk/shows/beauty-and-the-beast for more information and tickets.

The cast features professional and community actors. Picture by Albany Theatre

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Mayoral welcome for town guides



Back row, left to right: Dave Cheney, Geoff Buck, Ken Waugh. Middle row: Keith Ward, Richard Wilding, Rhona Miller. Front row: Victoria Saunders, Jenny Ball, Mayor Barbara Brown, and Wendy Deaves.

THE Rugby Town Guides were invited to the Mayor's Parlour to mark the team's tenth anniversary.

The volunteer tour guides visited the Town Hall to meet Mayor Barbara Brown.

Based at Rugby Visitor Centre, the town guides were launched in 2015, when England hosted the Rugby World Cup and Rugby was granted 'Proud Home' status for the tournament by World Rugby.

A decade later, the guides still take residents and visitors on tours of the town centre's iconic buildings and landmarks, including the Webb Ellis Rugby Football Museum, The Queen's Gates at the entrance of

The Close at Rugby School, the statue of Rupert Brooke and the monument to Sir Frank Whittle.

The Rugby Town Guides won the Art, Culture and Heritage Group Award at the 2023 Warwickshire and Solihull Community and Voluntary Action (CAVA) Rugby Volunteer Awards.

Coun Brown said she was delighted to invite the guides to the Mayor's Parlour to celebrate the team's tenth anniversary.

She said: "The Rugby Town Guides have dedicated hundreds of hours to sharing the history of our town with visitors and residents, voluntary work which has done the borough proud for a decade.

"Each guide's expert knowledge and passion bring the borough's history alive and, even for lifelong residents of Rugby, can reveal the hidden history on our doorsteps."

The free tours take place every Saturday from the spring through to autumn, starting at the visitor centre in Little Elborow Street. Bespoke tours for individuals and groups can also be arranged all year round. Contact Rugby Visitor Centre at visitorcentre@rugby.gov.uk or on (01788) 533217 to arrange.

Visit www.therugbytown.co.uk/townguides for more information about guided tours of the town centre.

Left to right: OurJay Foundation trustee/secretary and Jamie's godmother Tracey Brand, Platform Housing chief operations officer Marion Duffy, OurJay founder and Jamie's mum Naomi Rees-Issitt, and Sarah Sutton, director at Platform Housing.



Partnership gives big Platform for OurJay charity

A RUGBY mum's campaign to bring life-saving equipment to the streets in memory of her son has been boosted by a new partnership with one of the UK's largest social landlords.

Platform Housing Group has become the first housing association to partner with The OurJay Foundation, to help increase the number of Publicly Accessible Defibrillators (PADs) across the West Midlands and beyond.

Platform will review, upgrade and register its existing defibrillators, as well as install new ones at housing schemes and new developments.

The OurJay Foundation will also offer training in life-saving skills and the safe use of PADs to Platform staff and customers.

Naomi Rees-Issitt, who founded the charity in memory of her 18-year-old son Jamie 'Jay' Rees, said: "Jay's cardiac arrest could not be

prevented but having access to a defibrillator might have given him a chance to survive.

"Every second counts in a cardiac arrest and we are determined to make sure no other family has to go through what we've been through.

"Partnering with Platform means we can extend our reach, bringing more defibs into communities where they are needed most."

Marion Duffy, chief opera-

tions officer at Platform Housing Group said: "This partnership is about saving lives, supporting safer communities and making a lasting difference across our neighbourhoods.

"Installing and maintaining accessible defibrillators is a simple but powerful step, one we hope inspires other housing providers and organisations to follow suit."

Visit www.ourjay.org.uk for more information on the OurJay Foundation.



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Volunteers from TWAM refurbish tools like sewing machines and send them to communities in need in Africa.

Pop up to help spread festive cheer

A POP-UP Christmas shop is hosting a Rugby-based charity which 'transforms lives' for the second year running.

Rugby Christmas Cracker – a pop-up shop in Rugby Central Shopping Centre which runs the Crackerteria cafe – is teaming up with the charity Tools With A Mission (TWAM), which sends refurbished tools to communities in need in Africa to create livelihoods and change lives.

The charity will have a stall in the Crackerteria, selling tools which cannot be sent to Africa to raise funds for the expensive process of shipping overseas.

This year, the charity plans to send 23 – filled with refurbished tools such as sewing machines, donated computers, and power tools – to Africa.

The tools are packed into trade kits and sent to local organisations that teach vul-

nerable members of society valuable skills such as carpentry, tailoring and mechanics.

Rugby Christmas Cracker organiser Katie Thomas said: "Rugby Christmas Cracker puts all the money raised by their sales towards helping the poorest and most marginalised women in India and Nepal to learn tailoring skills so they can earn a living and support their families – an ethos shared by TWAM."

Crackerteria is now open in the old Boots store in Rugby Central, serving hot and cold drinks, light lunches and evening meals. TWAM will have a presence at Crackerteria from Wednesdays to Saturdays at 10am-2pm, until December 20.

Visit www.wp.rugbycracker.org.uk for more information on the Crackerteria. Visit www.twam.uk for more on TWAM.

A new period for town school

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

A NEW head teacher has been appointed at a Rugby primary school, replacing the current head who is stepping down after nine years in the role.

Matt Aston will take over as the new head of Crescent School next September, taking the reins from Joe Thackway, who will retire at the end of this academic year.

A Psychology graduate with 23 years' experience in education, Matt has taught in both the state and independent sectors. Having begun his career in the West Midlands, he has recently returned to the UK after ten years overseas, latterly as the head of schools in Saudi Arabia and Kazakhstan.

Matt will be responsible for the management and strategic direction of Crescent School as part of the wider Princethorpe Foundation. He will also become a member of the Foundation's Executive Committee.

Married with four children, Matt is also a committed



endurance athlete, having completed Ironman triathlons and marathons in his spare time.

He said: "I am excited and honoured to take on the Headship of Crescent School and lead it into the next stage of its development, building on the exceptional work of Joe Thackway."

"I recognise and fully appreciate what a special community Crescent School

is and upholding its values and building on its success will be central to my role. I am really looking forward to meeting and building relationships with staff, pupils and parents over the coming months."

Ed Hester, Principal of The Princethorpe Foundation which runs the school, said: "We had a very strong field of candidates for the post and Matt impressed us all with his enthusiasm, knowledge and insight, his fine educational credentials and swift rapport with the children."

"We are confident that he is the right person to take the Crescent to new heights and we will also value his contribution to the overall Foundation."

"Our sincere thanks go to Joe Thackway who has led the Crescent from strength to strength over the last nine years."

"Under his headship, the school has grown in reputation and pupil numbers, there have been major improvements to its facilities and resources, and the school has passed two ISI inspections with flying colours."

Left to right: Matt Aston, Ed Hester and Joe Thackway.

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We're holding our prices until the 5th of January across all our stock in Kenilworth & our two stores in Leamington Spa.

With the recent sharp increases in gold and silver prices, along with upcoming government tax rises, we will unfortunately need to adjust our prices from January 5th onwards.

Although prices have risen significantly, and we realistically should have made this change already - we've chosen to keep our prices steady through Christmas to help our valued customers during the festive season.

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Festive fun on the menu as line-up is announced

Meeting the man in red

A LINE-up of entertainers has been announced for Rugby's first ever Fire and Ice spectacular event, which takes place in the town centre from 2-7pm on Sunday (November 30).

Sculptors will use a selection of chainsaws and power tools to transform ice blocks into works of art at a series of ice carving shows in Market Place.

The Cosmic Faerie will perform fire dancing with a variety of props including poi, levitation wand and rope dart, followed by some body burning, fire eating and fire breathing.

Music and dance will be provided by performances from The Big Sing, Impact Dance, Magic Voices, Rugby Community Choir, Rugby Town Concert band, Shchedryk, Rugby Baptist Church Choir and Raga and Rhythm.

The event will revolve around eight ice sculptures lit by fire beacons, linking a trail which includes a carving wall, story-telling, music, dance, fire breathing, walkabout characters, festive craft activities, Father Christmas, a funfair, food, toasted marshmallows, face painting and more.

The sculptures, up to two metres tall, have been carved from blocks of ice and transformed into detailed sculptures of Rudolph, Santa's sleigh, The Snowman, an elf, a stocking filled with goodies, angel



wings, a carving wall and a post box where you can post a letter to Santa.

Initially illuminated with white light, the sculptures will be transformed with multicoloured lights when darkness falls.

The town centre trail will include more surprises, such as fire pits, toasted marshmallows, Christmas tales in a bell tent, a living nativity, The Snowman movie, hot chocolate, mulled wine and Santa's Grotto. There will also be a range of free

'make and take' activities including writing a letter to Santa, creating your own Christmas card, decorating a gingerbread tree decoration, and making your own mini angel lantern.

Organisers Rugby First and Rugby Borough Council have put together a leaflet highlighting the day's events.

Rugby First Business Director Linda Lowne said: "This promises to be a magical event and seems to have really captured people's imagination."

"There is a lot going on, so it's really important you pick up a copy of the leaflet to make sure you do not miss out on any of the ice sculptures or sparkling entertainment that is taking place on the day."

"The trail and activities provide a great way to bring families, friends and communities together, while at the same time discovering and supporting town centre businesses."

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those groups, organisations, individuals and businesses that have helped bring this event to life."

Visit www.rugbyfirst.org for more information and a copy of the leaflet detailing the full programme.

The Cosmic Faerie will give a fiery performance at the event.

FATHER Christmas will make his first appearance of the season in Rugby this weekend.

The three Rotary Clubs in Rugby will host Santa's Grotto on Sunday (November 30) to coincide with the Fire and Ice Spectacular.

Santa and his Elves will be in the Grotto - opposite Shine A Light in Rugby Central Shopping Centre - from 2-6pm.

He will then be in residence between 10:30am and 3.30pm every weekend in December, and also on Monday December 22 and Tuesday December 23.

Entry is free to children accompanied by a responsible adult. Santa will chat to the children for a few minutes and give each child a small chocolate gift or a book. Santa and the elves will be available to pose for photos.

Visitors to the grotto can donate in aid of local charities The OurJay Foundation, Tools with a Mission, the Ukrainian Community in Rugby, Shelter Box and a local women's refuge.

Project manager Willy Goldschmidt said: "It is great that the three clubs are working together on this and we are delighted to return the Grotto to Rugby Central."

"We are most grateful for the support that we have received from Linda Lowne of Rugby First and the many local companies who have donated gifts for Santa to distribute."

Visit <https://bit.ly/3IDAXCg> for more information.



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Do something paw-some at festive fair

THE TEAM at Dogs Trust Kenilworth is decking the halls in preparation for its annual Christmas Fair.

The dog rehoming centre is opening its doors for festive fun on Saturday, December 6 from noon until 4pm.

There will be stalls selling gifts for four and two-legged friends, tombola, raffles, games, and a cafe full of festive foods. With free entry, guests will also be able to take part in festive activities, such as 'Wheel-of-Pawtune', dog lucky pick, an elf shy, and even have a photo taken with the big man himself, as Santa Paws will be in attendance.

Visitors don't need a ticket to attend.

Emma-Jane Thomas, manager at Dogs Trust Kenilworth, said: "This event is a wonderful way to raise pounds for hounds while getting in the Christmas spirit, with all the money raised at our Christmas Fair going to support the work of Dogs Trust."

"Although not every dog will be in a home this Christmas, the dogs in our care will still benefit from the love and commitment of the brilliant rehoming centre staff, who will go above and beyond to make sure every dog has a happy place this Christmas."

Visit www.dogstrust.org.uk/support-us/christmas-fair for more details.



The R&Co team visited the Speranta shelter to see first-hand the vital work the charity does.



Speranta lead vet Anca Tomescu is looking forward to working with R&Co to raise the charity's profile in the UK.

PR firm helps dog charity

A DOG charity in Romania is getting a much-needed helping paw from a Leamington PR firm.

R&Co Communications will provide PR, social media and SEO services for Speranta Shelter in Bucharest, which translates to The Hope Shelter and provides a home to around 500 rescued dogs.

The charity rescues, rehabilitates and rehomes across Romania, including elderly and disabled dogs. It also has a focus on education and sterilisation to improve the overall situation in the country,

by Ian Hughes
ian.hughes@bullivantmedia.com

which is believed to be home to between 500,000 and one million strays.

R&Co's experienced team of social media and PR specialists, which include former editors and journalists, will help Speranta raise its profile in the UK.

To celebrate, four members of the R&Co team visited the Speranta shelter in Bucharest to meet the team and see their work first-hand.

R&Co is further supporting the charity by creating a Speranta-themed tree at Leamington's annual Christmas Tree Festival in the hope of raising donations. The "Tree of Hope for Speranta's Dogs" will be on display at All Saints Parish Church from 30 November to 7 December.

R&Co managing director, Peter Robinson, said: "We are delighted to be working with such an amazing charity and helping spread news of its incredible work."

"It was great for the team to visit the shelter and see first-hand the difference Speranta makes to the

dogs its team care for. We will work hard to ensure we deliver outstanding results for not only the Speranta team, but the wonderful animals in their care."

Anca Tomescu, an internationally renowned veterinary surgeon who leads Speranta, was looking forward to working with R&Co.

she added: "As many Romanian dogs now live in the UK we know many people are passionate about dogs in our country, so we are looking forward to letting people know how we are continuing to proactively tackle the situation here in Romania."

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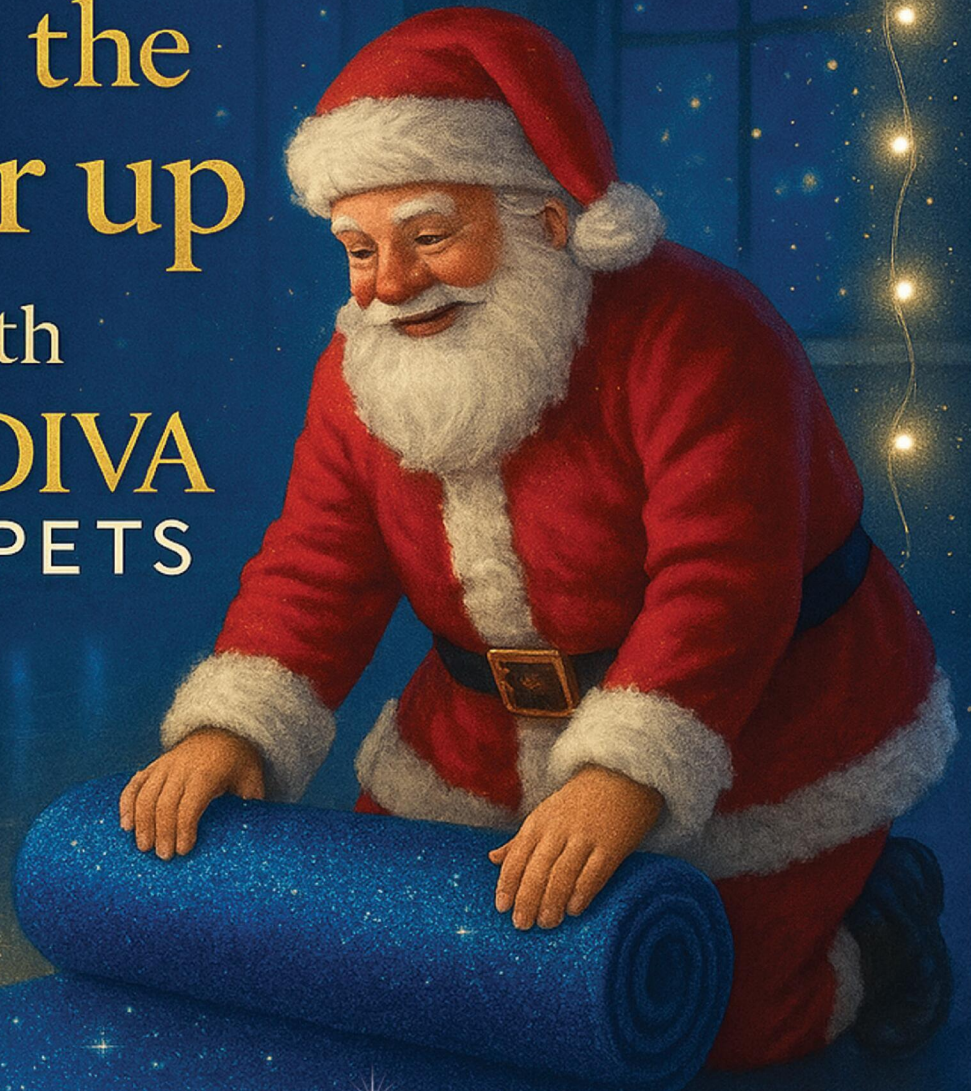
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Trustee role

A RUGBY man has been appointed as a Trustee for a national charity.

Chris Corbin (pictured) has taken on the role at Hearing Dogs for Deaf People.

Currently Commercial Director at Halfords Group, Chris has held leadership roles with retailers including Pets at Home, Sainsbury's Argos and Curry's.

His roles have involved operating large teams, with experience across online and offline retailing, bringing an understanding of how to meet customer needs.

Hearing Dogs for Deaf People trains life-changing assistance dogs and provides emotional and practical support services for people who are deaf or have hearing loss.



The charity has a new strategy to enhance its assistance dog partnerships and build connection, confidence and community with people with hearing loss through peer-led services. It also focuses on increasing awareness of the emotional and practical challenges of hearing loss.

Tracy Griffin, CEO of Hearing Dogs, said: "We are thrilled to welcome Chris to our Board of Trustees. He brings a wealth of commercial expertise and leadership experience from across the retail sector, along with a strong track record of driving growth through innovation and developing high-performing teams."

"Chris' strategic insight and passion for making a difference will be invaluable as we deliver our new strategy and continue to enhance the ways we support people who are deaf or have hearing loss."

"We're delighted to have him join us as we take Hearing Dogs into its next exciting chapter."

EcoHub celebrates one year of greener action

VOLUNTEERS at Rugby Eco Hub have celebrated their first year of helping to realise a greener Rugby.

The hub marked its first birthday in the heart of the town with a firm commitment to enhancing community sustainability.

The Clifton Road hub – which lives by the slogan 'reduce, reuse, repair, recycle, regenerate' – invited Rugby MP John Slinger to the event to see its flourishing community projects.

He saw how the hub's kitchen cooks with an environmental conscience, joined volunteers from the hub's Repair Cafe, and chatted with visitors being shown how to fix their broken items – even helping to repair an electric planner.

He said: "The Rugby EcoHub is such a great initiative, and shows the community spirit in our town in action."

"It's people with a shared passion for the environment who have decided to do something about it by bringing the community together and offering them something tangible and useful – as well as a cafe well-stocked with delicious home made cakes."

"It was also great to meet the Repair Cafe people in the EcoHub. They're showing an alternative approach to our modern modus operandi of buy-



Rugby Eco Hub held its grand opening a year ago.

ing products that are often not very well made, and then dumping them rather than repairing them, which is bad for the environment and ultimately wasteful.

"The volunteers bring their technical and engineering skill to the table and show that

repairing things is often better than chucking them away.

"Thank you to the EcoHub and Repair Cafe for all you do, and for inviting me."

The Eco Hub is hosting a 'First Year Fiesta' on Saturday (November 29), featuring a review of projects and achieve-

ments, a vegan or vegetarian lunch, fund-raising auctions, and a 'Rugby Village' fair including live music. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/3ewasse5> for tickets.

Email info@rugbyecohub.org for more information or to get involved with Rugby Eco Hub.



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Gardening

The transforming power of trees

THIS National Tree Week, gardeners across the UK are being encouraged to plant trees that will transform their gardens and make a positive contribution to the environment.

While many people associate planting with springtime, winter offers a prime opportunity for planting trees, especially bare-root varieties, that can establish strong root systems during their dormant phase.

British Garden Centres has put together this guide to understand why now is an excellent season for tree planting, what types of trees to select, and how to care for them through the colder months.

Why plant trees in winter?

Winter planting coincides with the trees' natural dormant period. During dormancy, deciduous trees shed their leaves and put energy into root growth rather than foliage, flowers, or fruit. This means that when planted in winter, trees can focus on establishing a robust root system without the stress of supporting leaves. Winter planted trees also require less maintenance and watering because the UK's wetter and cooler conditions help keep the soil moist and reduce evaporation.

Certain types of trees, such as bare-root trees, are sold with no

soil on their roots and are best planted between November and March. Planting bare-root trees during winter gives them the best chance of thriving compared to planting them in other seasons.

Choosing the right trees for winter planting

Popular options include native deciduous trees such as oak, silver birch, rowan, and hawthorn, as well as hedging plants like cherry laurel, privet, and box.

For gardeners with limited space, ornamental trees are excellent choices as they combine beauty with manageable size. Our top tips are:

- **Amelanchier lamarckii (Juneberry):** A graceful tree with attractive white spring flowers and red-tinged autumn foliage, perfect for multi-season interest.
- **Crab Apple (Malus species):** Offers stunning blossom in spring, colourful fruits in autumn, and supports local wildlife.
- **Cornus kousa (Kousa Dogwood):** Known for its striking white bracts in early summer and vibrant red berries.
- **Acer palmatum (Japanese Maple):** Valued for its delicate, colourful foliage that changes from green to brilliant reds and



oranges in autumn.

Preparing to plant your tree

Before planting, choose a well-drained spot with ample room for tree roots to spread. It's best to avoid waterlogged or frozen ground, which can impede root growth and cause damage. Dig a hole that is wide and deep enough to comfortably house the roots without crowding.

When planting bare-root trees, soak the roots in a bucket of water for a few hours beforehand to rehydrate them. Dig the hole slightly wider than the root spread and square-shaped to encourage roots to grow outward rather than cir-

cling in a round hole.

Plant the tree at the same depth it was growing previously, backfill with soil gently, and press firmly to remove air pockets. After planting, apply a thick mulch layer around the base of the tree. Mulch moderates soil temperature, retains moisture, prevents weeds, and protects roots from frost.

Care tips

Young trees can be vulnerable to harsh winter winds, frost, and animals, so it's important to give them some extra care through the colder months. Stake tall or top-heavy trees to provide stability against strong winds and use tree guards

or fencing to prevent damage from rodents and other wildlife. Check soil moisture regularly, watering during dry spells but avoiding waterlogged conditions. Keep the base of the tree clear by removing any competing weeds or plants.

As spring approaches and the tree begins to break dormancy, continue watering and feed lightly with a balanced fertiliser to support healthy new growth.

Benefits beyond the garden

Planting trees is about more than just beautifying your garden. Trees provide essential habitats for wildlife, improving biodiversity by offering food and shelter to birds, insects, and small mammals. They also help improve air quality by absorbing carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen, combat climate change, reduce soil erosion, and provide shade and shelter.

Julian Palphramand, Head of Plants at British Garden Centres, said: "National Tree Week is a great opportunity for gardeners to connect with nature and make a lasting difference by planting young trees."

Whether you're transforming your garden with a statement tree or adding structure and interest with seasonal colour, now is the perfect time to plant. Our centres nationwide have a fantastic range of trees and expert teams on hand to help you choose the perfect tree to enjoy for years to come."

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RSC plays role in a revolutionary new way to bring Bard's finest plays to young learners

Students participating in a lesson from the RSC Shakespeare Curriculum. Picture by Ellie Smith (RSC).



A REVOLUTIONARY new hi-tech way of studying Shakespeare has been launched.

The Royal Shakespeare Company and Foyle Foundation, joined by leading actors, have teamed-up on the RSC Shakespeare Curriculum, which uses the latest learning technology and innovation.

It is being hailed as the most important development in the teaching of the Bard in a generation, which it is claimed will radically change how Shakespeare is studied and taught in secondary schools not just in the UK, but around the world.

It responds to ongoing concerns from teachers and young people about the way in which the world's most famous writer is experienced by many schoolchildren, with the aim for 80 per cent of all UK secondary schools to use the Shakespeare Curriculum by 2029.

The first resource of its kind and free to use for all state and SEND secondary schools, it concentrates the RSC's award-winning

teaching approaches into a digital platform for teachers and students to learn about Shakespeare, immersing them in the creative world of an RSC rehearsal room.

Grounded in the techniques used by actors and directors, the Shakespeare Curriculum takes students beyond their desks, unlocking language, character and themes and fostering vital skills for school, life and work.

The RSC Shakespeare Curriculum has been created with major investment from the Foyle Foundation as one of the key projects recently announced for the long-term legacy of the foundation.

Sir Ian McKellen, who has trod the RSC stage many times during his distinguished career of stage and screen, explained: "Actors, better than other Shakespeare lovers, know how difficult it is to transform his words on the page into living, breathing characters on the stage where they belong."

"To expect schoolchildren to grapple with such problems may well put them off

Shakespeare for life. Ever since I was at school, reading a troublesome text around the classroom, I have wondered how professional theatre people might help English teachers who too often feel inadequate to the task. Now the Royal Shakespeare Company has come up with an answer, a practical way for teachers to lead students to an appreciation of the plays, not just as written texts but as a starting place to explore the excitement of live theatre.

Approximately 2million young people in the UK study Shakespeare in any given year. From a 2012 study by the RSC and British Council, approximately half of schoolchildren in the world study Shakespeare and his plays each year.

The Shakespeare Curriculum turns Shakespeare's ten most studied plays into a 24-part creative learning adventure, bringing the RSC's unique blend of theatre practice, research and digital innovation into schools. Drawing on thousands of unique archive

resources, and decades of world-renowned productions featuring leading actors in defining performances, it aims to put young people in control of their Shakespeare learning.

Launching the curriculum, RSC director of creative learning Jacqui O'Hanlon, said:

"The RSC has worked with thousands of teachers and young people over 20 years and we understand the challenges of teaching and learning about plays that were written over 400 years ago. The Shakespeare Curriculum responds to this challenge."

"Research shows that the combination of Shakespeare's language and RSC teaching approaches improve young people's academic, social and emotional development. As well as improved language development, writing and oracy skills, this work improves communication, self-belief and well-being and develops creative problem-solving skills."

Visit shakespearecurriculum.com for full details.



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SO MUCH INCLUDED...

- ✓ Return coach travel from **Rugby, Coventry**
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PADDINGTON THE MUSICAL EVENING SHOW & LONDON

Departing Thu 29 Jan '26

Marmalade sandwiches at the ready! Come along to the Savoy Theatre for one of the West End's most anticipated shows, Paddington the Musical, where this loveable little bear arrives in London from deepest, darkest Peru and embarks on an unforgettable adventure!

SO MUCH INCLUDED...

- ✓ Return coach travel from **Rugby, Coventry**
- ✓ Overnight stay at a selected hotel outside London (JG3 or JG4 rating) with full English breakfast
- ✓ Grand Circle ticket (evening performance)
- ✓ Free time in London for shopping & sightseeing

2 Days by Coach only £179

Single Supplement: £45



LLANDUDNO CHESTER & SNOWDONIA

Departing Mon 16 Mar '26

The highlights of North Wales await on this great-value break, where we're based on the seafront in Llandudno and take in the stunning landscapes of Snowdonia. We also cross the border to discover Chester, with its medieval 'rows' and fascinating museums.

SO MUCH INCLUDED...

- ✓ Return coach travel from **Rugby**
- ✓ 4 nights at the Grand Hotel, Llandudno (JG2+ rating) with dinner & breakfast
- ✓ Entertainment some evenings
- ✓ Excursions to Snowdonia (Betws-y-Coed & Conwy) & Chester
- Optional excursion to the Isle of Anglesey (£15pp)

5 Days by Coach only £289

Single Supplement: £100

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Taking their voice to the house

BUDDING young politicians from Warwickshire demonstrated the power of young voices when they took part in debates at the House of Commons.

The county's three elected Youth Parliament members - Olivia, Kaddy and Christian - joined hundreds of young people from across the UK to debate issues that matter the most to them. Speaking from the famous green benches in front of MPs, decision-makers and a national audience, they had the chance to be heard and showed the positive impact young people can have.

During the morning session, Olivia contributed to the debate on housing by raising concerns and ideas shared by young people in Warwickshire. Later in the day, Kaddy and Christian took part in debates around health, employment, crime and sustainability where they added opinions of their peers to the discussions.

Talking about her experience in parliament, Olivia said: "This was my second time speaking in the House of Commons and it was just as exciting as the first. I was proud to share what young people in Warwickshire think about housing, and it shows how important it is for us to have a voice."

Kaddy continued: "Going to Parliament for the second time was an amazing experience. I felt proud to deliver another speech in such an important place, and it really boosted my confidence. One of the highlights was meeting new people from across the UK and the British Overseas Territories, each bringing unique perspectives and experiences. It reminded me how powerful youth voices can be when we come



Olivia, Kaddy and Christian with speaker Sir Lindsay Hoyle.

together. Being part of these discussions made me feel inspired and motivated to keep pushing for meaningful and transformative change in my community and beyond."

Christian found debating in the House of Commons offered a chance to share ideas about what young people think.

He added: "Meeting young people from across the UK, discussing our experiences, and pushing for real change was amazing. I hope more young people will take part in this

year's Youth Elections for the chance to represent Warwickshire in the next Debate."

The Warwickshire Youth Elections for 2026 are already underway. Young people aged 11 to 17 are now able to put themselves forward to join the Warwickshire Youth Council, the body that elects the county's future Members of the Youth Parliament.

Visit www.childfriendlywarwickshire.co.uk/youthelections2026 for more details.

Chance to air views on school bus plans

PARENTS across Warwickshire are invited to take part in consultation events on the proposed changes to home to school transport.

Warwickshire County Council say it is looking to make changes to its current policy to make the service fairer, more consistent, and fully aligned with national guidance.

A public consultation is taking place online at ask.warwickshire.gov.uk/bi/home-to-school until January 4.

And to support this, a series of consultation events are being run to give residents the chance to learn more about the proposals, ask questions, and share their views directly. The events will be both in person and online to make it easy for everyone to take part.

Online (Microsoft Teams) sessions are taking place on

Wednesdays December 3, 10 and 17. There will be a drop-in event at Rugby Library on Monday December 15.

WCC's transport spokesperson Coun Jennifer Warren said: "These events are a vital part of the consultation process. They give parents, carers, and young people the chance to understand the proposed changes and share their views face-to-face or online."

"We want a policy that reflects national standards and meets the long-term needs of Warwickshire communities. I strongly encourage everyone to attend a session and have their say."

All feedback received from the consultation will be reviewed and presented to Cabinet. If approved, the revised policy will apply to applications submitted from September 1 2026 onwards.

Questions about care? We can help

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

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

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



Philip Rainsford



Drovers House, Rugby

07802 728447

p.rainsford@wcs-care.co.uk



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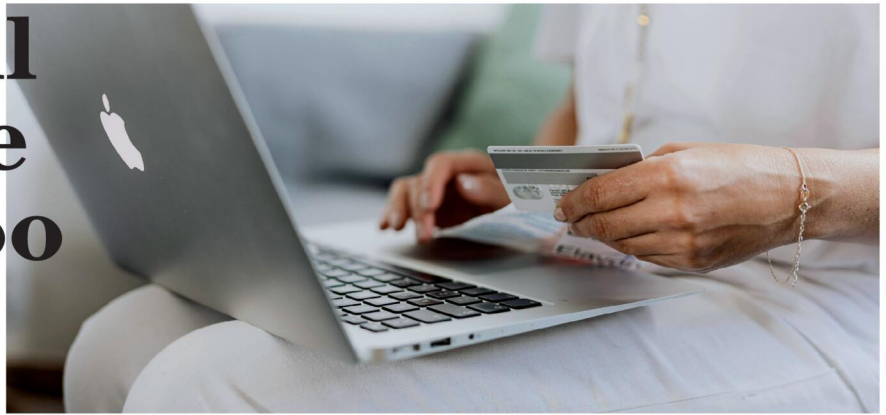


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Bargains will bring out the scammers too



THE busiest time of year for shopping is fast approaching and there are many deals to be had. However, it's important for consumers to be aware of hackers and scammers that target online shoppers.

That's why experts at lowest fee crypto exchange www.Chicksx.com have shared ten tips for keeping yourself safe while shopping online this Black Friday.

Stick to websites you know

You might be tempted by a Google link promising an amazing deal but before you click, look at the name. If it's not something you recognise, don't go there. Hackers can use similar names to high-street brands to trick you into giving up your data so double check the site is the one you know. Google also tells you if you've visited the site before so it's worth taking your time and checking for those details.

Check the URL bar

Every website should have a valid security certificate and you can tell by the little padlock icon next to the URL. If a website doesn't have one

of these then don't give your bank details or valuable information.

Check your bank statements

You might not even be aware of your details being stolen until it's too late, but by making it a habit to check your account and statements you'll be able to catch any suspicious activity early on. Your bank will have information on any time limits they have for fraudulent purchases, so be sure to keep an eye on your statements.

Use a password manager

The safest thing you can do is use a unique, randomised password for all your accounts. But instead of writing those down on post-it notes or in notebooks, use a password manager to keep them all in one place. Password managers lock your information behind a master password and many of them autofill the website logins for you, keeping you safe from keylogger attacks.

Don't shop on public Wi-Fi

You might be tempted to hop onto your favourite shopping site

while having a coffee at your local cafe, but that public wi-fi connection is extremely dangerous to use. Public Wi-Fi rarely has safety protocols such as passwords in place and hackers can piggyback and steal unsecured banking details and sensitive information without you knowing.

Use mobile payments

Apps like Apple Pay and Google Pay can protect your banking details so if a website accepts them, it's best to use them instead of your debit card.

Use a credit card

If something is high value, don't use your debit card to pay for it. Consumer law in the UK means that you could get refunds or claim your money back if your card is stolen. Credit cards also have more protec-

tions than debit cards.

Set up a temporary bank account

By opening an online-only bank account such as Revolut or Monzo, you can control the amount of money you have access to with transfers from your usual account. This way, even if your details are compromised, the hacker can't do anything to your real bank account.


Use a VPN

A VPN protects your data from prying eyes. Everything you send is encrypted so even if a hacker can see you on a network, they won't be able to access your sensitive information. VPNs connect you to a remote server and hide your IP, using one along with any of our other tips can make your online shopping super secure.

Be cautious with crypto payments and scams

With the rise of cryptocurrency, more online stores are beginning to accept Bitcoin and other digital assets as payment. While this can offer freedom and flexibility for consumers, it has also attracted scammers.


Fraudsters often create fake websites or social media ads promising huge Black Friday discounts if you "pay in crypto," only to disappear once the funds are sent. Remember, crypto transactions are irreversible, so once you've transferred your coins, there's no getting them back. Always double-check that the retailer is legitimate, avoid sending payments directly to wallet addresses shared via messages or emails, and never fall for promises of instant returns or exclusive deals paid in crypto.



ASK THE EXPERT




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Mr Shyamalan
Consultant Hand Surgeon

Event details

-  **Thursday 20th November 2025**
-  **6pm - 8pm**
-  **Silhillians Sports Club
Warwick Road, Knowle, B93 9LW**



BOOK NOW 

Tips for Managing Hand Pain in Autumn

As the leaves change and the temperatures begin to dip here in Solihull, many of us may notice an unwelcome guest: increased hand pain and stiffness. The colder weather can have a significant impact on various hand conditions, particularly arthritis and Raynaud's phenomenon.

For individuals with arthritis, the drop in temperature and barometric pressure can sometimes lead to increased joint pain and stiffness. The cold can also cause the muscles and tissues around the joints to tighten, further exacerbating discomfort.

Raynaud's phenomenon, a condition affecting blood flow to the fingers and toes, can also be triggered by cold temperatures. This can cause the fingers to turn white, then blue, and finally red, often accompanied by numbness, tingling, and pain.

If you're finding that the autumn chill is significantly impacting your hand comfort and function, don't hesitate to seek professional advice.

Mr Shyamalan, Consultant Hand, Wrist and Elbow Surgeon at Midland Hand Clinic, specialises in diagnosing and treating a wide range of hand and wrist conditions. Don't let discomfort hold you back.

Tips for Managing Hand Pain in Autumn:

- **Keep Your Hands Warm:** Wear gloves, even indoors if necessary. Consider using hand warmers for extra comfort when you're out and about.
- **Moisturise Regularly:** Dry skin can become more of an issue in colder weather, potentially increasing discomfort. Use a good quality hand cream to keep your skin supple.
- **Gentle Exercise:** Continue to perform gentle hand exercises to maintain circulation and flexibility.
- **Stay Hydrated:** Drinking enough water can help keep your joints lubricated.
- **Consider Warm Compresses:** Applying warm compresses to your hands can help soothe aching joints and improve circulation.

Schedule a consultation with Mr Shyamalan at Midland Hand Clinic today to discuss your concerns and explore potential solutions.

Submit an enquiry through our website and we'll get back to you as soon as we can: www.midlandhandclinic.com

 or give us a call
07973 696 606

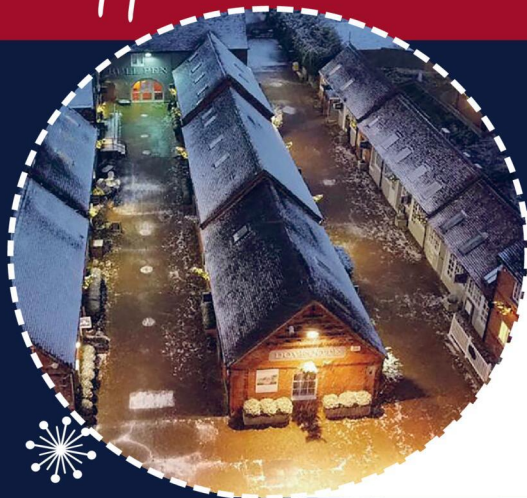
Website 

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Hatton

Christmas Shopping as it Should Be

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Saturday 13th December

Join us for an evening filled with festive cheer as our wonderful independent shops & Christmas Markets stay open until 8pm. Welcome Father Christmas to switch on the Christmas lights and enjoy Christmas Carol Singers with Roasted Chestnuts & Mulled Wine. This is Christmas Shopping as it Should Be.



Discover the Magic of Christmas in our Charming Rural Shopping Village

Step back in time and explore the nooks and crannies of our beautifully restored Victorian farm buildings, twinkling with festive lights and brimming with Christmas spirit.

Discover a treasure trove of independent shops offering gifts you simply won't find on the high street, from ladies' fashion, seasonal homeware, handmade jewellery and more.

But the magic doesn't stop there! Treat your loved ones (or yourself!) to something extra special with our range of services that make perfect presents including hairdressers, beauticians, and even a tattoo studio.

Find something truly Unusual, Unique, and Boutique this Christmas.



* Christmas Markets

Christmas Shop



Markets are back at Hatton and feeling festive!

Join us to soak up the festive atmosphere every weekend from Nov 29th to Dec 21st & then every day from 22nd to 24th Dec.



British Garden Centre's Christmas Shop returns to Hatton this year, packed to the rafters with everything you need to transform your home into a magical festive setting.

Garden Centre & Shopping Village

Hatton Country World, Hatton, CV35 8XA

Hattonworld.com

SUDOKU

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

EASY

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

HARD

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

PATHFINDER

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

Scottish writers

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

Solutions opposite

CROSSWORD

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

ACROSS

- 4. Narration (7)
- 8. Aviator (6)
- 9. Blow up (7)
- 10. Shrewd (6)
- 11. Look upon (6)
- 12. Surround (8)
- 18. Definite (8)
- 20. Obvious (6)
- 21. Nuptial (6)
- 22. Clique (7)
- 23. Gusto (6)
- 24. Keep under (7)

DOWN

- 1. Discussion (7)
- 2. Shield (7)
- 3. Subject (6)
- 5. Meeting (8)
- 6. Constrain (6)
- 7. Disposition (6)
- 13. Hypercritical (8)
- 14. Scorn (7)
- 15. Rich (7)
- 16. Control (6)
- 17. Superior (6)
- 19. Country of the Middle East (6)

Scribble pad

LADDER

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

- Locate
- Affectionate
- Nourishment
- Jester
- Wicked



NINER

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

- 32156 gives a tree;
- 47453 gives a second tree;
- 956128 gives a fertile spot.

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

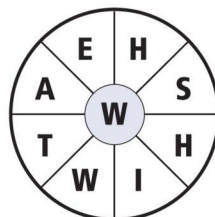
CODEWORD

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

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

WORDWHEEL

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

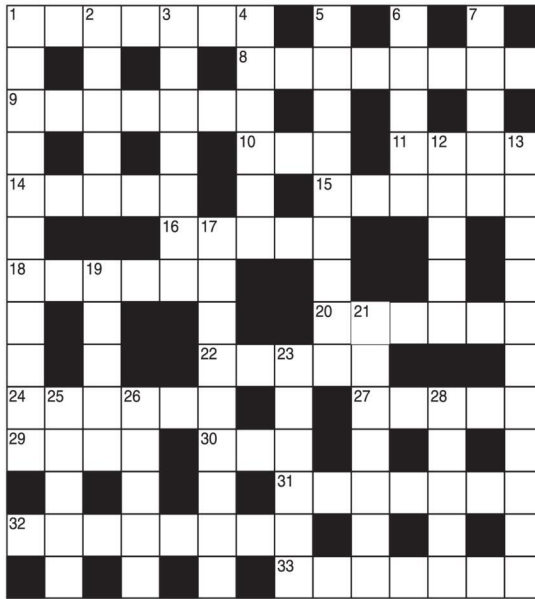


How you rate
 10 words: average 20 words: very good
 15 words: good 25 or more: excellent.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Half-back positioned at some distance from the scrum in rugby football (3-4)
- 8 Bishop of Antioch, martyred at Rome about AD 115-17 (8)
- 9 Musical performance by a soloist or small group (7)
- 10 Poetically, a meadow or grassland (3)
- 11 Norwegian explorer called 'the Red' (4)
- 14 A pair of pheasants, for example (5)
- 15 Pungent root vegetable used in salads (6)
- 16 Savoury meat jelly (5)
- 18, 26 and 17 Author whose books include The Master of Ballantrae (6,5,9)
- 20 Assyrian and Babylonian goddess identified with Astarte (6)
- 22 Leguminous plant also known as tare (5)
- 24 A young salmon that has been once to the sea (6)
- 27 Fabulist of antiquity (5)
- 29 Disc of light surrounding a saint's head (4)
- 30 Soft or downy surface of cloth (3)
- 31 In football, a free kick allowed for certain infringements of rules (7)
- 32 Male voice between tenor and bass (8)
- 33 Slender, thread-like appendage of a plant, used for support (7)



DOWN

- 1 Hampshire town that was home to the Royal Aircraft Establishment (11)
- 2 Liliaceous plant with sword-shaped leaves and white bell-shaped flowers (5)
- 3 The aardvark of South Africa (3,4)
- 4 A stimulus or incentive (6)
- 5 Regions round the South Pole (9)
- 6 A trusty horse (5)
- 7 Capital of Tunisia (5)
- 12 Nail or bolt for holding metal plates together (5)
- 13 Colouring-matter of leaves and other green parts of plants (11)
- 17 See 18
- 19 Aromatic flavouring herb (5)
- 21 Longest river of Ireland (7)
- 23 Arm or lever used in machinery to impart intermittent motion (6)
- 25 Morocco's capital, on the Atlantic coast (5)
- 26 See 18
- 28 Henry Williamson's salmon, in his well-known book (5)

SOLUTIONS

ACROSS: 1 Fly-half; 8 Ignatius; 9 Rectal; 10 Lea; 11 Eric; 14 Brace; 15 Radish; 16 Aspic; 18 Robert; 20 Ishar; 22 Vetch; 24 Gristle; 27 Mesop; 29 Halo; 30 Nap; 31 Penalty; 32 Bartone; 33 Tendril. DOWN: 1 Farmborough; 2 Yucca; 3 Ant Bear; 4 Hipp; 5 Antarctic; 6 Steed; 7 Tuns; 12 River; 13 Chorophyll; 17 Stevenson; 19 Basil; 21 Shannon; 23 Tappet; 25 Rabat; 26 Louis; 28 Salar.

General Knowledge Crossword

ACROSS: 4 Account; 8 Airman; 9 Inflation; 10 Astute; 11 Regard; 12 Enclave; 18 Positive; 20 Patent; 21 Bridal; 22 Faction; 23 Reishi; 24 Repress; Down: 1 Palaver; 2 Protect; 3 Matter; 5 Congress; 6 Oblige; 7 Nature; 13 Captions; 14 Disdain; 15 Wealthy; 16 Manage; 17 Better; 19 Israel.

Crossword

DECLARING: Smith, Thomas Macaulay, Jackie Kay.
 Niner: Banks, Thomas Carlyle, Al Kennedy, William Macconagall, David Welsh, Nan Shepherd, Ian Rankin, Arthur Conan Doyle, Iain M Robert Burns, Muriel Spark, Walter Scott, Val McDermid, Irvine

Wordwheel Pathfinder

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

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

Hard

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

Easy



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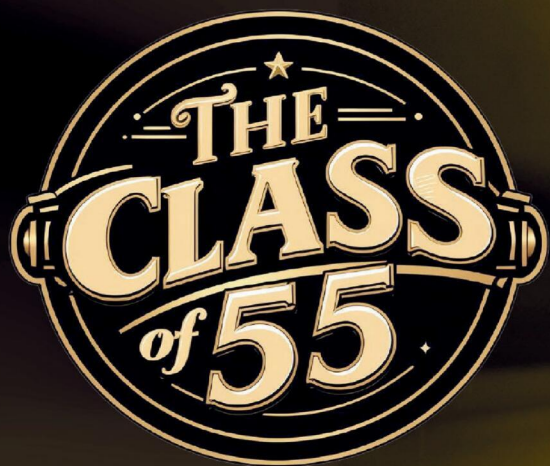
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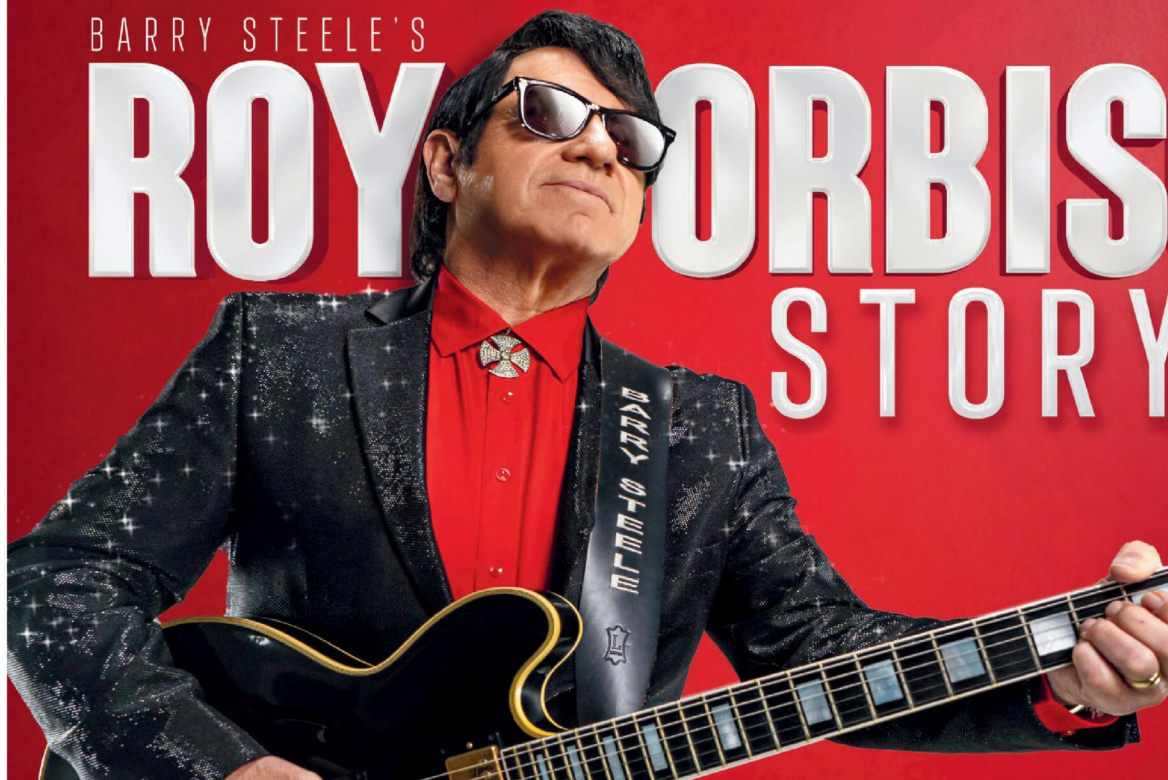
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PUBLIC NOTICES

Warwickshire County Council

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

Warwickshire County Council has made the following Temporary Traffic Orders:
D36030 NORTHAMPTON LANE, RUGBY
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic from Alwyn Road to Cavston Lane.
Reason for Order: Carriageway patching and associated works, 09.30hrs-15.30hrs.
Order Commences: 4 December 2025 for up to 18 months
Anticipated Completion: 4 December 2025.
Access & Diversion: Northampton Lane, Rugby Road, Cavston Lane and vice versa.
Contractor: Balfour Beatty, Tel: 03452 415 302.

D21610 BIGGIN HALL LANE, THURLASTON
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic from its junction with Main Street.
Reason for Order: Carriageway patching and associated works, 08.00hrs-16.00hrs.
Order Commences: 5 December 2025 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 5 December 2025.
Access & Diversion: No diversion available.
Contractor: Balfour Beatty, Tel: 03452 415 302.

A423 OXFORD ROAD, RYTON ON DUNSMORE/ PRINCETHORPE
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic between A445 Leamington Road Roundabout and the B4455 Fosse Way. In addition, a 40mph speed restriction will be imposed on both northbound and southbound carriageways between the A445 Leamington Road /A423 Oxford Road Island and the existing permanent 40 mph north of the B4455 Leamington Road.
Reason for Order: Carriageway resurfacing and associated works, overnight 20.00hrs-06.00hrs.
Speed restriction for the safety of all road users whilst the road is open until carriageway resurfacing works are completed.
Order Commences: 1 December 2025 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 24 December 2025.
Access & Diversion: A445 Leamington Road, A45 London Road, B4455 Fosse Way and vice versa.
Contractor: Balfour Beatty, Tel: 03452 415 302.

KINGS NEWNHAM LANE, BRETFORD
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.
Reason for Order: To enable duct laying works.
Order Commences: 1 December 2025 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 5 December 2025.
Access & Diversion: Kings Newnham Lane, Bretford Road, Newnham Lane, Fosse Way and vice versa.
Contractor: Callan Connect, Tel: 01213 275 167.

LANGDALE CLOSE, BROWNSOVER, RUGBY
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.
Reason for Order: To enable duct laying works.
Order Commences: 4 December 2025 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 5 December 2025.
Access & Diversion: No diversion available.
Contractor: Omnis Highway Solutions, Tel: 01724 785 286.

DERWENT CLOSE, BROWNSOVER, RUGBY
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.
Reason for Order: Works to lay approximately 14m of duct.
Order Commences: 2 December 2025 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 3 December 2025.
Access & Diversion: No diversion available.
Contractor: Omnis Highway Solutions, Tel: 01724 785 286.

Warwickshire County Council proposes to make the following Temporary Traffic Orders:
THE SPINNEY LONG LAWFORD
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.
Reason for Order: Works to clear blockage in the carriageway.
Order Commences: 15 December 2025 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 17 December 2025.
Access & Diversion: No diversion available.
Contractor: Core Highways, Tel: 07979 296 733.

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 27 Nov 2025

PUBLIC NOTICES



ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 - SECTIONS 4(1), 14(1)(a) AND (c), (4) AND (7) THE A45 TRUNK ROAD (BAGINTON TO THURLASTON), THE A423 TRUNK ROAD AND CONNECTING ROADS (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2025

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that National Highways Limited (Company No. 09346363) intends to make an Order on the A45 Trunk Road and the A423 Trunk Road, in the City of Coventry and the County of Warwickshire, to enable maintenance and improvement works, to be carried out in safety.
 The works are expected to take place overnight between 19:00 and 06:00 (07:00 on Saturday and Sunday mornings) during a period starting on Friday 2nd January 2026 and ending on Wednesday 23rd December 2026

The effect of the Order will be to impose prohibitions on -

- (1) the eastbound carriageway of the A45 from its junction with the exit slip road leading to the roundabout junction with Leaf Lane, the A444 slip roads and the A46 slip roads (Stivichall Interchange), at Baginton, to its roundabout junction with the B4429 and the M45 (Thurlaston Interchange), at Thurlaston;
- (2) the westbound carriageway of the A45 from Thurlaston Interchange to its junction with the entry slip road leading from Stivichall Interchange;
- (3) the slip road leading from the A45 eastbound to the roundabout junction with the A423 and Hillman Way at Ryton-on-Dunsmore;
- (4) the slip road leading from the roundabout junction with the A423 and Hillman Way at Ryton-on-Dunsmore, to its junction with the westbound carriageway of the A45;
- (5) any slip road, link road or dedicated lane leading to or from the lengths of carriageway described in (1) and (2) above;
- (6) any lay-by, bus stop area or service road adjacent to the lengths of carriageway described in (1) and (2) above.

During any road closures traffic will be diverted via alternative junctions of the A45 Trunk Road, the A423 Trunk Road and local roads. These diversions will be clearly indicated by traffic signs throughout the area.

To obtain a copy of the A45 and A423 Programme of Works please contact the National Highways Customer Contact Centre on 0300 123 5000 or info@nationalhighways.co.uk.

The duration of each prohibition will vary depending upon the nature of the work being undertaken on each occasion.

The prohibitions will not apply to emergency services, works, or winter maintenance vehicles. The prohibitions will only apply during such times and to such extent as shall be indicated by traffic signs.

The Order comes into force on 27 December 2025 and will expire on 23 December 2026.

Karen Eustace, an official of National Highways Limited, National Highways Limited, Three Snowhill, Snow Hill Queensway, Birmingham, B4 6GA
 National Highways Limited, Bridge House, 1 Walnut Tree Close, Guildford, GU1 4LZ. Registered in England & Wales number 09346363.

PUBLIC NOTICES



ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 - SECTIONS 4(1) AND 14(1)(a) AND (c), (4) AND (7) THE M6 MOTORWAY (JUNCTION WITH THE A14 TO JUNCTION 16), A449 AND A34 TRUNK ROADS AND CONNECTING ROADS (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2025

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that National Highways Limited (Company No. 09346363) intends to make an Order on the M6 Motorway and the A449 and A34 Trunk Roads, in the Metropolitan Boroughs of Solihull, Sandwell and Walsall, the City of Birmingham and in the Counties of Warwickshire, Staffordshire and Leicestershire, to enable maintenance and improvement works, to be carried out in safety.

The works are expected to take place overnight between 19:00 and 06:00 (07:00 on Saturday and Sunday mornings) during a period starting on Friday 2 January 2026 and ending on Wednesday 23 December 2026.

The effect of the Order will be to impose prohibitions on the following lengths of carriageway:

- (a) the northbound carriageway of the M6 from its junction with the A14, near Calthorpe, to its junction with the exit slip road at Junction 16;
- (b) the southbound carriageway of the M6 from its junction with the entry slip road at Junction 16, to its junction with the A14, near Calthorpe;
- (c) the circular carriageway of the A449 at its roundabout junction with the M6 Junction 13 slip roads;
- (d) the circular carriageway of the A34 at its roundabout junction with the A5013 and the M6 Junction 14 slip roads;
- (e) any slip road or link road leading to and from the lengths of carriageway described in (a) and (b) above;
- (f) any emergency refuge area adjacent to the lengths of carriageway described in (a) and (b) above.

During any road closures traffic will be diverted via alternative junctions of the M6 Motorway and local roads. These diversions will be clearly indicated by traffic signs throughout the area.

To obtain a copy of the M6 Programme of Works please contact the National Highways Customer Contact Centre on 0300 123 5000 or info@nationalhighways.co.uk.

The duration of each prohibition will vary depending upon the nature of the work being undertaken on each occasion.

The prohibitions will not apply to emergency services, works, or winter maintenance, or traffic officer vehicles. The prohibitions will only apply during such times and to such extent as shall be indicated by traffic signs.

The Order comes into force on 29 December 2025 and will expire on 23 December 2026.

Karen Eustace, an official of National Highways Limited, 3 Snowhill, Snow Hill Queensway, Birmingham, B4 6GA
 National Highways Limited, Bridge House, 1 Walnut Tree Close, Guildford, GU1 4LZ. Registered in England & Wales number 09346363.

PUBLIC NOTICES



ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 - SECTION 4(1), 14(1)(a) AND (c), 14(4) AND 14(7) THE M69 MOTORWAY AND CONNECTING ROADS (ANSTY TO LEICESTER) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2025

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that National Highways Limited (Company No. 09346363) intends to make an Order on the M69 Motorway, in the Counties of Warwickshire and Leicestershire, to enable maintenance and improvement works to be carried out in safety.

The works are expected to take place overnight between 19:00 and 06:00 (07:00 on Saturday and Sunday mornings) during a period starting on Friday 2nd January 2026 and ending on Wednesday 23rd December 2026.

The effect of the Order will be to impose prohibitions on -

- (i) the northbound carriageway of the M69 between its junction with the A46, at Ansty, and its roundabout junction with the A5460 and the M1 Junction 21 slip roads, at Leicester;
- (ii) the southbound carriageway of the M69 between its roundabout junction with the A5460 and the M1 Junction 21 slip roads, at Leicester, and its junction with the A46, at Ansty;
- (iii) any slip road or link road leading to or from the lengths of the M69 described in (i) and (ii) above.

During any road closures traffic will be diverted via alternative junctions of the M69 and local roads. These diversions will be clearly indicated by traffic signs throughout the area.

To obtain a copy of the M69 Programme of Works please contact the National Highways Customer Contact Centre on 0300 123 5000 or info@highwaysengland.co.uk.

The duration of each prohibition will vary depending upon the nature of the work being undertaken on each occasion.

The prohibitions will not apply to emergency services, works, winter maintenance, or traffic officer vehicles. The prohibitions will only apply during such times and to such extent as shall be indicated by traffic signs.

The Order comes into force on 29 December 2025 and will expire on 23 December 2026.

Karen Eustace, an official of National Highways Limited, Three Snowhill, Snow Hill Queensway, Birmingham, B4 6GA.
 National Highways Limited, Bridge House, 1 Walnut Tree Close, Guildford, GU1 4LZ. Registered in England & Wales number 09346363.

JOHN HOLBROW (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of 15 Moyle Crescent Coventry, CV5 7EU, who died on 30/10/2025, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 29/01/2026, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.
Penmans,
 The Priel, Wellesbourne, Warwickshire, CV35 9NL
 New Union Street Coventry CV1 2NY

SYBIL HOLLDSWORTH (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of 12 Ash Tree Close, Wellesbourne, Warwickshire, CV35 9SA, who died on 20/06/2025, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 29/01/2026, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.
Penmans,
 The Priel, Wellesbourne, Warwickshire, CV35 9NL

PUBLIC NOTICES

Warwickshire County Council

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

Warwickshire County Council has made the following Temporary Traffic Orders:

PERCIVAL DRIVE, HARBURY
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.
Reason for Order: To enable repair/replacement of defective manhole cover and frame.
Order Commences: 2 December 2025 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 2 December 2025.
Access & Diversion: No Diversion.
Contractor: CSP, Tel: 07918 298 599.

VICARAGE ROAD, NAPTON ON THE HILL
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.
Reason for Order: To enable installation on water network.
Order Commences: 29 November 2025 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 30 November 2025.
Access & Diversion: Vicarage Road, Butt Hill, Southam Road, Daventry Road, Welsh Road East, Holt Road, Napton Holt Road, Thomtons Lane, Chapel Green Road, New Street, High Street, Hackwell Street and vice versa.
Contractor: Chevron TM Ltd, Tel: 0330 080 820.

Warwickshire County Council proposes to make the following Temporary Traffic Orders:
A425 LEAMINGTON ROAD & BANBURY ROAD, SOUTHAM
Order Effect: Traffic will be prohibited from making a Right Turn from A425 Leamington Road onto Banbury Road and also from Banbury Road onto A425 Leamington Road.
Reason for Order: For public safety while works on the new A425 development are in progress.
Order Commences: 1 December 2025 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 23 January 2026.
Access & Diversion: Leamington Road, Warwick Road, Warwick Street, Oxford Street, Banbury Road and vice versa.
Contractor: Fitzgerald Contractors Ltd, Tel: 01213 260 402.

WORMLEIGHTON ROAD, PRIORS HARDWICK
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.
Reason for Order: Works to install new water connection.
Order Commences: 15 December 2025 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 17 December 2025.
Access & Diversion: Wormleighton Road, Welsh Road, Church End and vice versa.
Contractor: Go Traffic Management Limited, Tel: 01158 965 832.

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 27 Nov 2025

EDWARD HENRY SETHARD WRIGHT (Deceased)
 Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of Burges Grove, Warwick CV34 5TH, who died on 30/09/2025, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 01/03/2026, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.
Penmans Solicitors LLP
 30-32 Warwick Road, Kenilworth CV8 1GW

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Public Notices

Simms stars in 'statement' Sky Blues win at Riverside

by Aaron Sutcliffe
aaron.sutcliffe@bullivantmedia.com

FOOTBALL: ELLIS Simms insists Coventry City's win at Middlesbrough in a top-of-the-table clash is a 'big statement' to the rest of the Championship.

Simms scored twice for the Sky Blues at the Riverside Stadium to help Coventry move 10 points clear at the top of the table.

The striker scored a stunning opener to put the visitors ahead before later completing the scoring to seal the points while defender Liam Kitching also scored a brace.

And Simms admits the victory feels like a statement win with Coventry now 10 points clear of Stoke City at the Championship's summit.

Simms said: "It's definitely one of them [the best goals I've scored in my career]. It's a great finish, it was right in the top corner.

"It's a big statement. We knew coming here was going to be difficult. They've not lost many games.

"We just need to keep our heads on it [being 10 points clear] because things can change so fast.

"We just need to keep at it, keep the form and just keep going.

"There's no better feeling than celebrating in front of the fans at the end. I can't describe it. It's just wonderful."

Simms led the line for just the third time in the league this season in the absence of Haji Wright through injury.

And the striker played a key role in helping Coventry become the first team to win at Middlesbrough in the league this season.

Simms added: "We knew it was going to be a difficult game and the lads just stuck at it. It's a massive three points and a good performance.

"We started very well and went two-nil up. They brought it back so it was another test for us because I don't know if that's happened this season.

"They had spells, they're a good side so we had to dig deep but we showed great determination to keep pushing.

"We were a massive threat going forward. The two goals late on just solidified the performance.

"Everyone dug in and played their part. I'm pleased for everyone."

Godiva Harriers athletes return to action in special centenary year league race

ATHLETICS: COVENTRY Godiva Harriers took part in their first league fixture of the season in the competition's centenary year.

The anniversary race took place at Newbold Comyn in Leamington Spa as all of the league's divisions came together in both the men's and women's events

And Julie Emmerson led Godiva's women home as she raced to a third-place finish with Sophie Hurst 11th, Amelia Starling 26th and Tally Smyj-James 58th on her return to the team.

Godiva's women scored 98 points to put them third in the Midland Women's Cross Country League table following promotion to Division One last season.

Further back, debutant Alice Daghlish finished 131st with Shona Murray 172nd (44th junior), Rowena Ockenden 185th (63rd master) on debut, Jayne Mumford 187th (65th master) and Paige Zhang-Green 189th (67th master).

The club's masters team scored 195 points to place 14th in the standings.

Coventry's men's team also enjoyed a strong start to the season in the Birmingham and District League after narrowly avoiding relegation last season.

The team of Joe McLeod 24th, Lenny Shail 27th (fifth master), Lucas Bennett 40th, Adam Jackson 107th (21st junior), James Wright 86th and Hossein Mohammadiha 90th (20th master) helped Harriers achieve a total of 340 points and return to the top half of the table in seventh place.

And the men's masters team took 60 points from the fixture to sit fourth with the B team fifth.

Strong running from Clark Roberts 97th (23rd master), Scott Hudspith 103rd, Adam Jackson 107th (21st junior), Matt Hadlum 132nd, David Cooper 139th and Sam Marshall 164th (48th master) ensured Godiva made a solid start to the new season.

Godiva's women's runners made a strong start to the season. Pictures courtesy of Coventry Godiva Harriers.



Godiva's men's runners ready for the off.

Further back, Sam Katanda 179th (58th master) and Jason Brotherhood 194th (66th master) helped the masters B team score 208 points to place third in the B standings.

Godiva athletes Michael Todd 197th (68th master), William Chalmers 201st (37th junior), Tom Beesley 211th, William Averill 219th, Joe Chalmers 226th (87th

master), Anthony Mitrofanuk 229th (89th master), Chris Hurst 232nd (91st master), Lee Connelly 234th, Waising Yip 235th (92nd master), Richard Todd 236th (93rd master), Dale Ball 259th (113th master), Aaron Bodycote 260th (114th master), John Treadwell 278th and Garry Flude 290th (140th master) all completed the course.

Viveash 'tremendously proud' of work after facing former club

ADI Viveash would not swap his time at Coventry City 'for the world' after facing his former club for the first time as interim Middlesbrough boss.

Viveash spent seven years at the Sky Blues as assistant manager to Mark Robins before suddenly departing the club in July 2014.

He and Robins masterminded Coventry's rise from League Two to the brink of the Premier League and also reached an FA Cup semi-final.

Viveash returned to work with Boro in the summer as part of Rob Edwards' coaching staff.

And he became interim boss at the Riverside Stadium earlier this month after Edwards departed for the Premier League's bottom club Wolverhampton Wanderers.

The 56-year-old managed Boro for the third and final time as interim boss against the Sky Blues in mid-week.

Boro had already confirmed the appointment of Kim Hellberg as the club's new head coach before the fixture with Viveash to remain part of Hellberg's backroom staff at the Riverside.

And Viveash reflected fondly on his time with the Sky Blues and admits the club still means a huge amount to him.

Speaking ahead of the fixture, Viveash said: "I looked out for the [Coventry] games of course.

"I met my fiancé at the club, that's the biggest thing that came out of that. She's a Coventry lady.

"Her family are all Coventry supporters so there was a bit of stick

flying around about this game.

"It's a club that means a tremendous amount to me. I worked as part of a group of staff and players that were tremendously successful.

"We came from the doldrums of nearly not having a football club, fans running on the pitch and attacking players in League Two.

"The club were at a pretty low ebb but that seven years - I wouldn't swap it for the world.

"It was amazing. I had some great times and they have a wonderful fanbase.

"So many happy memories and so many really special times. A lot of big games, three Wembley appearances.

"Everybody who worked in that period should be tremendously proud of the work.

"It's nice to see them doing really well. I wish the club nothing but the best."

Coventry triumphed 4-2 in the fixture to move 10 points clear of Boro in the Championship table.

Viveash admits Coventry showed why they are the current league leaders and envied the firepower of Frank Lampard's side.

Viveash said: "It was a high-quality Championship game. You saw why they are where they are.

"Possibly a two-two would have been a fair result but it wasn't. That firepower Coventry have got, when they are in those moments they are just relentless.

"They just keep going and they did keep going and we just couldn't quite hold out."

Blaze felled by Giants after Stars defeat

Blaze lost to Dundee Stars on home ice. Picture by Scott Wiggins.



ICE HOCKEY: COVENTRY Blaze saw their losing run in the Elite League stretch to four matches following narrow defeats against Belfast Giants and Dundee Stars respectively.

Blaze suffered an agonising 4-3 penalty shootout defeat against the Giants at SSE Arena Belfast after the home side levelled the game with just 18 seconds of regulation time remaining.

And Coventry then lost 5-4 against Dundee on home ice at the Skydome Arena despite braces from Jere Vertanen and Matthew Gleason.

Coventry failed to halt their losing run against Belfast but did come away with a point for their efforts against the defending regular season champions.

Blaze made the perfect start when Gleason found the net after just 43 seconds from Jack Hopkins' pass.

However, Belfast equalised at 3:30 as Jake Gaudet scrambled the puck past Blaze netminder Dershahn Stewart.

Coventry then held firm to keep the scores level at the end of the first period after Colton Saucerman received a double-minor high-sticking penalty.

The Giants took the lead in the second period at 30:42 as Nicolas Guay scored on the powerplay with the goal awarded following a video review.

However, Blaze levelled the game at 34:51 when Elijah Barriga capitalised on a Belfast turnover to score while falling against his former side.

And Coventry reclaimed the lead on the powerplay at 39:39 as Gleason scored his second of the game from his own rebound after Guay was penalised for tripping.

Belfast pulled netminder Alexis Gravel for an extra skater with two minutes left to play.

And the home side eventually drew level with just 18 seconds remaining in the third period as Jordan Kawaguchi's goal sent the game to overtime.

Neither side could find a winner in the additional period which saw the game decided by a penalty shootout.

And Belfast triumphed on penalty shots with Patrick Grasso and JJ Piccinich both successful from the spot for the Giants.

Coventry's struggles continued

against Dundee as Blaze lost consecutive games on home ice in the Elite League for the first time this season.

The Stars opened the scoring at 5:34 as Matt Berry fired a shot through traffic on the powerplay to beat Stewart in the Blaze net.

However, Coventry equalised at 11:53 when Vertanen's low drive from the blue line eluded the clutches of Dundee netminder Emil Kruse.

Dundee regained the lead at 13:08 as Ben Almqvist pounced on a loose puck to score on the powerplay.

Blaze tied the game for a second time at 17:35 when Vertanen blasted home his second goal of the night from Ivan Chukarov's feed.

Dundee scored the only goal of the second period at 37:03 as Jonathan McBean put the visitors back in front.

Coventry equalised for a third time at 41:04 when Gleason tipped Grant Mismash's initial shot into the net on the powerplay.

However, the Stars responded 36 seconds later as Otto Nieminen finished on the rebound to give Dundee the lead for the fourth time.

And the visitors extended their lead at 49:28 when Berry scored his second goal of the game after Barriga hit the pipes at the other end.

Blaze responded at 52:15 as Gleason poked home from close range but Coventry could not find an equaliser in the remaining minutes.

Coventry are next in action against Manchester Storm on Saturday, November 29 with the face-off at 7pm at Planet Ice Altrincham.

Blaze then host Sheffield Steelers on Sunday, November 30 with the face-off at 5:30pm at the Skydome.

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Valley and Borough to face off in first-ever competitive clash

by Aaron Sutcliffe
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FOOTBALL: HISTORY will be made this weekend when Rugby Town host Rugby Borough in the first-ever competitive meeting between the two clubs.

Town and Borough endured mixed fortunes last term as the former side suffered relegation while the latter team celebrated promotion.

However, a late reprieve from relegation saw Town remain in the Northern Premier League Midlands this season.

And Borough's promotion to Step Four via the United Counties League Premier Division South play-offs ensured both teams would play in

the same division in the 2025/26 campaign.

The fixture is expected to draw a large crowd as Town and Valley meet in a league game for the first time.

Borough sit three places above Town in the table heading into the fixture although both teams have struggled in recent weeks.

Town go into the clash winless in their last four matches in the league after suffering a 2-0 defeat at AFC Rushden and Diamonds in midweek at Hayden Road.

Valley also lost 3-1 away at the division's bottom club Bedworth United last weekend following victory against a young Coventry City side in the Birmingham Senior Cup.

Town took an early lead against Bedworth at The Oval courtesy of

Sam Tye put Rugby ahead against Bedworth. Picture by Martin Pulley.



Sam Tye's goal after just six minutes.

However, goals from Elliott Parrott, Ryan Boothe and Charlie

Gordon left the visitors stunned.

Elsewhere, Borough have failed to win any of their last five matches after conceding late on to draw 1-1 against high-flying Basford United last time out.

A first-half goal from Leo Stone put Borough ahead only for Lynden Joyce to equalise for the visitors deep into injury time at Kilsby Lane.

Current Borough boss Dave Stringer returns to Butlin Road following two spells in charge of Town.

Stringer managed Valley from 2011 to 2015 and twice guided the club into the play-offs at Step Four.

He returned to Butlin Road two years later for a one-season stint at Step Five.

Town host Borough on Saturday, November 29 with kick-off at 3pm at Butlin Road.

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