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£40m move will bring new places at schools

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

HUNDREDS of new school places will be available in Warwickshire under a £40million plan unveiled by Warwickshire County Council.

The council's cabinet has agreed a series of additions to its Education Capital Programme for 2025-26, paving the way for hundreds of new school places, improvements to facilities, and expanded provision for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

The plans come in response to recent population growth and the impact of new housing developments across the county.

Among the proposals is a £31million expansion of Avon Valley School in Rugby, which will provide 300 additional secondary places, a new sports hall, further curriculum space and 20 new specialist resourced SEND places.

New specialist SEND resource provision will be funded at Holy Trinity CofE Primary School in Stratford, costing £60,000.

A £155,000 investment will fund the amalgamation of Henry Hinde Infant School and Henry Hinde Junior School in Rugby. Further expansions will take place at schools in Nuneaton, Bedworth and Atherstone.

Much of the investment will be funded by developer contributions secured through Section 106 agreements, alongside Basic Need funding, High Needs capital, and the Council's Capital Investment Fund.

WCC education spokesman Coun Wayne Briggs said: "These schemes will create the right capacity in the right locations as our communities grow, while also expanding specialist resourced provision to offer more support for children with SEND.

"This investment continues the significant progress made over recent years to grow and strengthen education provision across the county."

Finance and property spokesman Coun Stephen Shaw said the proposals were a 'sound and strategic' investment in Warwickshire's future.

He added: "We are making prudent use of developer contributions and education capital funding, while managing the financial risks associated with forward-funding where required."

Warwickshire's school-age population has grown in the past decade, with 15 new schools opened since 2015. Forecasts indicate continued growth linked to large-scale housing developments – particularly in Rugby, Nuneaton, Bedworth, and surrounding areas.

Demand for specialist SEND provision has also risen, with the number of pupils with Education, Health and Care Plans increasing by nine per cent annually over the past five years.



The young filmmakers were given the full star treatment.

ENJOYING THE REEL DEAL: BUDDING young filmmakers from Rugby have walked the famed red carpet to premiere their creations on the big screen.

Young creators aged six to 18 from Pauline Quirke Academy (PQA) Rugby showcased their work at the PQA Northern Regional Film Festival at Cineworld in Sheffield.

The youngsters – who wrote, directed, filmed, and edited their own productions – experienced the full star treatment, including red carpet arrivals, a professional photoshoot and an official awards ceremony.

PQA Rugby presented eight productions at the event, covering genres including animation, documentary, comedy and drama.

Poppy, 15, said: "Going to the screening is such an experience – seeing yourself on the big screen and being rewarded for all the hard work at PQA. I look forward to it each year."

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Charity highlights plight of 'trapped'

ELDERLY people are being trapped in homes that are unsuitable for later life.

So says Age UK Coventry & Warwickshire which is sounding the alarm after new national research revealed older people were living in homes that were inaccessible, unaffordable, or simply unsuitable for later life.

The report, Late Movers, released recently by Age UK, shows nearly half of over-50s were worried about whether they could afford to live safely and comfortably as they aged.

With step-free, age-friendly homes in short supply, many Coventry and Warwickshire residents are left facing declining health, isolation, and increased risk of injury in homes that no longer meet their needs.

Scott Collins, at Age UK Coventry & Warwickshire, said: "Every week, we hear from older people across Coventry and Warwickshire who want to downsize, or move closer to support, but just can't find or afford anywhere suitable.

"This isn't just a housing issue, it's about health, independence, and dignity in later life."



Age UK Coventry and Warwickshire is sounding the alarm after new research revealed older people were living in homes unsuitable for later life.

The key survey findings showed 44 per cent of over-50s worried about affording a suitable home, and 41 per cent were concerned about the condition of their current property.

Only 12 per cent of homes in England have basic accessibility features like step-free access. Many older people face delays of months or years for adaptations such as handrails, stair lifts, or accessible bathrooms. Over half of those aged 66 plus have not moved home since turning 50, despite growing needs.

Scott added: "The charity is calling for more age-friendly homes across Warwickshire and Coventry, and faster support to adapt the homes people already live in. With an ageing population, this should be a priority for planners, developers, and local authorities."

Success and hard work brings top recognition

THOSE who made a difference in Coventry and Warwickshire have been recognised in the New Year Honours List.

The King's New Year Honours List 2026 recognises community champions who have made outstanding contributions to their communities across the UK

They include:

Coventry

Sandra Crowder is awarded a BEM for services to adoption and foster care

Prof Jacquelyn Bridget Dunne is awarded an MBE for services to Higher Education

Amanda King is awarded an MBE for services to early years education

Colin Henry Wells is awarded a BEM for voluntary service

Rugby borough

David John Eadon is awarded a BEM for services to the community in Rugby

Naomi Clare Rees Issit is awarded a BEM, for services to defibrillator training and awareness in Rugby

Anna Rose is awarded an OBE for public service

Stratford district

Valerie Ann Birchall, from Stratford, is awarded an MBE for services to public libraries and to culture

Peter Crathorne, from Henley, is awarded a BEM for services to the community in Henley

Iolene Jennifer Scholes, from Shipston, is awarded a BEM for services to the community in Shipston

Craig Beresford Wilson, from Stratford, is awarded an MBE for services to enterprise and to the economy

Warwick district

Rebecca Jane Bollands, from Kenilworth, is awarded an MBE for services to cultural education in the West Midlands

Sarah-Jane Catherine Perry, from Kenilworth, is awarded an OBE for services to squash

Louise Richards, from Leamington is awarded an MBE for services to dance

Clare Sawdon, from Warwick, is awarded an MBE for services to justice

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Rugby Slimming World Consultants Kelly Weatherhead, Gemma Deering, Mary Cook, Kelly Turner, Marianne Wilkins, Tina Moore, Michelle Rose and Fiona O'Connell celebrate the fund-raising milestone.

Their loss is charity's gain

PROUD members of a weight-loss group in Rugby are celebrating their contribution to a massive charity donation.

Slimming World members from the town helped the organisation to reach a significant milestone in its charity partnership with Cancer Research UK.

The national group has now raised £30million for the charity over the last 12 years.

Marianne Wilkins, who runs two Slimming World groups in Hillmorton, has contributed to the total by holding fund-raising activities with members such as The Big Slimming World Clothes Throw, where members donated the clothes they had slimmed out of to the charity's shops.

Marianne said: "We have members in our groups who have either been touched personally by cancer or someone close to them has. It is something incredibly close to all of our hearts.

"I'm so proud of my members for helping us achieve such a fantastic figure raised for Cancer Research UK and for the rest of the Rugby team and their wonderful members too.

"Their enthusiasm to take part in or support our fundraising activities is amazing to see and has allowed us to raise more than we could have imagined.

"Cancer has sadly touched the lives of so many of our friends and we therefore jump at the chance to raise money for Cancer Research UK."

PUBLIC NOTICES
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See page 28

Detectorist shares 'thrill' of finding piece of history

A METAL detectorist has described the 'thrill' of unearthing an early medieval relic on the edge of a farmer's field in Warwickshire.

Kathy Bonehill was relatively new to the hobby when she discovered the near complete copper-alloy chape – a decorative tip to a dagger's scabbard – which dates back some 1500 years.

The chape, found near Rugby, has been declared a 'find of note' by the British Museum's Portable Antiquities Scheme, which keeps a record of archaeology finds in England and Wales.

It has now gone on display in Rugby Art Gallery and Museum's archaeology gallery after Kathy donated the chape, thought to be of Viking origin, to the museum's collection.

Reliving her discovery earlier this year, Kathy said: "I've been metal detecting in the Warwickshire countryside with a regular group for a couple of years, uncovering some fascinating items along the way, yet nothing compares to this stunning dagger chape.

"I found it on the very edge of a farmer's field in Kings Newnham. At first, it was clagged with dirt, its beautiful detail hidden beneath layers of grime.

"Only after an hour of patient work with a wooden cocktail stick did the design begin to emerge - and I realised I was holding something truly special, perhaps even unique.

"There's a thrill in moments like this. The slow reveal of craftmanship long buried, the sense of connection to lives lived centuries ago."

The chafe's decorative design features a human face flanked by a pair of birds – possibly representing Odin, the chief god in Norse mythology, and his ravens, Huginn and Muninn.





Catherine Shanahan (left), Rugby Art Gallery and Museum's senior collections officer, with metal detectorist Kathy Bonehill in the archaeology gallery. BELOW: The medieval chafe has been declared a 'find of note' by the British Museum.

Ring-and-dot motifs run along the lower edge of both birds and vertically through the 'body' of the human form.

Weighing just nine grams, the chafe is 3.5cm long, 2.5cm wide, and just under 1cm thick at its widest part.

Rugby Borough Council spokesperson Coun Maggie O'Rourke said: "We're delighted Kathy has chosen to donate this stunning find to the museum's local history collection so we can share it with visitors to Rugby Art Gallery and Museum.

"It's amazing how much history lies undiscovered in our borough, with Kathy's generous donation coming hot on the heels of the museum's acquisition of a medieval brooch discovered by a metal detectorist in a field near Birdingbury, thanks to a grant from the Arts Council England/V&A Purchase Grant Fund."

Firms given a say over next police budget plan

BUSINESSES are invited to help shape Warwickshire's policing budget.

Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner Philip Seccombe is beginning work on the 2026/27 policing budget and will be hosting an online Business Feedback Session on Thursday January 15 from 8am to 9am via Microsoft Teams.

The event forms part of a wider public consultation, which will launch shortly once the Government has confirmed its funding allocations for policing for the year ahead, allowing the commissioner to make his proposals. A final budget for 2026/27 will then be set in February.

Mr Seccombe said: "Businesses play a vital role in our communities and their insight is essential in shaping policing priorities across Warwickshire. This session is a great opportunity for those working in industry, the retail sector and rural businesses to take part and share their views as part of the public consultation which will help me ensure that the budget I set reflects what local people want policing to deliver. Your feedback will help ensure the budget reflects the needs of Warwickshire's diverse economy and supports efforts to keep people and property safe."

Visit forms.office.com/e/7T07t6b3bg to register.



Santas get ready to dash for The Myton Hospices.

A sea of red as Santas deliver a festive total

A RECORD-breaking Santa Dash raised over £110,000 for The Myton Hospices.

Victoria Park in Leamington was transformed into a sea of red, white and festive sparkle as 1,000 Santas and elves took on the 5km route in aid of the charity, which provides compassionate care to people across Warwickshire living with a life-limiting illness.

The total of £112,253 raised is the highest in the event's history and will fund the running costs of Warwick Myton Hospice for three weeks.

Natalie Walker, events and campaigns manager at The Myton Hospices, said: "Thank you to everyone who joined us for our record-breaking Santa Dash to celebrate the festive season and support your local hospice.

"The amount raised will enable us to be here for more people when they need us most, now and in the future. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who took part and supported the event."

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Project goes full circle as new shop and hub opens its doors

by **Philippa Mingins**
philippa.mingins@bullivantmedia.com

A CHARITY that supports vulnerable women has opened a new shop and hub in Leamington – at the place where the project was first conceived nine years ago.

Volunteers and guests gathered to mark the launch of the pre-loved shop, women's hub, workspace and counselling room which has been 18 months in the planning.

The unit, in Gloucester Street, is an extension of The Esther Project, a CiC established by Lianne Kirkman in 2023, followed by Esther House, a seven-bed supported living accommodation. A new drop-off point on the same street has also opened to help keep the shop stocked with pre-loved goods.

The space, the original home of the early concept Esther Group in 2016, can offer a full programme of support, training, and employability opportunities - from counselling sessions in the dedicated therapy room, to creative workshops and trauma-informed courses in the hub, and barista training and cooking classes in the kitchen. The women can also gain hands-on retail and customer service experience as supported volunteers in the pre-loved shop, helping them build confidence and new skills for the future.

Cutting the ribbon on both the shop and hub spaces were Warwickshire's lord lieutenant Tim Cox, deputy lieutenant Clare Sawdon and high sheriff Karen Lynch.

Mr Cox said: "We are very keen to support what Lianne and the fundraising team are doing. Thank you to the volunteers and everyone whose help has meant we have the foundations now for this project and we need to make sure it continues to grow."



Lord lieutenant Tim Cox cuts the ribbon to the new shop helped by Lianne Kirkman and shop manager Clare Sawdon.

Lianne's mission is to create, nurture and empower a community where every woman can heal, grow and reach their future potential. It does this through a range of services, including counselling, one-on-one support, creative activities, employability opportunities, and drop-in sessions. Esther House offers vulnerable women a safe space to recover.

Lianne added: "This marks a meaningful return to the very building where The Esther Group first began back in 2016, making the launch feel like a true homecoming. The hub has been created as a women-only space offering vital access to support, group workshops and therapeutic counselling. It will also provide hands-on opportunities for women to gain confidence and build skills in retail, barista work, baking, sewing and other skills."

The Esther Project is a gender-specific initiative supporting women facing mental health challenges, escaping domestic abuse, recovering from addiction, transitioning from prison, or experiencing homelessness.

Until now, The Esther Project has operated primarily through a weekly drop-in session at All Saints Parish Church each Monday, alongside remote support, workshops, and training delivered off-site.

A timetable of courses is being planned including Kintsugi, yoga, skincare, trauma courses and wellbeing sessions.

The shop and drop-off points, at number 6 and 12 Gloucester Street, are open between 10am and 4pm, Tuesdays to Saturdays.

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‘You will forever be our guiding star’ say family of crash victim

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


Tomasz’s family described him as a ‘beacon of love, strength, and devotion’.

THE FAMILY of a ‘hardworking and determined’ dad who died in a crash on the M6 last month have paid tribute to him.

Tomasz, 47, from Northampstonshire, died following a collision on the M6 on Monday December 8.

In a heartfelt tribute, his family said: “Tomasz was more than just a father, partner, son, brother and uncle – he was a beacon of love, strength, and devotion.

“He lived every day with purpose, pouring his heart into his partner, his children, and his family. His selflessness knew no bounds; he gave without expecting anything in return, always putting others before himself.

“His happiness was contagious, and his presence brought warmth and comfort to everyone around him. He was the kind of friend who stood by you through thick and thin, and the kind of community member who lifted others up without hesitation.

“Hardworking and determined, he carried his responsibilities with grace, never complaining, always smiling, and always finding joy in the simple moments.

“His laughter lit up rooms, his kindness touched countless lives, and his unwavering support lifted friends and communities he supported.

“He was the one people turned to for guidance, encouragement, and comfort.

“A role model in every sense, he showed us what it means to live with integrity, strength, compassion, and endless love.

“Though his life was tragically cut short, his spirit remains a bright light that will never fade.

“We will remember him not for the way he left us, but for the way he lived – with love, happiness, selflessness generosity, and devotion.

“His legacy is etched into our hearts and hearts of those who were lucky enough to have known him, and his example will continue to inspire us to be better, love harder, and live fuller.

“He will live on in the laughter of his children, the strength of his family, and the love that binds us all together.

“Rest peacefully our beloved Tomasz. You will forever be our guiding star.”

Detectives continue to appeal for witnesses and information to help with their investigation into the collision.

On Monday December 8 at around 6.30pm, Tomasz stopped his red HGV on the hard shoulder between junctions 1 and 2 on the northbound M6.

A short time later, the driver of a white Scania HGV with a blue curtain-sided trailer is believed to have driven into the red HGV.

Police would like to hear from anyone who may have been on or near the M6 who may have seen, or recorded dashcam footage of, the white Scania HGV prior to the collision.

Anyone with information is asked to call 101, email sciu@warwickshire.police.uk or visit www.warwickshire.police.uk/ro/report quoting incident number 299 of December 8.

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New film to put spotlight on Bard

THE SHAKESPEARE Birthplace Trust (SBT) is hoping the big screen could give the Bard a visitor boost.

The soon-to-be-released Hamnet, based on the novel by Maggie O'Farrell and starring Jessie Buckley and Paul Mescal, showcases a number of historic buildings in the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust's care, including The Birthplace and Anne Hathaway's Cottage.

And to celebrate, SBT is joining forces with Everyman Cinema for a special Hamnet event including film screening and pre-screening Q&A with special guests. It will take place at Stratford Everyman Cinema on January 9.

Hamnet Shakespeare, twin to Judith, was the only son of William Shakespeare and Anne Hathaway. He tragically died aged just 11 and was buried in the churchyard at Holy Trinity in Stratford on August 11 1596.

Rachael North, chief executive of the SBT, said: "We hope the film inspires more people to come and walk in Anne, William and Hamnet's footsteps so they can experience first-hand the love and loss that is at the heart of their story. Maggie O'Farrell herself was inspired by visiting The Birthplace and exploring the family's personal story and we hope our buildings offer all our visitors' moments which are inspiring and revelatory.

"As well as bringing to life the stories of the Shakespeare family, the film brings the cottage to life as an historical building which has stood for centuries and of which we are all proud custodians. The cottage, and the story of Hamnet, give us the human side of Shakespeare, Anne and their own family, and it will be wonderful to see that play out on the big screen."

While not filmed in Stratford, Anne Hathaway's Cottage, built more than 500 years ago with much of the original building surviving, is a major focus in the film.

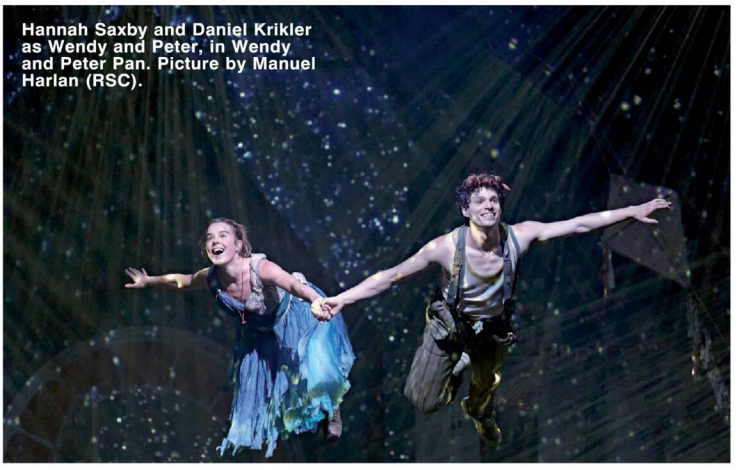
Hamnet reimagines the families, landscapes and influences of home that became so fundamental to Shakespeare's work.

Prof Charlotte Scott, from the SBT, added: "Maggie O'Farrell's novel, and its subsequent adaptation for stage and film, demonstrates the enduring fascination of Shakespeare's life and the real and imagined experiences that influenced his future and his art."

Further details on the special screening event will be announced in the coming weeks.



The SBT hope the film Hamnet will inspire more people to come and visit Shakespeare's family homes in Stratford.



Hannah Saxby and Daniel Krikler as Wendy and Peter, in Wendy and Peter Pan. Picture by Manuel Harlan (RSC).

Daniel's career takes off

A FORMER performing arts student from Stratford College is flying high in his career after starring in Wendy and Peter Pan with the Royal Shakespeare Company.

Daniel Krikler, who studied musical theatre at the college from 2007 to 2009, took on the title role of Peter Pan at the Barbican Theatre in London.

Daniel was destined for a performance career after falling in love with the stage at a young age. He joined a local youth theatre group and dance school and his passion for it grew.

He knew the best chance of getting into drama school was to continue to study, so chose Stratford College as his training ground.

Following his time at college, Daniel went to the prestigious Laine Theatre Arts for three years, before later studying a master's degree in acting at Central School of Speech and Drama.

Since training, Daniel has performed in several productions. He fondly remembers Musical Loserville which transferred to the West End, and his first play Pink Mist.

Now Daniel is to sprinkle himself with fairy dust and fly to Neverland.

He said: "I grew up just outside Coventry and would cycle for over an hour to the RSC to watch shows. I remember cycling home afterwards along country roads with my mind full of these incredible characters I'd just seen. So to work with that company all these years later on such a magical show and character feels really extraordinary.

"Just being paid to do what you loved felt crazy. There's always that little voice in your head that tells you you'll probably never get a job, so to land these roles, it's pretty great."



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Lisa Gallen: 07850 426299

Mondays:

Balsall Common 9.30am
Blessed Robert Grissold Church,
Meeting House Lane, CV7 7FX
Rebecca: 07733 076778

Bulkington 5.00pm and 6.30pm
Weston Hall Hotel,
Weston Lane, CV12 9RU
Alex: 07730 336144

Bedworth 6.00pm and 7.30pm
Newdigate Social Club
179 Smorrall Lane, CV12 0JP
Louisa: 07908 184109

Tuesdays:

Stoke 9am and 10.30am
St Michaels Church,
Walsgrave Road, CV2 4BG
Jane Smith: 07850 154715

Finham 5.30pm and 7pm
The Venue @ Finham Park School
Green Lane, Cv3 6EA
Gemma: 07500 061606

Holbrooks 4pm, 5.30pm & 7pm
Holbrooks Community Centre,
John Shelton Drive, CV6 4PE
Louisa: 07908184109

Wednesdays:

Holbrooks 9.00am
Holbrooks Community Centre,
John Shelton Drive, CV6 4PE
Louisa: 07908184109

Wyken 7.30am, 9.00am,10.30am
Risen Christ Church,
Wyken Croft, CV2 3AE
Tracey: 07971 446160

Coundon 5.30pm and 7pm
Coundon Social Club
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Kirsty: 07790 202206

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Jane B: 07988 810319

Wyken 4pm & 5.30pm
Risen Christ Church,
Wyken Croft, CV2 3AE
Louisa: 07908 184109

**** NEW SESSION AT 5.30pm****
Wolston 5.30 & 7.00pm
St Margaret's Primary School,
Brookside, Main Street, CV8 3HH
Michelle: 07773 084510

Thursdays:

Coundon 9.15am
Avenue Bowling Club,
Gaveston Road, CV6 1GZ
Rebecca: 07733 076778

Baginton 9.30am
Baginton Village Hall
Frances Road, CV8 3AB
Michelle: 07773 084510

Earlsdon 9.30am
Earlsdon Methodist Church Hall,
Albany Road, CV5 6NF
Alex: 07730 336144

Eastern Green 5.30pm and 7pm
Eastern Green Village Hall,
Upper Eastern Green, CV5 7BX **Alex: 07730 336144**

Coundon 5.30pm
Lawrence Saunders Road Baptist Church
Lawrence Saunders Road, CV6 1HH
Debbie: 07581441356

Cheylesmore 4pm, 5.30pm and 7pm
Christchurch Church Hall,
Frankpledge Road, CV3 5GT
Jane Smith: 07850 154715

Fridays:

Tile Hill 7.45am and 9.15am
Our Lady of the Assumption Parish Hall
Tile Hill Lane, CV4 9TA
Jane B: 07988 810319

Cheylesmore 9.30am
Christchurch Church Hall,
Frankpledge Road, CV3 5GT
Jane Smith: 07850 154715

Binley 9.00am & 10.30am
Coventry & North Warwickshire Cricket Club
Binley Road, CV3 1HB
Kelly: 07777 145560

Saturdays:

Tile Hill 8.30am and 10am
Our Lady of the Assumption Parish Hall
Tile Hill Lane, CV4 9TA
Jane B: 07988 810319

Coundon 8.30am and 10am
St George's Church,
Barker Butts Lane, CV6 1EA
Debbie: 07581 441356

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Timetable changes set for 2026

CHANGES are coming to several bus services linking Coventry and Warwickshire.

From Friday January 2, Stagecoach will take over a number of routes in the Coventry, Nuneaton, Bedworth and Rugby areas after contracts with current operators National Express, Arriva, and Coventry Minibuses come to an end.

Later in 2026, new electric buses will be introduced across these routes when vehicle deliveries are complete.

Coun Jennifer Warren, Warwickshire County Council's spokesperson for Transport and Planning, said: "These changes mark an important step in keeping Warwickshire's bus network reliable, connected and fit for the future.

"In bringing these routes under new contracts and preparing for the introduction of modern electric vehicles later in the year, we are working to ensure that residents across the county can continue to depend on regular, accessible and high-quality public transport.

"We are grateful to our outgoing operators for their service and look forward to working with Stagecoach as these improvements are introduced."

Services changes

* Services 24 & 25 (Coventry–Stoneleigh–Kenilworth / Coventry–Ryton–Birdingbury–Bourton–Dunchurch–Rugby) - now operated by Stagecoach

- The 06:55 Bourton–Coventry journey will start from Rugby at 06:33.

- The 17:45 Coventry–Bourton service will now depart at 17:50 and extend to Rugby, arriving 19:18.

* Services 73 / 73A (Nuneaton–Whitestone circular) – now operated by Stagecoach

- Minor timetable changes with an additional 12:45 trip from Nuneaton Bus Station.

* Services 74 / 74A / 74B (Nuneaton–Bramcote–Bulkington–Wolvey–UHCW–Coventry) – now operated by Stagecoach

- Timetable revised but the same number of trips.

- More daytime services will run as 74B, serving Ivanhoe Road, Leyland Road and Marston Lane.

* Service 75 (Nuneaton–Leyland Road)

- Service withdrawn and replaced with additional 74B trips.

* Services 78 / 78A (Nuneaton–Bedworth–Exhall–UHCW) – now operated by Stagecoach

- Increased to approximately every 90 minutes.

- Faster journey times with a more direct route from Exhall via the M6 and Cross Point Shopping Centre. The current route from Longford to UHCW is covered by National Express service 20A.

- This service will no longer serve Armson Road, which is still served by Service 79.

* Services 79 / 79A (Nuneaton–Bermuda Park–Collycroft–Bedworth–Keresley) – now operated by Stagecoach

- Timetable changes with the same number of trips.

- Service will continue to serve Armson Road but will no longer operate via Exhall Black Horse Road ('Boat').

* Services 85 / 85A / 85B / 85H / 85S (Rugby–Pailton–Brinklow–UHCW–Coventry) – operated daily by Stagecoach

- Timetable changes with similar overall frequency.

- Last bus from Coventry extended to 21:20 (Mon–Sat).

- Following the introduction of Service 84, Service 85B reduces to two journeys per day.

- All services except 85B and the school service (now 85K) will operate via Rugby Road in Harborough Magna.

* Service 735 (Nuneaton/Coleshill–Ansley–Arley–Fillongley–Corley–Coventry) Now operated by Stagecoach.

- Minor timetable alterations.

- The Nuneaton–Ansley section will be withdrawn.

- Coleshill–Ansley will operate daily except Sundays, with no advance booking required.

* Ticketing Information

Tickets valid from 2 January 2026 will be available via the Stagecoach website or bought on bus.

nBus tickets will continue to be accepted within the West Midlands Combined Authority area.

* Pre-purchased tickets

Tickets from Arriva, National Express or Coventry Minibuses valid for up to four weeks will be honoured by Stagecoach for up to one month from their expiration date, and no later than 31 January 2026.

Student and 5–18 term/annual tickets issued by Arriva or National Express will not be valid from the January term. Customers should contact the issuing operator for refunds.

For other longer-validity tickets, customers should contact the issuing operator for refund of periods beyond 31 January 2026.

* Additional changes

- Service 84 (Rugby–Easenhall–Brinklow–Bedworth–Nuneaton) will gain extra trips, including:

- 04:20 (Mon–Fri), 05:16 (Mon–Fri), 06:00 (Sat) – Rugby to Nuneaton

- 19:25 (Mon–Fri), 21:00 (Sat), 21:05 (Mon–Fri) – Nuneaton to Rugby

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



Stagecoach will take over a number of routes in the Coventry, Nuneaton, Bedworth and Rugby areas from Friday January 2, after contracts with current operators come to an end.

Browse the Winter Edition of Seasons



As winter's chill begins to settle across our three counties, there's a certain kind of beauty that only this time of year brings.

This, then, feels like the perfect moment to launch **'Seasons'** – our brand-new glossy magazine, created to celebrate the people, places, and stories that make Worcestershire, Warwickshire and the West Midlands such a wonderful part of the world

Pick up a copy locally for free, or simply browse on line
www.seasons-magazine.com



For even more details call 01926 317118 or 0121 270 2295

'Seasons' magazine is brought to you by your local 'Observer' Newspaper team

Seasons

Each quarter, Seasons will follow the rhythm of the year – from the crisp calm of winter to the first buds of spring, the brightness of summer and the richness of autumn – highlighting the very best of local life, from independent shops and community ventures to countryside walks, home inspiration, and hidden gems worth discovering.

Our first Winter edition is all about warmth – in every sense of the word. You'll find features that reflect the spirit of the season: comforting food, inspiring people, caring places, and ways to make the cold months glow with local charm.

This magazine is for you – our readers, neighbours and local businesses – and we can't wait to share the year ahead with you, one beautiful season at a time.



Avian 'flu has been confirmed among geese in Stratford. s

Avian 'flu warning issued to public

Risk of transfer to humans is low

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

PEOPLE are being urged not to touch sick or dead birds after avian influenza was found in Stratford.

The Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) confirmed 'bird 'flu' had been recorded in a number of geese along the River Avon.

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), Warwickshire County Council and Stratford District Council is working with APHA to manage the situation and protect public health and the risk to other birds.

The A(H5N1) strain is highly infectious to other birds, but the risk to human health is considered very low. But it is vital people do not touch sick birds or bird carcasses, to avoid the need to introduce further infection control measures.

The outbreak in Stratford follows confirmed reports earlier this month of bird 'flu in wild bird populations at Kingsbury Water Park in north Warwickshire.

As well as not touching or picking up any dead or sick birds, people are also being urged to stick to footpaths and keep dogs on leads, not to handle feathers or any surfaces that may be contaminated by droppings and to thoroughly wash hands after visiting affected areas.

Dr Shade Agboola, director of public health at Warwickshire County Council, said: "The incidence of avian 'flu in the wild bird population is something that we are taking very seriously.

Risk

"The UKHSA has made it clear that the risk of the disease transferring from birds to humans is considered to be very low. To ensure this situation remains, members of the public should not touch or go near sick or dying birds and any dead birds found should be reported to Defra."

Mamoona Tahir, consultant in health protection leading on avian influenza for UKHSA West Midlands, added: "The risk to the public from this strain of avian 'flu is very low, however it is important that people do not touch any sick or dead birds.

"As a precaution, anyone who may have come into contact with the droppings or with birds in an area where the infection has been confirmed will be monitored and offered a course of antiviral medication if needed."

Anyone who has come into contact with sick or dead birds or their droppings, in an area where the infection has been confirmed, is urged to notify the UKHSA's West Midlands Health Protection Team on 0344 225 3560 so public health experts can determine if antiviral medication and active surveillance of their condition is necessary.

It is likely that avian 'flu is circulating more widely than Stratford. If anyone sees sick or dead birds by waterways or on private land in the surrounding areas of Warwickshire, they should not touch them and should call the Defra helpline on 03459 33 55 77.

Housebuilder boosts foodbank resources

WARWICK District Foodbank has been given 75kg of donations by Warwick-based home builder HarperCrewe, whose headquarters is just around the corner from the local foodbank warehouse.

Staff at HarperCrewe took part in the 'reverse advent calendar' initiative, which saw them donate essential items such as non-perishable food and toiletries throughout the advent season, rather than having a daily treat.

The foodbank, part of The Trussell Trust, helps those living in crisis or chronic poverty, including those on low incomes; in sudden crisis; coming to terms with redundancy; facing hardship due to delayed benefits; or even facing an unexpected bill.

Laura Bisbey, planning director at HarperCrewe, said: "We are aware from the work that The Trussell Trust does that every day there are parents who skip meals to feed their children.

"We also know from the Warwick District Foodbank that many local people are forced to choose between paying the rent or eating. As the Foodbank warehouse is so close to our headquarters, we are proud to support the charity and this important initiative, which brings home how a small donation each day can soon add up to 75kg in donations, which we hope will make a difference to local families this Christmas."

Warwick District Foodbank is seeing increasing demand as people struggle to make ends, leaving a shortfall between the donations coming in and the food going out. It means the foodbank is having to buy food each week in order to meet its demand.

There is a list of permanent donation points on the Give Help section of the foodbank's website, along with ways businesses can partner with Warwick District Foodbank, or how to give a financial contribution.

Visit warwickdistrict.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/ for details.

To find out how to access support from Warwick District Foodbank visit warwickdistrict.foodbank.org.uk.

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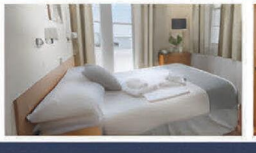
Monday 26th January - Friday 30th January	Was £249	NOW £199pp
Monday 2nd February - Friday 6th February	Was £249	NOW £199pp
Monday 9th February - Friday 13th February	Was £249	NOW £204pp
Monday 16th February - Friday 20th February	Was £259	NOW £209pp
Monday 23rd February - Friday 27th February	Was £265	NOW £215pp
Monday 2nd March - Friday 6th March	Was £265	NOW £219pp
Monday 9th March - Friday 13th March	Was £269	NOW £225pp
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Friday 27th February - Monday 2nd March	Was £259	NOW £219pp
Friday 13th March - Monday 16th March	Was £265	NOW £219pp
Friday 20th March - Monday 23rd March	Was £269	NOW £222pp
Friday 27th March - Monday 30th March	Was £269	NOW £230pp
Friday 3rd April - Monday 6th April (Easter)	Was £315	NOW £269pp







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So you've solved Christmas, now how about these riddles?

WITH THE groaning Christmas table now a distant memory replaced by the gentle groaning that follows New Year overindulgence, many will be heading to the nearest armchair to grab a spot of rest.

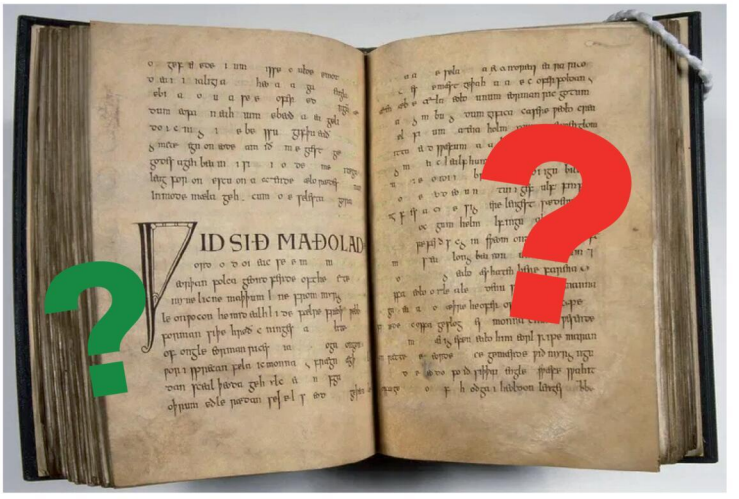
Feet up, eyes closing and brain definitely in the lowest gear you can find - the last thing you need is something to distract you from the hard graft of just simply relaxing.

But for years we've seen this post-feast period of physical and mental downtime as being the perfect time to fire up the mind and get the reasoning machinery in order.

Festive murder mysteries, TV whodunits, puzzling board games and winter quizzes all fight for attention as the sherry and tinsel are put away for another year.

Oldest of all festive teasers is, perhaps, the common riddle. Way back in the 900s the monks of Exeter Cathedral were amusing themselves and baffling others by collecting brainteasers. Their tenth century Book of Riddles features a few religious posers and a smattering of conundra we'd recognise today. Sometimes shrouded in flowery poetry, occasionally coded, sometimes a simple question, they all seem to be asking the same thing - what am I?

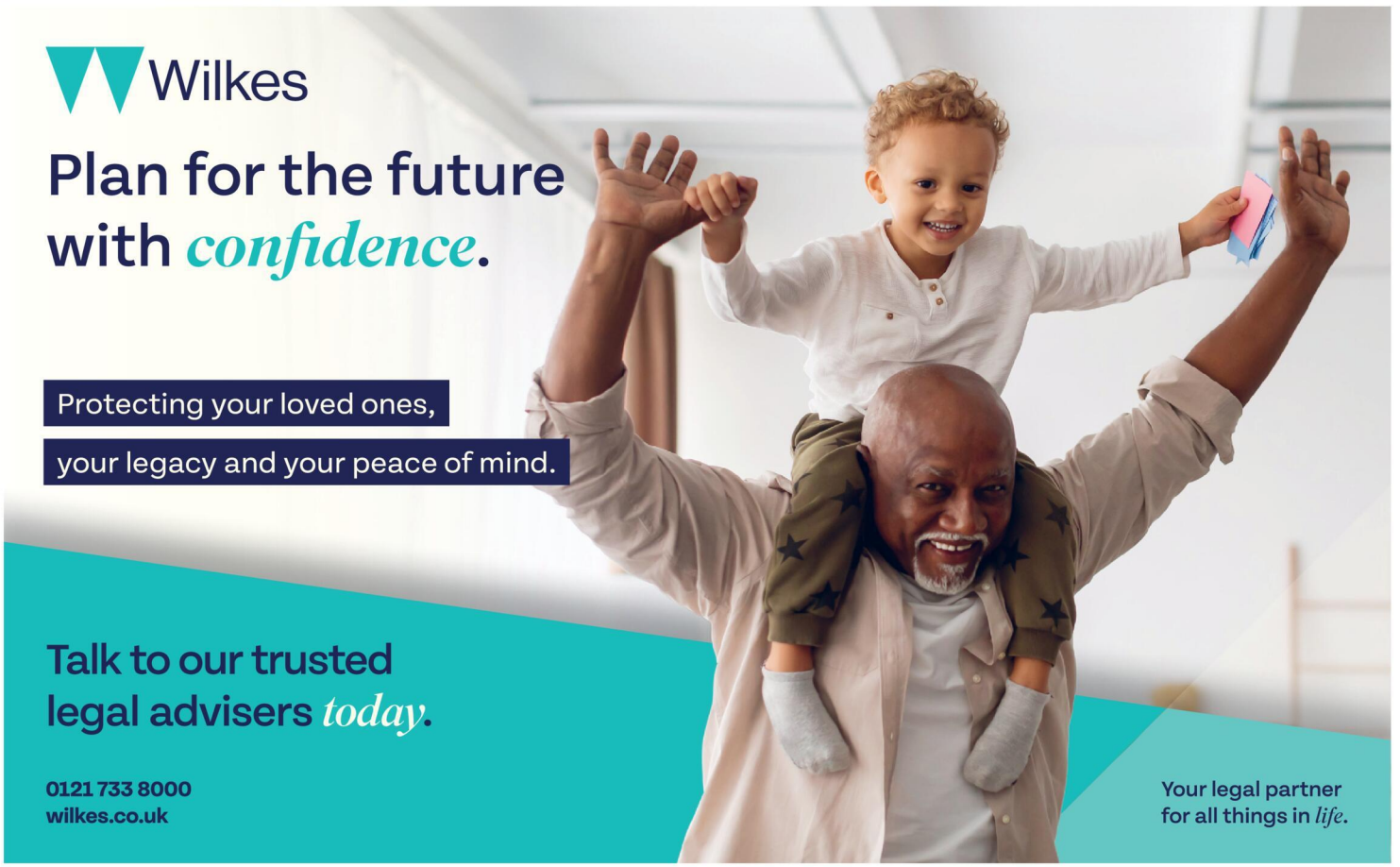
Not all of the following selection can claim to be as old as a cathedral, but - just because you can't resist - why not dust off your powers of logic and see if you can solve a few. Here's twenty to test your powers. Set the little grey cells in motion and see if you can unravel these. The answers are at the bottom.



1. The poor have it, the rich need it and if you eat it you'll die. What is it?
2. What always runs but never walks, often murmurs, never talks, has a bed but never sleeps, has a mouth but never eats?
3. At night they come without being fetched. By day they are lost without being stolen. What are they?
4. He who makes it, sells it. He who buys it, never uses it. He who uses it never knows that he's using it. What is it?
5. The more you have of it, the less you see. What is it?
6. What has a head, a tail, is brown, and has no legs?
7. I know a word of letters three. Add two, and fewer there will be!
8. Until I am measured I am not known, Yet how you miss me when I have flown.
9. I drive men mad for love of me, Easily beaten but never free.
10. Each morning I appear to lie at your feet, All day I will follow no matter how fast you run, Yet I nearly perish in the midday sun.
11. What starts with a T, ends with a T, and has T in it?
12. My life can be measured in hours, I serve by being devoured. Thin I am quick, fat I am slow. The wind is my foe.
13. You heard me before, yet you hear me again, Then I die, 'till you call me again.
14. It cannot be seen, it weighs nothing, but when put into a barrel, it makes it lighter. What is it?
15. Say my name and I disappear. What am I?
16. A box without hinges, lock or key, yet golden treasure lies within. What is it?
17. Forward I'm heavy, but backwards I'm not. What am I?
18. Reaching stiffly for the sky, I bare my fingers when it's cold. In warmth I wear an emerald glove and in between I dress in gold
19. I'm full of holes, yet I'm full of water. What am I?
20. The more you take, the more you leave behind.

Here are the answers

1 Nothing. 2 A River. 3 Stars. 4 A Coffin. 5 Darkness. 6 A Coin. 7 Few. 8 Time. 9 Gold. 10 Your Shadow. 11 A Teapot. 12 Candles. 13 An Echo. 14 A Hole. 15 Silence. 16 An Egg. 17 Ton. 18 A tree. 19 A Sponge. 20 Footsteps.



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Police warn of fake notes

FAKE banknotes have been used in Lutterworth to buy items advertised for sale on social media.

Between November 8 and December 9, Leicestershire Police received 15 reports of counterfeit money being handed over by people collecting items they had agreed to buy via Facebook Marketplace.

The incidents took place in Lutterworth, Loughborough, Hinckley and Leicester – most of which involving the sale of high-value mobile phones.

In all but one of the incidents, the buyer left the location before the seller had the opportunity to check the notes that had been handed over.

Nicole McIntyre from Leicestershire Police's Economic Crime Unit, said: "At this time of year, I know people will be selling things that could be bought as a Christmas present by others.

"If you're selling something on social media and are meeting a buyer in person, please check the bank notes you're given. I'd encourage you to do this before handing any items over.

"Sites like eBay and Vinted also offer the seller protection and can be considered as an alternative way of selling any unwanted items."

Anyone with information about the incidents – or who has been a victim – is asked to contact Leicestershire Police by visiting www.leics.police.uk or by calling 101.



Staff from Home-Start South Leicestershire planted snowdrop bulbs which will bloom early in the new year. s

Bulbs offer hope to many

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

A CHARITY which helps Lutterworth families with young children is planting the seeds of its sixth annual Snowdrop Appeal.

Staff from Home-Start South Leicestershire came together at the charity's HQ to plant bulbs which will bloom early in the new year.

Home-Start's Charity Champions organised donations of bulbs from the community to support the appeal, which runs throughout January and February.

The appeal aims to brighten what can be a challenging time of year for families by using the snowdrop – an early sign of spring – to represent the resilience, renewed growth and fresh beginnings experienced by families who receive Home-Start's support.

The charity is encouraging supporters to share photos of snowdrops, which will be displayed on Home-Start South Leicestershire's social media pages, and to make donations via the charity's Local Giving page.

Photos will enter a prize draw and winners will receive vouchers from local business sponsors including Langton Greenhouse and Garden Centre, and Lamport Hall.

Charity manager Stella Renwick said: "Planting these snowdrops together is a simple act but it reflects something much bigger. It shows how our community comes together to help families through their most difficult moments.

"Every photo shared and every donation made through the Snowdrop Appeal helps us continue supporting parents who need a little extra warmth and understanding during the winter months."

The bulbs are expected to bloom in time for the peak of the appeal, creating natural displays that mirror the charity's message of hope, renewal, and brighter days ahead.

The charity will also be selling snowdrop themed greetings cards created by local designer Marina Berry, and holding other snowdrop-related activities including guided walks and a name-the-plushie toy competition.

Home-Start South Leicestershire currently supports around 140 families each year, providing emotional and practical help to parents with young children. The Snowdrop Appeal raises vital funds for the charity's services and fosters community connection during the often difficult post-Christmas period.

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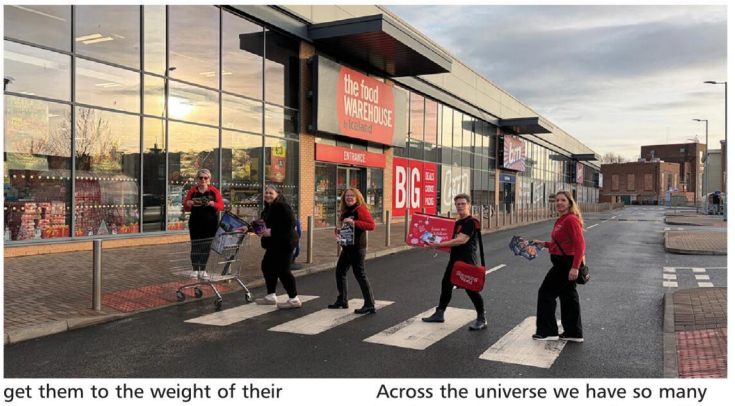
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We like to say hello, goodbye to old habits and show you how to let it be and to get back to where you once belonged.

We can't wait for the day when our members are doing the hippy hippy shake as they jump off the scales and we hand them their target certificate!

Just imagine how that would feel……



New move offering difference to pupils

CHILDREN with special educational needs and disabilities are 'thriving' in a new provision at a Rugby Primary School.

Cawston Grange Primary School opened a new Specialist Resourced Provision (SRP) in September – and staff say it is already making a big difference.

The provision, called Bumblebees, offers eight places for children with communication and interaction needs.

The curriculum tailors programmes to each child's needs, with a focus on communication and interaction skills, sensory activities and structured routines.

Children in Bumblebees join their peers for lessons, activities, and trips. They also enjoy special experiences planned just for Bumblebees.

Parents are kept informed and are encouraged to contribute through the online Padlet platform.

Headteacher Kate Worthington said: "It has been wonderful to see the children in Bumblebees – watching them settle in and thrive has truly been a joy.

"The provision is already making a real difference, giving children the support they need to succeed while keeping them connected to our vibrant school community.



Bumblebees staff members say the new provision is already making a big difference.

"Communication and interaction are at the heart of everything we do. We celebrate every step of progress and work closely with families to make sure each child's journey is positive, personalised, and full of opportunities.

"Every child deserves to feel valued and included, and Bumblebees helps us make that a reality."

Warwickshire's Specialist Resource Provision team provides advice, guidance, and specialist training to Cawston Grange to ensure Bumblebees meets pupils' needs.

Warwickshire County Council's education spokesperson Coun Wayne Briggs said: "Bumblebees is a fantastic example of inclusive education in action, ensuring children with special educational needs and disabilities can thrive in a mainstream setting with the right specialist support."

Admissions to Bumblebees is managed through Warwickshire County Council's specialist panels. To be considered for a place, children must have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP), or be in the process of applying for one, with communication and interaction identified as their primary need.

Visit https://tinyurl.com/28zjz5k8 for more information.

Visit https://tinyurl.com/2n259pae for more information on specialist resourced provisions in Warwickshire.



The Knightlow Morris Men are looking for new recruits.

Join the dancing

NEW RECRUITS are wanted in Warwickshire to join in with an English folk tradition which dates back 500 years.

The Knightlow Morris Men – a men's Morris dance group based in Ryton-on-Dunsmore – are holding a free trial day in the town later this month.

A spokesperson said: "Morris dancing is a great way to socialise and get active. We have members aged from 20-something to 70-something, and are always on the lookout for new men to come along and join in from the Warwickshire area.

"Come and have a go at a dance or two, get to know us, learn about Morris dancing, and see if you want to participate in an English Folk tradition going back over 500 years."

The Morris dance afternoon takes place at Rugby Methodist Church Centre in Russelsheim Way on Saturday January 31, from 1pm to 4pm. No previous experience is required.

Call Bob on 07464 621834 for more information.

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Bringing young people into work should be priority for business

by **Philippa Mingins**
philippa.mingins@bullivantmedia.com

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THERE is a dire need to support young people into employment and training, says a Coventry and Warwickshire business chief.

The latest unemployment figures show a 5.1 per cent rise in the UK, with a significant increase in the number of 18 to 24-year-olds who are unemployed.

Corin Crane, chief executive of Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce, said: "Labour costs are proving to be a huge pressure point for businesses across our region and, with that being reflected across the country, it comes as no surprise that unemployment has ticked up again.

"There is a particular concern around young people and it's right that the Government channels much of its efforts in that direction.

"We welcome the focus on supporting the unemployed back into work and especially the drive to promote apprenticeships and offer free places for under 24s to local SMEs because it's vitally important for our future economy that we bring through the next generation of workforce into the world of work.

"That said, we also need to see a wider drive to get the economy growing again by giving businesses the confidence to invest because that will lead to job creation.



"There were lots of businesses putting plans on hold ahead of the Budget and I am cautiously optimistic that they might start to move forward with those in the New Year."

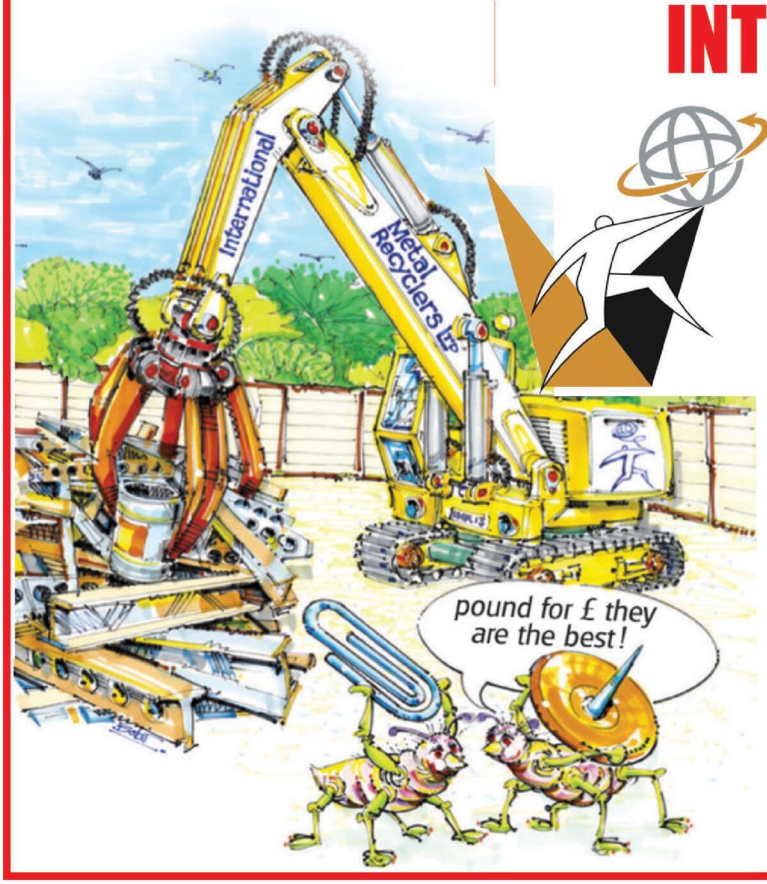
Jane Gratton, deputy director of Public Policy at the British Chambers of Commerce, added: "The latest data paints a gloomy picture for jobs, opportunities and growth. It reflects what businesses tell us – they are less confident about hiring staff due to sky-high employment costs and a tidal wave of new employment legislation coming down the track.

"While there has been some easing of cost pressures - with average earnings including bonuses slowing to 4.7 per cent in the three months to October - labour costs remain a challenge. Nearly three quarters (72 per cent) of businesses in our latest survey said labour costs are the biggest cost pressure they are facing.

"There is a limit to how much additional cost firms can absorb without an impact on investment and growth. The further increase in unemployment, hitting 5.1 per cent in October, is also a clear sign of the sluggish economy.

"We need a laser like focus on stimulating growth and boosting investment, trade, innovation and skills. The Government must work in partnership with business to make 2026 a year of delivery."

Corin Crane - "When we talk to businesses there is a feeling among many that they have been plagued by uncertainty and rising costs for several years and it is starting to take its toll on them."



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New Year Feature

What's on the menu for 2026?

THE TOP 100 Restaurants in the UK, alongside 2026 dining trends have been revealed.

With dining in the UK up four per cent on the previous year in 2025, and Brits set to dine out on average six times a month in 2026, dining out is on the menu for the year ahead and restaurants are front and centre.

Gen Z are particularly enthusiastic, planning to dine out nine times a month, second only to Millennials at ten.

These are the dining trends that shaped 2025 and what's on the menu for 2026, based on OpenTable data and consumer research.



The more the merrier

Almost half of diners say they'd prefer eating with others over going solo in 2026.

Group dining also grew by five per cent in 2025, with the most popular days for group dining on Mother's Day weekend and major sporting events, including rugby matches.

Looking ahead, the appetite for togetherness shows no sign of slowing down, with more than a third of Brits wanting to see more group and private dining in 2026.

OpenTable's new private and group dining marketplace (www.opentable.com/private-dining) is helping to make those shared moments even easier to plan and enjoy.

Happy hour and strategic spenders

Brits are also adjusting how and when they dine. In 2025, dining between 4pm–5pm rose by six per cent.

When it comes to spending, nearly half of Brits plan to spend more on dining out in 2026 vs 2025, rising to 70 per cent of Gen Z and Millennials.

Despite this, 54 per cent of Brits want to see more happy hours and value promotions in 2026.

Sasha Shaker, Senior Director at OpenTable, said: "Dining has become about far more than what's on the plate this year. It's about connection and creating unforgettable moments together, with new research showing that 79 per cent of Brits say eating out helps them feel more connected to others.

"With Brits set to dine out six times a month on average in 2026, we're confident that restaurants will remain at the heart of the UK's social scene in the year ahead."

Bold flavours and retro favourites

When it comes to taste, 2026 is shaping up to be a year that blends global cuisines with nostalgia. Mediterranean, Greek and Contemporary Asian cuisines saw the biggest year-on-year dining increases in 2025, reflecting a growing appetite for bold, vibrant flavours.

However, nostalgia is also making a comeback, with Gen Z diners championing retro comfort classics like bangers and mash and prawn cocktail as dishes they'd love to see on menus of restaurants in 2026.

One of the most surprising food trends for next year? Sharing plates are becoming less popular as 56 per cent of Brits prefer individual servings.

Brits expect to see fried chicken, gourmet burgers, protein-packed dishes, and espresso-based drinks taking centre stage in 2026.

Top 100 Restaurants in the UK for 2025

OpenTable's Top 100 Restaurants in the UK 2025 list is here to inspire diners where to eat next and to highlight industry dining trends.

The list is compiled by analysing more than 780,000 diner reviews, ratings, reservation demand and percentage of five-star reviews among other factors, featuring a list of restaurants perfect for any occasion.

Sasha said: "From exciting new names like Nina in London to much-loved local favourites such as Opheem in Birmingham and Higher Ground in Manchester, the list celebrates the fantastic spots that the UK has to offer. Whether diners are after a happy hour menu, a certain cuisine type or spot for group dining, there's a place to match every taste and occasion."

Visit www.opentable.co.uk/c/top-restaurants/top-100 to see the list.

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New service is all set to pull in

NEXT year - 2026 - will be a massive year for the nation's railway services.

The new Great British Railways brand was unveiled earlier this month as landmark legislation was debated in the commons.

The aim is to get one railway brought back into public ownership to deliver a more reliable network.

Those who have been a regular rail commuter or even just used trains for leisure, will have had your fair share of delays, cancellations and extortionate fees to get where you need to be.

Hopefully all that will change.

A new GBR ticketing app will allow people to buy tickets without booking fees - and this comes after the government's freeze on rail fares to put money back in passengers' pockets.

The GBR ticketing app will be a one-stop shop for passengers to check train times and buy tickets at the best prices across the rail network without any booking fees.

Disabled passengers will also be able to use the app to book Passenger Assist when buying tickets, creating a seamless experience.

Up and down the country, the consensus is clear - the railway needs to improve.

That is why the government is bringing train operators back into public ownership to reform a fragmented system.

Seven major train operators are already in public hands, covering a third of all passenger journeys in Great Britain.

The logo and train livery for GBR will be rolled out from spring 2026 to trains, websites, stations and more - bringing the railway together under one brand owned by the public, delivering for the public, not for private shareholders.

The new brand

The design features a red, white and blue colour scheme and sharp angles to create a striking and memorable design mirroring the Union Flag.

The GBR logo has also been revealed, featuring the iconic double arrow symbol in a nod to Britain's proud railway heritage.

The landmark Railways Bill follows the government's decision to freeze rail fares for the first time in 30 years to put money back in passengers' pockets and ease the cost of living for hard-working people.

The bill will create Great British Railways, which will bring together 17 different organisations, cut through the frustrating bureaucracy and lack of accountability that continues to plague the railways and instead run Britain's railways as a single organisation for the first time in decades.

GBR will maintain and improve the railways, accountable to passengers, freight customers and taxpayers.

Fares and ticketing will be brought into the 21st century (including with the new app), a strengthened passenger watchdog will investigate poor service and demand improvement, and GBR will be empowered



to build a railway that supports the government's missions to drive economic growth and opportunity by unlocking jobs and housing.

A railway for everyone

Transport Secretary Heidi Alexander said the future of Britain's railways was under way

"I'm immensely proud to unveil the new look for Great British Railways as we deliver landmark legislation to nationalise our trains and reform the railway so it better serves passengers.

"This isn't just a paint job – it represents a new railway, casting off the frustrations of the past and focused entirely on delivering a proper public service for passengers.

"With fares frozen, a bold new look and fundamental reforms becoming law, we are building a railway Britain can rely on and be proud of.

Jacqueline Starr, Executive Chair and CEO of Rail Delivery Group, said: "The Railways Bill presents an opportunity to bring the industry together with a single focus on delivering for our customers and we are determined to play our part in getting it right.

"As the industry evolves, our priority remains supporting the rail network to keep people moving and making sure we are delivering a better railway for everyone across the country, now and in the future.

"We welcome the government's commitment to improving the services our customers depend on every day and we will continue to work closely with industry partners to support a smooth transition to Great British Railways."

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New Year Feature

Different ways to ring in 2026

FANTASTIC firework displays have become synonymous with New Year celebrations around the world.

As the clock ticks down to the start of the new year many find themselves looking out for seeing the spectacular displays put on by other countries before turning their attention to the banks of the river Thames and the skies across London.

In many countries the stunning firework displays are a new addition to celebrations and many traditions still remain in place.

Just across the border in Scotland they celebrate Hogmanay.

This is celebrated with several different customs, such as first-footing, which involves friends or family members going to each other's houses with a gift of whisky and sometimes a lump of coal.

Edinburgh, the Scottish capital, hosts one of the world's most famous New Year celebrations.

The celebration is focused on a major street party along Princes Street. The cannon is fired at Edinburgh Castle at the stroke of midnight, followed by a large fireworks display.

There is also a Hogmanay festival and the country has a bank holiday on January 2.

In Japan New Year's Eve is used to prepare for and welcome Toshigami, the New Year's god.

The Japanese clean their homes and prepare Kadomatsu or Shimenawa to welcome the god before New Year's Eve.

Buddhist temples ring their bells 108 times at midnight in the traditional Joya no Kane.

The rings represent the 108 elements of bono, mental states that lead Japanese to take unwholesome actions.

New Year's Eve in Colombia is a vibrant and diverse celebration, blending traditions, superstitions, and family customs to welcome the upcoming year with positivity and hope.

New Year's Eve is a time for personal gatherings and community revelry. Many Colombians host house parties, where friends and family come together to share in the festivities.

In the tranquil countryside, communities come alive with vibrant street-party-style celebrations.

A hallmark tradition involves the creation of El Año Viejo, a scarecrow symbolizing the old year, which is placed atop a bonfire filled with fireworks and as the effigy burns, it signifies the cleansing of the past and welcoming new beginnings. Colombia's New Year's customs are steeped in superstitions and age-old traditions, each carrying its own symbolism and significance.

In Spain they eat grapes at the stroke of midnight.

Tradition has it that people have to eat them one by one, in time with the striking of the clock at midnight on December 31.

Those who manage to eat all the grapes in time, are said to be in for a year of prosperity and good luck.

In many towns and villages people go to a central square or an iconic place where there is a large clock, to eat the grapes together and share the last minutes of the old year.



Buddhist temples ring their bells 108 times at midnight.



In Spain tradition says those who eat 12 grapes in time with the striking clock are in for a year of prosperity and good luck.

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New Year Feature

A healthy start to the New Year

THE ADAGE New Year, New Me is often heard at this time of year.

For many it means the start of a health kick, with a new diet and joining the gym to get into shape after a festive season of enjoying a few extra treats which have seen the scales tip slightly.

For others it could be creating a bucket list of things to do in a year and ticking them off from travelling to picking up a new hobby and increasing personal wellbeing.

So here's a few ideas to add to the bucket list.

Gardening

Gardening does not mean having a big space and fancy equipment – it could start with a few plants in a small space like a window box.

For the novice gardener start with plants or flowers that are easy to grow, your favourites, or even edible ones like strawberries, salad leaves or tomatoes so you can see how with your care and attention they grow.

Watching the plants grow is a good choice of a hobby as it can help clear the mind, especially after difficult days.

Music

Music can stir up emotions and being back memories. Listening to it can also reduce stress and anxiety.

The benefits of music continue beyond just listening to it. Anyone can achieve a sense of accomplishment and fun from learning how to play an instrument. These excellent hobbies boost mental health as it helps process emotions, express feelings, and connect with others.

Cooking or baking

It can often be hard to find the time and energy to cook from scratch, but the benefits of a home-cooked meal go beyond just nutrition.

Time spent in the kitchen provides countless opportunities for introspection and meditative practice, which benefits both the mind and the body.

By cooking food that's nutritious and nourishing – or event a little treat – you're sending yourself the message that you're worth caring for, and that you're important.

Volunteering

Life is busy and it can be difficult to find the time or energy to add more to the schedule.

But volunteering doesn't have to be a big act it can be something small like being a phone befriender for the elderly or using the skills from your day job to help others who are struggling.

One of the best ways to get the most out of volunteering is to commit your time to a cause you're truly passionate about by doing something you enjoy.

As well as improving self-esteem, acts like giving gifts or volunteering allow people to connect with others on a deeper level. It also creates a sense of belonging in a community.

A spot of gardening can help keep you active and well.



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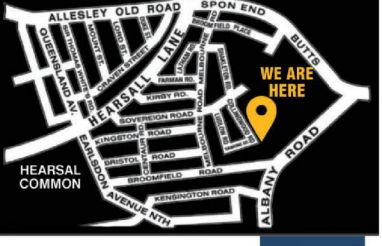
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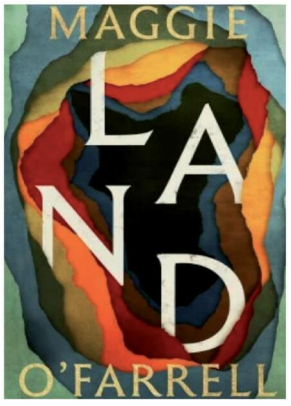
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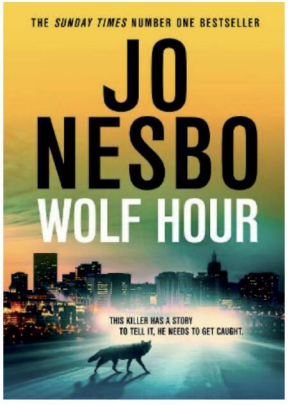
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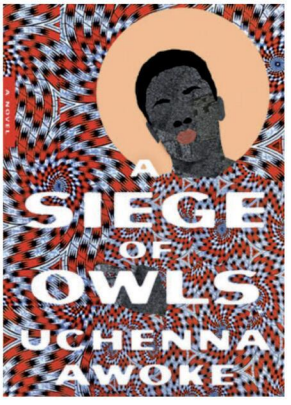
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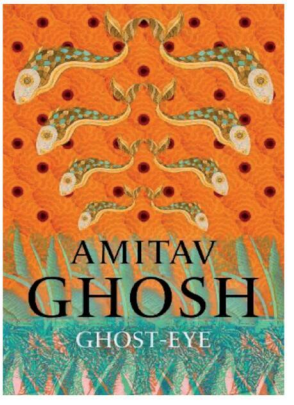

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Doors
& WORKTOPS

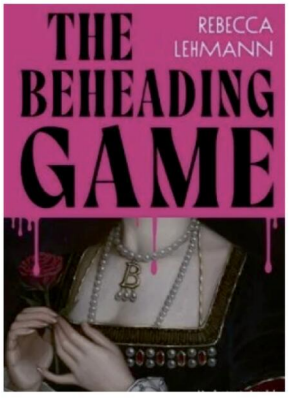
Expand your to be read in 2026











THERE is nothing I enjoy more than reading. And even if my to be read pile is starting to tumble off my bookshelf and out the door I still can't stop myself from looking at the newest books up for release.

There is nothing better than knowing you're only months away from getting your hands on a story you've been waiting for.

So this is the most exciting books coming out in 2026.

Land by Maggie O'Farrell

A much-awaited return from the author of Hamnet, Land is set to release in mid-2026. It tells the story of a father and son in mid-19th-century Ireland, working on the British-run Ordnance Survey shortly before and after the Great Famine - promising a powerful blend of personal drama, historical upheaval, and emotional depth.

Land is expected to deliver both literary quality and a sweeping, haunting story - perfect for readers who appreciate big, immersive historical fiction.

Wolf Hour by Jo Nesbo

Set to be published in paperback in early in 2026, Wolf Hour brings Nordic noir to the new year with a dark, gripping thriller. The novel follows a detective and a crime writer investigating parallel murder cases six years apart - a structure that promises tension, twists, and moral complexity.

For fans of crime fiction and gritty mysteries, this one delivers. Nesbø is widely regarded as a master of the genre - and Wolf Hour could easily dominate 2026's thriller charts.

A Siege of Owls by Uchenna Awoke

Set for release in May 2026, A Siege of Owls is a coming-of-age novel set in rural Nigeria, exploring youth, violence, and hope in a changing society.

The book has already drawn attention as a deeply human, urgent, and earnest story.

With its vivid setting, contemporary themes and emotional realism, this novel has the potential to resonate widely - offering a powerful and timely voice that goes beyond escapism.

Ghost-Eye by Amitav Ghosh

Coming in mid-2026, Ghost-Eye is being described as a novel that blends past and present - possibly involving reincarnation or haunting memory.

Ghosh's reputation for sweeping narratives and thoughtful prose means expectations are high for something layered, ambitious, and evocative.

If you enjoy literary fiction with philosophical undercurrents, history, and a touch of the uncanny - this one might be one of 2026's standout reads.

The Beheading Game by Rebecca Lehmann

This reimagining of a familiar historical horror - set to be published in March 2026 asks: what if a woman sentenced to execution didn't die, and instead came back for revenge?

It's a bold, provocative premise that promises tension, dark themes, and perhaps a sharp commentary on justice and identity.

For readers wanting something bold, unsettling, and different - mixing historical settings with speculative twists - The Beheading Game could be one of 2026's most talked-about novels.

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SUDOKU

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

EASY

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

HARD

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

PATHFINDER

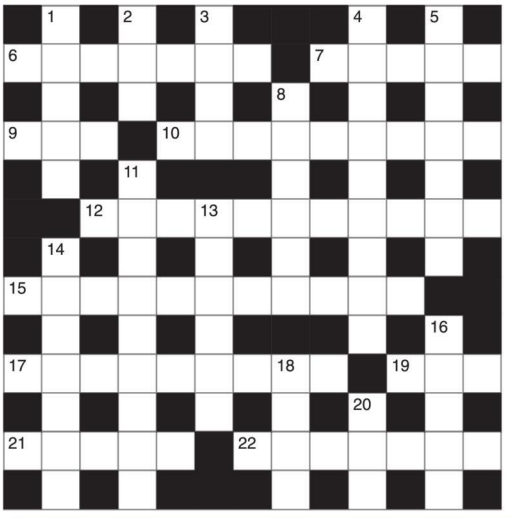
Beginning with the top highlighted letter, follow a continuous path of words associated with the given subject. The trail goes through each letter once, twisting up, down and sideways, but never diagonally.

Quiz shows

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

Solutions opposite

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

6. Small crown (7)
7. Sum (5)
9. Cover (3)
10. Unwise (9)
12. Speak without notes (11)
15. Proceeded to argue (6,5)
17. Crisis (9)
19. Little devil (3)
21. Join together (5)
22. Set free (7)

DOWN

1. Droll (5)
2. Fish eggs (3)
3. Appear (4)
4. Marvellous (9)
5. Serious (7)
8. Searches blindly (6)
11. Free from blame (9)
13. Endows (6)
14. Praise (7)
16. Entertain (5)
18. Head cook (4)
20. Favourite (3)

Scribble pad

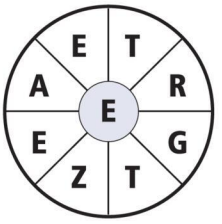
LADDER

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

HEAD
Guide
Burden
Rich soil
Become visible
Observe
LOCK

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
15 words: good
20 words: very good
25 or more: excellent.

NINER

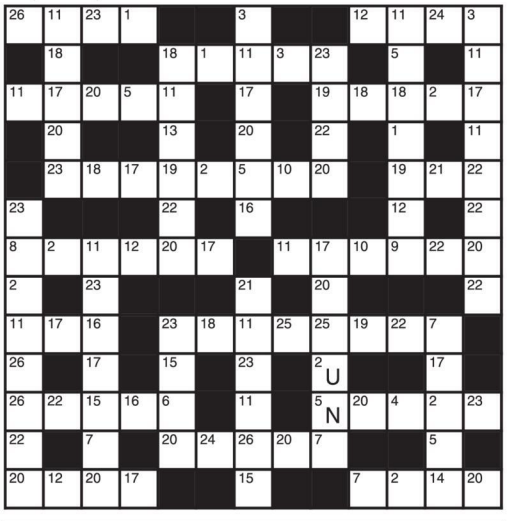
Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

67447447117 gives an American river;
87932 gives an African river;
523 gives an English river.

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.



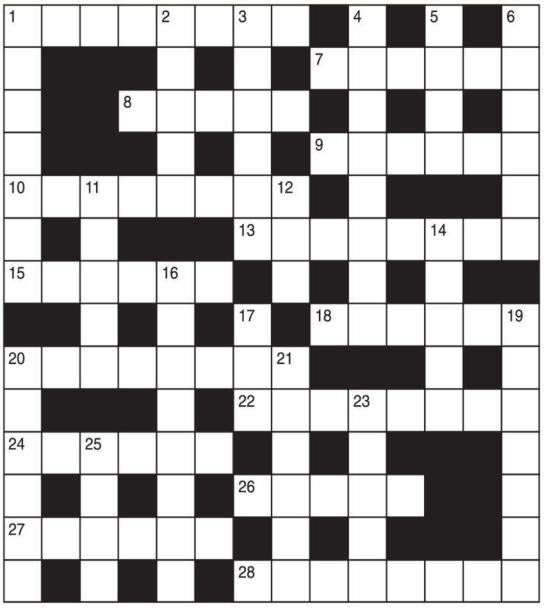
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	U			N								
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1. South American tree or shrub with medicinal bark (8)
7. A single proviso in a treaty, contract, or other document (6)
8. Wading bird, with a long, straight bill, frequenting marshy places (5)
9. Explosive mixture of ammonium nitrate and TNT used in bombs (6)
10, 14 and 5. 1948 novel by William Faulkner, about a man wrongfully accused of murder (8,2,3,4)
13. Head of a religious house, order, etc. (8)
15. A picketing rope or lasso (6)
18 and 27. Austrian composer whose works included the song cycle Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen (6,6)
20. According to the Bible, one of the two ancient cities destroyed by God because of wickedness (8)
22. The American name for paraffin (8)
24. County town of Rutland (6)
26. Dean ---, manager of Aston Villa, appointed October 2018 (5)
27. See 18
28. A place where horses are bred (4,4)



DOWN

1. --- cable consists of an inner insulated core of stranded or solid wire surrounded by an outer insulated wire braid (7)
2. A member of a religious and social system of India (5)
3. A port in Italy, capital of Campania region (6)
4. Large, ceremonial, burning torch (8)
5. See 10
6. Organ in certain animals for testing by touch or for searching for food (6)
11. Fringe of warp threads left on a loom when the web has been cut off (5)
12. Spirit distilled from the products of sugar cane (3)
14. See 10
16. Airfields used as headquarters of operations for military planes (3,5)
17. Tree of the genus Quercus whose fruit is the acorn (3)
19. Country in south-east Asia whose capital is Hanoi (7)
20. People employed to clean and look after horses (6)
21 and 25. First post-unification Chancellor of Germany (6,4)
23. In mathematics, a series of eight (5)
25. See 21

SOLUTIONS

Sudoku

Easy

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

Hard

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

Ladder

Head, lead, load, loam, loom, look, lock

Codeword

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

Wordwheel

GAZETTEER

Pathfinder

Beat the Nation, Pointless, The Million Pound Drop, Eggheads, The People Versus, Blockbusters, Fifteen to One, University Challenge, Only Connect, Ask the Family, Who Wants to Be a Millionaire, Telly Addicts, The Chase, Take It or Leave It, Mastermind, Going for Gold, The Weakest Link.

Niner

PRESUMING

Crossword

Across: 6 Coronet; 7 Total; 9 Lid; 10 Imprudent; 12 Extemporise; 15 Joined issue; 17 Emergency; 19 Imp; 21 Unite; 22 Release. Down: 1 Comic; 2 Roe; 3 Seem; 4 Wonderful; 5 Earnest; 8 Gropes; 11 Exonerate; 13 Endues; 14 Commend; 16 Amuse; 18 Chef; 20 Pet.

General Knowledge Crossword

ACROSS: 1. Cinchona; 7. Clause; 8. Snipe; 9. Amatol; 10. Intruder; 13. Superior; 15. Lariat; 18. Gustav; 20. Gomorrah; 22. Kerosene; 24. Oakham; 26. Smith; 27. Mahler; 28. Stud farm. DOWN: 1. Coaxial; 2. Hindu; 3. Naples; 4. Flambeau; 5. Dust; 6. Feeler; 11. Thrum; 12. Rum; 14. In the; 16. Air bases; 17. Oak; 19. Vietnam; 20. Grooms; 21. Helmut; 23. Octad 25. Kohl.



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Warwickshire County Council

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

Warwickshire County Council has made the following Temporary Traffic Orders:

CHURCHOVER LANE, HARBOROUGH MAGNA
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.
Reason for Order: To enable works for renewal of a water mains.
Order Commences: 5 January 2026 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 1 February 2026.
Access & Diversion: Churchover Lane, Hospital Lane, Harborough Magna Road, The Green, School Street, Church Street, Lutterworth Road, Coton Road, Leicester Road, Watling Street, A5, Montilo Lane and vice versa.
Contractor: Severn Trent Water, Tel: 08007 834 444.

B4455 FOSSE WAY, MONKS KIRBY
Order Effect: Road Closed to vehicular traffic between its junctions with the B4112 Withybrook Road/Rugby Road and Coal Pit Lane/ Mere Lane.
Reason for Order: Carriageway patching and associated works, 09.30hrs-15.00hrs.
Order Commences: 9 January 2026 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 9 January 2026.
Access & Diversion: There will be no access/egress to/from Bow Lane and Millars Lane via the B4455 Fosse Way whilst works are in progress. Coal Pit Lane, B4428 (Lutterworth Road, Coventry Road), B4112 Withybrook Road and vice versa.
Contractor: Balfour Beatty, Tel: 03452 415 302.

D3651 PRETORIAN WAY, RUGBY
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic from its junction with Glebe Farm Road.
Reason for Order: Carriageway resurfacing and associated works, 07.00hrs-18.00hrs, weekend only.
Order Commences: 3 January 2026 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 4 January 2026.
Access & Diversion: No suitable diversion. Vehicular access & egress will be maintained where possible and safe to do so for businesses and residents only.
Contractor: Balfour Beatty, Tel: 03452 415 302.

HOULTON WAY, RUGBY
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.
Reason for Order: To enable essential manhole works.
Order Commences: 8 January 2026 for up to 18 months
Anticipated Completion: 9 January 2026.
Access & Diversion: Vicarage Hill, Rugby Road, Main Street, Lilbourne Road, Hillmorton Lane and vice versa.
Contractor: Customer Solutions Plus, Tel: 03456 027 723.

PUBLIC FOOTPATH FROM DUNCHURCH ROAD TO ALFRED GREEN CLOSE, RUGBY
Order Effect: Footpath closed to all traffic between 38 and 44 Alfred Green Close.
Reason for Order: To enable duct laying works.
Order Commences: 7 January 2026 for up to 6 months.
Anticipated Completion: 8 January 2026.
Access & Diversion: Will be available and signed.
Contractor: Core Highways, Tel: 07979 296 733.

STRAIGHT MILE, BOURTON ON DUNSMORE & RUGBY ROAD, BLUE BOAR, DUNCHURCH
Order Effect: Roads closed to vehicular traffic in phases as follows: 1. Straight Mile from junction with A4071 to A45, Phase 1: 06/01/26 – 20/01/2026, Phase 2: 19/02/2026 – 05/03/2026. 2. Rugby Road from a junction with A4071 Rugby Road to A45 Phase 1: 20/01/26 – 19/02/26 Phase 2: 05/031/26-12/03/26.
Reason for Order: To enable drainage works on A45 network, overnight 20.00hrs-06.00hrs.
Order Commences: 6 January 2026 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 12 March 2026.
Access & Diversion: 1. Straight Mile, Blue Boar Flyover, Rugby Road, M45, M1, M6, A46, A45 2. Rugby Road, Blue Boar Flyover, Straight Mile, A45, A46, M6, M1, M4.5
Contractor: Chevron TM Ltd, Tel: 01785 338 990.

D3574 HILLFIELD ROAD, D3575 PLEXFIELD ROAD AND D3572 WHEATFIELD ROAD, RUGBY
Order Effect: Roads closed to vehicular traffic as follows:Wheatfield Road closed from Nelson Way to Hillfield Road, Hillfield Road closed from Wheatfield Road to Plexfield Road, Plexfield Road closed from Hillfield Road to o/s No. 40 Plexfield Road.
Reason for Order: Footway reconstruction and associated work, 08.00hrs-17.00hrs weekdays only.
Order Commences: 5 January 2026 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 30 January 2026.
Access & Diversion: Nelson Way, Blackwood Avenue, Addison Road, B4642 Bilton Road and vice versa.
Contractor: Balfour Beatty, Tel: 03452 415 302.

GREEN LANE AND PENN LANE, WIBTOFT & PENN LANE, MONKS KIRBY
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.
Reason for Order: Works to renew water mains within the carriageway and verge. Works to be completed in phases between 05/01/26-15/02/26.
Order Commences: 5 January 2026 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 15 February 2026.
Access & Diversion: Coal Pit Lane, Mere Lane, Fosse Way, A5, Watling Street, and vice versa.
Contractor: For Severn Trent Water, Tel: 08007 834 444.

D3255 SHERIFF ROAD, RUGBY
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic from Eastlands Road toLawrence Road.
Reason for Order: Footway reconstruction and associated works, 08.00hrs-17.00hrs, weekdays only.
Order Commences: 5 January 2026 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 6 February 2026.
Access & Diversion: Eastlands Road, Lawrence Road and vice versa.
Contractor: Balfour Beatty, Tel: 03452 415 302.

CONISTON CLOSE, BROWNSOVER, RUGBY
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.
Reason for Order: Works to renew water mains in the carriageway and footway.
Order Commences: 5 January 2026 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 8 February 2026.
Access & Diversion: No diversion available.
Contractor: Severn Trent Water, Tel: 08007 834 444.

PYTCHLEY ROAD, RUGBY
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.
Reason for Order: Works to repair/replace defective manhole frame and covers.
Order Commences: 8 January 2026 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 8 January 2026.
Access & Diversion: Pytchley Road, Faraday Road, Naseby Road, Cromwell Road and vice versa.
Contractor: Customer Solutions Plus, Tel: 07918 298 599.

PUBLIC FOOTPATH R103 IN THE PARISH OF CHURCHOVER
Order Effect: Footpath closed to all traffic between grid reference 451097.14 E, 278496.01 N & 450665.542 E, 278467.073 N.
Reason for Order: To enable works in connection with development at Rugby Gateway.
Order Commences: 5 January 2026 for up to 6 months.
Access & Diversion: Will be appropriately signed.
Contractor: Bloor Homes, Tel: 01604 684 400.

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

NORTH STREET, RUGBY
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic. Temporary one-way traffic flow north bound North Street and road closed to traffic South bound North Street.
Reason for Order: To safely enable excavation of carriageway to connect gas mains.
Order Commences: 19 January 2026 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 23 January 2026.
Access & Diversion: Evreux Way, Corporation Street, Warwick Street, Footpath at Warwick Street Subway, Lawrence Sheriff Street, Hillmorton Road, Whitehall Road, Clifton Road, Church Street, North Street and vice versa.
Contractor: CADENT GAS, Tel: 07831 706 512.

D2154 CORONATION ROAD, CHURCH LAWFORD
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic from A428 Coventry Road to Ling Lane.
Reason for Order: Carriageway patching and associated works, 08.00hrs-16.00hrs.
Order Commences: 17 January 2026 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 17 January 2026.
Access & Diversion: A428 Coventry Road, Limestone Hall Lane, Ling Lane and vice versa.
Contractor: Balfour Beatty, Tel: 03452 415 302.

D3492 CHURCH WALK, RUGBY
Order Effect: Road closed in its entirety from its junction with Bilton Road.
Reason for Order: Carriageway patching works, closed 08.00hrs-16.00hrs.
Order Commences: 21 January 2026 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 21 January 2026.
Access & Diversion: No suitable diversion. Vehicular access & egress will be maintained where possible and safe to do so for businesses and residents only. Access/egress to/from Gable Close and Pool Close may also be restricted whilst works are in progress.
Contractor: Balfour Beatty, Tel: 03452 415 302.

C80 BROWNSOVER ROAD, D3120 VALLEY ROAD & D3058 OLD LEICESTER ROAD, RUGBY
Order Effect: Roads closed to vehicular traffic as follows: **Brownsover Road** – roundabout closed at Old Leicester Road/ Valley Drive to entrance to EVRI Depot. **Valley Road** – closed from Brownsover Road roundabout to Prospect Park. **Old Leicester Road** – closed from Brownsover Road roundabout to Swift Park.
Reason for Order: Carriageway resurfacing and associated works phased works weekday nights only, 20.00hrs-06.00hrs.
Order Commences: 19 January 2026 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 27 January 2026.
Access & Diversion: Vehicular access & egress will be maintained for HGV's accessing/egressing Cosford Lane and Valley Drive including EVRI Depot via A426 **(No access/egress via B4112 due to 7.5t weight restricted bridge on Brownsover Road)**. Access/egress to/from Old Leicester Road will be via the A426, Consul Road and Glebe Farm Road only whilst works are in progress. All other traffic to use signed diversions using the B4112 Newbold Road, A4071 and A426.
Contractor: Balfour Beatty, Tel: 03452 415 302.

TEESWATER CLOSE, LONG LAWFORD
Order Effect: Road Closed to vehicular traffic.
Reason for Order: To enable repair/replacement of defective manhole frame and covers.
Order Commences: 21 January 2026 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 21 January 2026.
Access & Diversion: No alternative route available.
Contractor: CSP, Tel: 07918 298 599.

WELLS STREET, RUGBY
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.
Reason for Order: Works to repair/replace defective manhole frame and covers, closed 09.30hrs-15.30hrs.
Order Commences: 21 January 2026 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 21 January 2026.
Access & Diversion: Grosvenor Road, Clifton Road, Whitehall Road, Murray Road and vice versa.
Contractor: Customer Solutions Plus, Tel: 07918 298 599.

CORD LANE, EASENHALL
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.
Reason for Order: Works for meter and chamber rebuild.
Order Commences: 19 January 2026 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 20 January 2026.
Access & Diversion: Rugby Road, Pailton Road, Easenhall Road and vice versa.
Contractor: Chevron Traffic Management Ltd, Tel: 03300 080 820.

THE LOCKS, RUGBY
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.
Reason for Order: Works for joint holes in footway and trenching in road for cable overlay.
Order Commences: 23 January 2026 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 30 January 2026.
Access & Diversion: No diversion available.
Contractor: Network Plus, Tel: 08081 642 252.

RYDAL CLOSE, BROWNSOVER, RUGBY
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.
Reason for Order: Works to lay duct in carriageway.
Order Commences: 21 January 2026 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 23 January 2026.
Access & Diversion: No diversion available.
Contractor: M J Quinn, Tel: 01543 547 118.

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 01 Jan 2026

Classified

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICES

Warwickshire County Council

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

Warwickshire County Council has made the following Temporary Traffic Orders:

CHURCH LANE, STONELEIGH
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.
Reason for Order: To enable works for replacement of a telegraph po, 09.30hrs-15.30hrs.
Order Commences: 5 January 2026 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 5 January 2026.
Access & Diversion: No diversion available.
Contractor: Core Highways, Tel: 03300 169 688.

CHAPEL LANE, BARNACLE
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.
Reason for Order: Works to lay approx 112 metres of duct.
Order Commences: 5 January 2026 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 9 January 2026.
Access & Diversion: No diversion available.
Contractor: Callan Connect, Tel: 01213 275 167.

HIGHFIELD LANE, CORLEY
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.
Reason for Order: Works to replace existing pole, closed 09.30hrs-15.30hrs.
Order Commences: 9 January 2026 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 9 January 2026.
Access & Diversion: Highfield Lane, Smorrall Lane, Breach Oak Lane, Howe Green Lane, Windmill Lane, Red Lane, Park Lane, Nuneaton Road, Coventry Road, Tamworth Road and vice versa.
Contractor: Core Highways, Tel: 03300 169 688.

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

D512 NEWHALL GREEN LANE, FILLONGLEY
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic from B4102 Meriden Road to Green End Lane.
Reason for Order: Carriageway patching and associated works,08.00hrs-16.00hrs.
Order Commences: 17 January 2026 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 17 January 2026.
Access & Diversion: Newhall Green Lane, Green End Road, B4102 Meriden Road and vice versa.
Contractor: Balfour Beatty, Tel: 03452 415 302.

HALL ROAD, WOLVEY
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.
Reason for Order: Works to replace existing pole.
Order Commences: 22 January 2026 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 22 January 2026.
Access & Diversion: Hall Road, Church Hill, Bulkington Road and vice versa.
Contractor: Quantum Traffic Management, Tel: 01724 786 286.

STONELEIGH ROAD, BUBBENHALL
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.
Reason for Order: Works to install boundary box and meter.
Order Commences: 22 January 2026 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 23 January 2026.
Access & Diversion: Stoneleigh Road, Main Street, Spring Hill, Ryton Road, Leamington Road, Watery Lane, Bubbenhall Road and vice versa.
Contractor: Chevron Traffic Management Ltd, Tel: 03300 080 820.

BLACK HALL LANE FILLONGLEY
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic from Tamworth Road to Mill Lane.
Reason for Order: To safely enable building repair works.
Order Commences: 19 January 2026 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 6 April 2026.
Access & Diversion: B4098 Tamworth Road, Mill Lane, Black Hall Lane and vice versa.
Contractor: Fillongley Restorations Ltd, Tel: 07865 027 442.

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 01 Jan 2026

PUBLIC NOTICES

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

Notice is hereby given that **THE CROWN HAUS LTD** has applied to Coventry City Council for a ***NEW PREMISES LICENCE*** for **221 SEWALL HIGHWAY COVENTRY CV2 3PD**

Details of Application: Application date **12.12.2025**
To provide ***SALE OF ALCOHOL* ON SALES**
Days & Times: **MONDAY - SUNDAY 9:00-22:00**

Any person wishing to lodge a representation concerning this application may write to: Licensing Authority, The Council House, Earl Street Coventry CV1 5RR Or send an email to: licensing@coventry.gov.uk.

The application may be viewed during normal office hours at the above address and further information may be available at www.coventry.gov.uk on the public register.

Any Representation relating to this application must be made in writing to the Licensing Authority by **9th January 2026**.

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

Warwickshire County Council

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

Warwickshire County Council has made the following Temporary Traffic Orders:

D5047 SPRING LANE, LAPWORTH
Order Effect: Road Closed to vehicular traffic between Wharf Lane and Church Lane.
Reason for Order: Carriageway patching and associated works, 08.00hrs - 16.00hrs.
Order Commences: 6 January 2026 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 6 January 2026.
Access & Diversion: D5017 Wharf Lane, A3400 Stratford Road, B4439 Old Warwick Road, D5019 Church Lane, and vice versa.
Contractor: Balfour Beatty, Tel: 03452 415 302.

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

D5043 VICARAGE ROAD, LAPWORTH
Order Effect: Road Closed to vehicular traffic Glasshouse Lane to the County Boundary.
Reason for Order: Carriageway patching and associated works, 08.00hrs - 1600hrs.
Order Commences: 19 January 2026 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 19 January 2026.
Access & Diversion: Vicarage Road, B4101 Grange Road, Windmill Lane, Vicarage Road and vice versa.
Contractor: Balfour Beatty, Tel: 03452 415 302.

UMBERSLADE ROAD, EARLSWOOD
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic
Reason for Order: To safely enable replacement of telegraph poles.
Order Commences: 19 January 2026 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 19 January 2026.
Access & Diversion: No Diversion.
Contractor: M J Quinn, Tel: 01543 547 118.

C92 HAYWOOD LANE, BADDESLEY CLINTON
Order Effect: Road closed between Rising Lane and Rowington Green (Finwood Road)/Quarry Lane.
Reason for Order: Drainage maintenance works, closed 09.30hrs - 15.30hrs.
Order Commences: 19 January 2026 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 20 January 2026.
Access & Diversion: Rising Lane, Station Lane, B4439 Old Warwick Road, Rowington Green (Finwood Road) and vice versa. Vehicular access & egress will be maintained where possible and safe to do so for businesses and residents only.
Contractor: Balfour Beatty, Tel: 03452 415 302.

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

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

S Duxbury, Director of Strategy, Planning & Governance, Shire Hall, Warwick CV34 4RL Date 01 Jan 2025

PUBLIC NOTICES

PIAR KAUR (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 123 Widdrington Road Coventry, CV1 4DY, who died on 07/08/2025, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 10/03/2026, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

Angels Solicitors LLP, 117-119 New Union Street Coventry CV1 2NY

To advertise call **01527 588688**
Public Notices

Classified

TELEPHONE 01527 588688 FACSIMILE 01527 584371

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICES

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

Application Number R25/0979
LAND SOUTH OF MONTAGUE ROAD, BILTON
Full application for the erection of 195 dwellings (Use class C3), access, drainage, landscaping, open space and associated infrastructure.
This application is accompanied by an Environmental Statement. This is a major development

Application Number R25/1093
DUNCHURCH PARK HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTRE, RUGBY ROAD, DUNCHURCH, RUGBY, CV22 6QW
Variation of conditions 1 and 2 of R24/0405 APP/E3715/W/24/3352092 Appeal Decision (ancillary accommodation comprising 40 cabins on a temporary basis for 18 months) to allow temporary siting and occupation of the accommodation cabins for additional 18 months. **This development may affect a Listed Building. This development may affect a Conservation Area**

Members of the public may inspect copies of the application, the plans and documents submitted with it online at: www.planningportal.rugby.gov.uk or in an electronic form at: Town Hall, Evreux Way, Rugby, CV21 2RR between the hours of 9.00 am and 5. 00 pm Monday to Friday until **23 January 2026.** Please note a planning officer would not be present. If you wish to make an appointment to discuss the application, please contact the case officer.

Any person who wishes to make representation to the above mentioned Council about the applications should make them online – www.planningportal.rugby.gov.uk (search for application number and select comment) – or in writing by that date to Chief Officer – Growth and Investment, Town Hall, Rugby, CV21 2RR.

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

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

Nicola Smith
Chief Officer – Growth and Investment
MRTPI

PUBLIC NOTICES

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

Notice is hereby given that **Max Vardon** has applied to Coventry City Council for a **Premises Licence** for **33 Howcote Green, CV4 8BP.**

Details of Application: **To provide Supply of alcohol (ie sale/supply of Alcohol, Late Night Refreshments and Regulated Entertainment and ON/OFF SALES). Supply of Alcohol (OFF Sales Only) Monday – Saturday 9am – 6pm**

Any person wishing to lodge a representation concerning this application may write to: Licensing Authority, Coventry City Council, PO Box 7097, Coventry CV6 9SL. Or send an email to: licensing@coventry.gov.uk.

The application may be viewed during normal office hours at the above address and further information may be available at www.coventry.gov.uk on the public register.

Any Representation relating to this application must be made in writing to the Licensing Authority by **13/01/2026**

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

Warwickshire County Council

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
Warwickshire County Council proposes to make the following Temporary Traffic Orders:

D6038 LADBROKE ROAD, BISHOPS ITCHINGTON
Order Effect: Road closed between Harbury Road, Ladbroke and Old Road.
Reason for Order: Carriageway patching works, closed 08.00hrs - 1700 hrs.
Order Commences: 21 January 2026 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 21 January 2026.
Access & Diversion: Harbury Road, B4451 Kineton Road, A425, B4452 Ufton Road, Deppers Bridge Road, B4451 Station Road, Fisher Road, Ladbroke Road and vice versa.
Vehicular access & egress will be maintained where possible and safe to do so for businesses and residents only.
Contractor: Balfour Beatty, Tel: 03452 415 302.

SITWELL AVENUE, LONG ITCHINGTON
Order Effect: Road closed between its junction with Leigh Crescent.
Reason for Order: To safely enable works for boundary box and meter renewal.
Order Commences: 22 January 2026 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 23 January 2026.
Access & Diversion: No diversion available.
Contractor: Chevron Traffic Management Ltd, Tel: 03300 080 820.

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

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

S Duxbury, Director of Strategy, Planning & Governance, Shire Hall, Warwick CV34 4RL Date 01 Jan 2025



SALES & WANTS

MISCELLANEOUS

BEDS NEW Doubles £95 Singles £59 King size £159. Second hand doubles £49 Singles £29 Fridges £49 Freezers £59 Can deliver 07703 925662

RECLINER CHAIR electric rise & recline £169 Manual recline chair £60 High seated chair £40 Can deliver 07703 925662

NEW boxed Fine Elements small Fan heater 2000watt. Can be used as fan. Flat / upright. 2 settings. £10. 0121 430 3880

NEW ladies Joules Wellingtons, navy blue with pink roses on. Size 8. £12. 0121 430 3880

3 piece suite and storage footstool in raspberry red and gold colour, classic elegant style, good condition £350 tel: 01527 509217

YAMAHA PSR-6 Keyboard with stand, bookrest, power adapter, owner's guide vgc £25 01527876216

MISCELLANEOUS

MAMAS & Papas, large rocking horse on wooden frame. Very good condition (collection only) £60.00. Tel: 07934132759

BLACK wrought iron ornate slimline wall mirror. Decorative frame with glass / wrought iron leaves. 39" long x 12" wide approx: £5.00. Tel: 07934132759

FIVE Minton Bellemeade salad plates (8") blue flowers, bone china, very good clean condition. £3.00 for all. Tel: 07934132759

CARPET Offcut - brand new, berber, hard wearing, felt backed, mid brown / cream mixture, no matching pattern so could cut & piece together. size 6 foot 8 inches long x 2 foot 1 inch wide. £3.00. Tele: 07934132759

LADIES M & S classic fully lined lightweight jacket with detachable hood. Light turquoise. Hardly worn. Size 12. £3.00. (1 Can forward photos if interested). Tel: 07934132759

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First hybrid Lambo set to launch

DELIVERIES of the new Lamborghini Temerario are set to start in January 2026.

The successor to the Huracán, the all-new Temerario's hybrid powertrain combines a twin-turbo V8 engine with three electric motors, providing a total power output of 920 CV and the first and only production super sports car able to reach 10,000 rpm. Completing a fully hybridized three-strong model line-up from the Italian super sports car manufacturer, Temerario is launched as a coupé with an additional lightweight Alleggerita version available.

The second Lamborghini High Performance Electrified Vehicle (HPEV), Temerario joins the V12 Revuelto HPEV and plug-in hybrid Urus SE to deliver the Italian marque's take on electrification: emissions reduction combined with heightened performance across the range.

Davide Sfrecola, who took over as head of Lamborghini UK in 2025 said: "Lamborghini enters 2026 in this market with the most comprehensive hybridized super sports car offering in our segment.

"Importantly, Lamborghini's appeal with our clients, for our models' infamous design and benchmarking performance, is enhanced by our hybridization programme, with technologies making our cars easier and more fun to drive but as emotionally charged as ever.

"This year has witnessed new products, important customer and public events, and expansion of our UK network, and 2026 will see an exciting evolution of the same."

The UK consistently maintains its place in Automobili Lamborghini's top five global markets, along with the USA, Germany, Italy and Japan currently and, endorsed by an average 12 months' lead-time across its products in the UK and beyond, always retaining exclusivity as a core principle.

This is exemplified by the Urus SE, for which UK deliveries started at the beginning of 2025 and now maintains benchmark residual values in its segment, while in its first full year of production the iconic Revuelto won accolades in 2025 with major automotive media.

The opening of Lamborghini Mayfair in London's most prestigious district marks the UK's twelfth showroom location, with expansion of aftersales facilities in Leeds and Pangbourne. 2026 will see further new dealership representation, serving a growing number of owners with access to sales and aftersales.

In a year of Lamborghini UK events and activities, the Temerario made its UK dynamic debut running up the hill at Goodwood Festival of Speed in July, where the Temerario GT3 race car was unveiled to the world: the first Lamborghini competition car to be entirely designed, developed, and built at the Sant'Agata Bolognese factory.

UK clients experienced the first opportunity to drive the new road-going V8 HPEV during September's Lamborghini Day UK at Millbrook Proving Ground, at which the already-sold 'few-off' Lamborghini Fenomeno, of which only 29 will be produced for clients worldwide, also made its UK debut.

Lamborghini's heritage was celebrated in the UK with historic cars at events including the Hampton Court Concours d'Élegance and Salon Privé.

In the year that the Polo Storico heritage department marked its own tenth anniversary since embarking on official restorations, authentication and certification of historic models.

Medals for Godiva Harriers at County Championships

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



Picture by Zaneta Pochylska.

ATHLETICS: COVENTRY Godiva Harriers celebrated individual and team success at the Warwickshire Cross Country Championships.

Junior runner Annabell and senior athlete Sian Rainsley won the under-11 girls' and senior women's individual titles respectively.

Godiva also came home with three silver medals as Grace finished second in the under-15 girls race while Amelia Starling finished behind Rainsley in the senior women's race and Hossein Mohammadhia took silver in the masters' men's race.

The senior women's team claimed the overall title after Alison Kennedy finished fourth as she just missed out on a medal with Dewi Dankmeyer further back in 30th.

This left the senior women's team on a total of seven points - almost the best score possible.

And Godiva's senior men also claimed the team title led home by Joe McLeod who finished fourth.

Strong finishes from Lenny Chail 5th, Scott Hudspith 7th and James Wright 8th helped the men total 24 points.

Godiva athletes David Cooper 14th, Iain Souttar 21st, Max Chapman 22nd, Will Averill 28th and Lee Connelly 30th all finished the senior men's race.

The club's masters' men's side also became team champions led home by Mohammadhia who took individual silver.

Strong results from Clark Roberts 4th, Matt Hadlum 6th and Pete Eccleston 13th helped Godiva top the overall standings with 25 points.

Masters athletes Sam Katanda 21st, Liam Kincaid 22nd, Michael Todd 26th, Waising Yip 27th, Ed Sumner 32nd (on debut), John Treadwell 52nd, Martin Gittins 54th and Garry Flude 67th all completed the race.

Coventry's masters' ladies finished fourth overall as Rowena Ockenden 14th, Jayne Mumford 16th and Paige Zhang-Green 21st achieved a total of 51 points.

Godiva's under-13 boys finished fifth in the teams standings with the under-17 men seventh overall.

Harriers had one athlete in the under-20 women's race as Shona Murray finished eighth.

And Adam Jackson finished eighth in the under-20 men's race with Will Chalmers further back in 15th place.

The Championships took place at Warley Woods in Smethwick.

Bethell helps England to memorable Ashes test win

CRICKET: WARWICKSHIRE'S Jacob Bethell starred with the bat as England claimed a remarkable victory inside two days in the fourth Ashes test against Australia.

Bethell scored 40 runs in England's second innings to help the visitors to a four-wicket victory at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on his Ashes debut.

The 22-year-old also helped England bring an end to an 18-game winless run in Australia and avoid a series whitewash.

Australia went into the fourth test having already regained the urn for the fifth successive series dating back to 2017/18.

And England brought Bethell into the side in place of Ollie Pope to bat at number three, with the former not involved in any of the first three tests.

However, Bethell has impressed for England Lions on their tour of Australia as he delivered 70-plus scores against Australia A and England respectively.

A difficult pitch for batting saw wickets tumble from the outset of the fourth test as England bowled Australia out for 152 in 46 overs which included a five-for for Josh Tongue (5-45).

However, England also struggled with the bat and managed 110 all out in reply in just 30 overs as Harry Brook (41) top scored.

Bethell managed a single run from five deliveries in his first Ashes innings as he fell to the bowling of Michael Neser (4-45).

England responded well with the ball to bowl Australia out for 132 in the latter side's second innings despite the best efforts of Travis Head (46).

This left England needing 175 runs for victory as openers Zak Crawley (37) and Ben Duckett (34) set the visitors on their way.

Bethell came in at number four and scored 40 runs from 46 deliveries which included five boundaries.

He eventually fell to the bowling of Scott Boland (2-29) as Brook (18 not out) guided England to a memorable win with four wickets to spare in 33 overs.

Victory saw England triumph in a test match in Australia for the first time since 2011.

The fifth and final Ashes test takes place from January 4 to 8 in Sydney.

Hat-trick of victories for MI Racing riders in West Midlands cyclo-cross competition


Phil Roach on his way to the championship title. Picture by Colin Miller.

CYCLING: RIDERS from Coventry-based Team MI Racing competed at the prestigious UCI Masters Cyclo-Cross World Championships.

The event took place in Varese, Italy as four MI Racing riders took part in the World Championships.

In the men's 55 to 59 age category, Nick Whitley and Kenilworth's Darren Atkins raced in a field of 57 riders.

Whitley rode to a 10th place finish overall just one minute and 13 seconds behind the winning rider and placed highest of all British riders.

And teammate Atkins finished just 14 seconds further back to finish 12th overall.

In the men's 60 to 64 age category, Rugby-based riders David Garrett and Philip Roach raced in a field of 70 riders.

Roach claimed a 27th-place finish while Garrett crossed the line in 52nd place.

Closer to home, a number of the club's riders excelled in the West Midlands Cyclo-Cross Championships.

MI Racing celebrated a hat-trick of victories as Nick Popham won the 50 to 54 race, Atkins took the 55 to 59 title and Roach won the 60 to 64 event.

In the junior race, Ruben Stringfellow finished second while Andrew Owen and Christian Morgan placed fourth and seventh in the 50 to 54 race.

In the 55 to 59 race, Andy Jackson finished 16th with Alan Buxcey 18th while Mark Garrett placed ninth in the 60 to 64 race.

And in the senior race, James Garrett finished fourth with Tom Bradley fifth in the 40 to 44 race and Colin Miller fourth in the 45 to 49 event.

Elsewhere, in the Eastern Cyclo-Cross Championships, MI Racing's Richard Perham finished 20th in the men's 50 to 59 race with teammate Ray Cochrane 15th in the 60-plus race.

In the Welsh Cyclo-Cross Championships, husband and wife duo Nick and Lynsey Whitley finished fourth and sixth respectively in the men's 50 to 59 race and women's 40 to 49 race.

And time trial rider Joe Murray, from Nuneaton, won the Veterans Time Trial Association (VTTA) Midland series of races.

Murray finished top of the points table based on his best six results across the series with Leamington-based teammate Mark Wise sixth overall.

And Nuneaton-based MI Racing rider Simon Law raced in the Polly Botts Hill Climb in a field of more than 50 riders and finished 14th after the 1.1km long climb.

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Arianna Virik has earned a place in the West Midlands regional squad. Picture courtesy of Leaderboard Photography.

County players to represent region

GOLF: A TOTAL of five golfers from Warwickshire have earned a place in England Golf's West Midlands regional squad.

The five players – Joshua Gardner (Coventry), Arianna Virik (Coventry Hearsall), Maisie Halstead (Kenilworth), Monty Fincher (Stratford-upon-Avon) and Kamraan Arastu (Copt Heath) – form part of a 20-player squad.

The squad comprises 10 boys and 10 girls.

England Golf's regional coaching programme aims to provide youngsters with a pathway in the sport from county to national level.

England Golf deputy performance director Steve Burnett said: "England Golf aims to support a strong, aligned and inclusive performance pathway from club to national level, in order to identify, recruit, develop, support and retain world-class golfers capable of performing and winning at the highest levels of amateur golf.

"The Regional Performance Programme is a vital part of the pathway and it bridges the gap for young players showing promise at county level to push on and improve sufficiently to go on and play for England in the near future.

"The Regional Squads have helped produce a large number of world-class male and female golfers while creating life-long affiliations with the game. At every level of the pathway we aim to provide fun, engaging and individualised opportunities to help the player as a person and a golfer."

The West Midlands won the girls' region of the year for 2024/25, with the area recognised for a season of hard work, impressive results and outstanding player development.

Throughout the year, West Midlands players achieved significant handicap improvements and produced standout performances on the national stage.

The highlights saw Serafima Taylor win the English Girls' under-16 title while Virik earned two England under-16 call-ups with the region represented on the international stage.

The coaching team of Jason Davies, Ashley Jones and Ben Langdown created a positive and high-performance environment for the young golfers to thrive.

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