

WANTED
Motorcycles and Scooters
Any cc, condition or age,
good prices paid
07944 781 933 | 01926 257 643

Friday, April 10th 2026 Week 15

 facebook.com/rugby.observer

rugbyobserver.co.uk

 @rugbyobserver t: 01926 451900

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

Teen hero Alex will tackle half-marathon

Courageous 19-year-old set to complete London event in his wheelchair

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

A DETERMINED Rugby teenager who was diagnosed with arthritis at a young age is taking on a half marathon in his wheelchair to raise money for the charity which changed his life.

Alex Ingram-Martin, aged 19, is taking on the iconic London Landmarks Half Marathon in aid of charity Arthritis UK.

Alex was diagnosed with arthritis around his third birthday after he had experienced unexplained night-time fevers and rashes which left doctors struggling to find answers.

His condition worsened until he could no longer pull himself up or hold his head up.

After researching arthritis in young children, Alex's mum Lynda pushed doctors to give her son a rheumatology referral.

She said: "I remember we had to wait quite a few months for the appointment but at that time Alex was admitted to hospital because of the muscle wastage leaving him not able to stand up or walk alone."

"He couldn't eat or drink because

of his neck and his head was quite crunched down, leaving him in an awful lot of pain when he was just so young."

Alex was later diagnosed with juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA), a condition that affects an estimated 10,000 under-16s in the UK.

Thanks to research funded by Arthritis UK, a new class of drugs - known as 'biologics' - has transformed the treatment of inflammatory arthritis, meaning Alex doesn't have to live his life in pain.

After receiving the medication, Alex wanted to know more about it and was given booklets by Arthritis UK that inspired him to find out more about the UK's largest arthritis charity.

The courageous youngster said: "When I was put on my new medication, I ended up looking into what the charity was doing and I was inspired by the difference it was making."

"I remember seeing articles about the charity's work and most of the doctors mentioned were ones that I had been seeing."

"It really motivated me to give back to the charity that was tirelessly working to make a difference to people like me."

Last October, Alex underwent his biggest surgery yet - an ankle fusion



Alex with proud mum Lynda. s

operation. But despite that operation, and all the challenges arthritis has thrown his way, Alex is more determined than ever and will be taking part in the race through London on Sunday in his wheelchair, alongside his proud mum.

Lynda said: "I am incredibly proud of him every day because he just takes it in his stride. Seeing Alex's determination to give back - and courage to show other children that have just been diagnosed that it doesn't stop you from being who you want to be - is extremely admirable."

Alex has so far raised more than £2,460 through his fundraising efforts for Arthritis UK.

Deborah Alsina MBE, chief executive of Arthritis UK, said: "Alex and Lynda's determination through the challenges they have faced is incredibly inspirational."

"London Landmarks Half Marathon is an exciting event and every year I am in awe of the dedication and commitment, from the hours of training and fundraising efforts from everyone involved."

"I am incredibly grateful to them both for their support for Arthritis UK and I wish them the very best of luck on the day."

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/bdhy6j6a> to sponsor Alex.

RUGBYS ONLY INDEPENDENT 24 HOUR VETS

NOW OPEN
AFFORDABLE
VET CARE



RUGBY VET HOSPITAL
PUTTING YOUR PETS FIRST

THE LOCKS,
HILLMORTON,
CV21 4PP
TEL - 01788 345345

  Register at www.rugbyvethospital.co.uk  

Championing the needs of Rugby residents since 1991 and delivering the news to you every week



Carl Stephens

Family thanks community

THE FAMILY of a man who died in Kenilworth have thanked the community for its support.

Police were called to a house on Chestnut Avenue just before midnight on Friday, March 20, after concerns were raised for the welfare of Carl Stephens, who was subsequently found to have died.

Paying tribute to the 45-year-old, his family said: "We are deeply saddened to be writing that Carl's life has been taken in the most tragic way. Our family is completely devastated by this and will be forever heartbroken."

"We would like to take a moment to sincerely thank our community for the love, compassion and support that has been shown to us, and sharing in our grief. It means more than words can express."

"During this incredibly difficult time, we kindly ask for privacy while we come to terms with what has happened."

Three people – a 24-year-old man, a 49-year-old woman and a 16-year-old boy – have been charged with murder. They are next set to appear in court on May 20.

A 72-year-old woman arrested on suspicion of assisting an offender has been bailed while enquiries continue.



Council says new swimming pools on track to open for summer

The new-look Abbey Fields swimming pool is on schedule to open this summer. s

by Philippa Mingins
philippa.mingins@bullivantmedia.com

THE REVAMPED swimming pool at Abbey Fields, in Kenilworth, is on track to open this summer.

Warwick District Council (WDC) contractor Kier Construction has entered the final stage of work: removing hoardings and beginning the main driveway.

Visitors to Abbey Fields will soon

be able to get a first glimpse of the exterior of the building, which will contain two indoor pools and a cafe with a terrace which, it is anticipated, will open in July.

During the final phase of the project, the construction site will expand, requiring the removal of temporary toilets and closure of a walkway next to the duck feeding area and a small section of the older children's playground, including a climbing frame.

That will enable landscaping, levelling and the creation of access

paths. Fencing will go up until that work is completed.

WDC communities spokesperson, councillor Jim Sinnott said: "We are very pleased that these much anticipated and long-awaited new facilities are nearing completion and that the people of Kenilworth and the wider district will soon be getting the additional year-round pool space which we know will be welcomed by families, schools and swimming clubs, as well as less confident swimmers and disabled users."

Changes to pedestrian access at the site will remain until July's opening.

The junior playground and remaining area of the older children's playground will stay open but the toilets will close. Toilets and a cafe are available at Castle Farm Leisure Centre, around 15 minutes' walk away, or at the Abbey End car park.

Once the pools open, the council will confirm arrangements for work including on the tennis courts and the duck-feeding and play areas.

You are invited to a series of

Bible Talks at the Christadelphian Hall

Grosvenor Road CV1 3FZ near to the Central Six Retail Park
& free parking available on site



Saturday April 18th at 11am
"The Greatest Miscarriage of Justice of All Time"

Saturday May 23rd at 11am
"The Middle East Conflict: its History and Solution"

Saturday June 20th at 11am
"God's Promises to Abraham, Christ and You."

A brief synopsis of each talk is available on the website
www.CoventryGrosvenorRdChristadelphians.com

School site is sold off

THE FUTURE of the former Kenilworth School site is looking more secure after it was sold to Homes England.

Responsibility for the land and buildings has been transferred from Warwick District Council.

Council housing spokesperson, councillor Jessica Melrose, said: "We know the Leyes Lane site is very important to the people of Kenilworth and we are grateful to all residents who have shared their views, hopes and concerns about local services, infrastructure and community priorities."

"We will continue to work closely with Homes England to ensure residents' voices help shape the outcome as it comes through the planning process. Subject to planning permission, the site will provide much-needed new homes. We will also continue to provide regular updates."

■ VOLUNTEERS are needed for a community day at Telford Primary School, in Leamington.

The event, to make improvements at the school, will take place on Saturday, April 25, from 9am until 2pm.

Businesses, residents and parents can help with tasks including building storage sheds and painting walls and play equipment. Email pta.telfordinfants@gmail.com for more details.

PUBLIC NOTICES



For all your latest information on
Planning Proposals, Traffic Notices,
Goods Vehicle Operator Licences,
Licences To Sell Alcohol and Probate Notices...

See page 29





Unveiled: The Rugby Art Collection in Full has been hailed "world-class" by visitors to Rugby Art Gallery and Museum. s

by **Andy Morris**
@bullivantmedia.com

A 'ONCE-in-a-generation' exhibition showcasing the complete Rugby collection of contemporary art has received rave reviews since opening at Rugby Art Gallery and Museum.

Unveiled - The Rugby Art Collection in Full, brings together

all 257 artworks in one gallery for the first time in decades, to celebrate the collection's 80th anniversary.

Feedback has seen the exhibition hailed as "world-class", "beautifully curated" and a source of "great civic pride." One visitor said: "It's marvellous to see the whole collection on show in Rugby, where it should stay."

The Rugby Collection was founded in 1946, to make art accessible. Now a collection of national sig-

nificance, artists featured include British contemporary art's leading lights such as LS Lowry, Lucien Freud, Barbara Hepworth, Paul Rego and Turner Prize winners Lubaina Himid and Gillian Wearing.

Katie Boyce, Rugby Art Gallery and Museum's senior exhibitions and programming officer, said the exhibition charts the evolution of British art over eight decades - from post-war realism and industrial scenes, through bold abstract

and pop artworks to striking contemporary pieces.

She said: "The 257 pieces in Unveiled tell a story of creativity, ambition and the importance of art in everyday life. Works from leading names in contemporary art sit alongside unexpected discoveries from lesser-known artists, making Unveiled a once-in-a-generation opportunity to explore the entire Rugby Collection."

A book, *The Story So Far: The Rugby Collection at 80*, has

been published by Rugby Borough Council to celebrate the collection's 80th anniversary.

The book explores the history of the collection, its major acquisitions and the people who helped shape it. Printed in Rugby, the book can be purchased at the Little Elborow Street venue during Unveiled's run, which ends on Saturday, June 6.

Visit www.ragm.co.uk for more information about exhibitions and events at Rugby Art Gallery and Museum.

Council leader to step down

THE LEADER of Rugby Borough Council is to step down from the role.

Councillor Michael Moran has decided not to stand in next month's local elections.

The Labour member was first elected to represent the Admirals and Cawston ward in 2022.

He became leader of the council in 2024, when Labour and the Liberal Democrats struck a 'confidence and supply' agreement to enable Labour to take leadership - ousting the Conservatives, who had either led or controlled the council for the previous 20 years.

Coun Moran said it had been a 'privilege' to serve his ward.

He said: "Leading the council through a cross-party agreement with the Liberal Democrats, after decades of single-party control in Rugby, has been an honour.

"We have created a stable and effective council which is now fit for purpose with policies and structures in place that have been sorely missing in years gone by.

"Financially, we have managed a very steady ship and are able now, in this year's budget, to continue to invest in both town centre plans and community projects across the borough that will become evident this coming year."

He said cross-party work had resulted in a corporate strategy to meet Labour's



Coun Michael Moran has decided not to stand in next month's local elections. s

goal of a 'better, fairer and greener Rugby'.

He added: "Part of that is a new local plan going through its final stages that will promote brownfield sites in the town while protecting swathes of the Rainsbrook Valley and the countryside around the south and west of the town, previously vulnerable to Reform and the Conservatives' promotion of the Lodge Farm development and other illiterate planning policies.

"We have also sought to protect and promote sports

facilities across the borough for our future generations and that is something I am incredibly proud of."

Coun Moran thanked the authority's senior officers, deputy Coun Ish Mistry, his cabinet, and Coun Jerry Roodhouse and his Liberal Democrat colleagues, who he described as "fair and challenging - always striving to get the best deal for our borough". He wished good luck to Labour candidate Chris Lee, who is standing for Coun Moran's former seat.

just go.holidays

For more information, or to book, please call
03332 342 514 Quote **osg**

★★★★★ Trustpilot

Reader Travel



Scenic Cumbria & the Lovely Lake District
Departing Thu 25 Jun '26

Come and experience the Lovely Lake District with excursions to idyllic towns, a nostalgic heritage railway, a Lake Windermere cruise as well as entrance to the magical World of Beatrix Potter Attraction. This deserves a top spot on your 'must-do' list!

SO MUCH INCLUDED...

- ✓ Return coach travel from Rugby, Coventry
- ✓ 4 nights at the Holiday Inn Express, Barrow-in-Furness (JG3 rating) with dinner & breakfast
- ✓ Heritage train journey on the Lakeside & Haverthwaite Railway
- ✓ Cruise on Lake Windermere
- ✓ Scenic drive through Cumbria
- ✓ Excursions to Bowness-on-Windermere, the World of Beatrix Potter Attraction, Ulverston, Grasmere, Kendal

5 Days by Coach only £449
Single Supplement £140

These packages are subject to Just Go Holidays terms & conditions. Coach bookings are protected by Bondest Coach Holidays & the Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Ltd. All holidays are A TOI protected No. 10889. Prices are per person, based on two people sharing a room & honoured on bookings made up to 7 days post-publication, at later which prices may fluctuate. Choices of date, hotel, air/port or pick up location may incur a supplement. Please see website or call for full details.

Visit us online at justgo.holidays.com/OSG



Scarborough, Heartbeat Country & Whitby
Departing Mon 1 Jun '26

Step into Heartbeat country on this delightful holiday! Many of its scenes were filmed in Yorkshire, including picturesque Goathland, and we also discover storied Whitby, quaint Hornsea and charming Beverley from our base in the seaside resort of Scarborough.

SO MUCH INCLUDED...

- ✓ Return coach travel from Coventry
- ✓ 4 nights at the Grand Hotel, Scarborough (JG2 rating) with dinner & breakfast
- ✓ 2 for 1 bar (6pm-9pm) on selected drinks
- ✓ Light entertainment every evening
- ✓ Excursions to Goathland (Heartbeat), Whitby, Beverley & Hornsea

Optional excursion to York (£15pp)

5 Days by Coach only £349
Single Supplement £75





SUMMER BRITISH TRAVEL AWARDS 2025

033 numbers are free within inclusive minutes packages otherwise standard rates apply.

f justgohols



LEFT: Olivia Birtwistle is one of the young Coventrians to have been photographed by Casey. Hawraa Hussain (MIDDLE) from Earlsdon features in the exhibition.

RIGHT: Casey says her exhibition 'gives a voice and visibility to young people and celebrates their creativity'.



Capturing the look of culture

AN 'IMPORTANT' photography exhibition which celebrates young people is now open at a Coventry gallery.

The Saturday Town project by photographer Casey Orr has opened at the Herbert Art Gallery and Museum – featuring 95 images depicting youth culture across the UK.

The photos showcase the evolving identities of young people across the UK over the past 13 years in a celebration of youth style, fashion and self-expression – including 35 new portraits of young Coventrians from 2026 who have posed at pop-up shoots across the city.

The images were selected from

more than 4,000 portraits taken by America-born photographer Casey, who since 2013 has travelled to towns and cities across the country on Saturday afternoons, setting up pop-up studios to photograph young people and capture the spirit of youth culture in public spaces.

This included two pop-up photo-shoots at FarGo Village followed by one at The Herbert earlier this year.

Speaking about the new exhibition, which runs until May 4, Casey said: "This project is important as it gives a voice and visibility to young people and celebrates their creativity."

"People use fashion and style to explore their identities, find their tribes and state their values. Young

people continue to reinvent youth culture, remixing and responding to what has come before but with an interpretation that speaks of their contemporary experience."

She said the biggest change reflected in her exhibition was the collapse of gender binaries in 2016, which she describes as a 'revolution' which was 'incredible to witness'.

She added: "During the course of my work I have witnessed people using their chosen names for the first time, and I have photographed and been a part of trans and non-binary kids feeling seen and celebrated."

"Their trust in me just blows me away every time. Visibility can be a springboard for a person to have

the confidence to dive into what they love, so photographing and celebrating youth creativity and individuality through portraiture is my way of saying 'I see you and I think what you're doing is powerful'."

"One of the overriding messages emerging from this exhibition is that identity continues to be central to youth culture in 2026 – and more importantly, even during the troubled times that we are living in, there is hope for love and individuality."

Marguerite Nugent, Director of Culture at CV Life, which operates the Herbert Art Gallery and Museum, said she was thrilled that Casey had chosen Coventry to showcase her 'nationally celebrated project'.

She added: "The Herbert has always been a place that celebrates inclusivity and creativity, and Casey's work shines an important light on where we are going as a society through the art of portraits."

Casey Orr has exhibited widely in both the UK and the US, including at the National Portrait Gallery, Yorkshire Sculpture Park and the Palace of Westminster.

Her previous project Saturday Girl won the Format Photography Festival Award in 2019, and Saturday Town culminated in a major exhibition at Liverpool's Open Eye Gallery in 2024.

Visit www.theherbert.org/whats-on/1923/saturday-town for more.



PHOENIX COACHES


| | Adult | Child |
|------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| April | | |
| 11th London | £30.00 | £24.00 |
| 14th Cotswolds & Broadway | £29.00 | £24.00 |
| May | | |
| 5th Pub Lunch | £31.00 | £25.00 |
| 16th Black Country Museum | £27.00 | £24.00 |
| 26th Lunch & Entertainment | £37.00 | |
| 27th Skegness | £29.50 | £24.00 |
| 30th Camden Market | £30.00 | |
| June | | |
| 6th Gloucester Docks & Quays | £26.00 | £20.00 |
| 13th Bath | £30.00 | £25.00 |
| 16th Shrewsbury | £27.00 | £22.00 |
| 13th Windsor | £30.00 | £24.00 |

Scotland- Waverley Castle Hotel 27th-31st May 26. 5 Days/ 4 Nights £425 Per Person
Price Includes- All Coach Hire, 4 Nights accommodation, Evening Meal & Breakfast, Day Excursions, Admission to Falkirk Wheel, and Admission to Ainwick Castle

Liverpool- Atlantic Tower Hotel 31st July-2nd August 26. 3 Days/2 Nights £180 Per Person
Price Includes- All Coach hire, Evening meal on 1st night only, 2 nights accommodation, 2 days breakfast, free time round Liverpool


Llandudno - The Chatsworth House Hotel 10th-14th August 26 5 Days/4 Nights £395 Per Person.
Price Includes- All Coach hire, 4 nights accommodation, Evening Meal & Breakfast, Day excursions, Portmerion Village & 2 course meal and Welsh Highland Railway Journey

www.phoenixcoaches.org.uk
Tel No 02476 350 811. 50 Southfield Close, Nuneaton. CV10 OBE



BEAUTY | MAKE-UP | HAIR | ACADEMY

Rekha and her team at the brand newly opened Rekha Hair & Beauty Studio are dedicated to delivering exceptional care and a wide range of hair and beauty treatments; and its where expert skincare and exceptional client care combine to deliver exceptional results.



Offering a warm and very welcoming studio - your comfort and satisfaction is always there, as our top priority

***Bridal Make-up and Party Makeup Professionals**

Make-up & Beauty School
Rekha's Academy offers a variety of beauty and make-up training courses with ABTA Accreditation.

For more details or to make an appointment call 07788 431491 or visit Rekha Make-up Studio and Academy 262 Radford Road, Radford, Coventry, CV6 3BU

Extended stretch for prisoner's boiling-water attack on guard

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

A VIOLENT inmate at a prison near Rugby who launched an unprovoked attack on an officer, has been handed an 11-year extended sentence.

In December 2024, at HMP Onley, Benjamin Scott, 46, threw boiling water into the face of his victim before hitting him several times over the head with a kettle.

Despite sustaining second degree

burns to the left of his face, the prison officer bravely helped colleagues restrain Scott, who was later transferred to another prison.

The officer was taken to University Coventry Hospital where he received treatment for his injuries, including an ocular burn to his left eye which required months of specialist care and medical procedures in a bid to save his sight.

Scott was arrested on suspicion of grievous bodily harm (GBH) with intent. During his interview with Northamptonshire Police, he made

a full and frank disclosure, expressing remorse for his actions.

During the interview, Scott said he attacked the officer because he wanted to be moved from the prison as he felt he was not getting support for declining mental health.

Scott, formerly of Sheffield, was given the extended sentence after he pleaded guilty to a count of 'section 18' GBH with intent.

Used for criminals convicted of specific offences who are deemed to be extremely dangerous, the extended sentence is made up of six

years' imprisonment with an extension of five years on licence.

Det Cons Jamie Yates, of the police's CID West unit – whose team led the investigation – said: "This was a particularly violent, unprovoked attack by Benjamin Scott, who wanted to orchestrate a move from the prison.

"Such violence has no place in our society and that includes within the prison establishment, where prison officers should be able to feel safe to perform their duties without fear for their personal safety.

"The prison officer in this case acted bravely and professionally throughout, considering the seriousness of his assault, and I must praise him for this.

"We are pleased with the significant extended sentence imposed by the courts as it not only reflects the severity and seriousness of the offence committed by Scott but recognises the danger that he presents to others."

Scott was jailed for 15 years in 2012 after he was convicted of manslaughter in Sheffield in 2011.



Some of the plants found growing at an industrial unit in Lutterworth. s

£1m weed farm raided

A CANNABIS factory in Lutterworth worth more than £1million has been raided by police.

Police officers enforced a warrant at an industrial unit in Lutterworth on Wednesday, March 25.

Two men tried to run away from the location but they were detained and arrested.

A spokesperson for Market Harborough and Lutterworth Police said: "For those who comment on why we target these locations – the answer is that the substantial amount

of money made from locations like these is used to fund organised crime.

"The locations themselves also present a fire risk due to the bypassing of the electricity, which puts the surrounding community at risk.

"Even a small bit of information can add to the bigger picture so please report information to us."

Report concerns about drugs by calling police on 101, or contact independent charity Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111.

OFTEN IMITATED BUT NEVER EQUALLED

While all costs are going up - OURS ARE STAYING DOWN

Due to our customer friendly services of No Door Salesmen, No Showroom and little overheads



NEW FLUSH WINDOWS

BEAUTIFUL COMPOSITE DOORS
Fully fitted
Competitive Prices



UPTO 30% OFF ALL WINDOWS



ALL PRODUCTS HAVE A 10 YEAR INSURANCE BACKED WARRANTY

BILL MOORE'S WINDOWS AND DOORS

A NAME YOU CAN TRUST

1 Brookside Close, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire CV37 9PL

01789 415171 • 07729 689239 • www.billmooreswindowsanddoors.co.uk



Charles Jennens is the subject of the next Warwickshire Local History Society talk.

THE NEXT Warwickshire Local History Society talk is set to hit a musical note. Charles Jennens and his family of Nether Whitacre by Rita Poulson will explore the life of Charles Jennens the younger, who was the friend and patron of the composer George Frederick Handel. He was the grandson of Humphrey Jennens, a 17th century iron founder who lived at Nether Whitacre Hall. Charles Jennens built Gopsall Hall in Leicestershire but the family vault is under Nether Whitacre in Warwickshire. The talk will take place at Aylesford Primary School in Warwick on Tuesday April 21 at 7.30pm, with tea and coffee available from 7 pm. The talk will follow the WLHS AGM held at 7.15 pm. No booking is required. Non-members are welcome. Attendance is free, though donations are appreciated. Visit www.warwickshirehistory.org.uk for more details.

Familiar face set to send walkers on way

HARRY Potter star David Bradley will set fundraisers on their way in The Myton Hospices' Moonlight Walk. The stage and screen actor will officially start the walk at Warwick Castle on Friday April 17. Best known for his roles in the Harry Potter film series and Game of Thrones, the Leamington resident will meet walkers before sending thousands of participants on their way through the castle grounds and around the town centre, as they take part in the Midlands' largest Moonlight Walk.

Myton Hospices spokesperson Jason Levy said: "Having David join us this year is incredibly special. The Moonlight Walk means so much to so many people - it's a chance to come together, to remember, and to celebrate. David's support helps shine a light on the care we provide every day across our community. It's an evening filled with fun, reflection, and connection, and we're proud to have him with us."

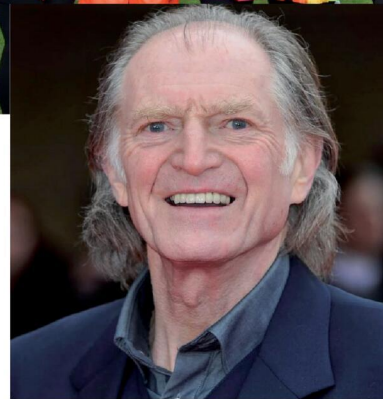
David added: "I am honoured to be part of such a meaningful event. The work of The Myton Hospices touches so many lives, and it is inspiring to see communities come together in this way. I am really looking forward to meeting everyone and helping to start the walk."

One of Myton's flagship fundraising events, the Moonlight Walk attracts thousands of participants each year and this year aims to raise over £250,000, with funds directly supporting Myton's care across its hospices and in the community.

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



Walkers will be aiming to raise £250,000 this year. Picture The Myton Hospices.



Harry Potter and Game of Thrones star David Bradley is set to cast his magic over the event.



The Railway Touring Company





Bob Green

Saturday 9 May 2026

Steam to Carlisle.

This trip provides a wonderful opportunity for passengers to get out and about during the spring months with the added bonus of steam haulage over the Northern Fells, including the spectacular Settle & Carlisle Railway.

We have a high speed journey down the West Coast Main Line to Carnforth, hauled by a blue Class 86 electric locomotive. We then enjoy a circular steam tour outwards via Shap to Carlisle and back via the Settle and Carlisle line.

- **Departs Rugby, Nuneaton and Crewe**
- From £120 per person
- Premier Dining available

The Cumbrian Mountain Express
MAGNIFICENT LOCOMOTIVES • SCENIC JOURNEYS • FASCINATING DESTINATIONS

For more information please visit railwaytouring.net or phone **01553 661 500**





On-board dining options available. Refreshments available to purchase on-board. Tables for two can be guaranteed in Premier/First for a supplement of £50 per person subject to availability. Prices start from £120 per person. Junior and family fares available. Booking subject to availability. The Railway Touring Company's standard conditions of booking and travel apply - see website for details. Images are for illustration purposes only - locos/trains may differ. The Railway Touring Company - The Old Stables, Estuary Road, King's Lynn, Norfolk PE30 2HL.



The Coventry 10k and Half Marathon events take place on Sunday April 19. Picture by Epic Action Imagery

Are you in the running to help feed the hungry?

A COVENTRY-based charity is calling on residents to help run up a great total for its coffers by signing up for the city's two running events this month.

Feed The Hungry, which runs Coventry Foodbank, is one of the partner charities for the Coventry 10k and Half Marathon events, which take place on Sunday April 19.

The charity provides support for people in the UK and in lower-income countries like Zambia, Bolivia and Nepal, and has also supported emergency relief efforts in Ukraine.

Head of Communications Rich Smith said: "We are absolutely thrilled to be a charity partner for the 2026 Coventry Half-Marathon and 10k.

"Every pound raised by runners on April 19 will help us in our mission to combat hunger here in Coventry, and across the globe.

"We'd love as many people as possible to lace up their trainers and join 'Team Feed The Hungry' for either the Half-Marathon or the 10k routes that start and end in our city.

"Whether you are running for Feed The Hungry, or specifically to support the vital work of our project, Coventry Foodbank, the sponsorship money raised will provide a lifeline to families and children facing food crisis.

"If running isn't for you, we'd still love to see you there! Come down, soak up the atmosphere and cheer on the runners. We want to make this a truly community-wide success for Coventry."

One runner returning to the start line on behalf of the charity is 24-year-old Robbie Kalnins, who is hoping to beat his time of last year of one hour and 45 minutes.

He said: "My business, Elevata, has previously donated around four weeks of food to families across Coventry, it was an incredible experience. This was for Christmas last year and is a tradition that is going to be welcomed by my business for years to come.

"Feed The Hungry is the most charitable, humble and immersive charity I have dealt with.

"When I came to see Steve Crump from Coventry Foodbank with a donation; he talked to me, weighed the goods, explained how many families we had helped and really talked me through the whole process. This is something that I have never experienced from a charity and it was a really eye-opening experience.

"I'm very lucky and blessed to have never needed to use a foodbank and this is why I feel it is needed to give back to the community, because food is such a necessity."

The Half-Marathon and 10K events start on Gosford Street and end at Coventry Cathedral. All runners receive an exclusive medal as well as a goody bag and post-run treats. A minimum sponsorship of £100 is required to register.

Other charity partners - who will run stalls in the 'Charity Village' in University Square on the day of the events - include Back & Forth Men's Mental Health, Coventry Cyrenians, Jane Tomlinson Appeal, Myton Hospice, University Hospital Coventry & Warwickshire, and Zoe's Place Baby Hospice.

Runners aged 17 and over can sign up at <https://coventryfoodbank.org.uk/events>.

Visit coventryfoodbank.org.uk/help for more on Coventry Foodbank.



Runners in the events will raise funds for Feed The Hungry.

Spring Arrives

at the garden lover's garden centre

Harefurlong Nurseries
www.farnboroughgardencentre.co.uk

A traditional garden centre that focuses on providing quality plants, garden products, homeware and gifts

national Garden Gift voucher

AQUATIC PLANTS

TUB & BASKET PLANTS

VEGETABLE PLANTS

SUMMER BEDDING

Treasured Teddies
 AT
FARNBOROUGH GARDEN CENTRE
 Come & visit our Treasured Teddies shop & see our massive selection of cuddly collectables & furry friends including especially loveable limited editions and everyday huggables

A world of Choice

OPEN 6 DAYS A WEEK
Tues-Sat 9-5.30pm
Sun 10.30-4.30pm
Open Bank Holiday Mondays

On A423 Southam Road, Nr Farnborough, Banbury, OX17 1EL
 Tel 01295 690479
customersales@farnboroughgardencentre.co.uk

A world of Choice

WHERE THINGS FOR YOUR GARDEN WON'T COST YOU THE EARTH

Schools' help project is food for thought

'HEARTWARMING' – students at a Rugby secondary school have been busy helping local families who are struggling with the cost of living.

Ashlawn School pupils have joined forces with the Rotary Club of Rugby to prepare food parcels as part of a new community initiative known as the 4 For Four project, which aims to feed families of four for five evenings.

Students sourced ingredients, designed a recipe booklet, and produced step-by-step visual cooking instructions to be included in the

food parcels. The parcels were collected and delivered to Harris School, Henry Hinde School, Rugby Free School and St Oswalds CofE Academy by members of Rotary Club of Rugby for further distribution to local families in need.

The project followed a visit to the school by four Rotarians who also presented a certificate to two Year 7 students, Hannah Kirubakaran and Hanan Samuale, who designed the winning logo for the project.

Rotary Club of Rugby President Tricia Davis said: "Involvement in helping the community is an impor-

tant part of the ethos of the school and it was heartwarming to see the enthusiasm with which the students greeted the challenge.

"These resources will ensure that families not only receive the ingredients but also the guidance needed to prepare affordable, healthy meals with confidence.

"4 For Four is about more than providing food – it's about education, empowerment and community collaboration. By working together we are not only supporting families in need but also giving students a valuable opportunity to contribute positively to their local community.

"The initiative combines creativity, education and community spirit to provide practical support for families while engaging students in meaningful, real world learning.

"This joint venture reflects the strong partnership between Rugby Rotary Club and Ashlawn School and highlights what can be achieved when education and community organisations work together for a shared purpose."

Natasha Booth, Assistant Principal at Ashlawn School, said: "4 For Four is about more than providing food – it's about providing education, empowerment and community collaboration.

"By working together, we are not only supporting families in need but also giving students a valuable opportunity to contribute positively to their local community."

Rotary Club of Rugby President Tricia Davis delivers food parcels to Harris School headteacher Roberta Harrison.



Jodie Bradgate of Rugby Free School thanks Rotarian Richard Avery.



Joanne Flaig and Mandeep Mann take a delivery of food parcels at Henry Hinde School.

INTERNATIONAL METALS & CABLE RECYCLING LTD

We purchase all Ferrous and Non Ferrous Metal Batteries and Cables

Collection Service Available

Long Marston Road, Long Marston, Stratford Upon Avon, Warwickshire, CV37 8AQ

01789 721 288

info@imcr.co.uk

Open Mon/Fri - 8am - 5pm

Welcome to a life made easier.

Discover an easier life with McCarthy & Stone. Independent living in your own well-appointed, warm and cosy apartment. With friendly neighbours, there if you need them.

Enjoy a welcome that feels like coming home. You'll soon see why so many of our homeowners tell us they wish they'd moved sooner.



RUGBY Knox Court, Bilton Road CV22 7BA

Located close to all the amenities of the bustling town centre, you can enjoy your own spacious apartment and so much more. Flexible care and support packages are available and freshly prepared meals are served daily in the bistro[^].

Prices from £289,950[#]



STRATFORD-UPON-AVON Romeo Place, Alcester Road CV37 9WF

Set in a thriving medieval town, you can immerse yourself in an area steeped in history and charm. The beautifully finished, low maintenance retirement apartments, offer luxurious and contemporary living in a modern and secure community.

Prices from £287,500[#]



STUDLEY Priory Place, Alcester Road B80 7AR

Conveniently located in the picturesque village of Studley, with a host of local amenities on your doorstep. Facilities include a stunning communal lounge and landscaped gardens. You're also looked after by the friendly on-site manager.

Prices from £199,995[#]



SHIRLEY Wheatley Place, Stratford Road B90 4GZ

Located in sought-after Shirley, features include flexible care and support packages and an on-site bistro serving fresh meals daily^{*}. There's an Estate Manager on-site 24/7 and the communal facilities include a wonderful roof terrace and wellness suite.

Prices from £279,995[#]

Properties near you for the over 55s - to buy, rent or for Shared Ownership[#]



Scan or call for more information
0800 310 0555
mccarthyandstone.co.uk



Homes England Information correct at time of print. ^{*}Extra charge applies. [#]Subject to availability. See [mccarthyandstone.co.uk/shared-ownership](https://www.mccarthyandstone.co.uk/shared-ownership) for more details. SC023580

McCarthy & Stone
Welcome Home.



Mayor Barbara Brown opens the new croquet lawns with Rugby Croquet Club Chairman Terry Leary. Picture by Marcus Mingins 1426006MMR3

Going through hoops

CROQUET is OK in Rugby after a new club launched in the town.

Rugby Croquet Club has been officially opened by Mayor Barbara Brown.

The club, which has two lawns on the playing fields at Clifton playing fields, plays between April 1 and October 31.

The club plays two forms of the game – Golf Croquet, a simple and relatively quick game, and Association Croquet, a more complex and strategic

game once described as a cross between snooker and chess.

A club spokesperson said: “Fresh air, gentle exercise and social company – come for a free taster session and try and run some hoops.”

New members aged 12 and above are welcome.

Contact Membership Secretary on 01788 816010 or at mike.rigby@talktalk.net, or Chairman Terry Leary on 01788 11156 or at terry.leary07@gmail.com for more information.

On course to offer some useful advice

AN ENTREPRENEUR is teaming up with Rugby’s lifelong learning charity to offer ‘how to’ courses for those wanting to set up a business and for budding authors.

Marketing entrepreneur Lindsay Woodward will deliver the courses at the Percival Guildhouse.

The two courses are part of a new series of events devised by Lindsay’s company, Lindsay Woodward Marketing, linking the Guildhouse with several different partners.

The mix of online and in-person events aims to offer something different in addition to the Guildhouse’s art, craft, wellbeing and educational courses.

In *How to Self-Publish Properly*, Lindsay guides participants through the process of turning a manuscript into a book, working through the publishing process and demonstrating how to market it properly.

The evening course on Zoom runs for three weeks, commencing on April 14.

The *How to Set Up a Business* course is a practical guide helping people understand where to start, how to prioritise, and all that needs to be considered before taking the plunge. Lindsay helps participants through the process so that they start with a strong foundation.

This is also an evening course on Zoom running for three weeks from June 4.

Other events in the series include



Lindsay Woodward Delivers her *How to Self-Publish Properly* course.

Making a Video on Your Phone – two online sessions starting on May 6 run by Clockwork Eye Video, and *Find Your Voice*, an in-person course at the Guildhouse run by experienced spoken word and poetry performer Ian Fisermanis, helping people shape, refine and share their stories. The four-week course starts on May 7, ending with the opportunity to perform work at an

open mic session at the Rugby Tap.

Starting on May 12, designer and illustrator Rakha Madahar is offering a two-session daytime course at the Guildhouse on *Designing Your Own Tea Towel*, turning paper collage and pattern design into a unique gift.

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/2v49237c> for details, including dates, times and prices.

THE JONES FAMILY

JEWELLERS

IN-HOUSE
JEWELLERY
REPAIRS

FINE
JEWELLERY
EXPERTS

CASH FOR
GOLD & SILVER

WATCH
BATTERIES
& RESEALS

WATCH
STRAPS & PEARL
RESTRINGING

SATCHWELL WALK,
LEAMINGTON SPA
01926 882552

TALISMAN SQUARE,
KENILWORTH
01926 954271

ROYAL PRIORS,
LEAMINGTON SPA
01926 893393

WWW.TJFJEWELLERS.CO.UK



FOR APPOINTMENTS EMAIL: ENQUIRIES@TJFJEWELLERS.CO.UK

PROFESSIONAL
JEWELLER
— Awards 2025 —
RETAIL TEAM
WINNERS 2025

THE BED FACTORY

Trading since 1989
3 floors full of beds (We are bigger than we look)

Specialists in mattresses for people with back, shoulder and hip pain

Attention Arthritis sufferers



In pain with your back ?

Many people don't realise just how much their mattress can affect aches, stiffness, and overall pain, especially in the back.



Around one in six adults in England experience back pain (lasting 3+ months) at any given time.

In Warwickshire alone, it is estimated that 96,531 people suffer from back pain, that's about 17.6 % of the population.

Of those, 60,167 are estimated to have severe back pain in Warwickshire .

WHY WAIT? COME IN STORE TODAY OR CALL US ON

01926 426405

Leamington's Largest Independent Bed Retailer

We can supply a large range of beds in 1 to 2 weeks - 3' Single Beds also available - WE SUPPLY WHEN OTHERS FAIL

139 Regent Street, Royal Leamington Spa, CV32 4NX

☎ 01926 422404

sales@thebedfactory.co.uk
and www.thebedfactory.co.uk

★ Trustpilot ★★★★★

Limited Period

**FREE DELIVERY
FREE DISPOSAL**

On Orders over £499
T&Cs apply. See in Store



LEFT: James Reed from the Environment Agency prepares for a demonstration drone search operation. Picture by Marcus Mingsins 1426004MMR4



RIGHT: Coming together for Capabilities Day. Picture by Marcus Mingsins 1426004MMR2

More pictures from Capabilities Day



LEFT: Firefighter Gareth Proctor checks teddy over. Picture by Marcus Mingsins 1426004MMR7



RIGHT: Shoebox Project Director Nick Cole and Operations Manager Christoph Stieler in one of the charity's hospitals. Picture by Marcus Mingsins 1426004MMR3

Questions about care? We can help

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

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

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



Philip Rainsford



Drovers House, Rugby
☎ 07802 728447
✉ p.rainsford@wcs-care.co.uk



Westlands, Rugby
Dewar Close, Rugby
☎ 07802 728443
✉ j.rugg@wcs-care.co.uk



Josephine Rugg

Preparing for the worst brings out county's finest

EMERGENCY services in Warwickshire are better prepared than ever after coming together to plan responses to major incidents.

Warwickshire Resilience Forum's (WRF) second annual Capabilities Day saw more than 100 emergency planners and responders gather to strengthen joint working and improve how the county prepares for, and responds to, emergencies such as flooding, cyber-attacks and extreme weather.

Held at the National Ministry Centre in Coventry, the event brought together partners including Warwickshire Police, Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service, West Midlands Ambulance Service, the Environment Agency, Warwickshire

More pictures opposite

Search and Rescue and the British Red Cross.

WRF is a partnership of public, private and voluntary sector agencies that work to ensure the county is prepared to respond to and recover from emergencies.

The Capabilities Day focused on strengthening relationships, sharing learning and exploring how agencies can work together during operational incidents and periods of adverse weather.

The day included demonstrations of specialist resources used to respond to real emergencies, such as a mass decontamination exercise, a drone search operation, fire engines and a rescue boat.

Ben Brook, WRF co-chair and chief fire officer at Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service, said: "It was great to see so many colleagues from across emergency services, voluntary sector and partner organisations coming together to help make Warwickshire as prepared as it can be."

"After experiencing the wettest spring on record, it's so important to know who you're working with when someone calls you at 2am for an emergency meeting. Events like this help to turn professional relationships into trusted partnerships."

"Residents across Warwickshire also have a vital role to play. Signing up for flood alerts, preparing a simple grab bag and knowing your local emergency contacts can make a real difference. Keeping an eye on five-day weather forecast is another quick and easy way to stay informed."

"Preparing for emergencies such as flooding or severe weather doesn't have to be complicated. Small actions taken now can significantly improve your safety and give you greater peace of mind."

Visit www.warwickshireresilienceforum.org for more information about how to be better prepared.



Members of British Red Cross Emergency Response. Picture by Marcus Mings 1426004MMR1

Warwickshire Search and Rescue's Tessa Lukehurst and Phil Hewish with Julian Healey from the Environment Agency. Picture by Marcus Mings 1426004MMR6



OUR BIG SALE IS STILL ON

OPEN 7 DAYS CV6 5EY

INFLATION EVERYWHERE - BUT NOT AT CARPET MILL!

Everything is going up in price, the same for Carpets and this is why it pays to go to Carpet Mill. Manufacturers of yarn and other materials for making carpets have all had price rises and some manufacturers are busy changing their specifications to many ranges to compensate. They also get surplus rolls that they cannot sell to the big stores as they don't have enough stock left to service them.

Therefore, we are buying those rolls at a FAT DISCOUNT and passing it on to YOU.





Everything Reduced
BE QUICK

BRAND NAME CARPETS AT LOW LOW PRICES

CARPET MILL

CROMWELL STREET (OFF RED LANE) COVENTRY CV6 5EY TEL: (024) 7666 1985

SOME CUSTOMERS TRAVEL MILES - YOU DON'T HAVE TO - WE ARE HERE

www.salecarpet.uk

Russell Lane

The Jewellers of Warwick

TIME TO HAVE A SORT OUT?



Been meaning to do something with all those pieces you are no longer wearing?

NOW IS THE TIME

Gold and silver jewellery purchased.

Any amount, any condition.



Website: www.russell-lane.co.uk

Tel: 01926 494 494 | Email: sales@russell-lane.co.uk

2 High Street, Warwick CV34 4AP

Music Matters

D-vinyl delight or record rip-off?



MUSIC MATTERS!

Pete Chambers **BEM** writes for **The Observer**

Record Store Day

STAND by to buy some rare vinyl on Record Store Day, which falls on April 18.

The day has become somewhat divisive, with the record-buying public.

Some would argue that it merely exploits vinyl collectors by obdurately releasing music that is often already available.

The advent of a new format or the trick of adding coloured vinyl can suddenly make an album a collector's item – with a hefty price tag.

On the other hand, there is a school of thought that buys into record store day 100 per cent, with the 'crate-digger' elite happy to queue outside a record shop all night eager to get their hands on that new piece of limited-edition vinyl.

The ones with huge smiles on their faces as they exit the store with a tote bag full of goodies are eager to go online with the bragging rights to Neil Young's limited-edition album, explaining there were only 1,000 copies pressed worldwide and they got the last one!

Whichever side of the disc your needle comes down on, it's a personal preference; like most things, if you don't like it, don't do it.

It does, however, generate continued interest in the vinyl record and provide future generations with collectable titles that would surely die out without record store day. In Coventry, record store Just Dropped, in at FarGo Village, has long supported the event. This year the shop is linking live gigs to run alongside the retail side of things.

Artists Winter McQuinn, Sister Ray Davies and Project Overload will be on from 6pm, with the shop open from eight until late.

Other shops include Frank Harvey, at Binns Close; and Head Records and Seismic Record, in



Paul 'Dude' Smith. Picture by Andrew Lock

Leamington. All three have plenty of new releases for your delight.

Expect prime collectables this year from Taylor Swift, The Cure, Olivia Dean, Wolf Alice and Blur, Bowie, I-Roy, Gil Scott-Heron, Jah Wobble and Ian Brown.

Locally, try and get your hands on The Colourfield, *House of Love Live at ULU*, and *Sunshine Smile and Homeboy*, by Adorable.

Ska types will also want to get hold of the Madness release *Faces For Radio: The BBC Sessions 1979-1982*.

The Dude

The local music scene is in mourning over the loss of one of its finest; Paul 'Dude' Smith, who recently passed away suddenly, at the age of 68, after singing with his band The Intruders.

I'm sure the band Flat Badger, who knew him well, won't mind me using some of their lovely tribute to this extraordinary man.

"Paul was the vocalist with The Roadhogs when I first met him and went on to NDY (Not Dead Yet) and The Intruders," their

tribute stated. "This guy had a certain charisma, everybody liked him and no matter what he had going on, he still found time to come and play with us and support and promote other bands as well as having his own projects going on.

"I have lost a friend and a fellow musician – and I'm sure many of you did too.

"It is good to have lived in a time when Paul Smith was doing so too, and I will miss him being around."



Record Store Day takes place on April 18. s

The New Ocean Hotel

WESTON-SUPER-MARE

Amazing Offers
Up To 25% OFF

| MID WEEK SPRING SPECIALS | | WEEKEND BREAKS WITH FREE BAR | |
|--|----------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| All include four nights accommodation with 'All You Can Eat' full English breakfast, four course evening meal, live nightly entertainment & optional coach travel | | All include three nights accommodation with 'All You Can Eat' full English breakfast, four course evening meal, live nightly entertainment, FREE BAR 6pm-10pm & optional coach travel | |
| Monday 20th April - Friday 24th April | Was £295 NOW £251pp | Friday 24th April - Monday 27th April | Was £279 NOW £240pp |
| Monday 4th May - Friday 8th May | Was £309 NOW £258pp | Friday 1st May - Monday 4th May | Was £285 NOW £259pp |
| Monday 11th May - Friday 15th May | Was £315 NOW £262pp | Friday 8th May - Monday 11th May | Was £285 NOW £251pp |
| Monday 25th May - Friday 29th May | Was £329 NOW £272pp | Friday 15th May - Monday 18th May | Was £285 NOW £251pp |
| Monday 1st June - Friday 5th June | Was £329 NOW £272pp | Friday 22nd May - Monday 25th May | Was £295 NOW £239pp |
| Monday 8th June - Friday 12th June | Was £335 NOW £283pp | Friday 5th June - Monday 8th June | Was £295 NOW £262pp |
| Monday 31st August - Friday 4th Sept | Was £395 NOW £305pp | Friday 12th June - Monday 15th June | Was £305 NOW £268pp |
| | | Friday 19th June - Monday 22nd June | Was £315 NOW £272pp |

To book or for further information please call us on **01934 621 839** • www.newoceanhotel.co.uk



A Seasonal Guide to Revitalising Your Space

SPRING is a time of renewal and rejuvenation, making it the perfect season to tackle various tasks around the home and garden.

As warmer temperatures set in and nature reawakens, homeowners can take advantage of this opportunity to enhance their living environments. In this guide, we'll explore a multitude of jobs that can be undertaken to ensure your home and garden are ready for the warmer months, focusing on maintenance, organisation, and cultivation.

Spring Cleaning: Refreshing Your Home

One of the first and most important tasks in the spring season is to conduct a thorough spring cleaning. This involves more than just your regular cleaning routine; it's about

deep cleaning every nook and cranny of your home.

- **Decluttering:** Begin by sorting through your belongings. Gather items that you no longer need or use and consider donating them or organising a garage sale. This will not only declutter your space but also make your home more inviting.
- **Dust and Clean:** Focus on areas that are often overlooked during routine cleaning, such as ceiling fans, light fixtures, baseboards, and behind appliances. Dust accumulated over the winter can trigger allergies, so a good spring clean can greatly improve your home environment.
- **Windows and Curtains:** Take the time to clean windows inside and out, allowing natural light to stream in. Wash or replace curtains and blinds, as this can instantly refresh a room.



For all your Roofing and Roofline needs...



Big enough to cope, small enough to care.



42nd Year in Business

Your local family run business established in 1983 by Roger Smith. His wife Ann headed the office, now run by daughter Donna. Sons; Craig and Marcus can be found at work on site, as well as providing your free, no obligation quotations.

All of our work is guaranteed, so your home is safe in our hands.

To find out more about our history, view recent pictures and customer feedback, please visit our website or Facebook page.

Products and Services we offer:

- Fascias/ Barge boards/ Soffits/ Guttering/Dry Verge
- Carports/ Over door canopies/ PVCu doors
- Composite doors/Garage doors
- Concrete (Finlock) gutter lining or removal
- Cladding including textured timber effect (Fortex)
- Flat to pitched roof conversions
- Polycarbonate roofing/ Plastisol roofing
- Rubberbond fleecebacked or Single ply roofing
- Fibre cement roofing sheets
- Mock Tudor Planks



UPVC Fascia, Barge, Soffit & Guttering



Mock Tudor/ Replica Wood Boards



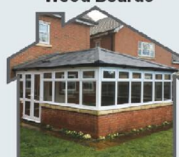
Dry Verge & Dry Ridge System



Rubberbond® FleeceBack™ EPDM Roofing



Cladding



Equinox® Tiled Conservatory Roof System



Garage Door



To find out more...
02476 494 491
www.rogersmithinstallations.co.uk
rogersmithinstallations@yahoo.co.uk
[facebook.com/rogersmithinstallations](https://www.facebook.com/rogersmithinstallations)

Roger Smith Installations

Spring Home and Garden

Garden Preparation: Embracing Nature's Growth

As the days become longer and warmer, the garden requires attention to prepare for a flourishing summer. Spring is a pivotal time for planting and nurturing your outdoor space.

- **Soil Preparation:** Start by inspecting your garden beds. Clear away any debris, weeds, or dead plants from the winter months. Consider testing your soil's pH and nutrient levels, as this will help you determine what amendments may be necessary to promote healthy

plant growth.

- **Planting:** Spring is ideal for planting a variety of flowers, vegetables, and herbs. Depending on your local climate, consider sowing seeds for vegetables such as peas, lettuce, and spinach. In terms of flowers, hardy annuals and perennials can be planted to bring a burst of colour to your garden.
- **Mulching:** Once your plants are in place, apply a layer of mulch to help retain soil moisture and suppress weeds. This will also give your garden beds a tidy appearance.




Lawn Care: Reviving Your Green Space

The lawn often requires extra care in the spring to ensure it remains lush and green throughout the growing season.

- **Mowing and Edging:** As the grass begins to grow, a regular mowing schedule will help keep it at an appropriate height. Additionally, edging the lawn can create a polished look and define borders

between lawn and garden beds.

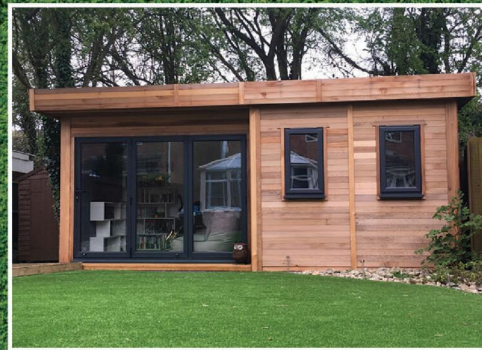
- **Overseeding:** Consider overseeding your lawn with a good quality grass seed to fill in thin or bare patches. This promotes a thicker, healthier lawn that is more resistant to pests and disease.
- **Fertilising:** Spring is the perfect time to fertilise your lawn, as it will stimulate growth. Choose a slow-release fertiliser suitable for your specific type of grass.



WARWICK BUILDINGS

Warwick Buildings
 Nightingale Lane,
 Southam Road,
 Long Itchington, Southam
 Warwickshire CV47 9AT
 (For SatNav please use
 CV47 9QZ)

Tel: 01926 815757



The UK's leading suppliers of

- Garden Offices
- Garden Rooms
- Garden Office Pods
- Garden Studios
- Garages
- Office Pods
- Posh Sheds

Opening Hours:
 Monday to Friday between 8:30am and 5pm
 Saturday between 9am and 1pm
 (By Appointment Only)

Spring Home and Garden

Creating a Vegetable Garden: Growing Your Own Food

With fresh produce increasingly sought after, consider establishing or expanding a vegetable garden. This not only provides food but connects you with the cycle of nature.



- **Choosing Crops:** Select crops that are well-suited to your climate. Start with easy-to-grow vegetables such as tomatoes, cucumbers, and peppers. Herbs like basil and mint can also thrive in pots or garden beds.

- **Raised Beds:** If you have limited space or poor soil quality, consider building raised garden beds. They can be customised to your height and will improve drainage, making gardening easier and more productive.
- **Companion Planting:** Research companion planting techniques to maximise yield and deter pests organically. For example, planting marigolds among vegetables can help protect against nematodes.

Enhancing Wildlife Habitats: Supporting Local Ecosystems

As you work on your garden, think about ways to make it more inviting for wildlife. A healthy ecosystem is beneficial not just for nature but for your garden's health.

- **Bird Feeders and Baths:** Install bird feeders or birdbaths to attract local bird species. This can help with pest control while providing enjoyment for you and your family.
- **Pollinator Plants:** Plant flowers that attract bees and butterflies, such as lavender, echinacea, and sunflowers. These plants will not only enhance your garden's beauty but also support critical pollinators.
- **Composting:** Consider starting a compost pile or bin to recycle kitchen scraps and garden waste. This will enrich your soil and reduce waste, creating a more sustainable gardening.



Conclusion: Embracing the Spirit of Spring

Spring is a magical time, full of promise and potential. Taking a proactive approach to both your home and garden cultivates an inviting atmosphere for relaxation and enjoyment. By engaging in these various jobs, you will not only maintain your living space but also create a sanctuary that reflects the beauty of the season. As you embrace the warmth and vibrancy of spring, your home and garden will flourish, providing the perfect backdrop for countless cherished memories.

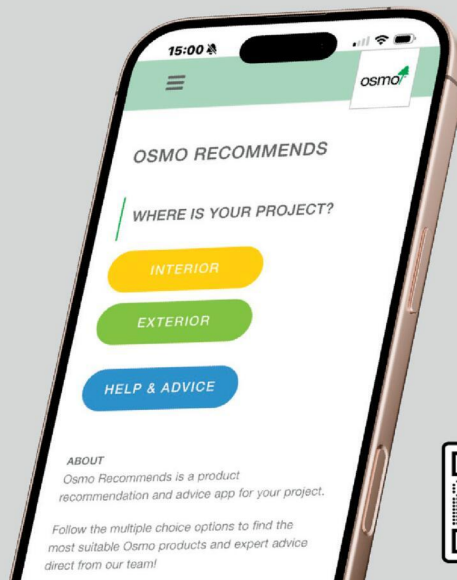
LOOKING FOR PROFESSIONAL WOODCARE ADVICE?



The Osmo Recommends App is a quick and easy tool designed to help you identify the ideal Osmo product for any project.

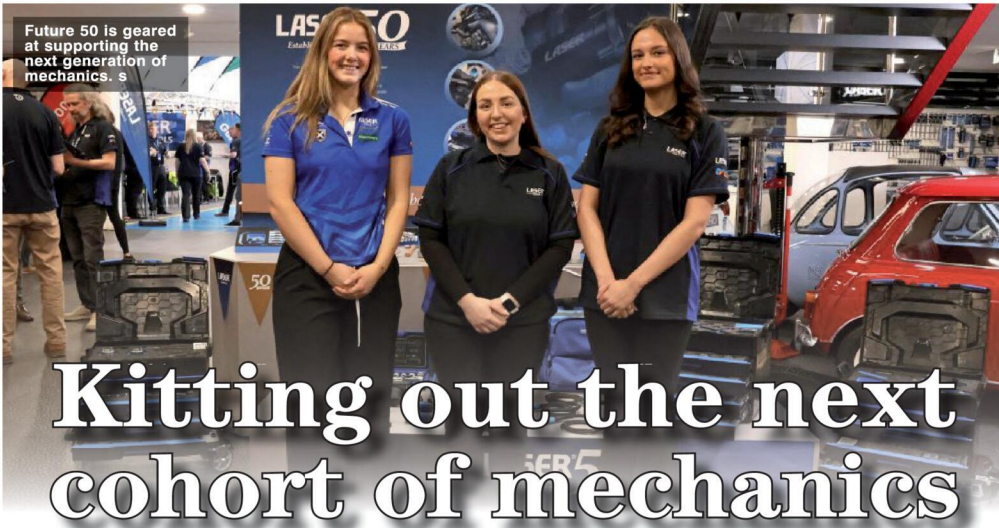
By answering a few simple questions about the wood type, location, desired finish, and level of protection required, the app instantly provides tailored product recommendations along with the correct application guidance.

Whether you're working on interior or exterior projects, the app streamlines decision-making and ensures you get the best results with the right Osmo solution.



www.osmouk.com





Kitting out the next cohort of mechanics

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

AN AUTOMOTIVE tool business in south Warwickshire is celebrating its 50th anniversary by supporting the young mechanics of the future.

Laser Tools marked half a century in business with the launch of Future 50 – a new initiative designed to support aspiring mechanics in their first steps into the automotive aftermarket.

The campaign was officially launched at a special anniversary event at the firm's head office, in Southam.

Future 50 will offer garages the opportunity to nominate their apprentices – the qualifying criteria being

those already enrolled in training and actively working within a garage – to be part of the new initiative.

The chosen Future 50 will each receive a Laser Tools Apprentice Tool Kit, complete with various products to support their development as young mechanics beginning their career journey in the industry.

Training and accreditation opportunities will also be available.

Laser Tools managing director Eddie Altham said: "We are very proud to celebrate the 50-year anniversary of Laser Tools. It's a magnificent milestone to achieve and gives us an opportunity to reflect on how far the company has come since Martin Smith founded the business.

"While it's a time to reflect, it's also

an opportunity to focus on the years ahead and the Future 50 is designed to do that by supporting the next generation of mechanics and technicians.

"With the wider automotive aftermarket facing a skills gap, it's a good time to launch the Future 50 as it provides practical support to young people beginning their career journey in the industry."

Laser Tools started as a business in 1976, when its founder, the late Martin Smith, began selling automotive tools from a market stall in Leamington.

From those humble origins, the business has grown to become one of the most respected brands in the automotive sector.

Visit www.lasertools.co.uk for more details.

Kripa's top prize

A BUSINESSWOMAN from Leamington has scooped a top award for leading the way on climate tech.

Kripa Balachandran, head of product at Mission Zero Technologies, won the team leader prize at the prestigious Salesforce Everywoman in Technology Awards.

The ceremony, in London, marked the 16th year of the programme, which celebrates the women transforming the industry through their innovation, leadership and vision.

Kripa is a Cambridge-trained engineer and people-first climate-tech leader, building real-world solutions to the climate crisis. As head of product at Mission Zero Technologies, she led a diverse, cross-functional team to deliver three first-of-a-kind direct air capture systems internationally.

Kripa champions empathetic leadership, psychological safety and execution under pressure.

Her inclusive approach has involved implementing equitable recruitment and flexible-working policies, ensuring parents and international hires thrive in an early-stage start-up environment. Those initiatives have become models for other UK climate-tech firms.

The awards aim to inspire the next generation of female talent to pursue careers in tech by shining a spotlight on inspirational women at all stages of their careers, including those taking their first steps in apprenticeships through to executives and innovative leaders running their own businesses.



ARTRIX UPDATE

HUGE REFIT ANNOUNCED AT ARTRIX THIS APRIL!

DID YOU KNOW
 ARTRIX HAS THE BIGGEST SCREEN IN BROMSGROVE

ARTRIX HAS FREE PARKING FOR ALL PATRONS
 YOU JUST NEED TO VALIDATE YOUR CAR REG.

GREAT NEWS!
 AT THE END OF APRIL, ARTRIX IS UNDERGOING A REFIT OF THE SEATING

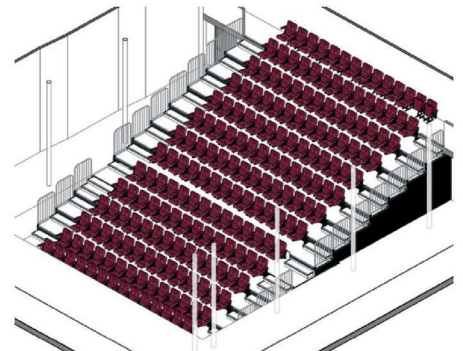
ARTRIX IS RUN BY VOLUNTEERS FOR THE PEOPLE OF BROMSGROVE

At the end of April, we will begin a refurbishment of our auditorium seating, an important step in improving the comfort and experience for everyone who visits the theatre. Alongside this, we will soon launch our new membership programme - Friends of Artrix giving supporters the opportunity to play a direct role in securing the theatre's future.

Membership will offer benefits for audiences while helping sustain the venue for generations to come. For those who want to be even more closely involved, volunteering remains one of the most powerful ways to contribute. Whether welcoming audiences, supporting events or helping shape the future of the theatre, our volunteers truly make Artrix possible.

For more info, we'd love to welcome you to our membership launch event at Artrix on the 31st May 2026, its free, nibbles and a free drink on entry.

A night of live music in the foyer, tours of the venue and meet the team.
 Sign up at: artrixbromsgrove.co.uk/membershiplaunch



AT THE END OF MAY WE WILL BE OPENING THE SPONSOR A SEAT SCHEME AT ARTRIX

£250 - 10 YEARS

FOR MORE INFO SPEAK TO A MEMBER OF THE ARTRIX STAFF ON THE LAUNCH EVENT (31ST MAY 5PM-7PM)

OR EMAIL MEMBERSHIP@ARTRIXBROMSGROVE.CO.UK



PLAYING FREE: SHOEGAZING duo Sister Ray Davies play a free gig at Coventry's Just Dropped In on April 18.

It's part of Adam Morrow and Jamie Sego's UK tour which will also see support slots with Chapterhouse and Acid Mothers Temple.

The Alabama outfit's critically-acclaimed debut album Holy Island is out now via Sonic Cathedral and Well Kept Secret. They met when Adam played on sessions at Jamie's Portside Sound studio (the former Muscle Shoals Sound Studio B) for artists such as John Paul White, Belle Adair and Donnie Fritts and they realised they had much in common, both personally and musically.

The name – a mix of The Velvet Underground song and The Kinks' frontman, which originated on a list of tongue-in-cheek monikers – is actually a signifier of the duo's mix of Americanness and Anglophilia.



Sister Ray Davies play Coventry's Dropped In on April 18. Picture by Jeff Hanson.

Cult classic is brought to the stage

THE ROYAL Shakespeare Company has announced production dates for the world premiere of Game of Thrones: The Mad King, a new play based on the novels by George R. R. Martin.

Game of Thrones: The Mad King, adapted by Duncan Macmillan and directed by Dominic Cooke, will have its world premiere at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford on July 20 and will run until September 5, with official opening night on August 8.

Priority booking will go on sale from 10am on Tuesday (April 14) with public booking from 10am on April 22. For early access, visit rsc.org.uk/join to become an RSC member.

Game of Thrones: The Mad King is a sweeping new stage epic spanning the final years before the events of the novels, this powerful drama reveals a legendary chapter of Westerosi history.

RSC Co-Artistic Directors Daniel



Evans and Tamara Harvey said: "We are thrilled to share the full creative team and announce performance dates for Game of Thrones: The Mad King."

"This production brings together some of theatre's most visionary talents to reimagine George R. R. Martin's world for the stage. In a bold new configuration of the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, audiences will find themselves at the very heart of the action — immersed in the intrigue and theatrical spectacle that promises to make this production truly epic."

"It's an ambitious and exhilarating collaboration, and we can't wait to welcome audiences into this

A WELCOME SIGN: AN AUTHOR from Kenilworth will be signing copies of her debut novel at her local bookshop.

Anna Byk will be at Kenilworth Books on Saturday April 18 for their Saturday Signing event between 10.30am and 1.30pm.

It's Never Really Over is a contemporary story centred on five interconnected women and partially set in Warwickshire, with references to Stratford, Shakespeare and some regional landmarks.

Written in monologue style, each woman begins their story by describing to the reader their present moment setting, before going back in time to relay

their life story and ending by summarising their present circumstances.

The women range from mid-thirties to seventies in age and each describe what has happened and what could have been - the lost lovers, fortunes, failures, and missed opportunities.

Their stories show how fate pushes you to where you need to be, whether you like it or not, and how, when it comes to certain aspects of their lives, it's never really over.

Visit www.linktr.ee/anna-bykwriter for more details.

Anna Byk will be signing copies of her debut novel at Kenilworth Books.



★★★★★ Trustpilot

By Coach from Coventry, Rugby

Reader Travel

Balmoral Castle & the Scottish Highlands
Departing Sun 31 May '26

Let the raw beauty of the Scottish Highlands capture your imagination on this 7-day tour. Highlights include Balmoral Castle, Loch Ness, the Strathspey Steam Railway and Highland towns like Aviemore and Ballater...as stirring as the bagpipes themselves!

SO MUCH INCLUDED...

- ✓ Return coach travel from Rugby, Coventry
- ✓ First & last night at a selected hotel (JG3 rating) with dinner & breakfast
- ✓ 4 nights at the Coylumbridge Resort Hotel, near Aviemore (JG2+ rating) with dinner & breakfast
- ✓ Journey on the Strathspey Steam Railway
- ✓ En-route visits to Stirling & Greta Green
- ✓ Excursions to Blair Castle & Gardens, Aviemore, Fort William, Balmoral Castle, Ballater, Inverness & Loch Ness Visitor Centre

7 Days by Coach only £789
Single Supplement £230

Northumberland, Hadrian's Wall, Holy Island & Alnwick Castle
Departing Mon 8 Jun '26

Explore the very best Northumberland has to offer on this captivating break! Enjoy excursions to the famous Roman site, Hadrian's Wall and the unique Holy Island of Lindisfarne, two of the most significant and unspoilt sights in the UK.

SO MUCH INCLUDED...

- ✓ Return coach travel from Rugby
- ✓ 4 nights at the Leonardo Hotel, Newcastle Quayside (JG3 rating) with dinner & breakfast
- ✓ Guided tour of Hadrian's Wall
- ✓ Excursions to the Holy Island of Lindisfarne, Alnwick Castle, Hadrian's Wall & Chesters Fort

Optional excursion to Durham (£15pp)

5 Days by Coach only £499
Single Supplement £120

Great Little Trains of North Wales & Portmeirion
Departing Mon 8 Jun '26

Enjoy a visit to the unique, Italianate village of Portmeirion and discover the historic railways and meandering tramways of North Wales on this fantastic five-day break, based in Llandudno, the 'Queen of the Welsh Resorts'.

SO MUCH INCLUDED...

- ✓ Return coach travel from Rugby, Coventry
- ✓ 4 nights at the Baytree Hotel, Llandudno (JG3 rating) with dinner & breakfast
- ✓ Entertainment some evenings
- ✓ Heritage journeys on the Welsh Highland Railway, Great Orme Tramway & Ffestiniog Railway
- ✓ Free time in Llandudno
- ✓ Excursions to Caernarfon & Portmeirion

5 Days by Coach only £539
Single Supplement £80

For more information, or to book, please call **03332 342 514** Quote **osg** or visit us online at [justgohols](http://justgohols.com)

justgoholidays.com/OSG

033 numbers are free within inclusive minutes packages otherwise standard rates apply.

These packages are subject to just go holidays terms & conditions. Coach bookings are protected by Bonded Coach Holidays & the Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Ltd. Air holidays are ATOL protected 102689. Prices are per person based on two people sharing a room & included on bookings made up to 7 days post publication, after which prices may fluctuate. Calls to 033 numbers are free with inclusive minutes packages, else standard rates apply. Choices of date, hotel, a port or pick up location may incur a supplement. Please see website or call for full details.

Parents await school places

WARWICKSHIRE families who applied for a reception or Year 3 junior school place for September will soon receive their child's school offer.

Emails will go out to parents on national offer day, on Thursday.

Warwickshire County Council (WCC) will automatically accept all school place offers, unless alternative arrangements are needed. That means parents and carers do not need to take action to secure their child's place. Instead, families should keep an eye out for updates directly from the school their child has been offered, including information about uniform requirements, any transition activities and term dates, which will also be available on each school's website.

John Coleman, WCC executive director for children and young people, said: "Starting school for the first time, or moving between an infant and junior school, is a really exciting time for young children and their families and we're delighted to be supporting them at this time."

"Anyone that applied by the January 15 deadline will receive an email from us on the national offer day with details of their child's school place and, if any parent or carer needs extra support, the admissions team are available to help."

Some families may find that their child has not been offered a place at one or more of their preferred schools and, in a very small number of cases, not at any of the schools they applied for.

This happens when schools receive more applications than they have places available and when other applicants meet the published admissions criteria more closely.

All children who are not offered a preferred school will automatically be placed on a waiting list for those schools.

Waiting list positions will be available from April 30 and are updated regularly.

Families will then be notified if a place becomes available.

Visit www.warwickshire.gov.uk/primary place for more details.

Max makes history at citizen ceremony

by Ian Hughes
ian.hughes@bullivantmedia.com

HISTORY may have been made in Warwickshire as a young high sheriff played a formal role in a British citizenship ceremony for possibly the first time.

Max Allen, from Ashlawn School in Rugby, joined High Sheriff of Warwickshire Karen Lynch in officiating proceedings, marking what was believed to be a first.

The young high sheriff programme is a Warwickshire initiative and this week's moment represented a significant step in placing young people at the heart of civic life.

The high sheriff is one of the county's civic dignitaries, who delivers the formal address

welcoming new citizens. At the ceremony in Warwick, Max shared the responsibility, playing a central role in welcoming attendees and helping lead the proceedings.

People from 13 countries were formally welcomed as British citizens, recognising the role they already play within the communities of Warwickshire.

Citizenship ceremonies mark the final stage in the naturalisation process.

During the ceremony, people take an oath, or affirmation, of allegiance and are presented with their certificate of naturalisation. That confirms their status as British citizens and enables them to apply for a British passport.

For many, the moment follows a lengthy, often complex

process, making the ceremony an important milestone.

Speaking after the event, Ms Lynch said: "It was a privilege to share this moment with Max. This small but important step reflects our belief that young people can be actively involved in civic life. Max represented his role, and young people across Warwickshire, with great maturity and pride."

YOUNGSTERS gathered to welcome the newly elected Warwickshire Youth Council and recognise the contributions of those stepping down.

An event at Shire Hall, in Warwick, brought together youngsters representing communities from across the county, with their families, to mark the start of a new two-year term and celebrate the positive

impact made by young people in the county.

The youth council plays an important role in gathering the views of young people and ensuring their voices are heard by decision-makers. This year, 30 young people aged 11 to 17 have been elected and will serve a two-year term, representing young people locally and nationally, and working with councillors, MPs and partners to influence change.

While 30 members have been formally elected, all young people who took part will continue to have opportunities to get involved. Those not elected will be invited to join the wider youth council network, helping to ensure as many young voices as possible remain part of Warwickshire's youth participation work.

Historic: Susan Rasmussen, who will take over as Warwickshire's 692nd high sheriff this weekend, with young high sheriff Max Allen and current high sheriff Karen Lynch. s



TRUST MARK

Checkatrade

Rated people

better homes · better work · better lives

Roofing Installations Ltd

Yell



PROFESSIONAL & FRIENDLY SERVICE

Gutter Cleaning from £25

- NEW ROOFS • FLAT ROOFS • DRY RIDGE/VERGE • ROOF CLEANING
- EAVES PROTECTIVE SYSTEMS • UPVC FASCIAS, SOFFITS & GUTTERING
- ALL TYPES OF ROOFING REPAIRS

A local based company in Rugby covering surrounding areas

07475 891709

01788 227160

www.trustmarkroofing.co.uk

Heading to the garden centre? Here's a handy phrase book...

WANDERING into a garden centre can feel like arriving in a foreign country without a phrase book.

As part of its Make It Bloom campaign, British Garden Centres wants to change that by sharing knowledge and language of the garden centre floor.

Annual: A plant that completes its entire life cycle within a single year. Annuals grow, flower, set seed, and then finish.

Biennial: This type of plant takes two years to complete its life cycle, growing leaves in year one and flowering in year two.

Deciduous: Put simply, this is a tree or shrub that sheds its leaves at the end of the growing season and grows them back the following year.

Ericaceous: A plant that thrives in acidic soil, which has a low pH. Blueberries, Camellias, Azaleas and Rhododendrons are all ericaceous plants.

Half Hardy: These plants can tolerate low temperatures, but they need protecting when hard frosts arrive.

Hardy: The gardener's dream: plants that can handle even the coldest British winters without any extra help from you.



Herbaceous: A plant that dies back down to the ground over winter but pushes up fresh new growth each spring.

Perennial: Comes back year after year, season after season. Unlike annuals, you plant a perennial once and enjoy it for many years.

Tender: Plants that will not survive a frost outdoors, like dahlias, begonias and bananas. Tender plants need to come indoors or into a frost-free greenhouse before the first cold snap.

Shrub: A woody plant that is smaller

than a tree and typically branches from the base rather than from a single trunk. Hardy shrubs need little attention once established, making them one of the best investments you can make in your garden.

Understanding plant labels

Every plant in a British Garden Centres store carries a label that tells you at a glance what that plant needs to thrive. Here is a straightforward guide to the ones you'll see most often.

Full Shade: This plant can survive on minimal direct sunlight, making it ideal for shady corner spots, and east or north facing gardens where the sun rarely reaches.

Partial Sun / Shade: Thrives in early morning or late afternoon sun but needs shelter from harsh midday rays.

Full Sun: Perfectly at home in dry, hot conditions.

Bee symbol: Plants carrying this symbol will attract bees and butterflies into your garden.

Grown by Us: When you see the British Garden Centres 'Grown by Us' badge, those plants were nurtured from the very start in our own nursery.

Julian Palphramand, Head of Plants at British Garden Centres, said: "We want every person who visits one of our centres to leave feeling more inspired and more confident than when they arrived, and that starts with making our world easy to understand."

Enjoy Exclusive, Evergreen Spring Edition of

Seasons



Following on from the fantastic response to our debut 'Winter' edition of **Seasons**, we're delighted to announce that **Seasons** 'Spring' edition has now Sprung.

As the days grow longer and our towns, villages and the countryside emerge from the long dark days of winter, we are all enjoying the arrival of the 'Spring' of 2026.

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

The 'Spring' edition of **Seasons** is a celebration of all things 'local'. It's uplifting, inspiring and quintessentially local across the three counties of Warwickshire, Worcestershire and the West Midlands.

The beautifully glossy A5 magazine is freely available in print, from a major supermarket near you - and, the 'Spring' edition of **Seasons** is also available 24/7 on line and...it's being showcased across all of our local Observer and Standard Newspapers, websites and social media platforms, and will continue to be so, for the next 12 months.

Enjoy the exclusive, evergreen, 'Spring' edition of **Seasons** by logging on to www.seasons-magazine.com

You can still browse the 'Winter' edition of **Seasons** 24/7 and now, you can enjoy the 'Spring' edition of **Seasons** too!

If you'd like your business to be featured in the next edition of **Seasons**, or if you'd like more details - just call **01527 588688** and speak to Kelly, Caroline, Roisin, Debra, Paul, Gareth or Sharon.

Seasons magazine is brought to you, by your local **Observer** and your local **Standard** Newspaper Team

THE BOATHOUSE

AT ARROW VALLEY VISITOR CENTRE

WATER ACTIVITIES

| PEAK SEASON | OFF PEAK SEASON |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| SCHOOL HOLIDAYS MARCH - SEPTEMBER | SCHOOL TERM TIME MARCH - SEPTEMBER |
| MON - SAT 12PM - 7:30PM | FRI - SAT 12PM - 7:30PM |
| SUNDAYS 1PM - 7:30PM | SUNDAYS 1PM - 7:30PM |



PADDLEBOARDS



SPORTS PEDALOS



ROWING BOATS



SWAN PEDALOS



KAYAKS



ARROW VALLEY
VISITOR CENTRE



RUBICON
LEISURE



SCAN HERE TO BOOK.
WALK-IN'S ALSO
WELCOME!

Enjoying walks of discovery



MANY dog owners notice the same change when spring arrives: walks suddenly take twice as long.

Dogs that previously walked calmly may begin pulling on the lead, stopping frequently to sniff, or becoming distracted by every scent along the path.

According to Jo Hinds, COAPE-Certified Behaviourist & Dynamic Dog Practitioner at Years, the fresh dog food subscription service (<https://www.years.com/pages/pet-panel>), the change is largely driven by the dramatic increase in smells that appear outdoors during spring.

She said: "Dogs rely on their sense of smell far more than humans do."

"In spring, the environment becomes much richer in scents from plants, wildlife and other animals. For dogs, this creates a huge amount of new information to explore."

Why dogs sniff more when spring arrives

A dog's sense of smell is estimated to be tens of thousands of times stronger than a human's, allowing them to detect scents people cannot perceive.

During winter, colder temperatures and reduced wildlife activity mean there are fewer scent trails in parks and countryside areas.

But as the weather warms up, wildlife activity increases and plants begin releasing stronger scents.

"This combination creates what is essentially a sensory explosion for dogs," says Jo Hinds. "Sniffing allows them to gather information about other animals, territory and their surroundings, which is why walks can become much slower during this time of year."

The things owners shouldn't do when dogs become distracted

While the behaviour is natural, experts say certain reactions from owners can make walks more frustrating for both dog and owner.

Common mistakes to avoid include:

- Constantly pulling the lead – this can increase stress and make the dog more reactive
- Punishing sniffing behaviour – sniffing is a natural and healthy activity for dogs
- Rushing walks – dogs often benefit from time to explore their environment
- Inconsistent training – mixed signals can make pulling behaviour worse

"Sniffing is actually an important form of mental stimulation for dogs," explains Jo Hinds.

"Allowing sniffing during walks can actually help with

emotional regulation, when they are relaxed in the environment, which can reduce pulling and provide enrichment."

How to manage distracted dogs on spring walks

Experts recommend balancing exploration with training to keep walks enjoyable.

Helpful strategies include:

- Allowing sniffing during walks
- Using reward-based training to reinforce loose lead behaviour
- Walking in quieter areas with fewer distractions
- Providing mental enrichment at home to reduce over-excitement outdoors

"Dogs aren't being stubborn," adds Jo Hinds. "They are simply responding to a much more stimulating environment."

For owners, a little patience can go a long way.

"Spring is an exciting time for dogs because their world suddenly becomes full of new smells," says Jo Hinds. "Understanding that can help make walks more enjoyable for both dog and owner."

Why dogs roll in fox poo and strong smells

In spring, Many dogs also suddenly start rolling enthusiastically in fox poo,

mud and other strong smells found in parks and countryside areas.

According to Jo Hinds, this behaviour is completely natural and often becomes more common during the spring months.

"In many cases, dogs may simply find the scent exciting," says Jo Hinds. "Strong smells stimulate their brains in a way that humans don't experience, so rolling in them can be enjoyable or enriching for the dog."

What owners should do if their dog rolls in something unpleasant

While scent rolling is a natural behaviour, experts recommend a few practical steps to manage it:

- Keep dogs on lead in areas where wildlife is common
- Use recall training to interrupt rolling behaviour quickly
- Carry wipes or water when walking in muddy or rural areas
- Wash dogs with a gentle shampoo if they roll in animal waste

"Although the behaviour can be frustrating for owners, it's usually harmless," adds Jo Hinds. "Rolling in scents is simply part of how dogs explore the world around them."

COMPETITION TIME...COMPETITION TIME...COMPETITION TIME...COMPETITION TIME...COMPETITION TIME.



West Midlands SAFARI PARK

Hop into the Easter festivities at West Midlands Safari Park's Easter Eggstravaganza.

Meet Bramble Bunny and Chirpy Chick, marvel at our brand-new butterfly stilt walker, take part in a quest to earn a chocolatey treat and enjoy a range of themed activities for the whole family. You're sure to have an egg-citing time!

BRAMBLE BUNNY'S BASH
Join Bramble Bunny and his friend in their Easter party show. Bursting with magic, fun and games, plus some eggcellent puns, families are sure to have a cracking time!

MEET CHIRPY CHICK
Our eggcitable friend, Chirpy Chick, will be out and about at intervals throughout the day to stretch her wings and have pictures taken with you!



WIN!
A 'Summer' WMSP Family Ticket

- Guess the number of eggs in the giant egg in the Discovery Trail for chance to win a stay in either the Giraffe or Rhino Safai Lodge
- Easter Craft Club -insect themed arts and crafts
- Photo competition to win 4xGold Annual Passes
- Eggsplorers Trail - little eggsplorers can follow the clues and earn a chocolatey prize

NEW - PETAL AND PROFESSOR POLLEN
Brand-new for this year, come and meet our new characters and help Professor Pollen on his search for the most elusive butterfly in the world.

BZZZZZ ABOUT NATURE
Over Easter, our Conservation Team will be championing native species and raising awareness about the amazing animals that call Britain home. Learn more about what native species you could spot on your journey around WMSP, earn a sticker and find out what you can do to help in your garden.

DAILY TALKS
Learn more about our red panda family, watch our brilliant sea lions, or hear about our smaller, fluffy creatures in one of our daily talks or shows.

And MUCH MUCH MORE.





For your chance to win a 'Summer' WMSP Family Ticket, so you and your family can pop into Summer-time fun at West Midlands Safari Park, just answer the following question:

What is the name of the Professor who is searching for the most elusive butterfly in the world?

Simply email your answer, and your email contact details to:

Competitions@bullivantmedia.com

All entries must be in by noon on 16th April 2026

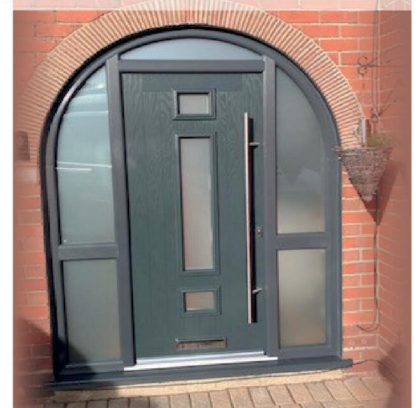


BIRMINGHAM GLASS SERVICES LTD



**FAMILY
RUN
BUSINESS**

**EXPERTISE
BUILT OVER
DECADES**



WE MANUFACTURE & INSTALL

- Flush Casement Windows ***NEW***
- Composite doors
- **Windows:** UPVC casement, bow, bay & shaped
- **Doors:** UPVC sliding, French, bi-fold, patio, aluminium
- Secondary and triple glazing
- Conservatories and bespoke orangeries
- Soffits, fascias and guttering
- Skypods and roof lanterns
- Aluminium windows and doors

WE ALSO PROVIDE A FULL GLAZING SERVICE!

- ✓ Replacements of broken or misted units
- ✓ Window & door repairs
- ✓ Mirrors & glass cut to size
- ✓ In-house trade counter

CALL TODAY FOR A FREE QUOTATION
TEL: 0121 4779799

www.birminghamglass.co.uk | enquiries@birminghamglass.co.uk

SUDOKU

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

EASY

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

HARD

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

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.

Judi Dench films

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

Solutions opposite

CROSSWORD

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

ACROSS

- Skill (7)
- Undid (6)
- Upper hand (7)
- Idle talk (6)
- Engage (6)
- Benevolence (8)
- Outer (8)
- Whirlpool (6)
- Frugality (6)
- Absorbed (7)
- Limited (6)
- Capricious (7)

DOWN

- Funeral procession (7)
- Brief notice (7)
- Roar (6)
- Ornament for the wrist (8)
- Small (6)
- Push (6)
- Unskilled (8)
- Tasteless (7)
- Agitation (7)
- Ceremonious (6)
- Cord (6)
- Racial (6)

Scribble pad

LADDER

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

- River crossing
- Affectionate
- Parry
- Nurse
- Canvas shelter



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.

- 12385 gives a large bird;
- 439 gives a fish;
- 876 gives another fish.

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

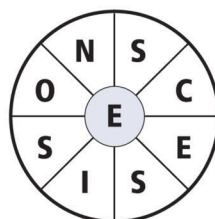
CODEWORD

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

WORDWHEEL

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

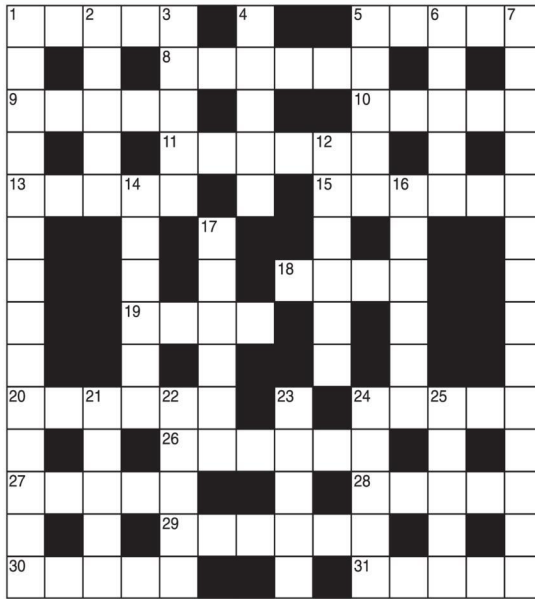


How you rate
 8 words: average
 12 words: good
 16 words: very good
 20 or more: excellent.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- One of the five senses (5)
- A disciple of Zeno (5)
- A bluish-purple colour (6)
- A couple of game birds (5)
- Letter of the Greek alphabet (5)
- Style of architecture in the 11th-12th centuries (6)
- Capital of Pas-de-Calais département (5)
- Small, slender-bodied animal related to stoats, etc. (6)
- Legendary founder of Carthage (4)
- A shoemaker's aid for shaping footwear (4)
- Iridescent glaze applied to porcelain and pottery (6)
- A follower of a religion popular in India (5)
- South African antelope (6)
- Royal burgh on the River Lossie (5)
- Freshwater fish of the carp family (5)
- Bulb used for flavouring (6)
- Slow dance resembling the Spanish habanera (5)
- & 4. Famous English sculptor (5,5)



DOWN

- Novelist whose works include The Adventures of Peregrine Pickle (6,8)
- See 22 Down
- On equal terms; quits (5)
- See 31 Across
- Unit of weight equal to 14 pounds (5)
- Signs of future events (5)
- Irish taoiseach, succeeded as leader of Fianna Fáil by Albert Reynolds (7,7)
- Covering for protection from the sun, etc. (6)
- A kind of charm (6)
- Small South American relative of the guinea pig (6)
- A network of communications, transportation, or distribution (6)
- Francoise ---, author of Bonjour Tristesse, A Certain Smile etc. (5)
- & 2. Beetle, real name Richard Starkey (5,5)
- An arctic and sub-arctic marten (5)
- Lower half of a divided door (5)
- A light silk dress fabric (5)

SOLUTIONS

ACROSS: 1 Taste; 5 Stolt; 8 Violet; 9 Brace; 10 Omega; 11 Norman; 13 Arras; 15 Weasel; 18 Didot; 19 Last; 20 Lustre; 24 Hindu; 26 Impala; 27 Elgin; 28 Trench; 29 Garlic; 30 Tango; 31 Henry. DOWN: 1 Tobias; 2 Smollett; 2 Star; 3 Evens; 4 Moore; 5 Stone; 6 Omens; 7 Charles Haughey; 12 Avonng; 14 Amulet; 16 Agouti; 17 System; 21 Sagan; 22 Ringo; 23 Sable; 24 Halc; 25 Nimon.

General Knowledge Crossword

ACROSS: 4 Ability; 8 Opened; 9 Mastery; 10 Tattle; 11 Enlist; 12 Goodwill; 18 External; 20 Vortex; 21 Thrift; 22 Imbibe; 23 Frite; 24 Flighty; Down: 1 Corage; 2 Mention; 3 Below; 5 Bracelet; 6 Little; 7 Thrust; 13 Inexpert; 14 Inspid; 15 Flutter; 16 Formal; 17 String; 19 Ethnic.

Crossword

WORDWHEEL Pathfinder Mrs Henderson Presents, Skyfall, My Week with Marilyn, Philomena, Jane Eyre, Wetherby, Pride and Prejudice, A Handful of Dust, Ladies in Lavender, The Shipping News, Iris, Jack and Sarah, Niner Shakespeare in Love, Dead Cert, Notes on a Scandal, Chocolat, Tea with Mussolini, A Study in Terror, STOCKYARD

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

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

Hard

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

Easy Sudoku



CoventryObserver.co.uk LeamingtonObserver RugbyObserver

It's time to Like, Follow & Subscribe

Don't be LEFT BEHIND.....

- CoventryObserver
- LeamingtonObserver
- RugbyObserver

- @CovObserverNews
- @LeamObs
- @RugbyObserver

- CovObserver
- Leamington.Observer
- Rugby.Observer

BREAKING NEWS WHAT'S ON SPORT INTERVIEWS

Out and about across the county

Warwickshire residents are being encouraged to take up the roll and stroll challenge.

Warwick District Council Notice of the Introduction of a Council Tax Premium on Second Homes

At the Full Council meeting on Wednesday 25 March 2026, Warwick District Council approved the introduction of a 100% Council Tax premium on second homes from 1 April 2027.

This decision will allow the Council to apply the additional charge on substantially furnished properties that are not used as a main residence from the start of the next financial year (1 April 2027), in line with statutory requirements to provide one year's notice before changes take effect.

The additional premium is permitted following the introduction of new government legislation in 2023, making changes to the Local Government Finance Act 1992 giving local authorities in England powers designed to encourage second homeowners to bring properties back into full-time use.

Warwick District Council's intention in implementing this council tax premium is to encourage owners of second homes to make their homes available for permanent occupation and thereby improving the supply of housing. Having homes being used for permanent occupation is also likely to improve the sustainability of local services, in that residents are more likely to interact with and support the local economy.

This followed a public consultation and consideration of an impact assessment. The district-wide consultation was held between December 2025 and January 2026 and received 502 responses, with 65.5% supporting the introduction of the premium. Respondents highlighted the positive impact the policy could have on the local housing market and benefits to the community.

Andrew Rollins, Chief Financial Officer, 25/03/2026



A ROLL and stroll challenge is encouraging Warwickshire residents to walk, wheel and cycle this May.

The challenge, led by Warwickshire County Council and Love to Ride, celebrates all forms of active travel.

Residents can take part by walking, wheeling or cycling anywhere, at any time. Every trip counts, whether it is for the school run, commuting to work or for health and wellbeing purposes, with the focus on being active and moving each day in ways that work for each individual.

By logging their trips and getting active daily, no matter the distance travelled, residents can win prizes.

There are many benefits to moving more, including improved mental and physical wellbeing and saving money on fuel. Roll and Stroll is all about celebrating the benefits and

helping residents to build small and sustainable habits that will hopefully last a lifetime.

WCC's communities spokesperson Mark Ryder said: "We are delighted to bring the Roll and Stroll month challenge to Warwickshire this May. Active travel is a cornerstone of our commitment to creating healthier, happier, and better-connected communities. Whether you are walking to the shops, wheeling through your local park, or cycling to work or school, every journey logged is a step towards improving your own physical and mental wellbeing.

"This fantastic partnership with Love to Ride makes building sustainable habits fun, free, and incredibly rewarding. I wholeheartedly encourage all our residents, schools, and workplaces to sign up, get moving, and enjoy the many benefits of active travel."

Visit www.lovetoride.net/warwickshire to get involved.

Check out our E-Editions!

Coventry Observer .co.uk

Upgraded route set to improve

Gain Much Needed Extra Space With Our New Offer For Your Family And Friends

Windows Plus

Windows | Doors | Conservatories | Patios | Fencing & Soffits

Windows Plus Take for a quote at our best price 02416 238222

www.windows-plus.co.uk

Rugby & Lutterworth Observer

Izzy di her to

Are you looking to i your drives

DRIVES

Are you looking to i your drives

DRIVES

Are you looking to i your drives

DRIVES

Tel: 0800 363259 | Mob: 07773 911592 | www.drives.co.uk

Leamington Observer

Homes to a re

Are you looking to i your drives

DRIVES

Are you looking to i your drives

DRIVES

Are you looking to i your drives

DRIVES

Tel: 0800 363259 | Mob: 07773 911592 | www.drives.co.uk

www.coventryobserver.co.uk/editions

www.rugbyobserver.co.uk/editions

www.leamingtonobserver.co.uk/editions

The same paper you love on your mobile, tablet and computer



Classified

TELEPHONE 01527 588688 FACSIMILE 01527 584371

PUBLIC NOTICES

Warwickshire County Council

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
Warwickshire County Council has made the following Temporary Traffic Orders:
PUBLIC FOOTPATH R99 IN THE PARISH OF CHURCHOVER
Order Effect: Footpath closed to all traffic at Grid references 499796 and 500799.
Reason for Order: For public safety because works are being carried out on or near to the footpath.
Order Commences: 15 April 2026 for up to 6 months.
Anticipated Completion: 9 September 2026.
Access & Diversion: R100, E20630 and vice versa.
Contractor: Network Archaeology Ltd, Tel: 07776 023473.

RUGBY WESTERN RELIEF ROAD, RUGBY
Order Effect: All vehicles will be prohibited from making a Right Turn into Parkfield Road, Rugby.
Reason for Order: To enable repair/replacement of defective manhole covers and frame.
Order Commences: 17 April 2026 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 17 April 2026.
Contractor: CSP, Tel: 07918 298599.

TEMPORARY SPEED LIMIT RESTRICTION 40MPH, HINKLEY ROAD, WOLVEY
Order Effect: A 40mph speed limit will be imposed.
Reason for Order: The safe renewal of a telegraph pole.
Order Commences: 14 April 2026 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 14 April 2026.
Contractor: Quantum TM, Tel: 01724 786286.

PYTCHLEY ROAD, RUGBY
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.
Reason for Order: To repair/replace a manhole frame and cover. Closure 08.00hrs-16.00hrs.
Order Commences: 15 April 2026 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 15 April 2026.
Access & Diversion: Pytchley Road, Faraday Road, Southfield Road, Cromwell Road and vice versa.
Contractor: CSP, Tel: 07918 298599.

PUBLIC FOOTPATH FROM CROWTHORNS TO CONISTON CLOSE, RUGBY
Order Effect: Footpath closed to all traffic.
Reason for Order: Works to renew water mains in the footpath.
Order Commences: 13 April 2026 for up to 6 months.
Anticipated Completion: 17 May 2026.
Access & Diversion: Footpath from Crowthorns to Coniston Close, Coniston Close, Footpath from Opp No52 to Opp No110 Hawlands and vice versa.
Contractor: Severn Trent Water, Tel: 0800 783 4444.

EASENHALL ROAD, HARBOROUGH MAGNA
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.
Reason for Order: Works to renew water mains within carriageway and verge.
Order Commences: 16 April 2026 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 14 April 2026.
Access & Diversion: Main Street, Rugby Road and vice versa.
Contractor: Severn Trent Water, Tel: 0800 783 4444.

TESWATER CLOSE, LONG LAWFIELD
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.
Reason for Order: Works to repair/replace defective frame and covers, closed 08.00hrs-18.00hrs.
Order Commences: 13 April 2026 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 13 April 2026.
Access & Diversion: No diversion available.
Contractor: Customer Solutions Plus, Tel: 07918 298599.

NORTHAMPTON LANE, DUNCHURCH
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.
Reason for Order: Works to repair/replace defective frames and covers, closed 09.30hrs-15.30hrs.
Order Commences: 13 April 2026 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 13 April 2026.
Access & Diversion: Cavston Lane, Rugby Road, Northampton Lane and vice versa.
Contractor: CSP, Tel: 07918 389363.

LONGSTORK ROAD, RUGBY
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.
Reason for Order: Works to repair/replace manhole frame and covers, closed 08.00hrs-18.00hrs.
Order Commences: 14 April 2026 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 14 April 2026.

Access & Diversion: Crackthorne Drive, Tower Furlong, Longstork Road and vice versa.
Contractor: Customer Solutions Plus, Tel: 07918 298599.

MILL FURLONG, RUGBY
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.
Reason for Order: Works to repair/replace defective manhole frame and cover, closed 08.00hrs-16.00hrs.
Order Commences: 16 April 2026 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 16 April 2026.
Access & Diversion: Mill Furlong, Benches Furlong, Longstork Road and vice versa.
Contractor: Customer Solutions Plus, Tel: 07918 298599.

CAWSTON LANE, DUNCHURCH
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic from Thurleston Drive to Coventry Road.
Reason for Order: Core hole drilling to monitor road construction.
Order Commences: 14 April 2026 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 14 April 2026.
Access & Diversion: Coventry Road, Alwyn Road, Northampton Lane, Cavston Lane and vice versa.
Contractor: RMC Ltd, Tel: 01527 516707.

OLIVER STREET, RUGBY
Order Effect: One way road closure to vehicular traffic on westbound branch.
Reason for Order: To replace/repair a manhole frame and cover. 08.00hrs-16.00hrs.
Order Commences: 12 April 2026 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 12 April 2026.

Access & Diversion: Evreux Way, Corporation Street, Warwick Street, Lawrence Sheriff Street, Dunchurch Road, Russelshelm Way, Bliton Road, Lawford Road, Oliver Street.
Contractor: CSP, Tel: 07918 298599.

B4112 PAILTON ROAD/RUGBY ROAD/HARBOROUGH ROAD/MAIN STREET, HARBOROUGH MAGNA/NEWBOLD
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic between Back Lane/ Montlio Lane and Parkfield Road/Brownover Road.
Reason for Order: Carriageway patching and works. 09.30hrs-15.30hrs.
Order Commences: 13 April 2026 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 17 April 2026.
Access & Diversion: B4112 Rugby Road, B4428 Lutterworth Road, A5 Watling Street, A426 Leicester Road, A4071 Newbold Road, B4112 Newbold 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 415302.

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

REGENT STREET, REGENT PLACE, BANK STREET AND HENRY STREET, RUGBY
Order Effect: Roads closed to vehicular traffic as follows: Regent Street, Bank Street and Henry Street are closed in its entirety. Regent Place from number 11 Regent Place to Regent Street.

Reason for Order: To facilitate Rugby Food Fest 2026, closed 04.00hrs-20.30hrs.
Order Commences: 25 April 2026 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 25 April 2026.
Access & Diversion: Church Street, North Street, Park Road, Regent Place, Albert Street, Railway Terrace and vice versa. Access for emergency vehicles only.
Contractor: Events Support Team, Tel: 02476 997605.

HAWLANDS, RUGBY
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic between properties no's 52 and 110.
Reason for Order: Repair/replacement of defective manhole covers and frame.

Order Commences: 28 April 2026 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 28 April 2026.
Access & Diversion: will be appropriately signed.
Contractor: CSP, Tel: 07918 389 363.

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 09 April 2026

PUBLIC NOTICES

Warwickshire County Council

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
Warwickshire County Council has made the following Temporary Traffic Orders:
PUBLIC FOOTPATH AT CHURCH LANE, WITHTYBROOK
Order Effect: Footpath closure to all traffic.
Reason for Order: Works to lay 120m of duct in verge.
Order Commences: 14 April 2026 for up to 6 months.
Anticipated Completion: 16 April 2026.
Access & Diversion: No diversion available.
Contractor: Callan Connect, Tel: 0121 327 5167.

SANDY LANE, FILLONGLEY
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.
Reason for Order: Pipe sleeve installation works.
Order Commences: 9 April 2026 for up to 18 months. Unfortunately, these works were delayed but have now been rescheduled to 17th April 2026.
Access & Diversion: Wood End Lane, Coventry Road, Nuneaton Road and vice versa.
Contractor: Vocon, Tel: 0333 344 8308

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

WOOD STREET, WOOD END
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.
Reason for Order: To safely enable manhole lining and patching works.
Order Commences: 27 April 2026 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 27 April 2026.
Access & Diversion: Johnson Street, Smith Street, Tamworth Road and vice versa.
Contractor: Severn Trent Water, Tel: 07768 109723.

BOW LANE & KIRBY LANE, WITHTYBROOK
Order Effect: Roads closed to vehicular traffic.
Reason for Order: To safely enable works to lay duct in verge and footway.
Order Commences: 27 April 2026 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 1 May 2026.
Access & Diversion: Main Street, Rugby Road, Fosce Way and vice versa.
Contractor: Callan Connect, Tel: 0121 327 5167.

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 09 April 2026

PUBLIC NOTICES

Rugby Borough Council Notice of Intended Disposal of Open Space Land Local Government Act 1972 Section 123(2A)

In accordance with section 123(2A) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), notice is hereby given that Rugby Borough Council intends to dispose of a parcel of land at Cotton Park, Rugby, Warwickshire, CV23 0WB, which consists of open space land. The land is intended to be disposed of by way of easements contained in a Lease to be granted to UK Power Distribution Limited plc for the provision of underground electric lines and ancillary apparatus.

A plan showing the precise location of the land in question may be inspected at Rugby Borough Council, Town Hall, Evreux Way, Rugby, CV21 2RR, during office hours (9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday) and can be viewed on our website at www.rugby.gov.uk/section123

Any objections to the proposed disposal should be made in writing to the Legal and Governance Manager of Rugby Borough Council at the address given above, and received no later than 9am on 24 April 2026. Dated: 3 April 2026

PUBLIC NOTICES

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

BSIDHU72 LTD of 165 Woodway Lane, Coventry, CV2 2EH is applying to change an existing licence as follows: To add an operating centre to keep 2 goods vehicle and 2 trailers at 1 Oban Road, Coventry, CV6 6HH.
Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Quarry House, Quarry Hill, Leeds, LS2 7UE, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representatives must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available at www.gov.uk/object-hgv-operator-licence.

PUBLIC NOTICES

GOOD VEHICLE OPERATORS LICENCE

Gogar Hire Limited of East Gogar, Blairlogie, Stirling, FK9 5QB is applying for a licence to use Boots Farm, Straight Mile, Frankton, Rugby, CV23 9QQ as an operating centre for 18 goods vehicles and 25 trailers.
Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Quarry House, Quarry Hill, Leeds, LS2 7UE, Stating their reason, within 21 days of this notice. Representatives must at the same time send a copy of their Representations to the applicant at the address given at the Top of this notice. A guide to making representations is available from the traffic Commissioner's office.

PUBLIC NOTICES



ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 - SECTIONS 14(1)(a) and (7) THE M6 MOTORWAY (JUNCTION 1) (SLIP ROAD) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2026

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT National Highways Limited (Company No. 9346363) intends to make an Order on the M6 Motorway, in the County of Warwickshire, to enable bridge maintenance works to be carried out nearby.

The effect of the Order will be to close the slip road leading to the southbound carriageway of the M6 at Junction 1.

The closure will be carried out over weekends between 20:00 hours on Monday and Friday and 06:00 hours on Monday and is expected to start on Friday 17 April 2026 and continue for two weekends. The Order will come into force on 10 April 2026.

Vehicles being used for police, fire and rescue authority or ambulance purposes and vehicles being used in connection with the works will be exempt from the closure. A diversion route via the A426, the A5, the M1 and the M6 will be signed.

For further information please contact Daniel Heathcote, a project manager on behalf of National Highways Limited, on 07751 733 753.

Karen Eustace, an officer in National Highways Limited. National Highways Limited (Company No. 9346363) registered office: Three Snowhill, Snow Hill Queensway, Birmingham, B4 6GA. A Company registered in England and Wales.

PUBLIC NOTICES

GEORGE YOUNG (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 34 David Road, Rugby, CV22 7PX, who died on 02/01/2026, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 11/06/2026, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

Christine Strak, The London Gazette (57558), PO Box 3584, Norwich NR7 7WD

PUBLIC NOTICES

DENNIS WILLIAM PAGE (The Late)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named late of 52 South Road, Clifton Upon Dunsmore, Rugby CV23 0BT, who died on 10/10/25 are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 10/08/2026 after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

Premier Solicitors, Premier House, Lurke Street, Bedford MK40 3HU

PUBLIC NOTICES

Keeping you up to date with all the latest information on Planning Proposals, Traffic Notices, Goods Vehicle Operator Licences, Probate Notices.....

Notice of Application for a New Premises Licence under the Licensing Act 2003
Name of Applicant: Mr Azam Ahmed Hussain. Notice is hereby given that Mr Azam Ahmed Hussain has applied to Coventry City Council for a New Premises Licence for the following premises: M100 Lounge, First Floor, Former Royal Warwick Club, Tower Street, Coventry CV1 1JN. Details of Application: to provide; Recorded Music, Live Music, Dancing and Sale/Supply of Alcohol (On Sales: Sunday - Thursday 12:00 - 04:00, Friday - Saturday 12:00 - 02:00, Late Night Refreshment: Sunday - Thursday 23:00 - 04:00, Friday - Saturday 23:00 - 02:00). Any person wishing to lodge a representation concerning this application may write to Licensing Authority, The Council House, Earl Street, Coventry CV1 5RH. 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 29/04/2026. Please note it is an offence to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with an application. The maximum fine on summary conviction for this offence is Unlimited.

All your latest information on Planning Proposals, Traffic Notices, Goods Vehicle Operator Licences, Licences To Sell Alcohol and Probate Notices

Classified

TELEPHONE 01527 588688 FACSIMILE 01527 584371

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICES

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence
SRM Distribution Ltd of Suite 3, 1 High Street, Coleshill, B46 1AY is applying to change an existing licence as follows to keep an extra 5 goods vehicles and 10 trailers at the operating centre at **Maxi Haulage Ltd, Cape Road, Warwick, CV34 4JP** and to add an operating centre to keep 3 goods vehicles and 6 trailers at **Maxi Haulage Ltd, Hawkes Drive, Warwick, CV34 6LX**
Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Quarry House, Quarry Hill, Leeds, LS2 7UE, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representatives must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Rugby Borough Council
Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)
Application Number R26/0266
CLIFTON C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL, STATION ROAD, CLIFTON UPON DUNSMORE, RUGBY, CV23 0BT
Replacement of existing timber fence and gates with new 1.5m high bowtop metal fence.
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 **01 May 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.co.uk (search for application number and select comment) - or in writing by that date to The Chief Officer Growth and Investment, Town Hall, Rugby, CV21 2RR.
If an application is determined by the Planning Committee, members of the public may have the opportunity to speak at the meeting. More details about public speaking are available from the Council or on-line at:
www.rugby.gov.uk/speakingatplanning
For household 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
Strategic Director for Place

PUBLIC NOTICES

Keeping you up to date with all the latest information on
Planning Proposals, Traffic Notices, Goods Vehicle Operator Licences, Licences To Sell Alcohol, Probate Notices.....

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

LAWN MOWER HP Mountfield HP 185 petrol used 5 times cost £250 bargain £200 ono 07920428127

COMBINATION Microwave & Grill Oven as new still in box & packing as delivered genuine sale surplus to requirements £45 07487608065

3 seater dark grey leather sofa good condition free to good home 07546714900

TWO antique clocks not working £40 07719695685

NURSING chair £25 07719695685

MISCELLANEOUS

ANTIQUE chair 1930's excellent condition £50 07719695685

FREE Tin bath & taps 07719695685
BISCUIT barrel Sooty & Sweep £25 07719695685

STONE hot water bottle £25 07719695685

WOLSLEY 6 / 90 1250's police car factory issue manual ring binder type £20 07974822880

DEMI Johns brown glass £4 clear glass £3 all in good clean condition 01527 528646

JUWEL Rio aquarium 125 litre with cabinet, lighting, heater and extras excellent condition £150 01527 528646

00 Gauge Bachmann GWR loco + tender (ref 31-305) in green and late crest "Broome Manor" running no 7805. Unmarked condition and very good runner c / w original boxing. £30 Tel 07415322794

2 x lamb creep feeders 24 x 8 feeding slots £250 and £230 07813 443674

MISCELLANEOUS

00 Gauge Bachmann GWR loco + tender (ref 31-305) in green and late crest "Broome Manor" running no 7805. Unmarked condition and very good runner c / w original boxing. £30 Tel 07415322794

TRIANG 00 gauge Britannia Class 7MT steam loco + tender (Ref R259) in BR green and late crest "Britannia" running no 70000. Vintage but very good condition and runner c / w original boxes. £12 Tel 07415322794

BABY COT - Wooden with sliding side access, no mattress, £20 Tel 07925170951

WANTED

****WANTED: Vinyl Records CDs Cassettes**
Vintage or New **
Seeking classic rock, jazz, indie and rare finds. Cash paid
Call or text: 07765 142354 Or 01527 893992
Or email: welston@live.com
Paul (Albatross & Doomed Records)

MISCELLANEOUS

BABY COT - Wooden with sliding side access, no mattress, £20 Tel 07925170951

SQUARE cane table with glass top, ideal for sun lounge, 46 x 46 x 54cm £15 Tel 07925170951

SLUNSE 5 in 1 exercise bike for home use, it's 3 months old so it's virtually new I'm looking for £50 ono 07544306478

GREENHOUSE 6x6 aluminium and glass with plinth green fair condition will dismantle £112 ono 07835133944

BOSH push mower AHM38G new lightweight £30 07867661522

SERVICES

CONSERVATORIES & GLAZING

DOUBLE GLAZING REPAIRS
Locks, Hinges, Handles, Glass, Windows or Doors New Doors/Windows Also Supplied/Fitted
07973 200 623

DRIVEWAYS

COVENTRY DRIVEWAYS
• Block paving • Slabs • Porcelain Tiles & Sandstone Kits
• Fencing • Gravel • Turf & Artificial Grass
• Decking, Steps and more
7 Years Warranty on all projects
Payment only after completion
02476 274439 07740 101227
www.spanglefish.co.uk/coventrydriveways

HOME IMPROVEMENTS

HANDY MAN

If you're looking for a fast and reliable service
Then call Lenky
• Plastering • Plumbing • Fencing
• Gardening • Flooring • Kitchens
• Bathrooms • Carpentry • Flat pack furniture
• Tiling • Painting
02476 443 996
07794 784 266
NO VAT CHARGE

KITCHENS

S.W INSTALLATIONS
Kitchens & Bathrooms
FREE DESIGN & QUOTATION
QUALITY KITCHENS & BATHROOMS SUPPLIED & FITTED
PLUMBING, CARPENTRY, TILING, WORKTOP & DOOR REPLACEMENT
(Supply & fit, supply only or fit only)
LOCAL TRADESMAN 20YRS EXPERIENCE
NO JOB TOO SMALL
07971 684 353

LOGS

LOGS FOR SALE
Mainly Ash
£120, £220, £390 loads delivered
Builders bag of logs £120 delivered
Card, cash or cheque payments taken
Tel 07477 778536
or 07983 441818
See load sites at our website
www.rbtimber.uk



WANT A JOB WELL DONE?
Check out our **Classified pages!**
KEEP IT LOCAL!

Check out our E-Editions!



www.coventryobserver.co.uk/editions
www.rugbyobserver.co.uk/editions
www.leamingtonobserver.co.uk/editions
The same paper you love on your **mobile, tablet and computer**

Coventry City boss Frank Lampard has been nominated for the Championship's manager of the season award.



Sky Blues pair nominated for end-of-season EFL awards

FOOTBALL: COVENTRY City head coach Frank Lampard and goalkeeper Carl Rushworth are on the shortlist for the EFL's Championship manager and player of the season awards respectively.

Lampard has guided the Sky Blues to the brink of promotion this season with Coventry 12 points clear at the top of the Championship table with five matches left to play.

In his first full season at the helm, Lampard has Coventry within touching distance of a return to the Premier League for the first time in 25 years.

The Sky Blues have also scored more goals than any other team, 84, in the entirety of the Football League this campaign.

Millwall's Alex Neil, Hull City's Sergej Jakirovic and Middlesbrough's Kim Hellberg are also up for the Championship's manager of the season award.

Coventry goalkeeper Rushworth is on the shortlist for the player of the season prize after recording 15 clean sheets this season.

The keeper joined the Sky Blues on loan from Premier League side Brighton and Hove Albion in the summer.

And he has quickly become a fans favourite at the Coventry Building Society Arena.

Rushworth embarked on a run of 613 minutes without conceding a goal for the Sky Blues earlier this season.

The streak marks the longest run without conceding a goal of any goalkeeper in the club's history.

His run also eclipsed the previous record of 608 minutes set by Horace Pearson in 1934 some 91 years ago.

Middlesbrough's Hayden Hackney, Millwall's Femi Azeze and Swansea City's Zan Vipotnik are also up for the Championship's player of the season award.

The winners will be announced live at the league's annual awards ceremony on Sunday, April 19.

Sky Sports Football will broadcast the ceremony live from 8.30pm on the night.

Bears draw with Surrey in County Championship bow

CRICKET: WARWICKSHIRE CCC made a drawing start to the new County Championship season in a stalemate against Surrey.

The Bears bowled Surrey out for 328 in the first innings of the season despite a century from Ben Foakes (128) at Edgbaston.

Warwickshire responded with a commanding total of 544 all out as Dan Mousley (144) and Sam Hain (94) starred with the bat.

Surrey returned to the crease for their second innings and reached 447-4 at the end of day four as the game ended in a draw.

The Bears took 16 points from the fixture to sit second in the Division One table behind early leaders Essex.

Warwickshire head coach, Ian Westwood said: "It was a good match of good quality and, points-wise, 16 is as strong a haul from a draw as you can get, so from that point of view we are happy."

"There is a tinge of disappointment that we didn't win, we probably had a couple of

opportunities in the match, but credit to Surrey, they played really well.

"There are lots of reasons to be optimistic. When we reflect on the last four days, we will be very happy, but we always want to be better and we just missed a couple of little windows of opportunity where we could have forced our position home.

"But it was great to see the batters all playing well at the start of the season, that settles everybody down, and it was a great hundred for Mous, not just the runs he scored but the way he scored them, very positively to get us those maximum batting points.

"The crowd reaction to his century said it all. Everybody can see how hard he tries and what he brings to the team and he is Warwickshire through and through so it was really nice for him to get that first century and hopefully that's just the start of it."

Warwickshire are next in action against Sussex with play to begin on Friday, April 10 at 11am at the County Ground.

Blaze face tough test against Devils as play-offs await

by Aaron Sutcliffe
aaron.sutcliffe@bullivantmedia.com

ICE HOCKEY: COVENTRY Blaze will face Cardiff Devils in the Elite League play-offs after ending the regular season with successive defeats.

Blaze lost 2-1 to play-off foes Cardiff in their penultimate game of the regular season at the Vindico Arena.

And Coventry ended the regular season with a 5-4 home defeat against champions Belfast Giants at the Skydome Arena.

The defeats meant Blaze finished the campaign in seventh place with Coventry to face runners-up Cardiff in the play-off quarter-finals.

The winners of the tie will advance to the play-off finals weekend at the Motorpoint Arena in Nottingham on April 18 and 19.

Blaze faced the Devils in what proved a dress rehearsal for the play-offs in their penultimate game of the regular season.

And the Devils stunned Blaze at 1.07 as Nolan Yaremko marked his return from injury with a goal.

Blaze netminder Mat Robson then produced two fine saves to keep the visitors in the contest which included a stretch stop to deny Brandon Estes.

Coventry snarped a glorious chance to draw level at the end of the first period following a two-on-one opportunity.

However, Blaze did equalise at 18.38 when Jordan Power jumped up from defence to beat Ben Bowns with a quick wrist shot.

Robson kept the scores level midway through the second period with a stunning glove save to deny Evan Mosey with the latter wide open in the slot.

However, Cardiff reclaimed the lead on the powerplay at 37.06 when Josh MacDonald found the net after the Devils spurned an earlier penalty.

Coventry killed another Devils penalty early in the third period and had a chance of their own to equalise but



could not capitalise on the opportunity.

Robson made another double save in the closing minutes to finish with an impressive rate of 42 saves from 44 shots.

The Devils had Gleason Fournier ejected following an extended review for a spearing incident on Blaze's Matthew Gleason.

The offence handed Blaze a five-minute powerplay with 9.27 left on the clock with Coventry unable to find an equaliser despite sustained pressure and with Robson pulled for an extra skater.

Coventry then ended the regular season with a narrow defeat against champions Belfast despite a spirited performance from Kevin Moore's side.

Blaze's Artie Buzoverya was called for high-sticking at 2.04 and the Giants capitalised 45 seconds later on the powerplay as Scott Conway opened the scoring.

And Belfast doubled their lead at 13.03 when Ben Lake produced a neat finish after the visitors killed a penalty.

Coventry responded at 16.54 as Alessio Luciani rifled home from a tight angle to halve the deficit.

However, the Giants restored their two-goal cushion at 23.10 when Nicolas Guay found the net.

Blaze had a goal ruled out for offside

late in the second period as Adam Robbins saw his smart finish chalked off.

However, Coventry did manage a goal at 36.26 when Gleason converted on the rebound from Luciani's initial effort.

The Giants struck again just 58 seconds into the third period as Jordan Kawaguchi put Belfast into a two-goal lead.

Blaze refused to go away as Grant Mismash scored against his former club at 49.13 to keep the home side in the contest.

However, Conway's second goal of the game at 52.20 put Belfast back in command with the goal awarded following a lengthy video review for a potential kicking motion.

Blaze struck again at 57.25 as Power scored a goal on the powerplay with Belfast's Twarzynski called for slashing.

However, Coventry could not find a leveller in the remaining minutes despite pulling Robson for an extra skater.

Coventry host Cardiff in the first leg of the play-offs on Saturday, April 11 with the face-off at 7pm at the Skydome.

Blaze then travel to the Devils on Sunday, April 12 with the face-off at 5pm at the Vindico Arena.

Hat-trick inspires Cov to dominant win against Caldy as momentum continues

RUGBY UNION: DAVID Opoku-Fordjour scored a hat-trick as Coventry Rugby ran in 11 tries in a resounding 69-12 win against Caldy.

Opoku-Fordjour crossed for a treble of tries after the break at the Nick Newbold Stadium with a bonus point already secured.

Api Bavadra, Tom Bacon, Josh Barton, Jack Reeves and Tom Ball all crossed for tries before Opoku-Fordjour ran in a hat-trick.

And a penalty try extended the home side's lead before Mackenzie Graham and Sam Maunder dotted down late on to add some gloss to the scoreline.

The result means Coventry remain fourth in the Champ Rugby table, three points behind Worcester Warriors in second, after securing a sixth successive victory.

Alex Rae's side scored the game's first try after just eight minutes when Bavadra broke through two tackles and stepped past the last defender to crash over.

And the home side crossed again on 21 minutes as Bacon ran in from 30-metres out after Graham pounced on a poor clearance and reacted sharply to release Bacon.

Coventry scored a third try on 31 minutes when Barton ran in unopposed after Jack Reeves carved open the Caldy defence.

The home side scored their bonus point try one minute before half time as Reeves weaved his way through the Caldy defence from inside his own half to score a fine solo try.

Rae's side took a commanding 24-point lead into the break although Tommy Mathews received a yellow card on the stroke of half time.

Coventry extended their lead just one minute after the break when Ball received Bavadra's offload and dotted down.

However, Caldy hit back just two minutes later as Will Robinson scored the away side's first try of the match.

Opoku-Fordjour scored his first try of the game on 47 minutes when he ran an excellent line to finish under the posts.

Caldy scored a second try on 57 minutes as Ryan Higgins touched down and Kieran Wilkinson converted.

However, Opoku-Fordjour crossed for his second try a minute later when he bounced off a tackle and stretched over the line.

Opoku-Fordjour completed his hat-trick on 70 minutes when he dove over the line and Matthews added the extras to bring up a half-century of points for the home side.

The referee awarded Coventry a penalty try five minutes later with Caldy's Charlie Hyde sent to the sin-bin.

And Graham finished out wide before Maunder crossed for the game's final try on 79 minutes to complete the scoring.

Coventry are next in action against Nottingham on Friday, April 10 with kick-off at 7.45pm at the Bay.

CRS LTD
 Spring Lane South, Malvern WR14 1AT
 ATF's are the **ONLY** legal way to scrap your vehicles
BUYERS
 of all SCRAP Metals and SCRAP Vehicles
 The **ONLY** authorised treatment facility in Malvern!
 Best Prices Paid • Collection & Skip Drops Farm
 Equipment, Copper, Brass etc. • 50 Ton Weigh Bridge
ID REQUIRED - 01684 578081
 www.crs-malvern.co.uk 

Observer SPORT



9 772040 128006
 Published by Bullivant Media Group Ltd, Webb House,
 Church Green East, Redditch, Worcestershire, B96 8BP
 Printed by Newsquest, Newspaper House, Osney
 Mead, Oxford, Oxfordshire, OX2 0EJ

VINYL RECORDS WANTED
 Buying since 1978
 Get your cash TODAY!
 I will come to you
Phone PAUL
01527 893992 | 07765 142354

www.rugbyobserver.co.uk

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

Relegation confirmed for Valley after defeats

FOOTBALL: RUGBY Town's relegation from the Northern Premier League Midlands was confirmed following an Easter Monday defeat at Mickelover.

Only a win would have kept Valley's slim survival hopes alive at the Don Amott Arena as Rugby suffered a 4-1 defeat.

Wins elsewhere for Loughborough Students and Bourne Town, and a draw for Bedworth United, coupled with Rugby's defeat resigned Valley to relegation.

The results bring an end to Rugby's three-season stay in the Northern Premier League Midlands after the club received a reprieve from relegation last term.

Defeat at the Don Amott Arena saw Valley lose for the sixth successive game with the club winless in 12 matches since the end of January.

Rugby made the worst possible start to the must-win clash when Josh Thomas inadvertently turned the ball into his own net inside the first minute.

NPL Midlands table

| | P | W | D | L | PTS |
|--------------------------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 16 Rugby Borough | 39 | 12 | 12 | 15 | 48 |
| 17 Loughborough Students | 39 | 11 | 13 | 15 | 46 |
| 18 Bedworth United | 39 | 12 | 9 | 18 | 45 |
| 19 Bourne Town | 39 | 12 | 7 | 20 | 43 |
| 20 Coventry Sphinx | 39 | 11 | 8 | 20 | 41 |
| 21 St Neots Town | 39 | 10 | 10 | 19 | 40 |
| R Rugby Town | 39 | 9 | 6 | 24 | 33 |

A low ball into the box from the right from Luke McCormick deflected off Valley goalkeeper Charlie Woods and then Thomas as the ball ended up in the back of the net.

And Mickelover doubled their lead on five minutes as Andy Dales curled a shot into the net from just inside the penalty area.

However, Valley halved the deficit on 11 minutes when Rivel Mardenborough rounded Mickelover goalkeeper Jason Alexander and finished into an empty net from Harrison Nee's through ball.

Mickelover restored their two-goal cushion on 54 minutes as Manni Norkett raced onto

a through ball and beat Charlie Woods at the second attempt.

And the home side completed the scoring seven minutes from time when substitute Josh Carter lobbed the ball over a stranded Woods from a tight angle following a long ball down the pitch from Alexander.

That came after Valley lost 3-0 at home against Anstey Nomads as the league leaders proved too strong for Grant Joshua's side.

Anstey broke the deadlock on 11 minutes when Oscar Tonge fired an angled shot past Woods.

And Nomads doubled their lead on 74 minutes when Tendai Chitiza powered a shot into the roof of the net after good feet from substitute Ronnie Kokkino.

The visitors sealed the points six minutes from time when Courey Grantham's strike deflected off Valley defender Archie Murray and past a wrong-footed Woods.

Rugby host Wellingborough Town on Saturday, April 11 with kick-off at 3pm at Butlin Road.

O'Connor begins season with win

CYCLING: ROBO'Connor made a winning start to the new cycling season with victory in a circuit race in Ashbourne, Derbyshire.

The Rugby cyclist picked up where he left off at Darley Moor following a successful 2025 season.

He made an aggressive start to the one-hour long race which included an extra five laps.

However, several new riders had moved up to

the 65 to 69-year-old category and refused to let O'Connor break away.

O'Connor attempted to sprint clear with five laps remaining and the move paid off as he took the race win from Steve Davis.

The Rugby cyclist has a full season of road cycling planned and he will represent Great Britain at the UCI Masters Track World Championships in October.

Borough close to safety

RUGBY Borough inched closer to safety after scoring a late goal to draw 1-1 against local rivals Coventry Sphinx on Easter Monday.

A late strike from Tendai Daire drew Borough level at Kilsby Lane after Raymond Poku put the struggling visi-

tors ahead.

That came after Rugby suffered a narrow 1-0 defeat away at Loughborough Students.

Borough travel to AFC Rushden and Diamonds on Saturday, April 11 with kick-off at 3pm at Hayden Road.

CASHBROKERS

LEAMINGTON SPA

PAWNBROKING LOANS
 SCRAP GOLD & SILVER
 BUY BACK
 JEWELLERY & WATCHES
 COINS & BULLION

CASH PAID
FOR GOLD, SILVER,
COINS & BULLION



01926 258252

144 Parade, Leamington Spa, CV32 4AG

www.cashbrokersleamingtonspa.co.uk

