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Political storm as Net Zero plan is scrapped

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

CARBON Net Zero commitments have been abandoned by Warwickshire County Council.

WCC's new Council Plan includes an amendment that the council will not be bound by two previously agreed declarations on moves to fight climate change.

The amendment, which was proposed by the council's Conservative Group and supported by the ruling Reform UK Group, said the council's prior commitments to Net Zero – set out under the previous Conservative administration in 2019 and 2025 – were 'no longer economically sustainable in the short term'.

Under the now defunct Climate Emergency declaration, Warwickshire had a target to achieve net zero by 2030 – 20 years ahead of the UK-wide target.

Conservative Group deputy leader Chris Kettle, who proposed the amendment, said: "The economic outlook is significantly worse than when the original Climate Emergency declaration took place.

"At such a difficult time for residents, it was important to make sure we prioritise our residents' battle against rising prices, while continuing with important environmental work."

And Tory group leader Coun Adrian Warwick said it should not be seen as a "controversial move".

"Prioritising Climate Change action over measures to help our residents in their battle against inflation would be the wrong thing to do.

"Where green measures also save money, we welcome them - but we must react to the changing national and international circumstances.

"This shouldn't be a controversial move."

Coun Jonathan Chilvers, the leader of the Green Party Group – which had proposed an amendment preserving net zero commitments – slammed the decision.

He said: "Food and prices are going up, flooding of homes is increasing – both made worse by extreme weather caused by climate.

"To remove climate change from the Council Plan is like senselessly hacking off one leg of our understanding and ability to solve the issues we face.

"The Reform leadership seems to have a blind 'anti-environment' ideology that is damaging residents lives."

Liberal Democrat Coun Richard Dickson was equally scathing.

He said: "The Conservatives group split. Three of their members joined with Liberal Democrat councillors to support the Green Party proposal to keep the council's focus on addressing the climate change emergency.

"Sadly the proposal was defeated by votes from the other Conservative and Reform councillors."

The Reform group did not respond to our request for comment.

Enjoying some farm fun in the sun. Picture by Z70 Photography.

Hottest ticket in town

IT was a bank holiday weekend to get outside and enjoy the sunshine. And festival-goers certainly did that at the Great British Farm-Fest Finale at NAEC Stoneleigh.

More than 50,000 attended the inaugural celebration of farming, inlcuding well-known faces such as former Top Gear presenter Jeremy Clarkson, whose Diddly Squat Farm near Chipping Norton is the subject of a hit reality TV show.

And aside from animals, a farmer's market and cookery demonstrations, there was also pleanty of music from big names including 10cc, Alex James and Kaiser Chiefs' frontman Ricky Wilson.

Turn to page 4 for more pictures.

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The King takes *The Tempest* by storm

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

KING Charles made a surprise appearance at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford.

The monarch joined a sold-out audience for a performance of *The Tempest* directed by Sir Richard Eyre and starring Sir Kenneth Branagh, who is playing Prospero for the first time in a career that has included 35 Shakespeare productions to date.

The King was welcomed by Lord Lieutenant of Warwickshire, Tim Cox, as well as RSC co-artistic directors Daniel Evans and Tamara Harvey, whom he sat between to watch the play.

During the interval, King Charles met members of the costume department to hear about the skills and craftsmanship involved in the creation of costumes for the stage and to see items from the RSC archive including a dress worn by Dame Judi Dench in *All's Well That Ends Well*, in 2003, and a gown worn by David Tennant in *Richard II*, in 2013.

Following the the curtain call, The King went backstage to meet members of the cast and creative team, including Sir Richard and Sir Kenneth.

Artistic directors, Daniel and Tamara, said: "A Shakespearean through and through, it was particularly special to hear His Majesty speak so passionately about the company's contribution to the cultural life of the UK and to pay tribute to its unsung heroes on and off-stage, from our production and technical staff to our dedicated box office and front-of-house teams."

King Charles has been the RSC's patron since 2024, following Queen Elizabeth II, who held the patronage since the company's creation, in 1961.

The King studied Shakespeare as a student at Gordonstoun, playing *Macbeth* there in 1965.

In April 2016, the then Prince of Wales visited Stratford to mark 400 years since Shakespeare's death, going on stage to perform a *Hamlet* sketch.

King Charles waves to the crowd as he arrives at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre. Picture by Marcus Mingins 2226002MMR

The King meets Sir Kenneth Branagh, who is playing Prospero. Picture Olivia Scull, RSC. s

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See page 29

Labour and Lib Dem partnership takes control of Borough Council

by **Andy Morris**
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A NEW coalition between Labour and the Liberal Democrats has taken control of Rugby Borough Council (RBC).

Labour's Coun Louise Robinson was appointed as Council Leader, and Liberal Democrat Coun Jerry Roodhouse as Deputy Leader, at RBC's Annual General Meeting.

They will lead the council under a new coalition partnership agreement between the two groups for 2026-27.

Since 2024, Labour led the council with support from the Liberal Democrats under a 'confidence and supply' agreement.

But in the local elections earlier this month, Labour lost three seats and the Liberal Democrats gained two, leaving each party on 12 – enough combined for a controlling majority.

The Conservatives remain the largest party with 15 councillors, falling short of the 22 needed to take control of the 42-seat council.

The coalition agreement reached between Labour and the Liberal Democrats prioritises 'protecting and improving council services, strengthening governance and transparency, and ensuring the borough is well represented during ongoing discussions about local government reorganisation and devolution'.

Coun Jerry Roodhouse (LEFT) takes on the role of deputy leader. Coun Louise Robinson (RIGHT) is the new leader of Rugby Borough Council.

The partnership also aims to support a 'thriving, healthier, fairer and greener borough', improve customer service, strengthen financial management, increase transparency and accountability, and review council spending.

Cabinet positions have been shared equally between the two parties.

Coun Robinson said: "It is a great honour to lead such a committed and talented cabinet, and to become the first female Leader of Rugby Borough Council.

"This agreement gives Rugby Borough Council a clear basis for stable and effective leadership for the year ahead.

"Our focus is on working together in the best interests of residents, businesses and communities across the borough.

"Together, we want to protect and improve council services, strengthen transparency and accountability, and support a thriving, healthier, fairer and greener Rugby.

"Securing new investment remains a key priority. We recently secured £10 million for a town centre skills hub and I will continue working to bring further investment into the borough to support regeneration and deliver on our ambitions."

Coun Roodhouse said the partnership was built on a shared commitment to responsible leadership, openness and better outcomes for residents.

He added: "By working together constructively, we can improve the way the council serves residents, make sure decisions are clear and accountable, and keep Rugby's voice strong as important changes in local government continue."

The RBC Conservative Group has been contacted for comment.

Visit www.rugby.gov.uk/coalitionagreement to read the full coalition agreement.

Farming takes centre stage

The festival featured many demonstrations. Picture by Z70 Photography. s

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

THE SUN shone brightly on a celebration of British farming at the weekend.

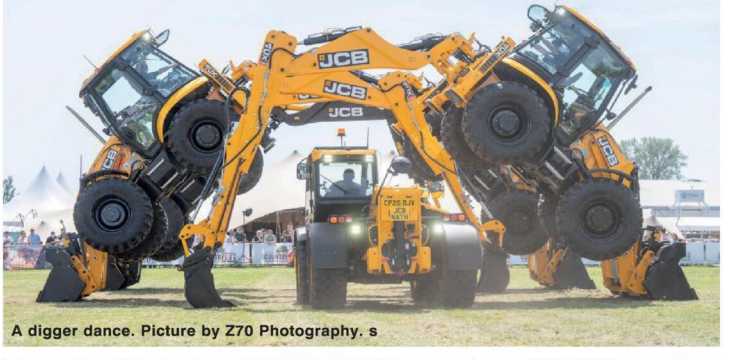
The inaugural Great British Farm-Fest Finale welcomed more than 50,000 visitors to the National Agricultural and Exhibition Centre Stoneleigh.

The event featured more than 400 exhibitors and thousands of animals plus cookery demonstrations and a farmer's market.

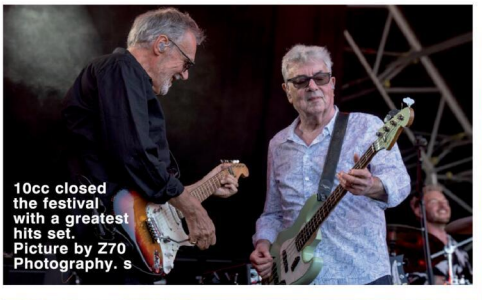
There were also plenty of famous faces, including Jeremy Clarkson and his *Clarkson's Farm* colleagues Kaleb Cooper and Harriet Cowan; TV chef Matt Tebbutt; and farmer and *Countryfile* presenter Adam Henson.

There was music from big names including 10cc, Blur bassist turned cheese maker Alex James, and a supergroup featuring Ricky Wilson (of the Kaiser Chiefs): The Fabulous Adjustable Band. That ecelectic lineup saw Ricky joined by Chris Difford (Squeeze), Gary Stringer (Reef), Simon Fowler (Ocean Colour Scene), Natasha Hamilton (Atomic Kitten) and Garry Christian (The Christians).

Tebbutt, best known as presenter of *Saturday Kitchen* and *Masterchef The Professionals*, said: "By the very nature of the amazing turnout, people care about the countryside; they care about farmers; they care about where their food has come from – and I think that is on the rise dramatically. If you like to go out into the countryside and see lambs and cows in fields, that beautiful, rural idyll, you need to be supporting British farmers."



A digger dance. Picture by Z70 Photography. s



10cc closed the festival with a greatest hits set. Picture by Z70 Photography. s

Jeremy Clarkson, right, and Kaleb Cooper were among the well-known faces at the festival. Picture by Paul Cook. s

Chef and presenter Matt Tebbutt: 'People care about the countryside; they care about farmers; they care about where their food has come from'. Picture by Z70 Photography. s

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27th Windsor	£30.00	£24.00
July		
4th Weston-Super-Mare	£29.50	£24.50
11th Chester	£29.00	£24.00
18th Hunstanton	£31.00	£25.00
22nd Cambridge	£29.00	£24.00
25th Wellesbourne Market	£16.00	£11.00
28th Cheshire Oaks	£29.00	£24.00
August		
1st Llandudno	£31.00	£25.00
6th Liverpool	£29.00	£22.00
11th York	£29.00	£24.00
13th Telford	£27.00	£22.00
15th Mystery Seaside	£30.00	£24.00
19th Southport	£29.00	£24.00
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A new minority administration is in charge at Coventry Council House. s

Labour will have to lead a minority administration

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

THE LEADER of Coventry City Council (CCC) will stay on but only as head of a minority administration.

Coun George Duggins has been reappointed council leader, a position he has held since 2016.

Coun Duggins will now lead a minority Labour administration following May's local elections, which returned a council with no overall control.

Although Labour – which has had a controlling majority at the council since 2010 – is the largest group, with 24 seats, no party has overall control at the council. Reform has 20 seats, the Conservatives six and the Green Party four.

No cross-party deals have been achieved, to achieve a majority.

Coun Duggins said: "This is an administration of collaboration and change. The election results reflect the mood of residents across Coventry and we have listened.

"While Labour is the largest party on this council, we are committed to working constructively across all groups to continue delivering on the priorities that matter most to the people of this city: good jobs, quality homes, safe communities and the services residents and families depend on."

Coun Lynnette Kelly has been appointed the new deputy leader, also taking on the cabinet portfolio for jobs, regeneration and climate change. Her portfolio covers economic development, city centre regeneration, transportation, sustainability and climate change, as well as inward investment.

Coun Mal Mutton joins the cabinet as the new member for children and young people, with responsibility for children's social care, safeguarding, corporate parenting and support for young people across the city. She will take on responsibility for a children's services team which was recently rated outstanding by The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills.

Coun John McNicholas joins the cabinet as member for community safety and cohesion, including public protection and licensing, democratic and electoral services and legal services.

Coun Abdul Salam Khan moves portfolio to become cabinet member for education, skills and equalities, covering schools, specail educational needs and disability provision libraries, adult education and skills and employability.

The remaining cabinet members are unchanged.

Do you know these people?

POLICE investigating a burglary in Coventry are asking for the public's help to find the men pictured below.Two men broke into a house in Langwood Close, in Canley, between 6.30am and 7am on March 26.

The men forced the back door and stole valuables and the keys to a car parked outside, which was taken. Officers believe the men pictured could help the investigation.

Anyone who recognises the men below should call police on 101 or use Live Chat at www.westmidlands.police.uk, quoting crime number 20/192708/26.

Officers believe the men pictured could help with their investigation into a burglary in Canley. s

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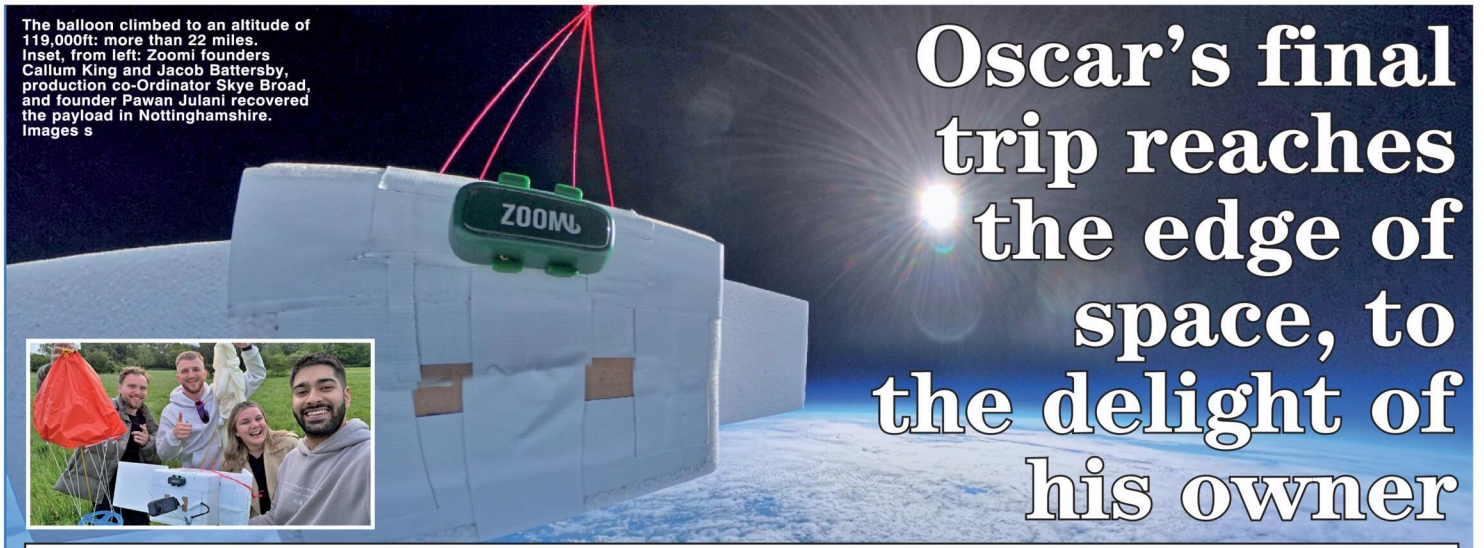

The balloon climbed to an altitude of 119,000ft: more than 22 miles. Inset, from left: Zoomi founders Callum King and Jacob Battersby, production co-Ordinator Skye Broad, and founder Pawan Julani recovered the payload in Nottinghamshire. Images s

Oscar's final trip reaches the edge of space, to the delight of his owner

by **Andy Morris**
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BOLD business partners from Rugby sent the remains of a beloved family pet where few dogs have gone before.

Jacob Battersby and Callum King, co-founders of Rugby-based startup Zoomi, launched a high-altitude weather balloon carrying the ashes of Jacob's late dog Oscar from Bilton to the edge of space.

The choice of launch site was personal for Callum who, as a pupil at Harris School in 2012, was part of a science project that tried – and failed – to launch and recover a weather balloon, the payload of which was never found.

This time the payload – complete with a camera which captured spectacular views of Earth – was found, thanks to a 'ZoomiTag' GPS pet tracker designed and built by the company.

Callum said his school science project had stayed with him.

He said: "We sent something up from Rugby, it never came home and there was nothing we could do about it. Years later, we're building a company whose whole point is that a dog should never just disappear. Going back, launching properly from Bilton and getting the payload home, with our own tracker, only felt right.

"To send something to space and actually recover it, 14 years after my last attempt, feels unreal – and doing it on a tracker I built myself makes it feel even better.

'We genuinely thought we'd lost it. Then the tracker pinged, only 15 minutes from where we'd planned the landing. When we finally got eyes on the payload, I felt I'd come full circle."

The balloon climbed to roughly 119,000ft – more than 22 miles – into the stratosphere, more than three times the cruising altitude of a passenger jet.

Onboard temperatures fell to around minus-72C and stayed there for more than three hours.

The balloon burst at peak altitude, releasing Oscar's ashes into the upper atmosphere.

A parachute deployed and the payload began its descent, landing the same day in open countryside in Nottinghamshire, to be recovered by the pioneering pair.

For Jacob, the launch carried more than a tracker: Oscar was the inspiration for the company.

He said: "I lost Oscar at the start of the year and Zoomi has been built around him ever since. When we started planning the launch, taking his ashes up there wasn't really a question – it was just how we were going to do it."

The recovered tag – cold, taped and slightly scorched – is now back at Zoomi's workshop in Rugby.

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BIRMINGHAM HIPPODROME
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Visitor numbers at Coventry's historic Charterhouse have far exceeded The National Trust's original target. Inset: *Pepperpot the Mole*. s

Historic home is a big success

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

MORE than 50,000 people have visited Coventry's historic Charterhouse since The National Trust took on its day-to-day management a year ago.

That figure far exceeded the heritage and nature conservation charity's original target of 18,000 visitors for the first year of management.

Restored and brought back to life by Historic Coventry Trust, which led an £11.9million funding and restoration project, the Charterhouse is now managed on site by the National Trust. The two organisations work closely together to safeguard the building and widen access for communities across the city.

Kristenne Pickles, from the National Trust team at Coventry Charterhouse, said: "Opening the doors of Coventry Charterhouse this past year has been incredibly special. In the middle of a busy city, it has become a place where people can spend time outdoors, connect with Coventry's history and enjoy a quieter side of the city. Seeing how many people have visited over the past year shows just how important the Charterhouse is for Coventry."

Volunteers have played a vital role in the Charterhouse's success, contributing more than 15,700 hours to supporting everything from welcoming visitors to caring for the gardens and sharing the site's stories.

A key focus for the National Trust has been making the Charterhouse welcoming and accessible to local communities.

Since taking on management of the site, more than 50 events and activities have been delivered alongside organisations, artists, students and community groups from Coventry.

Working alongside Coventry City Council, the Charterhouse also now welcomes holders of the 'GoCV+' discounted-entrance card, widening access for people who could otherwise face barriers to visiting. Since the partnership launched in February, more than 200 visitors have benefited from the scheme.

Niamh Carton, programming and partnerships manager at Coventry Charterhouse, said: "Working closely with communities across Coventry means we can shape projects and events that feel relevant and welcoming to local people.

New visitors

"Welcoming GoCV+ card holders and partnering with local groups, students and families has helped us introduce the Charterhouse to people who may not have visited before."

The first year of operation saw a creative, community-focused programme, from Luke Jerram's *Helios* installation to collaborations with Coventry University students and seasonal family activities.

The National Trust is planning more events, such as *Pepperpot the Mole*, a four-metre-high sculpture created by artist Bruce Asbestos. Visitors can see the sculpture in the walled garden and follow a family-friendly trail around the garden, discovering where Pepperpot has been popping up and learning more about moles and the natural world along the way.

Historic Coventry Trust led an £11.9million restoration project of the grade I listed building. s

Take a tour round court

TALKS, teas and tours are all being put on at Warwick Court House.

Warwick Town Council's volunteer group Unlocking Warwick are kicking off their social events for the year with monthly teas, a talk and a quiz in the Regency ballroom.

Called 'In The Ballroom' after the Cluedo game, these get-togethers will happen at 2pm on the second Wednesday of the month until the end of the year.

The volunteers have also organised monthly sessions of board games in the ballroom on the fourth Tuesday of each month, when local people can get together to play cards, dominoes, Yahtzee or Scrabble while enjoying some home-made cake and friendly conversation.

And the Unlocking Warwick 'Court House Tours' will take place on selected weekends through the summer, when volunteers will lead free tours around the Court House.

Visit www.unlockingwarwick.org/ for more details.

A date on the small screen for residents and staff

A CARE home in Southam is hitting the small screen in a new BBC documentary.

Royal British Legion's Galanos House Care Home features in Natalie Cassidy: Caring Together.

It will highlight the work of the Royal British Legion by featuring its Galanos House Care Home and Poppy Lodge.

Putting a spotlight on those working in the residential care sector, Galanos House was one of the settings for the new series which sees actress, Natalie Cassidy, who played Sonia in Eastenders, work alongside carers and staff as she trains for an NVQ qualification in care.

Dedicated solely to veterans of the Armed Forces and the loved ones who supported them throughout their service, Galanos House staff warmly welcomed Natalie as part of the team.

Staff members Amy Cotterill and Zac Knight introduced Natalie to the specialist care provided to residents and involved her in a range of daily activities, including bread making led by resident baker Alan Silet, aged 87. Natalie also experienced the distinctive approach used by the Poppy Lodge team in supporting residents living with dementia, even changing into pyjamas to assist with residents' bedtime routines.

Amy, who mentored Natalie during her time at Poppy Lodge, said: "It was lovely to meet and mentor Natalie. She was so passionate about caring for others and willing to learn about my own experiences in the health and social sector. She embraced the whole experience and fully immersed herself into our community.

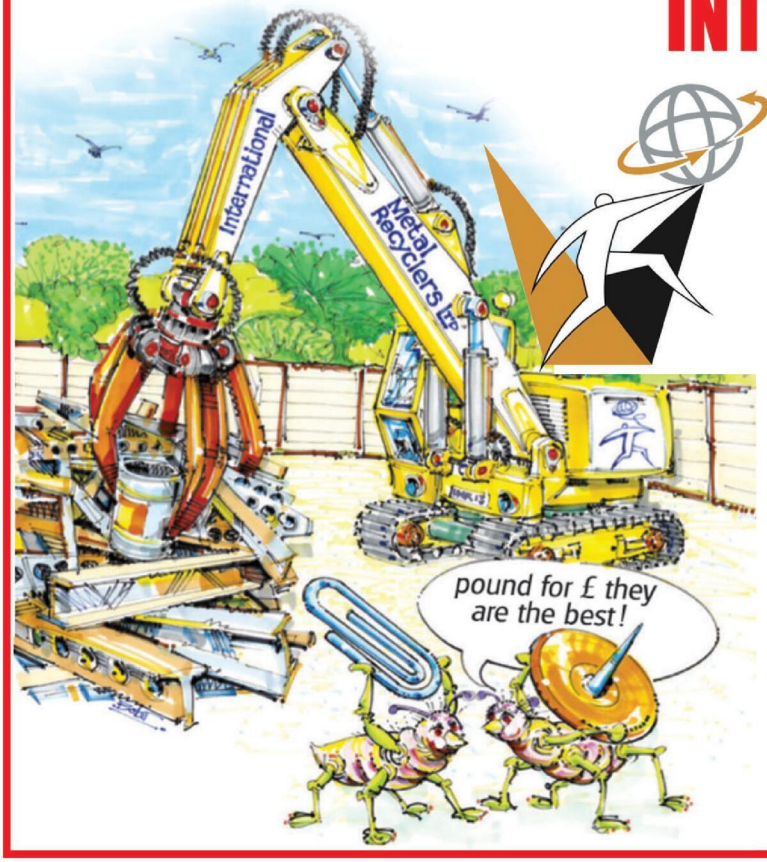
"I believe it's important for people to understand the work we do at Galanos House, as care work can sometimes be misunderstood or unfairly stigmatised. I hope the documentary highlights how meaningful and rewarding a career in care can be, and the positive impact it has on the lives of those receiving support."

Jo-Anne Wilson, care home manager, added: "At Galanos House, there's a genuine sense of community, with residents connecting through shared military experiences and building strong friendships, whether they are age 52 or 102. The team of staff takes great pride in supporting those who have served the country, creating a warm and welcoming place to call home with plenty of activities and social opportunities.

"By taking part in this documentary, we hope to shine a spotlight on social care, the Royal British Legion and the home itself. We're all looking forward to coming together to watch the programme and seeing Natalie's experience at Galanos House brought to the screen."

Episodes six and seven of Natalie Cassidy: Caring Together will feature Galanos House in the week commencing June 1. It will also be available on BBC iPlayer.

Resident baker Alan Silet shows off his skills in Natalie Cassidy's documentary,



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Transforming reclaimed material into works of contemplation

Peter Eugene Ball in Coventry Cathedral's Chapel of Industry, with his Our Lady of Peace sculpture.

AN INTERNATIONALLY acclaimed Coventry-born artist has celebrated his work being on display in his home city for the very first time.

The exhibition, entitled Reclaiming Sanctuary, celebrates sculptor Peter Eugene Ball, whose work has been displayed in churches, cathedrals and collections all over the world.

His work transforms reclaimed materials, such as driftwood and Victorian doors, into contemplative pieces.

Despite a career spanning more than 60 years and a global reputation in contemporary ecclesiastical art, Peter – who was also a lecturer at Lanchester Polytechnic which later became Coventry University – has never previously shown his work in the city.

Peter, who studied at the former Coventry College of Art, said: "I'm really excited to have my work displayed in Coventry.

"It's very interesting for me because there's pieces I haven't seen for years, and some of it can be embarrassing, but that's an artist's life – you produce stuff and all these years later you look at it and say, 'What's that? Could I have altered this?'.

"I watched the cathedral being rebuilt because the art school overlooked it. So we watched this place rise and a lot of the people that were working on the cathedral were artists, so they used to come over and teach us.

"And of course I was born in Coventry and educated here, so I'm rather excited about it and I think the exhibition is great."

The exhibition is curated by Coventry University Archives.

Paul Nolan, Partnerships and Outreach Coordinator for Archives and Collections at Coventry University, said: "Peter's work can be found in over 90 cathedrals and churches across the UK and in collections worldwide, so it's remarkable that it has never been exhibited in Coventry until now.

"This exhibition is about bringing his story home. It celebrates not only his extraordinary career but also his deep connection to the city and the university as Peter was born in Coventry and studied at the former Coventry College of Art."

At the heart of the exhibition is Our Lady of Peace, a sculpture made from a Victorian gate post and dedicated to Peter's late son.

It was recently donated by Peter to Coventry Cathedral – providing the catalyst for the wider exhibition.

The exhibition, the first ever held in partnership between Coventry University Archives and the iconic cathedral, features original artworks, rare preparatory paintings and archive material, alongside replicas that help tell the full story of his creative development.

Undergraduate students from the university's Graphic Art and Design course have produced exhibition boards and interpretation materials to add context to the artworks, helping visitors better understand Peter's life, creative process and legacy.

Sian Hewitt, Group Archives and Records Manager at Coventry University, said: "It has been great to open our archives to students who wouldn't normally have considered using us, especially in supporting their coursework, and to be able to offer them an opportunity to produce work for an exhibition to be held at such a well-known and revered location.

"I think it is fitting for an exhibition celebrating the work of Peter Eugene Ball, who studied and taught art at Coventry University's predecessors, that these art students contribute to his homecoming exhibition.

"I now hope to build on this and develop more collaborations in the future, showcasing the richness of our archives and connecting them with wider audiences."

The exhibition is free to attend and runs until June 7 in the Cathedral's Chapel of Industry.

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Beacons bound

A CHARITABLE Rugby care worker is taking on a gruelling 26-mile trek through the Brecon Beacons National Park, in Wales, to raise money for the Alzheimer's Society.

Ayshah Treen will complete the challenge on June 13, tackling steep climbs and rugged terrain up to 886 metres above sea level.

Ayshah has already raised £260 towards her £300 fundraising target, to support people living with dementia.

The fundraiser, deputy manager at Anya Court Care Home, said: "I will be taking part in this trek in honour of our current and past residents who have been affected by dementia. This cause is very close to my heart and I am proud to walk on their behalf."

The money raised will go to the Alzheimer's Society, which provides support for people living with dementia and funds vital research into the condition.

Kieran Langan, general manager at Anya Court, said: "We are incredibly proud of Ayshah for taking on this inspiring challenge.

"Dementia affects so many people, including members of our own community and it is wonderful to see such dedication and compassion from one of our team members."

Visit https://tinyurl.com/mtwrebar to sponsor Ayshah.

Ayshah Treen is heading on the trek in honour of past and current Anya Court residents who have been affected by dementia. s

Scaling new heights of fundraising success

Youth project's team conquered Mt Snowdon

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

"COMMITMENT and community spirit" helped a team from a council youth project conquer Mount Snowdon, and raise nearly £1,000 for the Rugby Autism Network in the process.

Members of Rugby Borough Council's On Track team – and young people who have worked with the project – scaled the highest peak in Wales, known locally as Yr Wyddfa, during a recent two-day residential trip to Snowdonia.

Setting off from the Snowdon Llanberis youth hostel, the team took six-and-a-half hours to climb the 1,085-metre peak and smashed their original fund-raising target of £500, nearly doubling it.

On Track coordinator Kevin Brookes said the team chose to raise money for the Rugby Autism Network to raise awareness of the condition and to support the charity's work.

The network was presented with the King's Award for Voluntary Service in 2023, for its work in the borough helping autistic people and their families.

Kevin said: "By taking on this challenge together, the On Track team proved that, with commitment and community spirit, young can people can make a real difference.

"With generous donations from family and friends, we're delighted to have nearly doubled our fundraising target, to support Rugby Autism Network's vital work."

Launched in 2013, On Track works in schools, youth clubs and communities across Rugby, running structured sport and recreational sessions, mentoring programmes and workshops dealing with issues which affect young people.

The team hosts weekly sessions at youth clubs in Brownsover, Long Lawford and Overslade and designs and delivers education programmes for school pupils who face barriers to learning, with the aim of keeping pupils in mainstream education.

On Track's trained sports coaches, youth workers and mentors have also developed strategies to help pupils deal with complex issues such as bullying, low self-esteem, aggression and concerns over mental health.

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

Visit www.justgiving.com/page/ontrack to donate to the Snowdon charity trek.

Visit www.rugbyautismnetwork.co.uk for more information on the Rugby Autism Network.

Top of the rocks: the On Track team scaled Snowdon to raise money for the Rugby Autism Network. s

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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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Life-saving lessons

LIFE-saving tips which could help people – and their canine companions – will be on offer at sessions in Rugby this weekend.

Free cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) information and awareness sessions will be held in Houlton, with local charity the OurJay Foundation, which raises awareness of, and funds for accessible defibrillators and provides training in their use.

Attendees will be able to learn life-saving skills and techniques from qualified professionals.

'Doggy First Aid' sessions will also be on offer, from Rugby Guide Dogs, to teach essential dog first-aid tips and support to dog owners.

Naomi Rees Issitt, who set up the OurJay Foundation after her son Jamie Rees died at the age of 18, following a cardiac arrest, said: "Anyone can use a defibrillator and all of us at OurJay hope we can support by answering any questions you may have at this event."

The sessions have been organised by Urban&Civic, the master developer of the growing Houlton neighbourhood site. Urban&Civic community development lead, Elly Hemus, said: "We're looking forward to a fun-packed day where people can pick up some vital knowledge and help support some brilliant local causes."

The free sessions will be held at Houlton School from 10am tomorrow (Saturday). Dogs are not permitted.

Visit https://tinyurl.com/2rewbbew to book a place.

Attendees will have the chance to learn life-saving skills and techniques with qualified professionals. s

Historian brings trench warfare to life

Living historian and expert David Allton, from Frontline Living History, gave students an insight into the experiences endured by soldiers more than 110 years ago. s

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

THE TRENCHES of the First World War came to life for students at a Rugby secondary school, during a hands-on living history session.

More than 500 students at The Avon Valley School and Performing Arts College were given an insight into the conflict by living historian and expert David Allton, from Frontline Living History.

During hour-long workshops, students learned about weapons, wounds, and the experiences endured by soldiers more than 110 years ago.

Pupils were able to see and handle relics including uniforms, weapons, battlefield shrapnel and even a trench periscope. The sessions provided a valuable insight for Year 10 and 11 students ahead of GCSE history exams.

Younger students also found the sessions valuable.

Year 8 student Nancy said: "It was amazing to see all of the equipment and weapons that were used by soldiers in the First World War.

"I've always loved history but hearing about the soldiers' experiences has made me even more interested in this topic, which I am currently learning about in my lessons.

"I think it was really unfair that women would give men white feathers for not being in the Army and I can't believe that boys aged 14 and 15 were able to join the army to fight, as they are almost the same age as me.

"I'd really like to learn more about how soldiers lived in the trenches and what they did after the war ended. One day I'd like to visit the battlefields where the fighting took place."

History teacher Dan Phelan said: "We applied for, and obtained, a £500 grant from the Western Front Association [WFA], which went a long way towards funding this experience.

"As time passes, the events of the past become increasingly distant and, without opportunities like this risk being forgotten. We are, therefore, very grateful to the WFA for helping us make this event possible for the benefit of over 500 of our students."

Headteacher Blake Francis said students were thoroughly engaged.

He added: "It is always valuable to welcome external speakers to work with our students as this really helps bring their learning to life. David was fantastic and our students gained a great deal from the workshops and questions they asked."

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Canal team push the boat out to make a tidy difference

The volunteer lock keepers at Hillmorton Locks have regular picnic lunches together.

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

COMMUNITY-spirited volunteers in Rugby have given a spring clean to a 'unique' flight of canal locks.

A dedicated team of Canal and River Trust volunteer lock keepers carried out a seasonal tidy-up of the historic Hillmorton Locks ahead of the busy summer boating season.

As part of ongoing work to rejuvenate the locks, they removed encroaching vegetation and refurbished the stone edging at several locks.

A flower bed at the bottom of the locks has been replaced with a larger and more vibrant display, while the original planter has been moved to help spread greenery and colour along the flight.

Several mooring rings have also been brought back into use, helping to ease congestion along the busy and popular stretch of the canal.

The three pairs of locks have been a defining feature of the Oxford Canal for more than 200 years, and are now the busiest lock flight in the country – handling over 8,000 boat movements each year – as well as being a much-loved destination for locals.

The dedicated team of 14 volunteers – who have won three Rugby in Bloom Gold Community Awards for their efforts – are on duty every day from April to October to help boaters through the locks and provide visitors information, and meet up once a fortnight for various maintenance tasks.

Lead volunteer Taryn tolld The Observer it was all a labour of love.

She said: "I've always liked the canals and I'd rather do something useful with my spare time.

"If nobody helps look after places like this, they would soon end up looking neglected. It's nice to know you've done your bit and made the place better for everyone."

Fellow lead volunteer Kevin said the paired locks were unique and are steeped in history.

He added: "There is always something happening here, whether it is boaters travelling across the country, families out walking or volunteers working together. It feels like a real community."

Volunteer Kev said it was satisfying to keep the lock flight in clean and tidy order.

He said: "It is important to keep the area clean and tidy for everyone – walkers, boaters and the local community.

"It is also important from a health and safety perspective – and it enables us to hold annual Macmillan cake sales which have raised over £1,000 in each of the last two years."

Maurice, the group's longest-serving volunteer, said their efforts do not go unnoticed.

He added: "A lot of the passers-by compliment us on the flower beds and grass cutting.

"People new to boating who have just arrived at their first lock are grateful for our advice on how to get their boat through the locks safely.

"The bonus is, once they have learnt the skill, they will enjoy their boating holiday all the more and hopefully come back, bringing tourism to the Rugby area."

Henriette Breukelaar, director of West Midlands at the Canal and River Trust, thanked the volunteers for playing such a vital role in keeping the canal alive.

She added: "We'd love to encourage more people to get involved and be part of protecting these special places for future generations."

Visit www.canalrivertrust.org.uk for more information on volunteering, or to donate.

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Riders put on best bib and tucker

BIKERS suited up for The Distinguished Gentleman's Ride, in Gaydon.

The mammoth motorbiking event, which revved off from the British Motor Museum on May 17, took place in more than 1,000 cities around the world that day.

All the Gaydon bikers – who were dressed the part in their dapper best – were banking cash in support of men's mental health and prostate cancer research.

A grand total of just under £13,000 was raised on the day.

The Distinguished Gentleman's Ride was originally started by Mark Hawwa, who was inspired by a picture of Don Draper – from the TV show *Mad Men* – sitting astride a classic motorcycle and wearing his finest suit.

The first ride took place in Australia in 2012 and the event has since gone global, with riders now taking part in more than 100 countries. The event a way of connecting vintage motorbike fans while raising funds for charity.

Locally, the event was the third ride to take place in Gaydon.

Suiting up for the off.
Picture by Richard McClaughry. s

Revved up: Kia dealership principal Richard Roberts (centre) with rotarians Linda John and Colin Roberston. s

Classic cars back in town for CATS show

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

CLASSIC cars will be lining up in Leamington once again, for the annual Cars at the Spa (CATS) festival, on Sunday, June 21.

Some 300 vintage vehicles are expected at the Pump Room Gardens for a major fundraising event for Leamington Rotary Club, which is celebrating its centenary this year.

Rotarian Simon Evans, who chairs the show's organising committee, said: "CATS has become a regular event in the town, raising thousands of pounds each year.

"People's generosity can be amazing and we hope this year's event will be even bigger and better, especially as our rotary club is celebrating its 100th anniversary."

"I would like to thank Startin Kia Warwick and Motor Hub Warwick for agreeing to be our generous headline sponsors again, and also Leamington BID [business improvement district] for helping finance the event. I would also like to thank all those who have advertised in this year's programme, our army of rotary volunteers and those members of the public who generously donate."

The rotary club's last president, Linda John, said: "We had a big increase in visitors last year as people came from far and wide to enjoy one of the town's loveliest parks, listen to the entertainment, picnic on the grass by the river, buy snacks and drinks and, of course, admire the stars of the show: hundreds of classic cars.

"This year we are hoping to attract even more cars and are looking to raise a substantial amount of money for charity."

Richard Roberts, dealer principal of Startin Kia Warwick, which has sponsored the event since its inception, said: "Classic car shows are extremely popular and we are very pleased to be sponsoring this event. It has put Leamington on the map for thousands of classic car enthusiasts and I congratulate Leamington Rotary Club on the tremendous work it does in raising money each year."

The event, which also includes live entertainment on the bandstand throughout the day, plenty of food and drink stalls and a dedicated picnic area, is free to attend and will run from 10.30am to 4pm.

Anyone wishing to enter a car should visit www.carsatthespa.co.uk.

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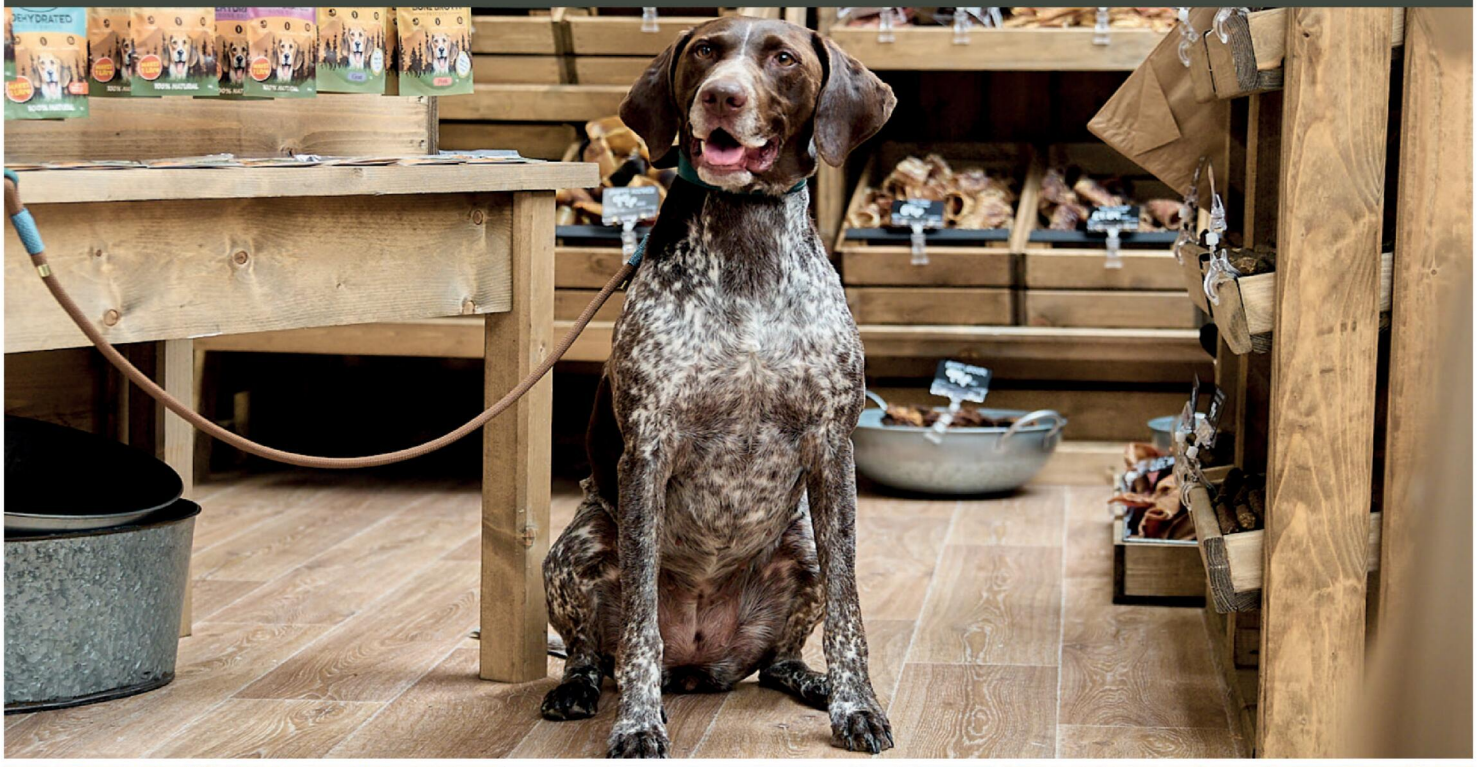

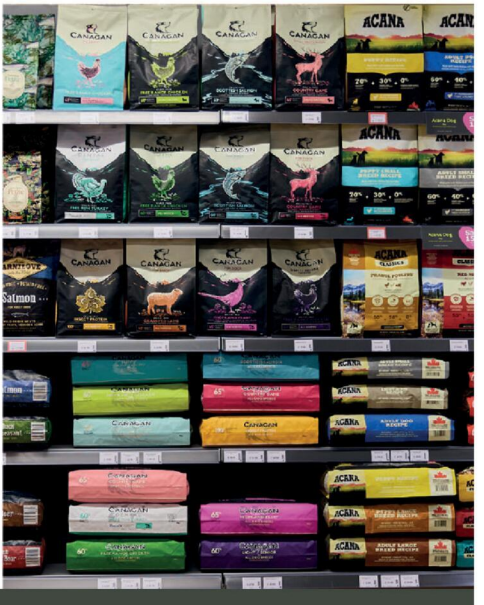

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Rotarians and volunteers at last year's screening event. Images s.

Screening day will save lives

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

A PIONEERING screening programme to identify heart conditions in the young – set up in memory of a talented Rugby man who died suddenly due to an undiagnosed condition – will return next month.

Anthony Lane died in 2022, at the age of 26, as he suffered a cardiac arrest while exercising.

Anthony's dad Paul is now putting on a third cardiac screening day in his son's memory, having potentially saved three lives by identifying heart conditions at previous events.

Paul – a former president of Wylde Green Rotary Club, in Sutton Coldfield – has secured rotary grants and headed money-raising campaigns to fund the initiative.

Paul said: "One Saturday morning, Anthony was on his turbo trainer bike at home, exercising alone. His partner returned home after shopping to find him unresponsive on the floor. West Midlands Ambulance Service and the Air Ambulance attended but unfortunately Anthony had already passed away.

"It is believed Anthony had an undiagnosed heart condition from which he had no symptoms. It is likely Anthony's heart 'short-circuited' and went into a lethal arrhythmia called ventricular fibrillation, that causes sudden cardiac death if not treated immediately with CPR [cardiopulmonary resuscitation] and defibrillation."

Anthony (pictured, right) was a mechanical engineer who landed his dream job at Mercedes F1 in Northamptonshire. His death led his family to the Cardiac Risk in the Young (CRY) charity, which works to prevent sudden cardiac deaths in the young by raising awareness and funding screening and research.

Paul said: "We learned more about the research they're doing and their lobbying of politicians to try and get the UK government to test people between the ages of 14 and 34.

"They say events happen for a reason and Anthony's passing away, and our work with CRY, has given us the ability to organise the screening session, which we're hoping we can do, long term and, at the end of that, we may have saved a young person's life."

The screening day, at Sutton Coldfield Town FC, will be attended by Anthony's friends and family on Sunday, June 14. It will be the third of what it is hoped will be of many in the area.

CRY chief executive Dr Steven Cox said: "It's wonderful to see the impact that Paul's remarkable efforts to raise awareness and funds in memory of his son Anthony continues to have. Hosting a screening event in June will offer at least another 100 young people the opportunity to have their heart tested and help us in one of the charity's defining aims: to identify more young people who may be at risk of 'hidden heart conditions' and ensure they are referred for appropriate investigations.

"One in every 300 people, of those tested by CRY, will be identified with a potentially life-threatening condition. Campaigns like these really do save lives."

Paul, who now lives in Lichfield, said: "Anthony was a perfectly healthy young person who, like all young people, didn't go to the doctor and who thought he was invincible. One minute he was perfectly fit on his turbo trainer, the next minute he's gone. It is so tragic that this happened but we like to think of this project as a lasting memorial to him."

To register for the screening day, visit https://tinyurl.com/77dp46uf and enter the password 'BlowTorch'.

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Get your garden ready for bees

TO MARK World Bee Day (Wednesday, May 20), British Garden Centres' Make It Bloom campaign is offering advice and know-how to turn any outside space into somewhere bees want to be.

With two bumblebee species already extinct in the UK, eight more on the endangered list and 97 per cent of wildflower meadows gone since the 1930s, gardens have never mattered more.

What to plant

Lavender is a popular classic as bees return to it all summer, drawn by its scent as much as its nectar-rich flowers. It works in a border, a container, or on a sunny doorstep. Buy it small and let it establish rather than buying it already in bloom.

Salvias - These flower from May until the first frosts and will be covered in pollinators the entire time. The tall floral spikes look spectacular in a border and the perennial varieties come back year after year.

Foxgloves - At this time of year, foxgloves are at their best right now with their tall spikes of purple, pink, white and blue that solitary bees find irresistible. They are native to Britain, happy in light shade and beautiful as cut flowers too.

Alliums - Bees love those tall spherical purple pompoms - they look at home in any garden and look fabulous in among borders or in a container.

Aquilegia - Also known as Granny's Bonnets, they are rich in nectar and visited constantly, making them an ideal plant for World Bee Day.

Poppies - These are one of the great pollen plants with wide open petals in red, white, purple and pink that pollinators make a beeline for. They thrive in a sunny spot and largely take care of themselves.

Verbena bonariensis - This earns its keep from July through to autumn, so pollinators come flocking even after World Bee Day. Its tall, wiry stems and lilac flower clusters visited by bees and butterflies in turns.

Buddleia - This plant can take over at the end of summer when much else is fading. Its long flower spikes drawing pollinators in numbers. Low maintenance and fast growing, it's a brilliant starting point for anyone new to gardening.

Single-flowered dahlias - Ideal for later in the season, single dahlias have visible stamens rather than densely packed petals and are among the best nectar sources of late summer and autumn.

Sedum - With its flat pink flowerheads, it keeps bees fed right into October and gives them somewhere to rest while they're at it.

Eryngium - Also known as sea holly, it is one of those plants that earns its place twice over. Its steely blue, architectural flowerheads look stunning in a sunny border from midsummer onwards, and bees absolutely love them. Drought-tolerant and incredibly low-maintenance, it is one of the most rewarding plants possible to add to a garden.

Herbs - Rosemary draws bees in large numbers to its small but nectar-rich flowers. Chives, which bloom right now, are magnets for bumblebees and sage and thyme left to flower rather than being cut back provide weeks of pollinator activity with no extra effort.

Lawns

Leaving even a small patch unmown through May and June allows clover and dandelions to come through - two of the most important plants for bumblebees in the country. Or get lawns abuzz with a packet of wildflower seeds. Scatter them in a bare patch or throughout the lawn and let them get on with it. They will feed bees, butterflies, birds and insects from one end of summer to the other.

Whole year planning

Most gardens put on a good show from now until August and then go quiet. For bees, that is a problem as a queen bumblebee emerging from hibernation in February needs food and, by October, bees are still foraging hard, building fat reserves to see them through winter.

From February to March, Hellebores, pulmonaria, crocus and snowdrops may seem modest, but they are genuinely vital at a time when almost nothing else is flowering.

In September and October, asters are one of the last great bee plants of the season. And ivy, usually the first thing to be cut back, is one of the most important plants of the whole year at this point, providing a last vital source of nectar before winter.

Julian Palphramand, British Garden Centres' head of plants, said: "World Bee Day only comes once a year, but the difference a garden can make lasts all season.

"Plant something this May a bee can use and you can turn your outside space into somewhere wildlife genuinely wants to be."

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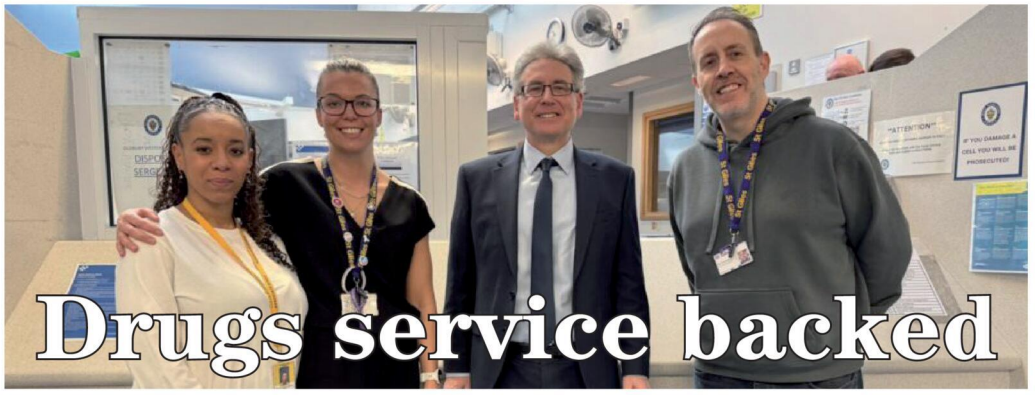


Drugs service backed

PCC Simon Foster has renewed funds for a programme which helps those in custody who are found to be addicted to drugs and alcohol. s

by **Sarah Mason**
sarah,mason@bullivantmedia.com

A PIONEERING programme that supports anyone taken into police custody and found to be addicted to drugs and alcohol, has been renewed by the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC).

The Arrest Referral Service, provided by charity Cranstoun, will expand after a £1.3million investment from PCC Simon Foster.

The PCC has funded the initiative for years, to have specialist drug workers based in police custody suites and has helped and referred thousands of people into treatment at a critical "reachable moment". The team also provides harm reduction advice and signposting support for housing and mental health.

Cranstoun has teamed up with the charity St Giles so extra support can be provided by people with first-hand experience of substance use or who have been affected by the criminal justice system.

Mr Foster said: "This programme shows exactly why prevention and rehabilitation must sit at the heart of modern policing. That is because it will always be better to prevent crime rather than having to deal with the consequences of crime.

"By intervening early, at the point of arrest, we are tackling the root causes of crime, cutting re-offending and delivering value for taxpayers.

"Custody can be a critical turning point in someone's life. The Arrest Referral Service meets people at that moment and offers real support. By enhancing this service, we are giving more people the chance to access treatment, address addiction and rebuild their lives, reducing crime and harm for everyone in the West Midlands."

Megan Jones, director of new business and services at Cranstoun, said: "Our Arrest Referral Service in the West Midlands has changed thousands of lives and given so many people the chance to access the treatment and support needed to live healthier, safer and happier lives.

"Being able to reach people in police custody suites gives our drug workers the opportunity to make an important intervention, provide harm reduction advice, help people into drug treatment and help to break the cycle of crime.

"We're pleased to be working closely with St Giles Trust to make the service even more effective and provide greater support for people who have struggled to access services previously."

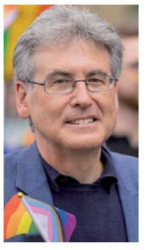
Tracey Burley, chief executive of St Giles, said: "We are delighted to be working in collaboration with Cranstoun and [the] West Midlands PCC to deliver this vital work, harnessing the skills and insights of people with lived experience and using these to support others.

"With the right blend of community-based sentencing, support for addiction and other issues such as trauma and poverty, offending can be prevented, system costs reduced and outcomes improved."

Question of force apology is raised

CALLS FOR West Midlands Police to apologise for historic discrimination against the LGBTQ+ community have been renewed.

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) Simon Foster and Victims' Advocate, Natalie Queiroz, took part in the Birmingham Pride parade on May 23.



The PCC (pictured) has voiced support for Birmingham Pride, highlighting the event as an important celebration of diversity, inclusion, solidarity and unity with LGBTQ+ communities.

West Midlands Police was asked not to attend this year's event as it has yet to apologise for historic discrimination.

Mr Foster said: "I again call on West Midlands Police to issue a public apology for historic discrimination against the LGBTQ+ community.

"Birmingham Pride is a vibrant celebration of our diverse communities and an important opportunity to stand together in support of LGBTQ+ people across the West Midlands. It is a powerful symbol of diversity, inclusion, solidarity and unity for everyone.

"I am pleased to support Birmingham Pride and the positive message it sends. We must continue working together to ensure the West Midlands remains a safe, welcoming, inclusive place for all."

This year, the PCC raised the question of an apology with his accountability and governance board. Acting Chf Const Scott Green indicated a willingness to review the force's position, signalling a potential shift in policy that could see West Midlands Police join 21 other UK forces in apologising.

As yet, no apology has been made.

The PCC said he continues to work with the force, community organisations and partners to tackle hate crime, support victims and build stronger relationships with all communities across the region.

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Motors star for a bank holiday treat

IT was bumper to bumper in Stratford at the weekend, *writes Philippa Mingins*.

Bank holiday traffic jams were not to blame for once, however, amid the return of the popular Festival of Motoring.

Hundreds of lovingly cared-for classic, vintage and high-performance vehicles lined up on sun-soaked town centre streets – and *Observer* phographer Marcus Mingins joined them.

Owners also headed out for scenic drives through the surrounding countryside before parking back up to allow visitors to take a closer look at their rides.

The weekend, organised by Stratford business improvement district (BID), featured live entertainment, food and family-friendly activities including a craft bus, face painting and an F1 simulator.

The main music stage hosted James Schofield, Vince, Generations and Major Minor, Rock Choir, Honor Isabella, With Rouges and Thieves, and Texan Peacocks.

Aaron Corsi, of Stratford BID, said: "This was about much more than cars, it was about creating a fantastic bank holiday for families, visitors, enthusiasts and business. With live music, interactive attractions and entertainment, there really was something for everyone to enjoy."

Lamborghini always draw admiring glances. 2226003MMR

You'll never fit in there, fella. 2226003MMR9

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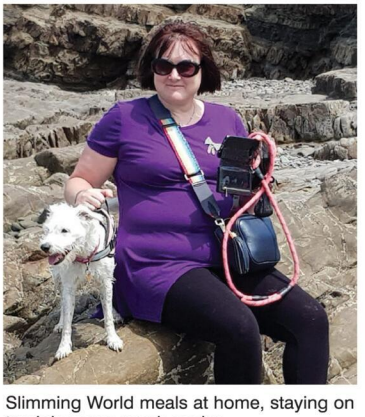
Real Support, Real Results: Amy's 2½-stone success story

Amy's weight had been gradually creeping up over the last few years despite trying to diet in her own way and often making excuses. Food had always been used as a reward and she struggled with binge eating.

Her turning point came when she received an invitation to her cousin's wedding in Cyprus in July 2027. Amy admits she dreaded attending at her current size and felt ashamed at the thought of wearing swimwear around her slim family members. Around the same time, she had also been diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes and knew she needed to make changes to improve her health.

After contacting her GP, Amy was referred for 12 weeks free at Slimming World. Having successfully followed the plan in the past and knowing friends who had also achieved great results, she felt it was the right choice for her. She joined Slimming World with Consultant Tina at the Friday morning group held at Christ Church, Brownsover, at 8.00am and 9.30am.

Although nervous at her first session, Amy quickly felt welcomed by the friendly and supportive group members. She found the updated plan easy to follow, and with her husband and grown-up son also enjoying



Slimming World meals at home, staying on track became much easier.

Amy started her journey weighing 14st 1lb, her heaviest weight in a long time. After her first week she lost 3lbs, which felt like a huge achievement, especially as she is peri-menopausal and has PCOS, both of which can make weight loss more challenging. By the end of her first 12 weeks she had lost nearly a stone and decided to continue towards a target loss of 3st 1lb.

Over the following months Amy stayed

determined, even through holidays and difficult times. In February she sadly lost her beloved dog, Henry, which affected her mental health deeply. However, instead of turning to food for comfort, she stayed focused on her goals. Amy says the support she received from Tina and her fellow members was incredible and she genuinely enjoys attending group each week.

Her weight loss journey has been steady and consistent. While she admits it has occasionally felt frustrating not having huge weekly losses, she stayed motivated by focusing on each award and milestone along the way. By Christmas she had lost nearly two stone and felt amazing wearing a beautiful outfit with newfound confidence.

Recently Amy achieved her 2½ stone award. Friends and family have started commenting on how much slimmer she looks and she now has a whole new wardrobe. She has even had her hair cut short — something she says she would never previously have had the confidence to do.

One of Amy's proudest moments came during a recent bank holiday when she and her husband completed a 13-mile hike in the Cotswolds, something she never believed she would have been capable of before losing weight. Her diabetes is now in normal limits, she has dropped two dress sizes, and she has just 7lbs left to reach her target.

Looking back, Amy says she would never have believed a year ago that she could reach this stage. With her cousin's wedding now only weeks away, she has a beautiful dress, new swimwear and, most importantly, the confidence to appear in photos proudly instead of hiding at the back.

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Wednesdays
7.30am, 9.00am and 10.30am
United Reformed Church,
40 Hillmorton Road, Rugby
CV22 5AD
Call Maz
07805 191429

Wednesdays
5.30pm and 7.00pm
United Reformed Church
CV22 5AD
Call Fiona
07876 450362

Thursdays
5.30pm and 7.00pm
Christ Church, Helvellyn Way,
Brownsover CV21 1QG
Call Kelly T
07806 673606

Fridays
8.00am and 9.30am
Christ Church, Helvellyn Way,
Brownsover
CV21 1QG
Call Tina
07496 845777

Fridays
9.00am and 10.30am
Sacred Heart Church
Limetree Ave CV22 7QT
Call Mary
07799 264779

Saturdays
7.30am
United Reformed Church,
Hillmorton Road,
CV22 5AD
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Tea drinking is part of childhood for many Midlanders, says study

FOR MANY in the West Midlands, a love of tea doesn't begin in adulthood.

It starts much earlier, woven into everyday routines, family life and school-day habits.

This International Tea Day - May 21 - new research revealed how early resident's relationship with tea begins, and why it continues to endure for a lifetime.

A total of seven in 10 people in the region say they started drinking tea during their school years, according to a new consumer research survey of 1,000 British adults carried out on behalf of the UK Tea and Infusions Association.

This highlights tea as one of the UK's earliest and most lasting shared rituals.

Dr Sharon Hall, chief executive of the UKTIA, said: "Tea is often introduced in very familiar, comforting settings – at home with family or during school years – and those early experiences can shape habits that last into adulthood.

"It becomes more than just a drink; it's something people associate with routine, reassurance and connection."

The UKTIA research shows that tea drinking is deeply rooted in early life for people in the West Midlands

A total of 37 per cent said they first started drinking tea in secondary school

A further 33 per cent traced it back to their primary school years. In fact, dietitians, nutritionists and GPs have confirmed children above the age of four can enjoy a weak, milk tea.

For some, the habit begins even earlier, with 10 per cent saying they were introduced to tea before the age of five.

Over one in 10 residents said they began drinking tea in their 20s, while smaller proportions picked it up later in life - around two per cent in their 30s and the remaining survey respondents from age 40 onwards.

These early beginnings may also help explain tea's lasting role in British culture.

Previous research has shown, tea continues to be closely linked with everyday rituals, from moments of relaxation to social connection.

Dr Hall said: "Nearly half of people in the West Midlands say tea plays a role in regular catch-ups with loved ones, while 36 per cent associate it with family traditions.

"Nearly a quarter even agreed that tea acts as a bridge between generations in conversations.

"Whether it's a quick break during a busy day or a longer conversation with friends or family, tea remains at the centre of how people connect and unwind."

Home is also the most popular location for tea drinking among people in the West Midlands and nearly six in 10 said they made tea at home to take out with them, showing that many like to take the comfort of a cuppa with we are on the move.

Enjoying a nice hot brew often begins in childhood in the West Midlands. Image by dungthuyvungyen from Pixabay.

Dr Hall added: "When something becomes part of your routine from a young age, it often carries a sense of familiarity and comfort into later life.

"That's particularly true for tea, which is often linked to positive, everyday moments – whether that's coming home from school or spending time with family."

Even as lifestyles evolve, tea continues to adapt.

Whether it's enjoyed at home or out and about, it remains a constant in an otherwise fast-changing world.

And for many people in the West Midlands, that consistency is part of its appeal.

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Friday 12th June - Monday 15th June	Was £305	NOW £262pp
Friday 19th June - Monday 22nd June	Was £305	NOW £272pp
Friday 26th June - Monday 29th June	Was £315	NOW £272pp
Friday 3rd July - Monday 6th July	Was £319	NOW £279pp
Friday 31st July - Monday 3rd August	Was £325	NOW £283pp
Friday 28th August - Monday 31st August	Was £339	NOW £295pp

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Not concentrating could leave you on track for disaster says campaign

PEOPLE in the West Midlands have a dangerous overconfidence surrounding the risks when using railway level crossings.

Network rail said a survey revealed over eight in ten say they are confident they know the dangers – but only three per cent actually understand how long it takes an approaching 80mph train to stop.

And 14 per cent don't consider removing headphones when at a level crossing.

The findings come as Network Rail, British Transport Police (BTP) and the wider rail community came together to launch the first industry-wide level crossing campaign to raise awareness of the dangers around level crossings – called No Second Chances.

No Second Chances – primarily aimed at 18-34-year-olds through a series of three uncompromising 20-second films – raises awareness of the dangers of not using a level crossing properly and the consequences of being distracted.

Distraction is a common risk at level crossings, particularly among adults aged 18 to 34, who are more likely to admit to behaviours that reduce awareness of their surroundings.

The No Second Chances campaign marks a new joined-up way of working for the rail sector on safety communications, ahead of the establishment of Great British Railways (GBR).

The survey revealed 63 per cent of residents feel confident they could move out of the way in time if a train appeared while they were crossing.

But 96 per cent don't realise that it takes approximately one mile for a train travelling at 80mph to come to a complete emergency stop – and that's not the fastest a train can travel on the network.

Anthony Bonell, level crossing manager for Network Rail Central route, said: "Across the West Midlands and beyond, level crossings are part of everyday journeys – to work, to school, and out with friends. But it only takes one missed warning or one moment of distraction for things to go wrong, because trains can be on you far quicker than you think and they need a long distance to come to a stop.

"We're hoping the newly launched No Second Chances campaign helps those messages cut through. When you reach a crossing, slow down, give it your full attention, and make sure you've clearly checked it's safe before you step or drive onto the crossing.

"Waiting a few extra seconds is always better than taking a risk."

Chief Inspector Joseph Gorman, British Transport Police, said: "Everyone, pedestrians and drivers alike, should pay extra care and attention to level crossings as the consequences for any misuse can be catastrophic.

"You might think you're simply saving some time, but if you miss or deliberately ignore the warning signs then you could be placing yourself or others in incredibly serious danger, and that is never worth it.

"We respond to incidents at level crossings every month, and through patrols, CCTV, and close work with our Network Rail partners, we will always seek to prosecute serious offences to deter misuse. Please think wisely as you approach level crossings, be patient, and don't take any risks."

There are around 6,000 level crossings in operation across the country, and each is different depending on its surroundings and usage.

These include crossings which range from footpaths requiring users to stop, look and listen for approaching trains before deciding if it safe to cross, through to those with full barriers, audible alarms, and road traffic light signals on public roads.

Across the West Midlands and surrounding areas, there were 217 level crossing incidents recorded in the last 12 months, including 13 classed as 'near misses'.

For more visit www.networkrail.co.uk/communities/safety-in-the-community/safety-campaigns/no-second-chances/

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.

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Seasons

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 247 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 247 and now, you can enjoy the 'Spring' edition of Seasons too!

SUDOKU

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

EASY

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

HARD

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

PATHFINDER

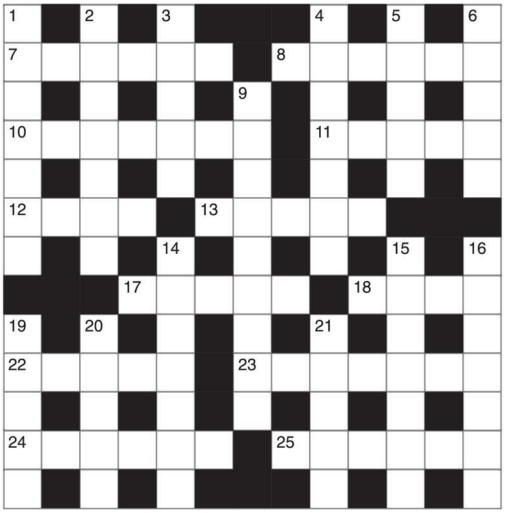
Beginning with the top highlighted letter, follow a continuous path of words associated with the given subject. The trail goes through each letter once, twisting up, down and sideways, but never diagonally.

Chat show hosts

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

Solutions opposite

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

7. Public funds (6)
8. Visitor (6)
10. Uniform (7)
11. Concise (5)
12. Small bay (4)
13. Essential (5)
17. Condition (5)
18. Inflamed eye-lid (4)
22. Salt water (5)
23. Cut short (7)
24. Transfer (6)
25. Catchphrase (6)

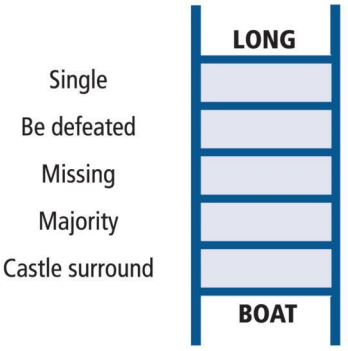
DOWN

1. Largest bird (7)
2. Pardon (7)
3. Aptitude (5)
4. Biased (7)
5. Vigilant (5)
6. Salute (5)
9. Truce (9)
14. Extend (7)
15. Alien (7)
16. Effective (7)
19. Revile (5)
20. Inflexible (5)
21. Amusing (5)

Scribble pad

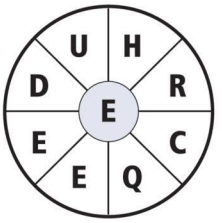
LADDER

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



WORDWHEEL

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



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

NINER

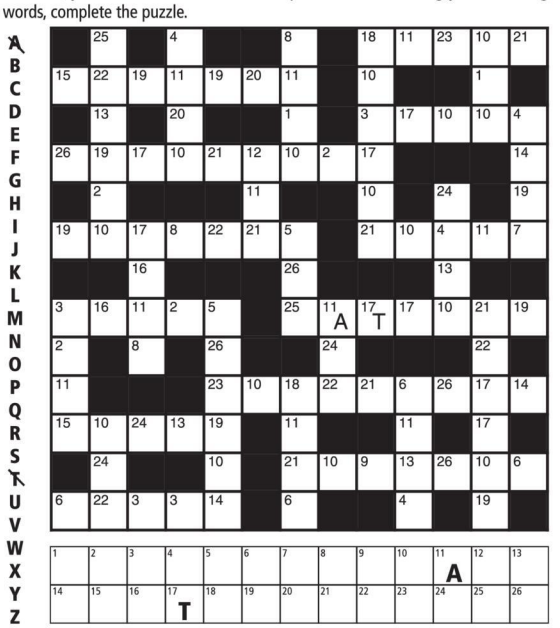
Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

7983 gives a bird;
62185 gives another bird;
7654 gives an animal.

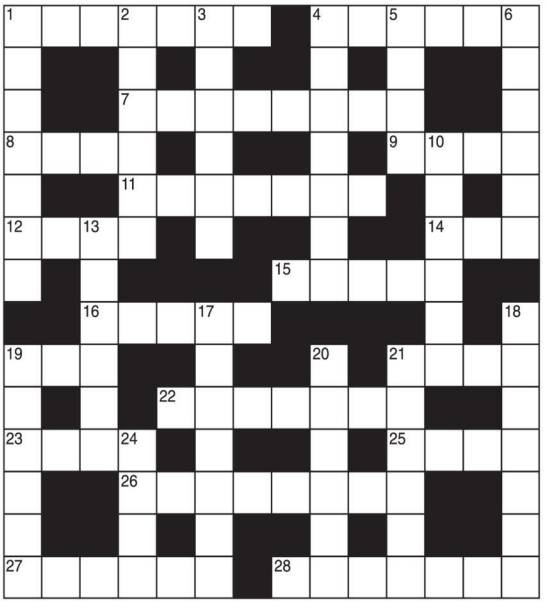
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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.



GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1, 16 & 14. Whig politician who was the first British foreign secretary (7,5,3)
4 & 25. Satirical fable by George Orwell (6,4)
7. Mineral commonly called blacklead or plumbago (8)
8. The colour of unbleached linen (4)
9 & 11. Novelist whose best-known work is Frankenstein, or the Modern Prometheus (4,7)
12. --- Tindall, daughter of the Princess Royal (4)
14. See 1 Across
15. See 10 Down
16. See 1 Across
19. Name applied to several species of poisonous snakes (3)
21. One of the chief gods of the ancient Germanic tribes (4)
22. A fabulous Arabian bird (7)
23. Daughter-in-law of Naomi, in the Old Testament (4)
25. See 4 Across
26. The golden city imagined by the Spanish conquerors of America (2,6)
27. Domesticated animal related to the llama (6)
28. Fresh greenness (7)

DOWN

1. In music, a flourish for a solo instrument at some important stage of a movement (7)
2. Italian town on Sicily, south-west of Syracuse (6)
3. Calcified substance forming the glossy coating on teeth (6)
4. Fruits of anise used for flavouring, etc. (7)
5. Latin word meaning "the same" (4)
6. The upper part of the windpipe (6)
10 & 15. Austrian who founded the school of individual psychology (6,5)
13. A high-caste Hindu of India (6)
17. Another name for the spiny anteater (7)
18. Plant genus in the crowfoot family, including the Pasque flower (7)
19. The Roman goddess of the dawn (6)
20. Breathe in air into the lungs (6)
21. City on the Thames, and seat of a famous university (6)
24. The sister and wife of Zeus (4)

SOLUTIONS

Sudoku

Easy

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

Hard

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

Ladder

Long, lone, lose, lost, Most, Moat, Boat.

Codeword

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

Wordwheel Pathfinder

CHEQUERED

Michael McIntyre, Davina McCall, David Letterman, Lily Allen, Des O'Connor, Michael Parkinson, Fern Britton, Graham Norton, Charlotte Church, Paul O'Grady, Ellen DeGeneres, Alan Titchmarsh, Melanie Sykes, Jonathan Ross, Frank Skinner, Oprah Winfrey, Jack Dochertу, Patrick Kielty.

Niner

SUNFLOWER

Crossword

Across: 7 Stocks; 8 Caller; 10 Regular; 11 Terse; 12 Cove; 13 Vital; 17 State; 18 Stye; 22 Brine; 23 Curtail; 24 Switch; 25 Slogan. Down: 1 Ostrich; 2 Forgive; 3 Skill; 4 Partial; 5 Alert; 6 Greet; 9 Armistice; 14 Stretch; 15 Strange; 16 Telling; 19 Abuse; 20 Rigid; 21 Droll.

General Knowledge Crossword

ACROSS: 1 Charles; 4 Animal; 7 Graphite; 8 Ecru; 9 Mary; 11 Shelley; 12 Zara; 14 Fox; 15 Adler; 16 James; 19 Asp; 21 Odin; 22 Phoenix; 23 Ruth; 25 Farm; 26 El Dorado; 27 Alpaca; 28 Verdure. DOWN: 1 Cadenza; 2 Ragusa; 3 Enamel; 4 Aniseed; 5 Idem; 6 Larynx; 10 Alfred; 13 Rajput; 17 Echidna; 18 Anemone; 19 Aurora; 20 Inhale; 21 Oxford; 24 Hera.

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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:

ELL LANE, BRINKLOW

Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.
Reason for Order: To enable boundary box installation & associated works.
Order Commences: 4 June 2026 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 5 June 2026.
Access & Diversion: The Crescent, Broad Stret, Rugby Road, Ell Lane and vice versa.
Contractor: Chevron TM Ltd, Tel: 0330 008 0820.

PUBLIC FOOTPATH FROM CROWTHORNS TO CONISTON CLOSE, RUGBY

Order Effect: Footpath closed to all traffic.
Reason for Order: Works to renew water mains in the footpath.
Order Commences: 13 April 2026 for up to 6 months. Unfortunately, these works were delayed but have now been rescheduled as follows: 8 June 2026- 5 August 2026.
Access & Diversion: Footpath from Crowthorns to Coniston Close, Coniston Close, Footpath from Opp No52 to Opp No110 Hawlands and vice versa.
Contractor: Severn Trent Water, Tel: 0800 783 4444.

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

VARIOUS ROADS RUGBY – SURFACE DRESSING 2026

Order Effect: Roads closed to vehicular traffic as indicated in the Scheule below:

Road(s) Subject to Closure & Temporary 10mph Speed Limit	Location	From	To
B4455 Fosse Way	Brinklow/ Bretford	Kings Newnham Lane	B4455 Rugby Road/ C129 Rugby Road
B4112 Main Street/ Harborough Road/ Rugby Road/ Pailton Road	Harborough Magna/ Rugby/ Newbold on Avon	Brownsover Road/Parkfield Road	Montilo Lane/Back Lane
A45 Daventry Road	Dunchurch	B4429/M45 slip road roundabout	Longdown Lane/ Woolscott Road
D2189 Burnthurst Lane	Princethorpe	A423 Oxford Road	B4453 Leamington Road
D3037 Coventry Road	Princethorpe	Closed between both its junctions with the A423 Oxford Road	
D3584 Nelson Way	Rugby	Wheatfield Road/ Blackwood Avenue	Lawford Lane
D3591 Cheshire Close	Rugby	In its entirety from Lawford Lane	
C88 Lawford Lane	Rugby	Both its junctions with Main Street	Calvestone Road
D3336 Alfred Green Close	Rugby	In its entirety from A426 Dunchurch Road	
D3590 Holyoak Close	Rugby	In its entirety from Nelson Way	
D3652 Pool Close	Rugby	In its entirety from Church Walk	
D3492 Church Walk	Rugby	In its entirety from B4642 Bilton Road	
D3339 Gable Close	Rugby	In its entirety from Church Walk	
D3586 Montgomery Drive	Rugby	Both its junctions with Nelson Way	Montgomery Way
B4029 Bulkington Road/Shilton Lane	Shilton/ Bulkington	Leicester Road/ Church Road	Withybrook Road
C34 Frankton Lane	Stretton on Dunsmore	B4455 Fosse Way	B4453 Princethorpe Road
D2128 Freeboard Lane	Stretton on Dunsmore	A45 London Road	A423 Oxford Road
B4109 Hinckley Road	Wolvey	A5 Roundabout (Jct 1 M69)	Lutterworth Road

Reason for Order: The closures and temporary speed limits are required to facilitate carriageway surface dressing, carriageway sealing treatments, removal/replacement of road studs, pre-surface dressing patching, road markings/lining, sand carpeting, road sweeping and other associated works.
Order Commences: 15 June 2026 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 30 September 2026.
Access & Diversion: Will be appropriately signed.
Contractor: Balfour Beatty, Tel: 0345 241 5302.

GIBBET LANE, SHAWELL

Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic from Gibbet Roundabout to the County Border
Reason for Order: To enable essential works, overnight 20.00hrs-06.00hrs.
Order Commences: 20 June 2026 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 21 June 2026.
Access & Diversion: A5, Watling Stret, Shawell lane, Catthorpe Road, Main Street, Gibbet Lane and vice versa.
Contractor: H W Martin, Tel: 07785 541 692.

RUGBY ROAD, CHURCHOVER

Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic from Gibbet roundabout to the County Border.
Reason for Order: To safely enable survey works, overnight 20.00hrs-06.00hrs.
Order Commences: 20 June 2026 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 21 June 2026.
Access & Diversion: A5, Watling Street, Coventry Road, Lutterworth Southern Bypass, Sir Frank Whittle Roundabout, Rugby Road, Main Street and vice versa.
Contractor: H W Martin, Tel: 07785 541 692.

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.

WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
THE WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(BOROUGH OF RUGBY) (CIVIL ENFORCEMENT AREA)
(WAITING RESTRICTIONS, ON-STREET PARKING PLACES AND RESIDENTS' PARKING) (CONSOLIDATION) (VARIATION NO. 12) ORDER 2026

Warwickshire County Council proposes to make the above-named Order, pursuant to the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which will be to vary the existing Warwickshire County Council (Borough of Rugby) (Civil Enforcement Area) (Waiting Restrictions, On Street Parking Places & Residents' Parking) (Consolidation) Order 2017 (as varied) to amend waiting restrictions in Central Park Drive, Rugby as per Schedule 1 and Schedule 2 below.

A copy of the proposed Order, together with a copy of the Order to be varied, and a statement of the Council's reasons for proposing to make the Order, are available to view at Shire Hall, Market Place, Warwick, and online on the Council's website at https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/20208/rugby-borough

Any objections, representations or expressions of support to the proposals, which must be in writing and specify the grounds on which they are made, should be addressed to Phil Mitton (01926 410410), Communities Directorate, Shire Hall Post Room, Northgate Street, Warwick, CV34 4RL or sent by email to pmc@warwickshire.gov.uk using the subject header "**Rugby CPE V12 – Central Park Drive"**

(Objections, representations, and the name of the objector or person making a representation, will normally be treated as public information and may be published. For further information on how Warwickshire County Council processes personal data please refer to the Customer Privacy Notice which is available at https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/privacy). Objections and representations must be sent so as to be received by **22nd June 2026.**

SCHEDULE 1
Limited Waiting, Monday-Friday, 7am-5pm, 1 Hour No Return in 2 Hours
Central Park Drive, Rugby

– North side, from a point 81 metres east of its junction with Castle Mound Way, eastwards for a length of 37 metres (reduced by 20 metres).

SCHEDULE 2
No Waiting at Any Time
Central Park Drive, Rugby

– North side, from a point 118 metres east of its junction with Castle Mound Way, eastwards for a length of 66 metres (extended by 20 metres).

S Duxbury, Director of Strategy, Planning & Governance, Shire Hall, Warwick CV34 4RL

WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
THE WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(BOROUGH OF RUGBY) (CIVIL ENFORCEMENT AREA)
(WAITING RESTRICTIONS, ON-STREET PARKING PLACES AND RESIDENTS' PARKING) (CONSOLIDATION) (VARIATION NO. 11) ORDER 2026

Warwickshire County Council proposes to make the above-named Order, pursuant to the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which will be to vary the existing Warwickshire County Council (Borough of Rugby) (Civil Enforcement Area) (Waiting Restrictions, On Street Parking Places & Residents' Parking) (Consolidation) Order 2017 (as varied) to

(i) Implement Disabled Bage Holder's Only parking bays as per Schedule 1.
(ii) Remove Disabled Bage Holder's Only parking bays as per Schedule 2.

A copy of the proposed Order, together with a copy of the Order to be varied, and a statement of the Council's reasons for proposing to make the Order, are available to view at Shire Hall, Market Place, Warwick, and online on the Council's website at https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/20208/rugby-borough

Any objections, representations or expressions of support to the proposals, which must be in writing and specify the grounds on which they are made, should be addressed to Phil Mitton (01926 410410), Communities Directorate, Shire Hall Post Room, Northgate Street, Warwick, CV34 4RL or sent by email to pmc@warwickshire.gov.uk using the subject header "**Rugby CPE V11 – Disabled Bays"**

(Objections, representations, and the name of the objector or person making a representation, will normally be treated as public information and may be published. For further information on how Warwickshire County Council processes personal data please refer to the Customer Privacy Notice which is available at https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/privacy). Objections and representations must be sent so as to be received by **22nd June 2026**.

SCHEDULE 1
Implementation of Disabled Badge Holders Only:
Bath Street, Rugby:

– East side from a point 30 metres North of its junction with Market Place Northwards for a distance of 6.6 metres.
– East side from a point 58 metres North of its junction with Market Place Northwards for a distance of 6.6 metres.
– East Side from a point 32 metres Southeast of its junction with Spring Street South-eastwards for a distance of 6.6 metres.
– West side from a point 1 metre North of its junction with Market Street Northwards for a distance of 6.6 metres.

Manor Road, Rugby:

– North side from a point 13 metres Northeast of its junction with Kimberly Road North-eastwards for a distance of 6.6 metres.
– Northeast form a point 35 metres Northwest of its junction with Park Road, Northwest wards for a distance of 6.6 metres.
– Northwest side from a point 30 metres of its junction with Lodge Road, North westwards for a distance of 6.6 metres.

Abbey Street, Rugby:

– East side from a point 60 metres Southwest of its junction with Murray Road South-Westwards for a distance of 6.6 metres.

Cambridge Street, Rugby:

– West side from a point 123 metres Southeast of its junction with Clifton Road South-eastwards for a distance of 6.6 metres**.**

King Edward Road, Rugby:

– East side from a point 80 metres Northwards from its junction with Murray Road Northwards for distance of 6.6 metres.
– West Side from a point 85 metres Northwards from its junction with Murray Road Northwards for a distance of 6.6 metres.
– East side from a point 72 metres of its junction with Manor Road, Northwards for a distance of 6.6 metres.

Lodge Road, Rugby:

– West side from a point 86 metres Northwest from its junction with Manor Road North-Westwards for a distance of 6.6 metres.

Dale Street, Rugby:

– West side from a point 1 metre South of its junction with Hill Street Southwards for a distance of 6.6 metres.

Grosvenor Road, Rugby:

– East side from a point 59 metres of its junction with Wells Street North-Eastwards for a distance of 19 metres.

Holbrook Avenue, Rugby:

– West side from a point 83 metres Southeast of its junction with Park Road South-Eastwards for a distance of 6.6 metres.

Graham Road, Rugby:

– East side from a point 123 metres Southwest of its junction with Murray Road South-Westwards for a distance of 6.6 metres.

SCHEDULE 2
Revocation of Disabled Badge Holders Only
Claremont Road, Rugby:

– East side from a point 52 metres Southeast of its junction with Craven Road South-Eastwards for a distance of 6.6 metres to become 'Limited Waiting 1 Hour No Return 2 Hours Mon-Sat 8am-8pm Except Resident Permit Holders (R2).'

Grosvenor Road, Rugby:

– East side from a point 50 metres Southeast of its junction with Tom Brown Street South-Eastwards for a distance of 6.6 metres to become 'Limited Waiting 1 Hour No Return 2 Hours Mon-Sat 8am-8pm Except Permit Holders (R2)'
– West side from a point 25 metres Southeast its junction with Tom Brown Street South-Eastwards for a distance of 6.6 metres to become 'Limited Waiting 1 Hour No Return 2 Hours Mon-Sat 8am-8pm Except Permit Holders (R2)'

Abbey Street:

– West side from a point 214 metres Southwest from its junction with Murray Road South-Westwards for a distance of 6.6 metres to become 'Limited Waiting 2 Hours No Return 4 Hours Mon-Sat 8am-8pm Except Permit Holders (R2).'

Manor Road:

– East side from a point 20 metres East of its junction with King Edward Road Eastwards for a distance of 6.6 metres to become 'Limited Waiting 1 Hour No Return 2 Hours Mon-Sat 8am-8pm Except Permit Holders (R1).'

S Duxbury, Director of Strategy, Planning & Governance, Shire Hall, Warwick CV34 4RL

WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
THE WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(BOROUGH OF RUGBY) (CIVIL ENFORCEMENT AREA)
(WAITING RESTRICTIONS, ON-STREET PARKING PLACES AND RESIDENTS' PARKING) (CONSOLIDATION) (VARIATION NO. 10) ORDER 2026

Warwickshire County Council proposes to make the above-named Order, pursuant to the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which will be to vary the existing Warwickshire County Council (Borough of Rugby) (Civil Enforcement Area) (Waiting Restrictions, On Street Parking Places & Residents' Parking) (Consolidation) Order 2017 (as varied) to introduce unrestricted footway parking restrictions as per Schedule 1 below.

A copy of the proposed Order, together with a copy of the Order to be varied, and a statement of the Council's reasons for proposing to make the Order, are available to view at Shire Hall, Market Place, Warwick, and online on the Council's website at https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/20208/rugby-borough

Any objections, representations or expressions of support to the proposals, which must be in writing and specify the grounds on which they are made, should be addressed to Phil Mitton (01926 410410), Communities Directorate, Shire Hall Post Room, Northgate Street, Warwick, CV34 4RL or sent by email to pmc@warwickshire.gov.uk using the subject header "**Rugby CPE V10 – Clifton Rd"**

(Objections, representations, and the name of the objector or person making a representation, will normally be treated as public information and may be published. For further information on how Warwickshire County Council processes personal data please refer to the Customer Privacy Notice which is available at https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/privacy). Objections and representations must be sent so as to be received by **22nd June 2026**.

SCHEDULE 1
Clifton Road, Rugby

Unrestricted Footway Parking

(i) South side, from a point 10 metres west of its junction with Eastlands Road, westwards for 15 metres
(ii) South side, from a point 46 metres west of its junction with Eastlands Road, westwards for 18 metres
(iii) North side, from a point 10 metres east of its junction with Rokeby Street, eastwards for 13 metres
(iv) North side, from a point 36 metres east of its junction with Rokeby Street, eastwards for 26 metres
(v) North side, from a point 17 metres west of its junction with Rokeby Street, westwards for 11 metres
(vi) North side, from a point 53 metres west of its junction with Rokeby Street, westwards for 11 metres

S Duxbury, Director of Strategy, Planning & Governance, Shire Hall, Warwick CV34 4RL **Date 28 May 2026**

PUBLIC NOTICES

MARGARET PENFOLD (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 6 Saunton Road, Rugby, Warwickshire, CV22 6BE, who died on 17/02/2026, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 30/07/2026, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

Brethertons LLP,
Montague House, 2 Clifton Road, Rugby, Warwickshire, CV21 3PX

PUBLIC NOTICES

MICHAEL RAYMOND ALDOUS (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 63 Fleet Crescent, Rugby, Warwickshire, CV21 4BG, who died on 06/12/2025, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 30/07/2026, after which date the estate will be distributed having only regard to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

Peter Aldous
134 Crewe Road, Sandbach, Cheshire, CW11 4PX

PUBLIC NOTICES

Keeping you up to date with all the latest information on
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PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICES

national highways

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 - SECTIONS 14(1)(a) AND (7)
THE A45 AND A46 TRUNK ROADS AND THE M69 MOTORWAY (BAGINTON TO ANSTY) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2026

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that National Highways Limited (Company No. 9346363) has made an order on the A45 and A46 Trunk Roads and the M69 Motorway between Baginton and Ansty in the City of Coventry and in the County of Warwickshire, to allow drainage works to be carried out.

The effect of the Order will be to close, at different times –

(1) the southbound carriageway of the M69 from its junction with the link road leading to the northbound carriageway of the M6 at Junction 2, to its junction with the A46, near Ansty;
(2) the northbound carriageway of the M69 from its junction with the A46, near Ansty, to its junction with the link road that leads from the southbound carriageway of the M6 at Junction 2, and from the roundabout at Junction 2;
(3) the northbound carriageway of the A45 from its junction with the exit slip road leading to the roundabout junction with the A46 slip roads, Siskin Drive and the B4110 (Tollbar End Roundabout), to its junction with the A46 at the centrepoint of Tollbar End Roundabout;
(4) the northbound carriageway of the A46 from its junction with the A45 at the centrepoint of Tollbar End Roundabout, to its junction with entry slip road leading from the roundabout junction with the A428 (Binley Roundabout), at Binley Woods;
(5) the northbound carriageway of the A46 from its roundabout junction with the B4082, near Binley Woods, to its junction with the M69, near Ansty;
(6) the southbound carriageway of the A46 from its junction with the M69, near Ansty, to its roundabout junction with the B4082, near Binley Woods;
(7) the southbound carriageway of the A46 from its junction with the exit slip road leading to Binley Roundabout, to its junction with the A45 at the centrepoint of Tollbar End Roundabout;
(8) the southbound carriageway of the A45 from its junction with the A46 at the centrepoint of Tollbar Road Roundabout, to its junction with the link road leading from Firefly Road, near Baginton;
(9) the link road leading from the northbound carriageway of the A46 to the westbound carriageway of the A46 Coventry Eastern Bypass, near Ansty;
(10) the link road leading from the eastbound carriageway of the A46 Coventry Eastern Bypass, to the southbound carriageway of the A46, near Ansty;
(11) the link road leading from the westbound carriageway of Central Boulevard, to the link road described in (10) above;
(12) any slip road leading to or from Tollbar End Roundabout, to or from the A45 or A46;
(13) any slip road leading to or from Binley Roundabout, to or from the A46;
(14) the link road leading from the westbound carriageway of the A45 to Firefly Road, near Baginton;
(15) the link road leading to the westbound carriageway of the A45 from Firefly Road, near Baginton;
(16) the slip road leading to the eastbound carriageway of the A45 from the roundabout junction with Leaf Lane and the slip roads leading to and from the A444 and the A46 (Stivichall Interchange);
(17) the slip road leading from the westbound carriageway of the A45 to Stivichall Interchange;
(18) the link road leading from the southbound carriageway of the M69, to the northbound carriageway of the M6 at Junction 2.
(19) any layby adjacent to the lengths of the A45 and the A46 described in (3), (4), (5), (6), (7) and (8) above.

The works will be carried out overnight between 21:00 hours and 06:00 hours and are expected to start on Wednesday 3 June 2026 and continue for approximately ten weeks. The layby closures will be in operation from 21:00 hours on Thursday 11 June 2026, for twenty-four hours per day, for the duration of the works. The Order will come into force on 27 May 2026.

Vehicles being used for police, fire and rescue authority or ambulance purposes and vehicles being used in connection with the works will be exempt from the closures.

Diversion routes via the B4110 and the A428 and vice versa; and via the B4110, the B4082 and the A444 will be signed.

For further information please contact Dan Bothwick on 07743193672.

Karen Eustace, an officer in National Highways Limited.

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

Warwickshire County Council

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

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

TAMWORTH ROAD, CORLEY

Order Effect: Road closed to vehicular traffic.
Reason for Order: Works to investigate pole to property.
Order Commences: 18 June 2026 for up to 18 months.
Anticipated Completion: 18 June 2026.
Access & Diversion: Tamworth Road and vice versa.
Contractor: Kelly House, Tel: 07891 414660.

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 28 May 2026

PUBLIC NOTICES

LICENSING ACT 2003 - Public Notice

Charlie Victor Limited is applying for the variation of a Premises Licence for **Unit 12 Victoria Business Centre, Neilston Street, Leamington Spa, CV31 2AZ**

If granted the application will allow the following licensable activities to take place: **To extend the existing licence for Unit 12 Victoria Business Centre in every detail to Unit 11 Victoria Business Centre, Neilston Street, Leamington Spa, CV31 2AZ**

Any person wishing to make representations in relation to this application may do so by writing to the Licensing Authority:

Warwick District Council
Town Hall, Parade
Royal Leamington Spa
Warwickshire, CV32 4AT
licensing@warwickdc.gov.uk

WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL

Representations may only be made for 28 consecutive days from the date of this Notice.

A copy of the application for the grant of the above licence is kept by the Licensing Authority at the above address. The application can be viewed Monday to Thursday 9.00 am to 5.00 pm, and 9.00 am to 4.30 pm on Fridays, except Bank Holidays.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. The maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for making a false statement is a Level 5 fine on the Standard Scale.

21st May 2026

PUBLIC NOTICES

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

Notice is hereby given that **Baglung Limited** has applied to Coventry City Council for a New premises licence application For **Little Nepal, 235 Walsgrave Road, Coventry, CV2 4HH**

Details of Application: **To provide Supply of Alcohol (Off Sales) 9.00 am – 11.00 pm (7 Days a Week)**

Any person wishing to lodge a representation concerning this application may write to: Licensing Authority, The Council House, Earl Street Coventry CV1 5RR

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

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

Any Representation relating to this application must be made in writing to the Licensing Authority by **19th June 2026**.

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

RUGBY

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

Application Number R26/0483
DIPBAR FIELDS, DAVENTRY ROAD, DUNCHURCH

Section 73 to vary Conditions 2 (site layout and plans) and 7 (Estate roads-Amendment to compliance conditions) of R25/0400 (Variation of Conditions 1,2,3 & 8 of R19/1047 (development of up to 86 dwellings).

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 **19 June 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

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Angliss shows promise on Silverstone endurance debut

MOTORSPORT: COVENTRY'S Brea Angliss made her endurance racing debut in the British Racing and Sports Car Club (BRSCC) Silverstone 24 hours race.

Angliss formed part of an all-female entry with Silverlake Motorsport as the teenager made her return to the track.

The Coventry driver competed alongside Freya Belk, Lexie Belk and Briannie Davis behind the wheel of a Citroen C1.

This year's race featured 50 cars and Angliss performed strongly in pre-event testing as she proved herself as the quickest driver of the Citroen.

And Angliss posted the quickest lap in qualifying of the four Citroen drivers as the quartet qualified 42nd fastest overall and 34th of the Citroen C1 entrants.

Angliss's first race stint came in darkness as she raced at night for the first time and produced consistent laps across a long two-hour 35-minute period.

The team remained in the top-20 overall after a strong start from her teammates despite a fuel leak in the night which cost the team close to 10 minutes in the pit lane for repairs.

Angliss returned to the driver's seat in the morning for her second stint and then took the final 90-minute spell to bring the car home.

The 18-year-old ended the race with the team's fastest lap of the race on the penultimate lap and brought the car home 20th overall and fifth in the C1 AM class.

Angliss spent more than six hours behind the wheel throughout the race and contributed 114 laps of the team's 419 total.

Angliss said: "The Silverstone 24 Hours is one of the most unique events in British motorsport, and it's unlike anything I've competed in before.

"It was a good opportunity to get some endurance racing experience under my belt and I really enjoyed the whole event.

"Competing as part of an all-female driver line-up was good fun with Freya, Lexie and Briannie.

"We made a good team and got to grips quickly with the car, with good teamwork alongside Silverlake Motorsport ensuring we made great progress through the race.

"If it wasn't for the time lost in the night, we would have been on the class podium, but we're still very proud of finishing fifth in class and moving forward 22 places overall.

"That's a great achievement for our first time racing this car and getting to grips with endurance racing.

"My final stint was so enjoyable, scrapping it out with two other cars and switching places almost every lap.

"To finish it off with our fastest lap of the race was the icing on the cake, and this whole experience has made me determined to get back racing again as soon as possible."

Brea Angliss took to the track at Silverstone. Picture by James Roberts Photography.

World Cup call-up for Wright

FOOTBALL: COVENTRY City forward Haji Wright has earned a place in the United States of America squad for the 2026 FIFA World Cup this summer.

Wright fired the Sky Blues to promotion to the Premier League this season and ended the campaign as the club's top scorer with 18 goals in all competitions.

And the forward has received a call-up to Mauricio Pochettino's World Cup squad as he looks to add to his total of seven goals in 20 caps on the international stage.

Wright will feature on home soil this summer with the World Cup to take place in USA, Mexico and Canada.

Co-hosts USA will play Paraguay, Australia and Turkey in the group stages of the World Cup.

Premier League stars Antonee Robinson, Tyler Adams, Chris Richards and Brenden Aaronson all feature in the squad.

Wright features as one of seven forwards in the squad along with Monaco's Folarin Balogun, PSV Eindhoven's Ricardo Pepi, AC Milan's Christian Pulisic, Leeds United's Aaronson, Marseille's Timothy Weah and Club America's Alejandro Zendejas.

The Coventry forward will wear the number 19 for USA at the World Cup this summer.

Ingram behind in BTCC title battle despite podium

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

BTCC: TOM Ingram lost further ground on title rival Ash Sutton despite stepping onto the podium in the latest round of the British Touring Car Championship (BTCC).

The Coventry driver finished second in race one while early BTCC leader Sutton finished down in 10th after the latter driver suffered a DNF in the qualifying race at Snetterton.

However, Team Vertu driver Ingram suffered a power steering issue and alternator failure in race two which forced the defending champion to retire.

Ingram then produced a stunning recovery drive in race three from the back of the grid and initially crossed the line in third place.

However, a 10-second post-race penalty for exceeding track limits saw Ingram drop to eighth as title rival Sutton won race two and finished second in race three.

The results leave Ingram second in the drivers' standings on 117 points with Sutton some 57 points clear of the Coventry driver.

And Ingram reflected on a frustrating weekend although the defending BTCC champion insists he will continue to take the fight to Sutton.

Ingram said: "I think disappointing is the only way to word the weekend because we showed that the car is quick but we come away from Snetterton having lost ground in the standings and having not picked up the three strong results we know we are capable of.

"The qualifying race was a solid result when you consider that we had so little turbo boost to play with, and the fact that Ash was at the back meant we had a chance to gain ground in race one, which is what we did.

"Obviously I'd have preferred the win, but second was a strong result in really difficult conditions with the heat.

"Race two was one of the most challenging I've done after we lost the power steering and it was a huge battle to try and keep fighting on track until the alternator failed, and that's one of those situations where there was literally nothing else I could have done.

"The final race was fantastic from my point of view and to finish on the podium from the back was brilliant, which made it all the more frustrating to then get the penalty and undo all the effort that had gone in to come through the field.

"We can see where our opponents are strong at the moment and we'll keep working hard to take the fight to them, starting at Oulton Park in a few weeks."

The BTCC season continues at Oulton Park over the weekend of June 6 and 7.

Tom Ingram on the podium at Snetterton. Picture by Mark Cowdrill.

Cov's season comes to a close after Bedford blitz in play-off semi-final

RUGBY UNION: COVENTRY Rugby's season came to an abrupt end following a 58-24 defeat against Bedford Blues in the Champ Rugby play-off semi-finals.

Alex Rae's side ran in four tries at Goldington Road only for Bedford to blitz the visitors with a devastating second-half spell.

The visitors led by two points at the break courtesy of tries from Sam Maunder and Jack Reeves after former Coventry player Ryan Hutler dotted down for Bedford.

And after Will Maisey kicked Bedford into the lead, Hutler crossed for a second try before Alex Day quickly increased Bedford's lead.

Reeves scored a second try to keep Coventry in the contest only for Bedford to score four tries in the space of nine minutes to take the game out of the away side's reach.

Archie Benson, Maisey, Toby Thame and Dean Adamson all crossed for Bedford before Tom Ball scored at the death for Coventry.

Bedford finished as league runners-up in the regular season with Coventry just one place and four points below the Blues in the table.

Coventry scored the game's first try on four minutes when Maunder burrowed over after Bedford failed to claim the ball at their own lineout.

Bedford responded with a penalty as Maisey successfully took aim at the posts before Hutler dotted down on 14 minutes after he intercepted a loose pass and sprinted the length of the pitch to score.

The visitors reclaimed the lead on 26 minutes when Reeves danced through the line and under the posts from Jordon Poole's offload and Josh Thomas converted.

Coventry took a narrow two-point lead into the break as Maisey kicked a penalty two minutes into the second period to edge Bedford ahead.

And Hutler crossed for his second try on 49 minutes after Adamson collected his own chip ahead and fed the former to score down the left.

The Blues struck again straight from the restart as Bedford captain Day put the home side into a commanding 15-point lead.

Maisey added a penalty to stretch Bedford's lead before Reeves scored his second try on 58 minutes from Tommy Mathews' grubber kick as the latter converted.

However, Bedford responded with a fourth try on 61 minutes when Alex Woolford charged down a clearing kick and Benson crossed.

And former Coventry fly-half Maisey scored under the posts just two minutes later as he finished the game with a 28-point individual haul.

The tries continued to flow as replacement Thame dotted down on 68 minutes before Adamson crossed a minute later and Maisey stayed perfect from the kicking tee from nine attempts.

Coventry fought until the end as Ball crossed in the final minute from close range as the club's season ended one game short of the play-off final.

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Valley make trio of new signings

FOOTBALL: VETERAN defender Stephan Morley has returned to Rugby Town almost 20 years after the full-back made his debut for the club.

The 38-year-old originally joined Valley in 2007 and spent a single campaign with Rugby before departing for Brackley Town. He returned to Butlin Road briefly in the 2008/09 campaign.

He has since enjoyed a distinguished career in non-league football and made almost 300 appearances for Leamington.

Morley has played almost 250 times in the National League North and becomes manager Grant Joshua's third signing of the summer.

Joshua said: "We spoke to Steph early doors in terms of coming in with us this season.

"It's a no-brainer with his leadership skills, quality and the fact he's a born winner with a win-at-all-costs mentality.

"We had players last season who said they wanted to win but I never really believed they had that mentality and desire to break past that barrier when it got tough.

"That's exactly what this signing represents.

"He knows how to win and relishes playing for a massive club, which again some players couldn't cope with last season.

"He's not coming in to pull any punches. He's been brought in to help us win things and set the highest standards on and off the pitch.

"I know he's excited about the season ahead and I'm delighted we've landed another experienced lad who's had success at much higher levels."

Rugby have also signed winger Aaron Nuttall after he spent time at Lutterworth Town, Rugby Borough and Corby Town last season.

The 21-year-old impressed for Hinckley Leicester Road in 2023/24 as he won the Northern Premier League Midlands young player of the season award.

Joshua added: "I'm looking forward to working with him. There are bits of his game where I think we can improve an already top player for this level and above.

"He needs to settle somewhere after a few moves last season and I'm delighted that he's agreed to come here and be part of this new-look squad we're putting together.

"He's rapid, dynamic, can go past you on the inside or outside and he plays with no fear.

"He's going to be a huge asset in our aims and ambitions for the next couple of years."

And Valley have also added Louis Samuels to their squad with the winger the club's first summer signing.

The 30-year-old scored 26 goals for Aylestone Park in the United Counties League Premier Division South last season.

Joshua said: "He's been a club target for a few years now, so I'm happy we can deliver this signing to our supporters going into the new season.

"He's a proven player and a proven goalscorer. I feel he's really coming into his prime and that's brilliant for us.

Rivel Mardenborough will remain with Rugby Town next season. Picture by Martin Pulley.

"It's important we add goals into the team after last season."

Valley have also retained the services of Rivel Mardenborough, Ryley Nicholson, Harrison Nee and Sam Tye for the 2026/27 season although Caine Elliott and Josh Thomas have departed the club.

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