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Young BMX star seeks help to take on the world



Flick Brentnall is raring to go to this year's UCI BMX World Championships.

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

A COMMITTED young BMX racer from Rugby is asking for help to send her on 'the trip of a lifetime' so she can compete in the World Championships in Australia this summer.

At just eight years old, Flick Brentnall has qualified for the UCI BMX World Championships in Brisbane, thanks to her performances around the country in the National Series last year.

But in order to follow her dreams and compete on the biggest BMX stage in July, the Cawston Grange Primary School pupil must raise funds to cover significant costs – including flights, accommodation, entry fees, GB kit, training and other bike-related costs.

Proud dad Howard says competing at the World Championships would mean the world to Flick.

He said: "Flick starting racing a BMX at five years old and quickly

found her passion.

"She continued to hone her skills through local club, regional, national and even a European race last year.

"She dedicates herself to train on her BMX as often as she can, in all weather conditions – and typically against the boys to constantly challenge and better herself."

He said he was a very proud parent when all her hard work and dedication over the last year paid off with her qualification for the World Championships – and Flick said she felt "very very happy happy!"

Howard added: "It's incredibly rewarding to see her progress and achieve what she has through sheer determination and love for BMX.

"We're very proud of the commitment she shows, both on and off the track. More than the results, it's her attitude, sportsmanship, and enjoyment of the sport that really stand out to us."

Appearing at this year's World

Championships would set Flick on a path to realise her ambition of competing at the Olympic Games when she is older.

Howard said: "It would be disappointing for her not to be able to compete, especially after all the hard work and dedication she's put into getting to this level.

"But she's incredibly resilient and passionate about the sport, and we'd continue supporting her journey regardless.

"That said, being able to represent at that level would be an amazing opportunity for her, and we're incredibly grateful for any support people feel able to give, whether that's through donations or simply sharing her story. It all makes a real difference.

"This opportunity means so much to her, and being able to compete on that stage would be a proud moment not just for her, but for everyone who's supported her along the way."

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/mrx-pffxn> to donate.



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Exhibition puts the best shots in the frame

A BALLET dancer takes centre stage at Leamington Photographic Society's latest exhibition.

The winning photo is one of hundreds taken by society members for an end-of-season competition, which this year features a new trophy for the judge's choice of Best in Show.

It will be presented in memory of long-standing LSPS member Keith Roberts to Ester Riordan for her work 'Angles and Extensions' at the launch evening for the LSPS annual exhibition tomorrow (Saturday).

Visitors to the free-to-enter exhibition at Leamington's All Saints parish church, which runs until Sunday May

3, will have a chance to decide whether they agree – by voting for their own favourite picture.

And there will be plenty to choose from, with more than 150 prints on display and 70-odd digital images being shown on a large-screen TV.

Subjects range from macro images to wide-vista landscapes, and include portraits, natural history and local scenes, both in colour and black-and-white.

Judge John Haines said: "There have been some superb images, which made my job quite difficult. Full credit to LSPS for turning out such a high standard of work."

And LSPS chairman Odie Evans added: "The quality and range of work produced by LSPS members seems to grow every year. Judges of

competitions throughout the season have praised the high standard of images, so visitors to the exhibition should be in for a treat."

With around 100 members from across the region, LSPS is one of the largest and most active photographic clubs in the Midlands, and has a number of special interest groups, covering interests as diverse as macro, nature, landscapes, portraiture and street photography.

TOP: Angles and Extensions by Ester Riordan.

BELOW LEFT: The End of the Jetty by Odie Evans.

BELOW RIGHT: Loving Embrace by Gareth Selgenieks.



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Exhibition celebrates radio site centenary

by **Andy Morris**
@bullivantmedia.com

A LANDMARK new exhibition has opened, marking 100 years of Rugby Radio Station.

The exhibition, at Rugby Art Gallery and Museum, includes artefacts from the historic site a century after it opened its doors.

The attraction features apparatus, models and images dating back to 1926 from the museum's social history collection, including one of the well-recognised lights which used to light the way home for Rugbeians from masts at the site.

The exhibition – part of celebrations this year to mark what would have been the centenary of Rugby Radio Station – is the work of Urban&Civic, master developer of the big Houlton housing site; and the gallery. It opened with a VIP event for people who played a part in preserving the station's legacy.

Attendees included mayor Barbara Brown, incoming mayor Nooria Sayani, former Rugby MP Mark Pawsey, councillors and officers from Rugby Borough Council, and people with links to the radio station.

Opening the exhibition, Coun Brown said: "Communication is in our DNA in Rugby."

"This exhibition and celebration involves so many people and shows how we remain a centre for com-

munication and contact. It's quite unique to have a totally new community that you can bring on, yet keep that touchstone with the past and take it into the future, so it's great to be able to celebrate that."

Rugby Radio Station became operational on January 1, 1926, with its GBR transmitter – then the most powerful radio transmitter in the world – sending news broadcasts and telegrams across the globe.

A year later, the station started transmitting the iconic time-signal 'pips' from the Royal Greenwich Observatory and launched the world's first transatlantic telephone service.

Bombing

During the Second World War, Rugby Radio Station operatives supported the RAF during bombing missions in Germany and the post-war telecommunications boom saw the radio station expand in the 1950s, with its total of 57 transmitters making it the biggest station in the world.

Technological advances led to the station's GBR transmitter being decommissioned in 2003 and, four years later, all transmissions from the station came to an end.

The station's grade II listed 'C' building has since been transformed into Houlton School.

Urban&Civic has paid tribute to the station's legacy by naming the new neighbourhood in honour of the

first transatlantic broadcast made, in 1927 to Houlton, in Maine, USA.

The centenary celebrations began with a transmission by Rugby Amateur Transmitting Society (RATS), from the former station site across the world, to mark exactly 100 years since Rugby Radio Station's GBR transmitter opened for service.

January also saw the unveiling of a tapestry comprising thousands of images relating to the radio station and submitted by members of the public to be printed on acrylic tiles. The tapestries have now been installed at schools in Houlton, with versions on display as part of the new exhibition.

Sonia Nakra-Norman, communications, communities and partnerships manager at Urban&Civic, said: "We're delighted to have partnered with Rugby Art Gallery and Museum in creating this exhibition and celebrating 100 years of Rugby radio station. So much of our ethos at Urban&Civic is based around collaboration and partnerships and this exhibition and event sums that up – reminding us that when we work together, we really can make huge steps forward."

100 Years of Rugby Radio runs until Saturday, October 3.

Visit www.ragm.co.uk for more information about exhibitions and events at the gallery and museum.

Visit <https://rugbyradiostation.co.uk> for more information on Rugby Radio Station.



A VIP launch event brought together people who played a part in preserving the station's legacy and, inset: historian Malcolm Hancock, author of *The History of Rugby Station*. Images s

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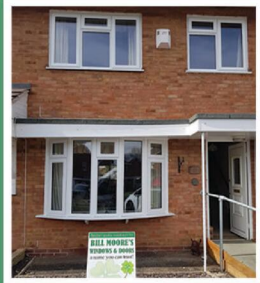


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The FA Cup will take centre stage at The Myton summer fayre in June. s

FA Cup in the city

THE FA CUP will take centre stage at an annual charity event in Coventry this summer.

The Myton Hospices is inviting the community to its summer fayre, at Coventry Myton Hospice in June.

Sky Blues fans will be able to celebrate promotion to the Premier League by having their photo taken with an official replica of the 1987 FA Cup trophy, commemorating the club's finest hour.

Other attractions will include a range of stalls, games, hot food and refreshments.

Visitors will also be able to enjoy special performances from the Myton Choir and Coventry Crew Girls.

Claire McDowell, Coventry fundraising and front-of-house lead at The Myton Hospices, said: "Our summer fayre is always a special occasion, bringing the community together in support of their local hospice."

"It is wonderful to see families enjoying the occasion while contributing to such a meaningful cause. We are extremely grateful to everyone involved in making the event possible – particularly our Coventry support group, whose ongoing efforts help raise vital funds for the hospice."

Myton must raise more than £12million this year to provide its services free of charge to patients and their loved ones.

The Myton summer fayre will take place on Saturday, June 6, from 10.30am to 1pm. Entry and parking are free of charge although donations are encouraged, to support the hospice's services.

Visit www.mytonhospice.org/fayre for more information.

Uni heating system will slash annual emissions

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

WITH A 'truly transformative moment', Coventry University has taken a big step towards its carbon net-zero ambition.

The university campus is now connected to the city's low-carbon, district energy network, resulting in lower emissions and improved energy efficiency.

The upgraded network is key to the university's ambition to reach net zero by 2030 and also creates opportunities for parts of Hillfields to access low-carbon heat.

Supported by almost £13million from the government's Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, a project delivered with Bring Energy is expected to cut carbon emissions by more than 1,300 tonnes per year – more than a fifth of the university's annual emissions from fossil-fuel heating.

Dr Clive Winters, pro vice chancellor for strategy and governance at the university, said: "The long-term benefits – for our city centre, net zero ambitions and

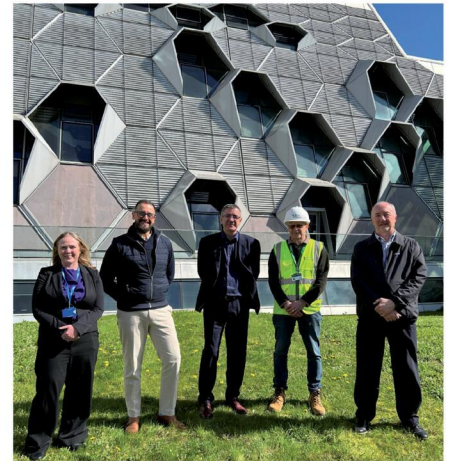
future generations – make this a truly transformative moment for Coventry."

The district energy network supplies heat from Coventry's energy from Waste (EfW) facility in London Road via a 6.6km underground system.

By switching from gas boilers to the low-carbon network, 11 university buildings – including the Sir Frank Whittle building, the Student Centre, The Hub, Alma, Elm Bank, Cycle Works, Charles Ward, George Eliot and the three Priory Hall blocks – now receive a more resilient, efficient and sustainable heat supply that produces around a fifth of the carbon emissions of natural gas.

The first phase of the university's connection to the district energy network is now complete, with the system designed to support further expansion, if required.

As part of the upgrade, pipework has also been installed through Hillfields, creating opportunities for community buildings and homes to join the network – which could help stabilise heating costs,



Dr Clive Winters; Adam Ezzat, principal property solicitor at Coventry University; Ian Parker; Michael Checkley, deputy head of sustainability and environment (decarbonisation) at Coventry University; and Selina Fletcher, head of sustainability and environment at Coventry University, outside the Sir Frank Whittle Building. s

cut emissions from local services and support efforts to reduce fuel poverty in one of Coventry's most deprived areas.

Dr Winters added: "Completing this connection to Coventry's district energy network is a significant milestone in our journey to become net zero by 2030."

"By moving away from gas and onto low-carbon district heat, we are immediately reducing our carbon emissions and strengthening the long-term resilience of our campus."

"This investment benefits our staff and students, who repeatedly tell us sustainability matters to them, and opens the door to future community benefit in the Hillfields area of our city."

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Bank card fraudsters spark police warning

AN ONGOING spate of scams in Rugby has prompted an urge for caution from Rugby Borough Council.

Fraudsters are trying to convince residents to hand over their bank cards along with their PIN numbers, often posing as bank staff or police officers.

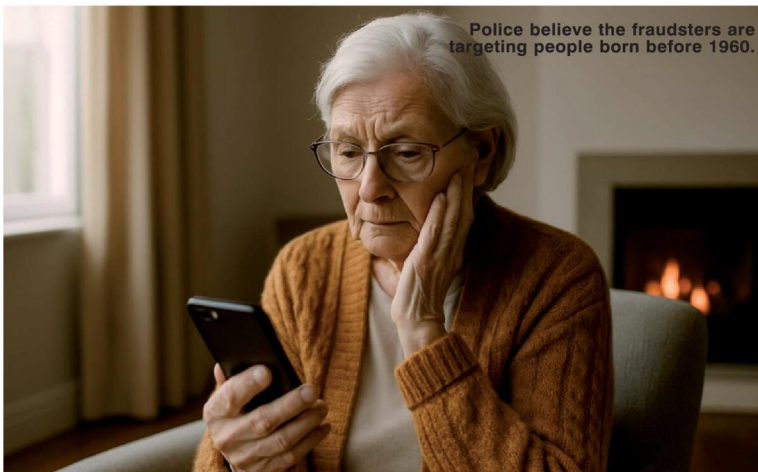
Three such incidents took place in Rugby in the space of a week.

Rugby Borough Council has joined Warwickshire Police in warning residents of the rise in scam calls, which typically target elderly and vulnerable adults.

David Burrows, Rugby Borough Council's assistant director for regulation and safety, said: "Organisations such as the police or banks will never ask you to provide your bank card or PIN number. If you receive a call like this, end the call as soon as possible and report it to the police."

"Rugby Borough Council has contacted licensed taxi drivers in the borough to raise concerns about bookings where they are asked to attend a location to collect an envelope or small parcel from residents."

Typical courier scam calls begin with a fraudster claiming to be from the police or from a bank.



Victims are then asked to hang up and ring back on what appears to be an official number.

However, the scammer stays on the line and then asks for the victim's personal account information.

Fraudsters sometimes arrange for a taxi or courier service to visit the victim's home to collect their bank

card. Once this happens, the offender has full access to the victim's account.

Warwickshire Police's Cybercrime and Fraud Coordinator James Squire said: "Over the years I've had former architects, nurses and successful business people break down in tears in front of me because of these scammers."

"What's more unusual is

that the reports are coming from clusters of roads. We think criminals have got hold of a marketing list and they're targeting people born before 1960."

Anyone who believes they have been targeted or a victim of a courier scam should report it to Warwickshire Police by calling 101 as soon as possible.

Councillor will be remembered

A MUCH-LOVED and respected Lutterworth councillor has died.

Coun David Gair has represented Lutterworth East at Harborough District Council since 2023, having previously been a long-standing member of Lutterworth Town Council.

A Harborough District Council spokesperson said: "Harborough District Council is saddened to hear that Coun David Gair has passed away."

"Coun Gair was passionate about representing his community."

"Prior to joining Harborough District Council, he served as a town council representative on the Standards Committee, and following his election, was appointed chair of the Audit and Standards Committee as well as serving on the Planning Committee."

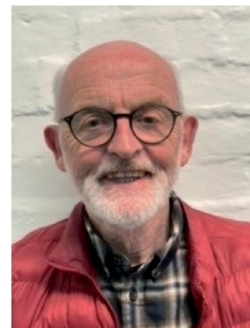
John Richardson, Chief Executive of Harborough District Council, added: "Coun Gair quickly became a highly respected member of the council following his election in 2023."

"As officers, we respected his passion for the community and his support as chair of the Audit and Standards Committee."

"We send our deepest condolences to David's family and friends at this very sad time."

Details of tributes and funeral arrangements will be confirmed in line with the family's wishes at a later date.

Coun David Gair 'was passionate about representing his community'.



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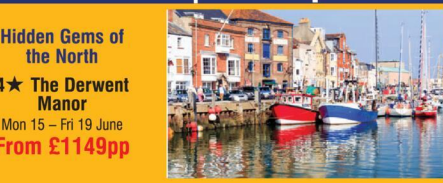


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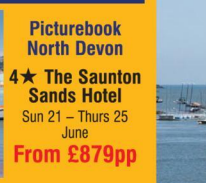
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Clean tech on display

Taiwo Owatemi MP, right, joined Eon staff to see the benefits of clean energy technology in her Coventry North West constituency. s

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

A NEW initiative is showing how clean energy technology is making a difference in Coventry homes.

Energy company Eon's 'Power Pro-on-the-Go' initiative has made its launch in northwest Coventry, giving MPs a look at how low-carbon solutions are being applied in homes.

Taiwo Owatemi MP joined Eon representatives on a visit across her constituency to see the benefits of clean energy technology in action.

At a resident's home, Ms Owatemi was shown how smart meters enable households to better understand and manage their energy consumption.

The Coventry North West MP said: "It was great to join Eon on the ground

in Coventry and see first-hand how this partnership with Coventry City Council is working for local people.

"From smart meters in people's homes to solar on the CBS Arena and heat pumps at Coundon Family Centre, this is about taking new technology and making it practical and useful across our communities, from households to schools and local businesses.

"At a time when many people are worried about the cost of energy, what stood out was how this work helps people better understand their usage and make more informed choices. Seeing it up close and speaking directly to the engineers delivering it turns something that can feel complex into something real and accessible.

"Coventry is showing how innovation in energy can be brought into everyday life in a way that works for people."

Eon says clean technology is central to delivering a more flexible, resilient and sustainable energy system.

Scott Somerville, director of external affairs at Eon, said: "Power Pro-on-the-Go gives decision makers the chance to see first-hand how these technologies work in people's homes, to ask questions directly to the engineers delivering them and to understand not just what we do but why it matters.

"By making these conversations practical and grounded, we can build confidence in the role energy innovation plays in supporting customers, communities and the wider [energy] transition."

In Coventry, Eon is engaged in long-term partnerships supporting decarbonisation and the deployment of low-carbon technologies, including initiatives in residential energy, public infrastructure and community buildings.

Spring clean time

A 'SPRING fling' could help to mend a broken heart: according to an appeal for unwanted items made by a Coventry charity.

Residents are being urged to donate 'pre-loved' clothes and accessories to the British Heart Foundation (BHF) shop on Smithford Way, as the charity retailer celebrates its annual Reuse Revolution campaign to help fund vital life-saving research.

Andrea Baker-Payne, area manager at British Heart Foundation, said: "Spring is the season for a clear-out so we're asking people to have a 'spring fling': bag up what you no longer love or use and donate it to us.

"At the moment we are in need of womenswear,

menswear and shoes and handbags. We can also re-home quality homeware, small furniture, books and toys. Your donations help raise vital funds for the BHF's research.

"We rely on the generosity of people in Coventry to keep the shop stocked. That cutlery set you no longer need or those trainers you no longer wear, could help fund the next research breakthrough – and they could be exactly what someone else is looking for."

Drop items into the Smithford Way shop during opening hours, post donations free by printing a postage label online or arrange a free collection, for larger donations.

Visit www.bhf.org.uk/ shop for more information.



Staff at the British Heart Foundation shop, in Smithford Way, are appealing for unwanted items for the annual Reuse Revolution campaign. s



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GreenPower Park is set to become a centre of excellence for battery technology, advanced manufacturing and clean energy, with the potential to create 6,000 new jobs.



Green light for latest plans at airport site

THE REDEVELOPMENT of Coventry Airport has taken a step forward with the granting of detailed planning permission for the \$2.5bn GreenPower Park site.

Warwick District Council has now given the green light for seven manufacturing facilities, ranging in size from 69,000 sq ft to 1.5million sq ft and totalling 4.8million sq ft - equivalent to around 80 football pitches.

The latest planning approval augments the existing outline permission for a large battery manufacturing facility, granted in 2022, providing full detail for buildings, plot layouts and landscaping.

Corin Crane, chief executive of the Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce, said: "This announcement is great news for Coventry and Warwickshire. GreenPower Park is a critically important development that highlights the region's position as a global centre for advanced manufacturing, clean energy and battery technology."

"Local businesses will have big opportunities across the supply chain whether that is construction, professional services or logistics. Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce looks forward to working with partners to help local firms benefit from this opportunity and to attract inward investment to the region."

GreenPower Park is a public-private joint venture between Coventry City Council and Rigby Group. The partners are seeking to create a centre of excellence for battery technology, advanced manufacturing and clean energy, with the potential to create 6,000 new jobs.

The park is part of the Coventry & Warwick Investment Zone, with tax incentives, including business rates and Stamp Duty relief and higher national insurance thresholds, being offered to occupiers.

The UK Battery Industrialisation Centre (UKBIC), which provides testing facilities for battery technologies, neighbours the site.

Have your say on EV issues

RESIDENTS across Warwickshire are being asked their views on the latest plans for electric vehicle charging.

It follows Warwickshire County Council receiving Department for Transport funding to expand the installation of cross-pavement EV charging channels in the county.

Cross-pavement charging channels are discreet, shallow, flush fitted gullies installed within the pavement. They allow residents without off-street parking provisions to run an electric vehicle charging cable safely from their home to the kerbside. These channels provide a temporary, secure space for the cable while a vehicle is charging, after which the cable is removed and stored by the user.

As part of this initiative, WCC is seeking to gauge local interest in having a cross-pavement charging channel installed outside or near properties to support EV charging at home.

WCC's communities spokesperson Mark Ryder said: "We are committed to making the transition to electric vehicles as seamless as possible for residents who wish to do so, regardless of whether they have their own space to do so, or not. We know that the lack of off-street parking can be a significant barrier for those wanting to make the switch to EV, and these cross-pavement charging channels offer a practical, safe, and discreet solution."

"By taking part in this survey, residents are directly helping us understand where the demand is greatest and how we can best

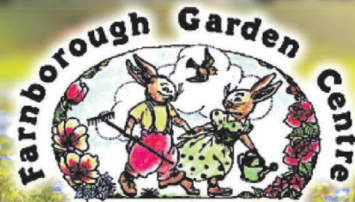


implement this technology. This feedback is essential in ensuring our infrastructure keeps pace with the needs of our communities as we work together toward a more sustainable future."

Visit ask.warwickshire.gov.uk/bi/ev-pavement-channels to complete the survey before midnight on Tuesday May 19.

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Finch makes list

COUNCILLOR George Finch is officially one of the 30 most inspiring young people in the UK.

The 19 year-old leader of Warwickshire County Council (WCC) features in *The Sunday Times* Young Power List 2026, which highlights 30 exceptional young people under the age of 30. The list is chosen by editors at *The Sunday Times*.

At just 18, Coun Finch made history by becoming the youngest ever council leader in the UK, taking charge of WCC and its £500 million budget.

A prominent young voice in politics, Coun Finch was a member of the Conservative Party before joining Reform ahead of the 2024 general election. His leadership has come under scrutiny and last month he narrowly survived a vote of no confidence.

Coun Finch features alongside musician Raye, who became one of Britain's biggest music success stories after breaking away from her label and going on to win a record six Brit Awards; and Arsenal and England footballer Alessia Russo, a mainstay for the Lionesses who won back-to-back European Championship titles, in 2022 and 2025, and who last year won the Uefa Women's Champions League, the FWA Women's Footballer of the Year award and the Women's Super League (WSL) Golden Boot.

The Young Power List 2026 takes over the latest edition of *The Sunday Times Magazine* and includes an interview with Coun Finch. The council leader has been approached for comment.



Coun George Finch features on *The Sunday Times* Young Power List. s



The new cycle bridge is in position over the Fosse Way. s

by Philippa Mingins
phillippa.mingins@bullivantmedia.com

A NEW cycle bridge, linking Leamington to Rugby, has been lifted into position.

The bridge, which connects the Offchurch Greenway, in Leamington, to route 41 of the national cycle network, has been constructed by engineers working on the High Speed 2 (HS2) rail project.

The structure will complement HS2's earlier work, completed in October, which saw the opening of a nearby Fosse Way bridge and the Offchurch Greenway bridge, which carry the road and a cycle route across the planned HS2 line.

Work on the new cycle bridge started in July. Over eight months, the team has

dug out and replaced the old embankment, constructed supporting abutments and 'wingwalls', and conducted essential drainage and structural backfill work.

Vicki Lee, HS2 Ltd's senior project manager, said: "All three bridges will play an important role in improving safety and connectivity and I'd like to thank our team of engineers, who are working exceptionally hard to deliver this programme of work."

"When the new bridge opens, I'm confident it will be welcomed by cyclists from near and far who visit Warwickshire to enjoy this stunning section of the route 41 trail."

The new bridge, set to open in September, will form part of the national cycle route through the English countryside that is maintained by the Walk Wheel Cycle Trust charity.

Monica Fogarty, chief executive of Warwickshire County Council, said: "We are proud of the county council's notable achievements in securing better mitigation and legacy benefits from HS2 for our communities."

"The Fosse Way cycle bridge was a major success for us during the passage of the HS2 Act through parliament and we are excited to finally see this project coming to fruition. The bridge will provide a key link which will create a flagship cycle route from Leamington to Rugby to benefit many generations to come."

The B4455 Fosse Way, near Offchurch, will be closed until Sunday while work on the bridge is completed.

Some 54 kilometres of the controversial 190km HS2 rail track between London and Birmingham cuts through Warwickshire.

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New scheme aims to pass on trade skills

A NEW initiative in Rugby is bringing together experienced tradespeople and young trainees to tackle youth unemployment while improving local homes.

Dormant Trade Skills pairs experienced or semi-retired tradespeople with young people who are out of work, giving them the chance to learn practical skills on real jobs while delivering meaningful improvements to housing.

Programme organisers are now calling for support from local authorities to expand the initiative.

The approach was demonstrated on a house in Deerings Road, where Trade Mentor Phil Ward and trainee Josh King solved damp and mould issues by improving external drainage, installing modern humidistat-controlled ventilation, and treating mould.

Josh said: "I really enjoyed being part of the job and learning on site. It was completely different to just being shown things - actually doing the work and having someone experienced there to guide me made a big difference."

"I learned a lot in a short space of time and would definitely like to keep working in this kind of environment."

Phil said it was good to be back on site and pass on some of the practical skills he had picked up over the



years. He added: "Josh worked hard, was keen to learn, and took things on board well."

"I think it's a good idea, as there are a lot of experienced tradespeople who still have something to offer,

and younger people benefit from learning properly on real jobs. I'd be happy to get involved again."

Project leader Jon Gadsden said the key to this type of work was understanding the cause of the problem.

He added: "Once that's clear, the solution is usually straightforward and can be carried out by a competent person."

"We guide that process and pass that understanding on, so experienced tradespeople and trainees can deliver the work properly on real jobs."

The homeowner also praised both the work and the concept behind it, adding: "It's great to see experience being passed on while getting the job done properly."

The initiative is now looking to expand across Rugby and surrounding areas, with organisers calling on local authorities and partners to support the next phase of delivery.

Dormant Trade Skills is also inviting experienced tradespeople to get involved as mentors and help pass on valuable skills to the next generation.

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

Trainee Josh King (left) and Trade Mentor Phil Ward solved damp and mould issues at a house in Deerings Road.

Walk on the wildside

NATURE lovers in Coventry and Warwickshire are being invited to help record local wildlife this weekend.

The global City Nature Challenge, which runs from Friday (April 24) to Monday (April 27), invites people across the region to use smartphones to record the wild plants, animals, and fungi living on their doorsteps.

All records will be added to the Warwickshire Biological Record Centre to support the understanding and management of local natural heritage and biodiversity.

Mark Ryder, Warwickshire County Council's Executive Director for Communities, said: "To protect and enhance this environment, we need to understand exactly what wildlife is thriving on our doorsteps."

"Whether you are exploring one of our country parks, walking along a local waterway, or simply stepping into your own garden, every single observation helps build a vital snapshot of our local ecosystem."

A programme of free, guided public events is taking place over the weekend.

■ Wyken Croft Nature Park, Coventry (Friday April 24, 10am-12pm): Public BioBlitz - <https://tinyurl.com/2cn5c3k8>

■ Charterhouse, Coventry (Friday April 24, 3pm-5pm): Family-friendly biological recording session - <https://tinyurl.com/>

zfh76a2
 ■ Charterhouse, Coventry (Friday April 24, 8-9:30pm): Guided bat walk - <https://tinyurl.com/463t952b>

■ Longford Park, Coventry (Saturday April 25, 10am-2pm): Drop-in BioBlitz - <https://tinyurl.com/38v9x368>

■ Ryton Pools Country Park (Saturday April 25, 10am-3pm): Public BioBlitz - <https://bit.ly/RytonPoolsBioBlitz>

■ Kenilworth Abbey Fields (Sunday April 26, 10am-3pm): Public BioBlitz and nature walks - <https://tinyurl.com/yc8p6499>

■ Coundon Wedge and Whitley (Weekend Events): Expert-led guided flora and fauna walks exploring local green spaces - <https://tinyurl.com/zfh76a2>

■ Warwickshire Churchyards (Various Dates/ Locations): Community nature surveys across historical churchyards, including Old Milverton (<https://tinyurl.com/4ce9mdjp>) and Salford Priors (<https://tinyurl.com/3bw2xefu>)

To participate, download the free iNaturalist app via www.inaturalist.org and explore outside between April 24-27, photographing any wild plants, animals, or fungi.

Visit www.citynaturechallenge.org for more information.

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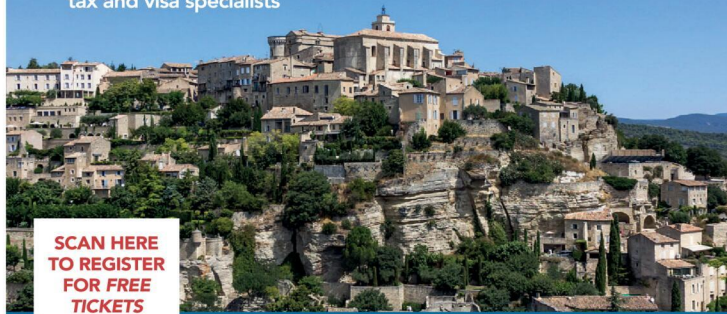
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New service a boost for mental health

AROUND-the-clock mental health crisis support is available in Coventry and Warwickshire thanks to the launch of a new service.

Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust (CWPT) has partnered with Shout to offer free, 24/7 mental health crisis text support for anyone who is struggling to cope.

People living in Coventry and Warwickshire can text CWHOPE to 85258 to start a confidential conversation with a mental health professional at any time of day or night.

The service is designed to provide immediate support for people experiencing anxiety, stress, loneliness, suicidal thoughts or any mental health crisis.

Conversations take place entirely by text, making it a discreet and accessible option for those who may find speaking on the phone difficult.

Mary Mumvuri, Acting Chief Executive Officer at Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust, said: "We are proud to introduce this crisis text service for people across Coventry and Warwickshire."

"We know that reaching out for help can be incredibly difficult, especially in moments of distress, and not everyone feels able to speak on the phone."

"By partnering with Shout, we are expanding the ways people can



Mental health crisis text support is available to people in Coventry and Warwickshire who are struggling to cope.

access support and ensuring help is available in a way that feels safe and discreet.

"This service reflects our commitment to providing compassionate, responsive mental health care and to meeting people where they are, whenever they need us."

Kane Hazard, NHS Partnerships Manager at Mental Health Innovations, added: "Through providing Shout's clinical model across the region, we can help ease demand on 111 and in-person services, ensuring people can access

urgent support from trained mental health professionals simply by texting CWHOPE to 85258.

"We know that reaching out on the phone or in person can be difficult. Texting provides a discreet, accessible way for people to ask for support whenever they need it."

The service is free from all major mobile networks and is available to people of all ages across Coventry and Warwickshire.

Visit www.covwarkpt.nhs.uk/crisis-text-support for more information.

A THRILLED amateur rider from Binley Woods has overcome heartbreak to qualify for the prestigious Horse of the Year Show (HOYS) in Birmingham this October.

Helen Forster and her horse, HS Queen Bea, won their class at the SEIB Insurance Brokers Search for a Star qualifier at the Wiltshire Horse Show.

They will now go on to compete under the bright lights of the HOYS Arena at the NEC in Birmingham in early October.

The pair competed in and won the competitive Working Horse class to earn their HOYS qualification.

Helen said: "I qualified for Search for a Star in the Riding Horse class three years ago with my horse Greannanstown Jackpot, who sadly had a field accident and died before the finals."

"I'm so lucky to have Bea and to

have now qualified again.

"I bought Bea from her breeder when she was just six months old and we've competed in plenty of different things together."

"We went to the London Horse Show in 2024 and 2025 when we came second and took the Reserve Champion Working Show Horse."

"We also do some showjumping together and have qualified for the Blue Chip Showjumping Championships."

SEIB Search for a Star has provided thousands of opportunities for amateur riders to compete at HOYS since it first took place in 1996.

Each of the qualifying shows offers opportunities for a full range of show horses to earn a place at the series championships at Horse of the Year Show and Your Horse Live.

Visit www.seib.co.uk/competitions for updates.

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

Unlike memory foam, Medical Grade™ foam doesn't require heat to become pliable, nor does it lock sleepers in place where they may seize up with aches and pains. Instead, Medical Grade™ foam instantly contours to the body and provides a supportive yet flexible surface that aids natural spinal alignment.

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

Testing excellence

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

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

Award wins

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

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

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

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Play raises cash

A COUPLE from Rugby have thanked the charity which provided them with a new pet by raising hundreds of pounds in its aid.

A 'Paws and Play' fundraiser, at The Holly Bush pub in Lawford Road, raised £635 to help Cats Protection Rugby support vulnerable cats in the area.

The event was organised by Carol McDonagh, Clare Cambridge and Lee Warwick – the latter two having recently welcomed three-legged cat Stannis into their home after adopting him from the charity's volunteer-run local branch.

The money raised, which was generated by activities including a raffle, a homemade cake sale, a darts competition and a series of games –

will go towards the charity's veterinary costs.

Stannis came into the care of Cats Protection Rugby with a severely injured leg which needed to be amputated. His veterinary bill was £700.

He is now thriving in his new home.

Clare said: "We wanted to raise money for the local branch who have done so much for cats like Stannis, who need that extra care before they are ready for adoption."

Teena Shilton, branch manager for Cats Protection Rugby, said: "Community support like this makes a real difference and allows us to continue caring for cats like Stannis."

Visit www.cats.org.uk/rugby for more information about the charity.



Open horse event is back in town

From left: James Buckland (director of event sponsors Vantage Building Solutions and Midlands Timber Buildings), Bud Jackson (chair of Stoneleigh Riding Club) and Princethorpe College headmaster Grove du Toit, pictured in the college grounds. s

by Andy Morris
andy.morris@bullivantmedia.com

A PRESTIGIOUS horse-riding event is returning to Princethorpe College for its 25th anniversary.

The National Schools and Riding Clubs Two-Day Event, organised by Stoneleigh Riding Club, will be hosted on the Princethorpe College estate next month.

One of only a few 'long format' events open to all grassroots riders, the event offers an opportunity for competitors to experience the thrill of a full weekend of competition.

Bud Jackson, the chair of Stoneleigh Riding Club, said: "We are looking forward to working with the Princethorpe team once again."

"This is a key date in the equine calendar for so many schools and riding clubs across the country. Stoneleigh's long-format event is one of only a few and this year's 25th anniversary event is already shaping up to be the best one yet."

The event is open to all and offers classes at 70cm, 80cm, 90cm and 100cm.

Individual and team entries from riding clubs and schools are welcome, and there are classes for all types of school.

Princethorpe headmaster Grove du Toit said the college was looking forward to welcoming competitors.

He added: "Watching the riders make their way around the cross-country course

is always exciting and a huge highlight of the weekend."

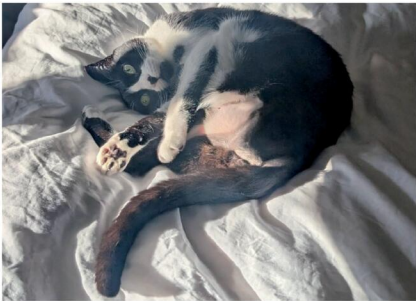
"We are especially pleased to be building, again, on the success of the 70cm class, which broadens the entry, especially to schools' competitors."

This year's competition takes place on Saturday May 23 and Sunday May 24, with dressage and showjumping on day one and roads and tracks, steeplechase and cross-country on day two.

Admission to the event for spectators is free, with the competition running from 8.30am to 6.30pm on both days.

Entries are now open and will close on Friday, May 15.

Visit www.stoneleighridingclub.com/ schedules for more information.



Stannis is thriving in his new home. s

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Josephine Rugg

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Dewar Close, Rugby
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✉ j.rugg@wcs-care.co.uk

All set for borough food fest

THE FINAL touches are being added to the menu for this weekend's Rugby Spring Food and Drink Festival.

The event returns to Regent Street tomorrow (Saturday), from 11am to 5pm.

The free event, organised by Rugby Borough Council, will feature more than 50 food and drink stalls from local businesses, farms and producers, offering treats including hot-steamed dumplings, loaded tacos, churros and chocolate brownies.

The event will also offer

traditional woodworking sessions with skilled woodcarvers and turners to give residents the opportunity to have a go at wood turning, chiselling and carving spoons or spatulas.

Children can enjoy face painting, food art and an opportunity to test their knowledge with a food and drink quiz.

Local bands will provide a soundtrack to the event.

Tom Kittendorf, Rugby Borough Council's assistant director for leisure and

wellbeing, said: "As always, the event has proved very popular with stallholders and is now fully booked."

"The festival provides a great opportunity for local businesses and start-ups to showcase the excellent food offerings we have in Rugby and surrounding areas."

"Several thousand people are expected to attend the festival, which will have a significant impact on the town centre economy, through increased footfall and raising awareness of businesses."



Ava-Rose grabbed a cheeky snack at last year's food festival. Picture by Marcus Mings 3925003MMR5

Councils gear up for the looming vote on May 7

by Andy Morris
andy.morris@bullivanmedia.com

RUGBY is ready to go to the polls, with local elections to take place on Thursday, May 7.

Votes will take place in 14 Rugby Borough Council wards.

In Bilton Ward, a by-election prompted by a recent resignation will run alongside the scheduled election, meaning electors can vote for two of the 10 candidates listed on the ballot paper.

An election for Long Lawford Parish Council will also take place and voters in Clifton-upon-Dunsmore can cast a vote in a referendum on the parish's neighbourhood plan.

Notices of uncontested elections have been published for the parish councils in Easenhall; Shilton and Barnacle; Wolston; and Wolvey.

Postal voters in Long Lawford will receive separate packs for



An election count at Rugby's Benn Hall. s

the borough and parish council votes – with the borough council ballot paper white in colour and the parish council ballot paper green.

In Clifton-upon-Dunsmore, postal voters will also receive separate packs for the borough council election and the neighbourhood plan referendum, with the referendum ballot grey.

The council has urged voters to check the details of new polling stations which will operate on May 7.

Polling cards will include details of the location of polling stations and people can also visit www.rugby.gov.uk/pollingstation.

Dan Green, the returning officer for Rugby, has urged voters to return postal votes via the Royal

Mail in the pre-paid envelope included with ballot papers.

He said: "With the recent changes to postal voting – which mean you need to sign a form if you hand-deliver your postal vote at the Town Hall or polling station – returning your vote by post is the simplest way to make sure you have your say at the local elections."

"With the application deadlines for proxy votes and free voter ID rapidly approaching, now's the time to make sure you're election-ready for May 7."

Visit www.rugby.gov.uk/voterID to apply for a free voter authority certificate photo ID, and www.rugby.gov.uk/proxy to apply for proxy votes. Both processes have a deadline of 5pm on Tuesday.

Deadlines for voter registration and postal vote applications have passed.

Visit www.rugby.gov.uk/electionready for more information.



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Officer guilty of misconduct over messages

A WARWICKSHIRE Police detective who pursued an inappropriate relationship with the mother of a child victim will never work in policing again.

DC John Littlewood was found guilty of gross misconduct at a hearing conducted by the Independent Office for Police Conduct.

The hearing concluded Littlewood would have been dismissed with immediate effect had he not already left the force. He will now be placed on the barred list which means he will not be able to work in policing again.

The 52-year-old, who worked in the force's child abuse, trafficking and exploitation team, had admitted one count of improper exercise of police powers and privileges by a constable, at court hearing in January.

He was given an eight-month prison sentence, suspended for 15 months, and ordered to carry out 100 hours of work in the community.

The IOPC investigation revealed how Littlewood exchanged hundreds of messages, many of a sexualised nature, with a woman he met through one of his cases.

The investigation began in December 2023 following a referral from Warwickshire Police and ended in December 2024 when a file of evidence was sent to the Crown Prosecution Service which authorised the charges.

Littlewood met Female X in October 2021 when he was assigned to investigate a report of a sexual assault against the woman's daughter.

Between May and September 2023 investigators found he exchanged more than 300 messages with the woman, including many of an inappropriate nature.

One message from Littlewood read: "if you are careless with my messages and don't delete them you could really drop me in it at work".

The investigation also involved CCTV enquiries and cell site mapping of his phone which revealed he met the woman at a Coventry hotel in the early hours of October 1 2023 for around 50 minutes.

Littlewood also paid frequent visits to Female X's home which aroused the suspicions of a support worker who raised concerns with Warwickshire Police's Professional Standards Department.

OPC director Derrick Campbell: "Female X was in a vulnerable position when she was manipulated by DC Littlewood. He met her while on duty and used that contact to start up a friendship which led to inappropriate contact including sexualised messages.

"The officer knew his behaviour was improper as he told her to delete messages, some of which were sent while on duty, as they would get him into trouble at work."

Crime-fighting on the screen

A SERIES series of short films have been made by Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board highlighting efforts being made to reduce crime, tackle anti-social behaviour and improve public safety.

The 'A Day In The Life' films - which can be viewed at safer-warwickshire.com/adayinthelife - were created through collaboration between Warwickshire County Council, Warwickshire Police, all five borough and district councils, local BIDs (Business Improvement Districts) and local charities.

The films will also be shared across social media over the coming weeks. They aim to show residents how partnership working is helping to create safer and more resilient communities.

Focusing on key issues affecting different parts of Warwickshire, the films explore the main community safety challenges in the county, how partners are working together to prevent and respond to crime and ASB, the role of visible patrols and community engagement recent initiatives, projects and achievements, and how the public can report crime, concerns or incidents of ASB.

The short films provide real examples of joint interventions, community projects, and preventative work being carried out across Warwickshire.

By giving residents an insight into what is happening locally, the series aims to increase public confidence and encourage closer collaboration between communities and local services.

Supt Helen Waite, Warwickshire Police's anti-social behaviour hotspot lead, said: "Anti-social behaviour affects how safe people feel in their own communities, and we know the best results come when police, partners and residents all play a part.

"By working closely together, we can respond



more quickly, focus on the areas that need us most, and provide the visible reassurance people expect. These films show the real difference that joint problem-solving is making."

Leon Livermore, head of trading standards and community safety at WCC, said the films showed how collaborative working helped keep Warwickshire safe.

"When local councils, the police, and voluntary-sector partners work together, we're better able to support the community, reduce crime and anti-social behaviour."

"We hope these films will help build a better understanding of what's going on in our communities and encourage everyone to report any concerns."

Visit www.warwickshire.gov.uk for more information. Warwickshire Police will continue to work with partners to reduce crime and improve public safety.

The new films are available to watch on the Warwickshire Police website. Contact 07939 445024 www.gjffairs.co.uk

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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.



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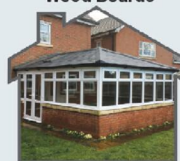
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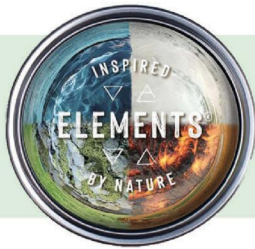
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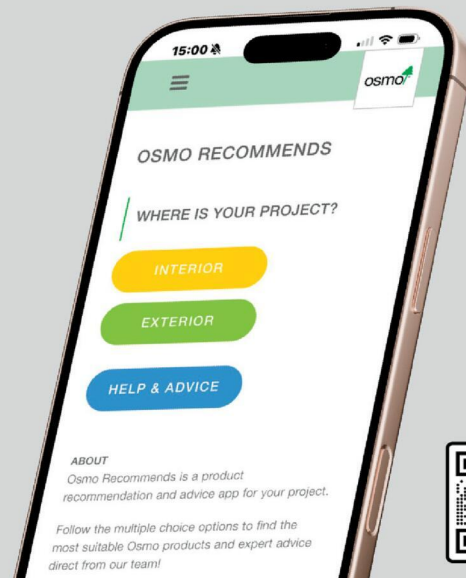
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Classic cars will be taking part in the Lavender Run on Drive It Day on Sunday. The untimed 126-mile tour runs through the scenic counties of Warwickshire, Worcestershire, and the Cotswolds.

Sights and sounds of the classics

CLASSIC cars are set to roar through the countryside this weekend on a charity Lavender Run on Drive It Day.

The event, organised by Redditch and District Car Club, is a scenic classic car tour through the heart of England for Drive It Day on Sunday, April 26 in aid of a children's charity.

Drive It Day is organised by the Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs (FBHVC) and helps to raise money for the NSPCC's free counselling and support service for children and young people, Childline.

The FBHVC has this year agreed to support Childline with Drive It Day for another five years.

For the event, car owners are encouraged to purchase special plates for their vehicles, with money from the sales going towards helping Childline.

Starting at Stratford Garden Centre the untimed 126-mile tour runs through the scenic counties of Warwickshire, Worcestershire, and the Cotswolds.

The route includes enjoyable stop-offs at the Halford Bridge Inn in Shipston-on-Stour for tea, Pillerton Priors for a buffet lunch,

and then Broadway Tower.

Finally returning to the garden centre finish for a well-earned two-course meal.

Roger Taylor, clerk of the course, said: "Drive It Day has become a firmly established date in the calendar for classic car enthusiasts.

"When it came to selecting a date to revive the Lavender Run, it was an obvious choice. We're also proud that the club will be supporting the important work of the NSPCC by raising funds through this event."

FBHVC chairman David Whale said: "The Federation of British

Historic Vehicle Clubs, organisers of the annual Drive It Day event, is proud of its association with the NSPCC.

"To date the event has raised over £250,000 in support of Childline. FBHVC applauds the generosity of the historic vehicle community and the unwavering support of FBHVC member clubs and their thousands of enthusiastic members across the UK."

Jane Horsley, NSPCC supporter relationship fundraiser, said: "We are delighted that the FBHVC has agreed to support Childline for another five years with their Drive

It Day event.

"It is always a fantastic sight to see the many wonderful vehicles being displayed at events across the country and giving people a chance to see some wonderful cars up close.

"Every penny raised from these events supports the NSPCC's Childline service which gives children and young people a chance to seek support and help if they have any worries, no matter how big or small."

For more or to book onto the Lavender Run, visit www.rdcc.org.uk.



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A hike through Britain's history

NICHOLAS Crane pulls on his walking boots to explore the history of Britain's highways and byways in *The Path More Travelled*.

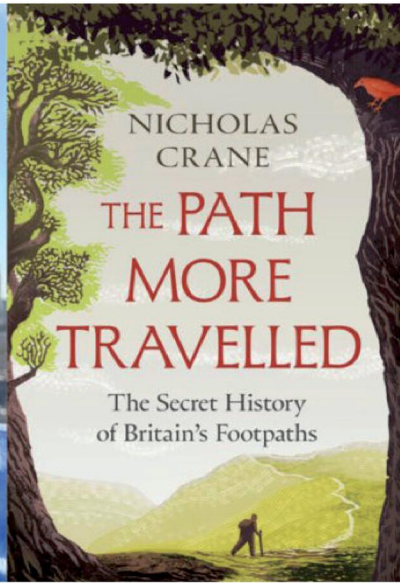
The geographer, writer and broadcaster takes the reader on a 12,000 year hike through an ever-changing landscape, following the pioneering prehistoric men and women who made their way to these shores across Doggerland at the end of the last ice age more than 11,000 years ago, through to the fast lane life of the modern world dominated by the all-conquering internal combustion engine.

It's a history spent mostly on two feet, then the four legs of the horse, before the wheel arrives, which eventually accelerates the transformation of this land far beyond the wildest imagination of those who walked these shores in centuries gone by.

It is chiefly a celebration of walking and concludes with a rallying cry to open up more of the land to its people. While acknowledging the tireless efforts of organisations such as the Open Spaces Society, the Ramblers, the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England, Sustrans and wildlife trusts, among many others, he makes it clear there is still much work to be done.

His thoroughly engaging journey takes the reader on a ramble up mountain and down dale, across ancient tracks, around field paths, along canal towpaths, bridleways and cycleways, and down city pavements and alleyways.

Much of the pre-Roman story of man's movement in prehistoric Britain is one of conjecture and



Nicholas Crane will be taking about Britain's secret paths at Stratford Literary Festival on May 8.

it had little real impact. Turnpikes - tolled roads - did manage to improve things a little later, but it was the mass arrival of the car in the 20th century which was to make the most marked difference to the nation's road system, and which continues to do so.

Before then saw the industrial revolution change the landscape of Britain, with the growth of cities and the arrival of the canals and railways.

War also played its part, with swathes of land, such as Salisbury Plain, commandeered for military purposes, and then to meet the demand for airfields during the Second World War.

The face of Britain has been one of constant change and adaptation from the moment man first set foot on these isles, and the author is all too aware that is not going to change, but is aware of the health and mental benefits offered by a more open landscape which positively welcomes and encourages more people to get out and enjoy what's on their doorstep. "Slower travel as lifespan gained" as he coins it.

The Path More Travelled - The Secret History of Britain's Paths is published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson.

■ Nicholas Crane will be appearing at Stratford Literary Festival on May 8. Visit www.stratfordliteraryfestival.co.uk for further details about the festival running from May 7 to 10.

debate, but while real evidence of early footprints may literally be left on the ground, we know for certain the land was criss-crossed with a web of routeways, and that our ancestors, particularly from the Bronze Age onwards, would travel great distances, even if we may not be sure exactly why. Personal enlightenment? Gift exchange? Dating? Spiritual observance? All and quite

probably more.

The Romans certainly left their mark during their 400 year stay, bringing systematised road building and a planned network of communication to Britain for the first time. When they left so did any real continuity for the best part of the next couple of millennium.

Later came the land-grabbing Norman barons, who arguably did

more than anyone else to close off the country to the majority of the population. They came, they conquered and they put up the 'keep out' signs. They kicked-started the enclosure of the countryside.

Efforts to improve roads saw the first Highways Act in 1555 - nine years before Shakespeare was even born - aimed at maintaining the nation's roads. Too broadly worded,

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Strategy is a blueprint to boost wildlife

PARKS, rivers and wildlife in Warwickshire are set for a boost.

Warwickshire County Council's new Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) aims to restore natural habitats, improve the quality of rivers, support the recovery of vulnerable species, and create more green spaces in towns.

With the UK now identified as one of the most nature-depleted countries on Earth, the locally developed strategy provides a blueprint for nature recovery across the county.

The plan, developed in collaboration with the Warwickshire Coventry and Solihull Local Nature Partnership (LNP), focuses on eight linked priorities to help reverse biodiversity decline, based on local knowledge and evidence.

It aims to create more nature-rich habitats, support the recovery of vulnerable species, and improve water availability for both wildlife and local communities.

The strategy will also aim to embed more 'green and blue' spaces into towns and new developments, connect people to accessible natural places, and support farmer and land-

owner-led sustainable land management.

By working with natural processes and nature-based solutions, the strategy will tackle challenges such as flooding.

Mark Ryder, Warwickshire County Council's executive director for communities, emphasised the importance of the strategy's collaborative approach.

"The adoption of the Warwickshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy is a major step forward in turning our ambition for nature into real, practical action.

"It gives us a clear, locally agreed plan for where we can make the biggest difference, whether that's restoring habitats, improving our rivers, or creating greener spaces in our towns.

"Just as importantly, it's something everyone can play a part in, helping us to reverse the decline in nature and create a healthier, more resilient environment for future generations."

The strategy will now be submitted to the government for final adoption.

The new Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) aims to restore Warwickshire's natural habitats.



The Blue Tit was the most frequently spotted bird in Warwickshire gardens.



THE BLUE Tit was the most frequently spotted bird in Warwickshire during this year's Big Garden Birdwatch.

Some 5,200 people across the county took part in the world's largest garden wildlife survey, counting the number and types of birds visiting their gardens.

In second spot in Warwickshire was the House Sparrow followed by the Wood Pigeon.

Nationally, the House Sparrow held onto the top spot and Blue Tit remained at number two, with Starling creeping up one place to number three. Woodpigeon and Blackbird make up the other top five most recorded species in UK gardens.

Over 650,000 people in total took part in the survey which started in 1979 and provides a valuable annual snapshot of how the most common garden birds are faring.

Survey organisers the RSPB reported that it was further down the garden rank-

ings where the real story lies. At 18th spot on the list is Greenfinch, which has seen a 67 per cent decline in average numbers recorded since Big Garden Birdwatch began in 1979. Other UK-wide surveys show that Greenfinches have dropped by over 65 per cent since the latest UK wide surveys began in the mid-1990s, equating to the loss of over two million birds.

The cause of these losses is disease, especially a disease called trichomonosis, which spreads more easily when birds gather around feeders - particularly in summer and autumn. As a result of these declines, Greenfinches are now on the UK Red List due to disease-related declines.

The results of the Big Garden Birdwatch will help the RSPB carry out vital conservation efforts to support nature throughout the year.

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

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The home test kit for bowel cancer that could save your life



MILLIONS more people are benefiting from life-saving bowel screening compared to a decade ago - according to the NHS.

Almost seven million people had bowel screening from the NHS in the last fiscal year, compared to around 4.7million in 2014/15.

Since bowel screening started, two decades ago, the NHS has caught 70,000 cancers with almost 85 million people screened.

A further 270,000 people have benefited from regular surveillance after screening highlighted they could be vulnerable to developing the disease.

Bowel screening was introduced in 2006, for people in their 60s, and the test is now available to people aged 50 to 74.

by Sarah Mason
sarah.mason@bullivantmedia.com

Only half of the eligible recipients, aged 60 to 74, were screened two decades ago but that figure rose to more than seven in 10 people last year.

The NHS is urging more people to get tested.

It has never been easier to get screened, with the NHS sending out around 8.7million home-testing kits a year.

The faecal immunochemical test (FIT), checks for blood in a small stool sample, which can be a sign of bowel cancer.

FIT kits require a poo sample be put in a small tube and returned it by post to the NHS.

The National Cancer Plan, published at the start of the year, committed to 17,000 earlier diagnoses by 2035 - to save almost 6,000 lives with home-testing kits.

Grace, 54, who was diagnosed after a FIT test, said: "I truly believe the NHS bowel cancer screening programme saved my life. I'm 54, fit and healthy - a non-smoker and

non-drinker who regularly swims and lifts weights - and I had absolutely no symptoms.

"My husband had completed his screening kit around six months before mine arrived in the post, in August. His result was normal, so when I sent mine off, I expected the same outcome. My FIT test had come back positive, with traces of blood found in my stool. I would need a colonoscopy.

"I still feel very shocked about the diagnosis and having to deal with the stoma is a constant reminder. But I was very lucky that it was found early and has been dealt with.

"So my message to anyone who receives a bowel cancer screening kit is simple: please do it. You have nothing to lose, and it could be the most important post you receive."

England's top cancer doctor has also urged people to get tested when the NHS invites them to.

Professor Peter Johnson, national clinical director for cancer at NHS England said: "The NHS has transformed bowel screening over the last

two decades, making it easier than ever before for people's cancer to be picked up, and the sooner it is spotted the easier it is to treat.

"And thanks to the fantastic work of [late cancer podcaster] Dame Deborah James, we've seen a big jump in the number of people taking up the offer of bowel screening.

"Bowel cancer has become more common in recent years, and anyone aged between 50 and 74-years-old should be regularly tested, so the NHS will send you a test when you're eligible that takes just minutes to do from the comfort of your home. There is no need to be embarrassed - a simple poo test could be the difference between enjoying many more years with your loved ones or having your life cut short by bowel cancer.

"For anyone experiencing symptoms such as blood in their poo or severe stomach pain, no matter their age, you can speak to your GP and get it checked out as soon as possible, as well as completing your screening test when invited."

Millions more are benefiting from life-saving bowel screening compared to a decade ago. s

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Awards aim to give a boost to those helping to advance animal welfare



Thomas Schultz-Jagow hands Charlotte Williams, from Colchester City Council, the Responsible Ownership Hero award for her commitment to strengthening animal activity licensing in the city and her dedication to supporting colleagues across the wider Essex area.

CHARITIES, emergency services and councils who champion animal welfare are being called on to show they are "for every kind" by entering the prestigious PawPrints Awards.

The RSPCA works in close partnership with public bodies across England and Wales to recognise and improve animal welfare standards, with the charity celebrating community heroes with its one-of-a-kind scheme since 2008.

The awards acknowledge those who surpass legal standards and raise the bar for animal welfare, and recognises councils, emergency services, housing associations, and other public-sector service deliverers.

This year's awards will focus on prevention - spotlighting how early intervention and responsible pet

ownership can improve animal welfare outcomes while reducing long-term demand and cost pressures on public sector services.

There are three overall categories of awards.

The core awards categories recognise public bodies for their delivery of stray dog services, licensing, housing services, contingency planning and kennelling - with gold, silver and bronze awards available in each category.

A platinum award will also be presented to organisations that have achieved gold for five consecutive years or more, recognising public sector organisations demonstrating consistent excellence and local leadership in animal welfare.

Alongside the core awards, there is a suite of special awards - to honour exceptional dedication, commitment, innovation and contribu-

tions to animal welfare - including the Withnall Partnerships Award, launched last year in memory of former RSPCA Inspector Kirsty Withnall, who passed away in 2024.

There are also three hero categories, this year aligned to the theme of prevention and early intervention - the Responsible Pet Ownership Hero, the Public Awareness and Behaviour Change Campaign Hero, and the Prevention Hero.

Lee Gingell, RSPCA public affairs manager, said: "The public sector

plays a crucial role in raising animal welfare standards, and year on year we're proud of the part the PawPrints Awards plays in driving that progress.

"This commitment has transformed the lives of countless pets, wildlife, livestock and other animals - yet too often, this vital work goes unheard.

"We want to shine a spotlight on these inspiring efforts and encourage all public bodies to take part - to show they are there for every kind, and to join us in creating a kinder

world for every animal."

PawPrints is endorsed by the Chartered Institute of Environment Health, the Local Government Animal Welfare Group, the Chartered Trading Standards Institute, the Institute of Licensing and the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Animal Welfare.

Entries are open until July 31 - and public bodies can apply via the RSPCA's dedicated PoliticalAnimal website.

A leadership and awards ceremony event will take place in November.



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- Fun for all the family
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Vines Park Droitwich WR9 8LB

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Saturday 2nd May, Sunday 3rd May 10am - 11pm
Monday 4th May 10am - 5pm

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- **Around 50 different beers and ciders**
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Boats Welcome**



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Add up these savings to help reduce your home energy costs



MORE than a third of British households have struggled to pay their energy bills in the past three months, according to a YouGov survey published earlier this year.

Yet research suggests millions are unknowingly making simple, costly mistakes every single day — with 71 per cent washing clothes at 40°C or higher, 53 per cent leaving the heating running when they leave the house, and 46 per cent keeping it on throughout the night.

Shay Ramani, owner of home energy comparison site Free Price Compare (freepricecompare.com), has compiled a list of seven changes every UK household should make right now — and calculated exactly how much each one saves. Together, they add up to £365 a year.

He said: “The frustrating reality is that most households are paying more than they need to, not because of anything complicated, but because of small habits that quietly add up over a year. None of the changes on this list require spending serious money or

overhauling your home. Most of them take a few minutes. But done together, they represent a saving of up to £365 a year — and for a household already struggling with bills, that is genuinely meaningful money.”

Here are the seven changes Ramani and the team at Free Price Compare recommend, along with exactly how much each one saves.

1. Turn your thermostat down by 1°C — save up to £90 a year

Dropping your thermostat by a single degree can save up to £90 a year according to Free Price Compare’s analysis. With the clocks going forward this weekend and spring temperatures arriving, now is the perfect moment to nudge it down. Most people notice no difference in comfort whatsoever — but they will notice the difference on their bill.

2. Switch every bulb in your home to LED — save around £40 a year

Replacing all remaining bulbs with LEDs saves around £40 a year. LED bulbs use up to 80 per cent less electricity than older incandescent bulbs and cost just a few pounds each to replace. It is one of the easiest and most cost-effective swaps on this list.

3. Switch appliances off standby — save around £45 a year

TVs, games consoles, phone chargers and set-top boxes left on standby quietly drain power around the clock. Switching them off at the wall rather than leaving them on standby saves around £45 a year — requiring nothing more than a small change in habit.

4. Only boil as much water as you need — save around £36 a year

The kettle is one of the most energy-hungry appliances in the average home and most people habitually overflow it. Boiling only the water you actually need saves around £36 a year — one of the simplest changes on this list.

5. Wash clothes at 30°C instead of higher temperatures — save around £34 a year

Despite the majority of UK households washing at 40°C or higher, modern detergents work just as effectively at 30°C for everyday laundry. Making the switch saves around £34 a year with no noticeable difference to results.

6. Draught-proof your doors and windows — save around £45 a year

Self-adhesive draught-proofing strips cost just a few pounds from any DIY shop and take minutes to fit around doors and windows.

They stop warm air escaping and cold air creeping in, saving around £45 a year — one of the best pound-for-pound returns on this entire list.

7. Install thermostatic radiator valves — save up to £75 a year

Thermostatic radiator valves, or TRVs, let you control the temperature of individual radiators rather than heating every room in the house to the same level.

Free Price Compare’s analysis shows installing a full set of heating controls including TRVs saves up to £75 a year by ensuring you only heat the rooms you are actually using.

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

SUDOKU

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

EASY

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

HARD

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

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.

Blue Peter presenters

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

Solutions opposite

CROSSWORD

1			2		3		4		5			6
		7						8				
9				10								
11						12			13			
					14							
15		16								17		
18						19		20				
21												

ACROSS

- Teacher (12)
- Danger (5)
- Come in (5)
- Haul (3)
- Persuasive speech (9)
- Constricted (6)
- Distant (3,3)
- Profanation (9)
- Vast period of time (3)
- Foreign (5)
- At that point (5)
- Yachts (7,5)

DOWN

- Meteor (8,4)
- Scull (3)
- Matured (6)
- Gamble (9)
- Consumed (5)
- Skill at gardening (5,7)
- Might (5)
- Excitable (9)
- Corpulent (5)
- Defeated (6)
- Porcelain (5)
- Recede (3)

Scribble pad

LADDER

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

- Peruse
- Tear apart
- SA currency
- Putrid
- Shelving fixture



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.

- 15534** gives a tree;
- 62834** gives another tree;
- 8795** gives a flower.

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

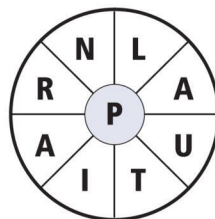
CODEWORD

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.

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

WORDWHEEL

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

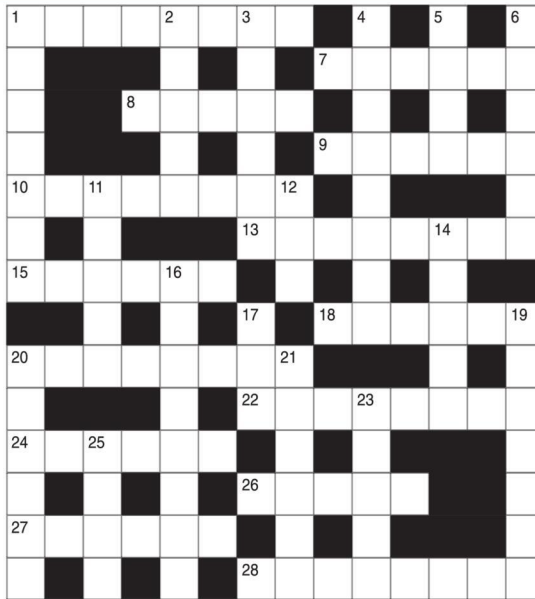


How you rate
 15 words: average 25 words: very good
 20 words: good 30 or more: excellent.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1. A pink powder consisting of zinc oxide and ferric oxide, used medicinally in the form of lotions, etc. (8)
7. Egeus's daughter in love with Lysander in A Midsummer Night's Dream (6)
8. Subdivision of a federation (5)
9. Most northerly island of the Cyclades (6)
10. An American and Asiatic genus of trees with wax-like flowers and dark green foliage (8)
13. Surname of the writer whose works include The Red Shoes and The Emperor's New Clothes (8)
15. Compound plant forming crusts and tufts on soil, stones and trees (6)
18. See 23 Down
20. In The Winter's Tale, the lover of Perdita (8)
22. See 25 Down
24. In the Old Testament, Manoa's son, famous for his prodigious strength (6)
26. Nematocider flies, related to mosquitos (5)
27. The escape by the Jews from their bondage in Egypt, led by Moses (6)
28. Large fish from which caviare is obtained (8)



DOWN

1. Burnt sugar used for flavouring and colouring (7)
2. Short phrase attached to a heraldic crest, etc. (5)
3. The fur of the coypu (6)
4. Large domesticated animal of sub-arctic regions (8)
5. Islamic title of an independent prince or chieftain (4)
6. See 17 Down
11. Small, soft-skinned lizard, common in warm climates (5)
12. See 25 Down
14. The original name of the disciple Peter (5)
16. The concluding part of a literary work (8)
- 17 & 6. Late comedian who presented the TV gameshow Blankety Blank (3,6)
- 19 & 20. Song writer and popular composer famous for Jeanie with the Light Brown Hair, Oh! Susanna, etc. (7,6)
21. Species of finch, commonly found feeding on flax seed (6)
- 23 & 18. Suffolk-set opera by Benjamin Britten (5,6)
- 25, 12 & 22. "The ---- ----", novel by W. Somerset Maugham based closely on the life of Paul Gauguin (4,3,8)

SOLUTIONS

ACROSS: 1 Calamine; 7 Hernia; 8 State; 9 Andros; 10 Magnolia; 13 Andersen; 15 Lichen; 18 Grimm; 22 Skopje; 24 Samsun; 26 Gnats; 27 Exodus; 28 Sturgeon. DOWN: 1 Carmel; 2 Motto; 3 Nutria; 4 Reindeer; 5 Emir; 6 Dawson; 7 Les; 9 Stephen; 10 Foster; 21 Linnet; 22 Peter; 25 Moon.

General Knowledge Crossword

ACROSS: 1 Schoolmaster; 7 Peril; 8 Enter; 9 Tow; 10 Eloquence; 11 Narrow; 12 Far off; 13 Sacrilege; 17 Eon; 18 Alien; 19 Thera; 21 Sailing boats. DOWN: 1 Shooting star; 2 Oar; 3 Mellow; 4 Speculate; 5 Eaten; 6 Green fingers; 7 Power; 10 Emotional; 13 Obese; 14 Beaten; 16 China; 20 Ebb.

Crossword

WORDHEEL Pathfinder: Komne Huq, Liz Barker, John Leslie, Diane-Louise Jordan, Matt Baker, Janet Ellis, Valerie Singleton, Peter Purves, Yvette Fielding, Tara Pullin. NINE: Stuart Miles, Christopher Trace, Kay Hill, Helen Skelton, Andy Williams, Anthea Turner. BACHELORS: Akimov, Tim Vincenz, Lindsey Russell, John Noakes, Lella

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

Hard

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

Easy



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PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICES

Warwickshire County Council

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
Warwickshire County Council has made the following Temporary Traffic Orders:

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 nos 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 389363.

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

FEATHERBED LANE, RUGBY
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.
Reason for Order: Repair/replacement of manhole covers and frame, 08.00hrs - 16.00hrs.
Order Commences: 12 May 2026 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 12 May 2026.
Access & Diversion: Featherbed Lane, The Kent, School Street, Deering Road and vice versa.
Contractor: CSP, Tel: 07918 389363.

PUBLIC FOOTPATH GORSE CLOSE, RUGBY
Order Effect: Footpath closure to all traffic.
Reason for Order: To enable duct laying works, 09.30hrs - 15.30hrs.
Order Commences: 11 May 2026 for up to 6 months.
Anticipated Completion: 11 May 2026.
Access & Diversion: Footboards and Traffic Management Operatives will be used to safely marshal pedestrians through the works.
Contractor: Sunbelt Rentals Ltd, Tel: 0370 050 0792.

FLECKNOE ROAD, LEAMINGTON HASTINGS
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.
Reason for Order: Works for boundary box and meter installation.
Order Commences: 12 May 2026 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 13 May 2026.
Access & Diversion: Southam Road, Hospital Lane, Main Street, Hayway Lane and vice versa.
Contractor: Chevron Traffic Management Ltd, Tel: 0330 008 0820.

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

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

S Duxbury, Director of Strategy, Planning & Governance, Shire Hall, Warwick CV34 4RL Date 23 April 2026

PUBLIC NOTICES

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING NOTICE

Sunday 10th May 2026 at 11am
The Copper House Club Ltd
Kenilworth,
CV8 2FZ

Open to fee paying members of the club for the year 2026 ONLY.

Membership cards will be required on entry.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Warwickshire County Council

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
Warwickshire County Council has made the following Temporary Traffic Orders:

STONELEIGH ROAD, STONELEIGH
Order Effect: Vehicular traffic will be prohibited from making a Right Turn from Stoneleigh Road on to the A46 slip Road.
Reason for Order: For the safety of the public during ongoing bridge works.
Order Commences: 3 November 2024 for up to 18 months. However, the Secretary of State in exercise of his powers under Section 15 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 has directed that the Order shall continue in force until 3 November 2027, or until works are completed, whichever is the earlier (unless the Secretary of State issues a further direction).
Access & Diversion: A diversion will be appropriately signed.
Contractor: Colas SIAC Ltd, Tel: 07880 434829.

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, WITHYBROOK
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, Fosse 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 23 April 2026

PUBLIC NOTICES

Warwickshire County Council

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

FOSSIE WAY, CHESTERTON
Order Effect: Road closed between Banbury Road and Windmill Hill Lane.
Reason for Order: Works to replace bridge expansion joint.
Order Commences: 11 May 2026 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 18 May 2026.
Access & Diversion: Fosse Way, Banbury Road, Gaydon Road, Station Road, Deppers Bridge Road, Upton Road, Southam Road, Upton Hill and vice versa.
Contractor: UK Road Services Ltd, Tel: 07480 932 777.

VICARAGE LANE, PRIORS MARSTON
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.
Reason for Order: Works to install new gas service.
Order Commences: 11 May 2026 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 15 May 2026.
Access & Diversion: Keys Lane, Shuckburgh Road, Vicarage Lane and vice versa.
Contractor: Cadent Gas, Tel: 0800 111 999.

SUTCLIFFE DRIVE, HARBURY
Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.
Reason for Order: Works to lay new telecomms cabling.
Order Commences: 13 May 2026 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 14 May 2026.
Access & Diversion: No diversion available.
Contractor: Quantum Traffic Management, Tel: 01724 786286.

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

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

S Duxbury, Director of Strategy, Planning & Governance, Shire Hall, Warwick CV34 4RL Date 23 April 2026

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 16 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.
Representors must at the same time send a copy of their Representations to the applicant at the address given at the Top of this notice. A guide to making representations is available from the traffic Commissioner's office.

PUBLIC NOTICES

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

Application Number R26/0295
2, SOUTH VIEW, BROAD STREET, BRINKLOW, RUGBY, CV23 0LT
Demolition of existing garage & replacement new garage
This development may affect a Conservation Area

Application Number R26/0327
PARCEL 23 (MORRIS HOMES), HOULTON (RUGBY RADIO STATION), KEY PHASE 4, WATLING STREET, RUGBY, CV23 0AS
Erection of 78 dwellings and associated works and development including access roads, parking and garages (application for approval of reserved matters relating to access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale pursuant to outline planning permission R17/0022).
This is a major development

Application Number R26/0333
CROWNER FIELDS FARM, MAIN ROAD, ANSTY, COVENTRY, CV7 9JA
Section 73 application to amend condition 58 of R23/1027 to alter the wording relating to sequencing of the development
This application is accompanied by an Environmental Statement. This development may affect a Listed Building.
This development may affect a Conservation Area. This development may affect a Public Right of Way. This is a major development

Members of the public may inspect copies of the application, the plans and documents submitted with it online at: www.planningportal.rugby.gov.uk or in an electronic form at: Town Hall, Evreux Way, Rugby CV21 2RR between the hours of 9.00 am and 5.00 pm Monday to Friday until 16 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 Chief Planning Officer, Town Hall, Rugby, CV21 2RR.

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

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

Nicola Smith - Strategic Director for Place

PUBLIC NOTICES

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
PROPOSED TRAFFIC SIGNAL JUNCTION B4113 PICKARDS WAY/DEVELOPMENT ACCESS ROAD, EXHALL AND PROPOSED DUAL TOUNCAN CROSSING LONGFORD ROAD NEAR WILSONS LANE, EXHALL

Warwickshire County Council hereby gives notice of its intention of proposed highway works to install (i) a traffic signal junction at Pickards Way/Development Access Road, Exhall; and (ii) a dual Toucan (pedestrian and cycle) crossing on Longford Road near Wilsons Lane, Exhall.

The proposals are required to comply with a condition attached to the planning permission for the development known as 'Land at Wilsons Lane/ A444 Coventry' (Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council Planning Application Ref: OUt/2020/1505, Appeal Ref: APP/14610/W/23/3319687).

Plans and further information may be viewed online at: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/trafficsignals

Objections and Representations
Any objections or representations must be made in writing, stating the grounds on which they are made and must be received by 22 May 2026.

Objections/submissions should be sent to: Engineering Design Services, Section 278 Team Environmental Services, Communities Directorate PO Box 43, Shire Hall Warwick, CV34 4SX Or by email to the relevant officer: Traffic Signal Junction - thomasowen@warwickshire.gov.uk, tel number (01926 413455), Dual Toucan Crossing - alexwilliams@warwickshire.gov.uk, tel number (02476 368810). Please note that objections and representations, including the name of the person making them, may be treated as public information and published. Information on how personal data is processed can be found at: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/privacy>

The Council regrets any inconvenience that may be caused by the proposed works.

Richard Fenwick, Director of Highways, Communities Directorate, Shire Hall, Warwick Date: 23 April 2026

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

Notice is hereby given that S K Y Lounge CoV Ltd has applied to Coventry City Council for a New Premises Licence for Sky Lounge, Old Fire Station, Hales Street, Coventry, CV1 1JA

Details of Application: To provide Live and Recorded Music (Indoors) 6.00 pm - 4.00 am (7 Days a Week); and Late-Night Refreshment (Indoors and Outdoors) 11.00 pm - 4.00 am (7 Days a Week)

Any person wishing to lodge a representation concerning this application may write to: Licensing Authority, Coventry City Council, PO Box 7097, Coventry CV6 9SL

Or send an email to: licensing@coventry.gov.uk

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

Any Representation relating to this application must be made in writing to the Licensing Authority by 15/05/2026.

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

MALCOLM BLYTHE (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 68 William Bristow Road, Cheshyemore, Coventry, CV3 5LR, who died on 29/03/2026, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 25/06/2026, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

Aisters Kelley, Solicitors Limited, 1 Manor Terrace, Friars Road, Coventry, CV1 2NU (Ref: TG/BL/25/4)

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....

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEATHS

Trudie & Raymond share the sad news of the passing of

Annie 'Hazel' Spreckley,

formerly of Villier Street, Leamington Spa.

Hazel passed away peacefully at Humfrey Lodge Care Home, Thaxted, Essex on Saturday 21st March 2026, aged 93 years.

She will be sadly missed by all who knew and loved her.

A funeral service will be held at 11:00 am on Wednesday 29th April at Thaxted Baptist Church.

Family flowers only please. Donations may be made to Pam's Place via Hazels In Memory page at www.peasgoodandskates.co.uk

DEATHS

BLICK Maggie

18/03/1942 - 11/04/2026

Died peacefully on Saturday 11th April age 84 years.

Devoted Mother of Julie Fenwick, Caroline Paterson and David Blick. Much loved Nan of Jacob, Abbie, Millie and Katie. She will be greatly missed by all her family.

The funeral service will be held at Oakley Wood Crematorium, South Chapel (CV33 9QP) on Tuesday 5th May 2026 everyone to be seated by 12.30pm. Please wear "a touch of colour".

The family would like to welcome you to join them after for a celebration of her life at: The Hatton Arms, Birmingham Rd, Warwick. CV35 7JJ

Family flowers only. The family asks for any donations to be made to Breast Cancer Research specifically supporting her son David in his Iron Man challenge in September.

<https://ironmanwales.gofundraise.co.uk/page/>
David-91572350

Thanks
Julie, Caroline and David

If you have a message for a loved one, give our team a call

01527 588688

Classified

TELEPHONE 01527 588688 FACSIMILE 01527 584371

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

OYSTER 3 luxury travel pram system 150Fix and all acc (cost over £1000) £150 07449196669

10 old unmade kits balsawood & plastic £5 each 0121 707 8399

LAWN MOWER Rotary Quacast GWO £20 07743929558

COFFEE machine Nescafe Dolce Gusto £20 07743929558

GOLF Set 2 woods, 10 irons, putter, bag, trolley £75 ono 01527 460742

NEW under counter freezer £90 07799851517

LIGHT oak dining table & chairs £50 ono 07799851517

YEW glass / wood corner cabinet £15 07799851517

YEW Welsh dresser £40 ono 07799851517

TWO Fish Aquariums 1 small, 1 medium good condition & extras, boxed £30 01527 878187

MASTER lock fire and water proof safe box with two keys 10lbs unused £45 07853772454

00 Gauge Bachmann parallel boiler Royal Scot Class loco + tender (ref 31-284) "The Ranger (12th London Regiment)" in BR Green and early emblem, running no 46165. In excellent unused condition, test run only, e / w original box and instructions. £55. Tel 07415322794

00 Gauge Bachmann GWR loco + tender (ref 31-305) in green with late crest "Broome Manor" running no 7805. Very good condition and runner, e / w original box. £25. Tel 07415322794

FREE Freezer white 4 pull out draws 21 1/2 x 21 1/2 x 33 1/2 07561557609

WANTED

****WANTED: Vinyl Records CDs Cassettes Vintage or New****
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Or email: welston@live.com
Paul (Albatross & Doomed Records)

MISCELLANEOUS

HORNBY 00 gauge "bubble car" (ref R2510) DCC Ready, Class 121 Driving Motor Brake in BR Blue, running no W55021. In excellent condition, test run only, otherwise unused, e / w manufacturer's original box and instructions. £55. Tel 07415322794

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17 rung aluminium double ladders excellent condition £50 07864037112

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

STRAWBERRY plants pack of 6 Elsanta plants £2.50 tray of 60 large plugs £20. 01905 778926

TWO Lamb feeders 24 feeding slots £250 & £230 07813443674

WOOD & metal garden table & chairs in need of renovation £25 01905 620271

SUFFOLK colt petrol mower working order but needs a service £25 01905 620271

20 CONCRETE paving slabs - various sizes, mainly 3' x 2' - £1.00 each. Hardcore - Mainly brick ends. Free for collection 07910527318

NEST of 3 tables Dark Oak Good condition £60 01299 403425

ELECTRIC Titan Polie Hedge Trimmer £35 07821939021

TRAVEL cot for sale Cuggl with mattress if required grey. G / c. 100x74x74. £20 01788840581

PAIR Zenith 10 x 15 binoculars in leather case £30 all offers considered 0121 744 7579

ILFORD Sporti 4 camera excellent condition in leather case £10 0121 744 7579

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Senior swimmers storm to gold

by Aaron Sutcliffe
 aaron.sutcliffe@bullivantmedia.com

SWIMMING: RUGBY Swimming Club's senior artistic swimmers won medals in all four categories the club entered at the Regional Championships.

The club displayed their prowess in the water once again at the Harvey Hadden Sports Village in Nottingham.

Rugby's senior squad, aged 15-years-old and above, competed across a range of events.

This included technical, free and acrobatic team routines and the free duet.

And Rugby secured gold medals in every team category and also took silver in the free duet.

The free duet pair of Lola

Rugby's senior squad struck gold at the Regional Championships. ©



Huett and Frankie Klym took silver despite taking to the water as some of the youngest athletes in the category. Rugby's technical team

opened the competition and took gold with a high energy routine set to the dance anthem 'Everybody Dance Now'. Swimmers Olivia Barry,

Chloe Bartholomew, Matilda John, Imogen Ravenhall, Tyra Watson, Amy Buckley, Valentina Kapiris and Emilia Owen delivered a precise and

powerful performance to take gold and set the tone.

In the free team event, the squad of Watson, Barry, Ravenhall, Bartholomew, John, Buckley, Huett and Klym also won gold for a dramatic and expressive routine themed around the rising phoenix.

Rugby's acrobatic team of Beatrice Banks, Kapiris, Saranne Black, Darcey Townsend, Chloe Barrett-Leafe, Owen and Rebecca Harper then secured the final team gold of the competition.

Another high energy routine, set to Queen's 'Don't Stop Me Now', saw Rugby stand on top of the podium once again.

The Regional Championships marked the first competition of the season for Rugby's senior squad.

Rugby's squad used the event as valuable preparation ahead of the National Championships at the end of this month.

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