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the Coleshill Post

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July 2023 Issue 113



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MAYOR SETS NEW RINGING TRADITION

Coleshill Mayor Cllr Caroline Symonds set a new Coleshill ringing tradition when she visited the tower to present her Coronation volunteering certificates to ringers.

It was the last official duty of her mayoral year, and so she was offered and accepted the opportunity to be rung out of office. The new mayor Cllr Tony Battle also accepted the offer when his term ends.

Full story page 14



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The Post Newspaper Group is an independent hyper-local tabloid newspaper publisher distributing 2 titles with over 14,000 copies to homes and businesses in Coleshill and Castle Bromwich each month, free of charge.

Our main aim is to provide hyper-local news and information to the community where it would otherwise not be accessible. We also offer the most effective platform for local businesses to promote themselves to their target audience. This benefits the entire community and improves social-cohesion.

Any views, articles and columns expressed in this publication are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the Publisher, nor indeed their responsibility.

Advertising in our publications

In order to deliver The Post free to our readers we rely on advertising revenue from local companies.

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Getting in touch

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People prefer to buy locally and they trust local print media above all else.

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the **ColeshillPost**

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Coleshill South
Coleshill Industrial
Water Orton
Curdworth
Maxstoke
Shustoke

Lea Marston
Marston
The Whitacres
*Also dropped in
Minworth*



B46

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Our Ticket winners

- Tim Bull
- Jenny Wells
- Sara Prosser
- Feli Freeman
- Mark Polster
- Trisha Roberts
- Stephen Bottrill
- Joan Macmillan
- Robert Bryson
- Julie Gough

All winners received a pair of tickets to the show.


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Double Film Premiere from Coleshill Drama Group

► The past twelve months have been particularly busy for members of Coleshill Drama Group. Two major productions on Coleshill Town Hall stage, an exceptionally well received and enjoyed “Italian Evening”, an entry into this year’s All England Theatre Festival and not one, but two short films, have given members a real opportunity to explore their talents and try roles which they had never dreamt of.

Group member, Jon Pegg, wrote a play with the stage in mind, but decided instead to make the script into a short film. He has over twelve years’ experience in directing films and has achieved many awards. He asked members of the Drama Group if they were interested in acting in a film, something none of the members had ever done. The result has astounded the members, who have reaped huge benefits from diversifying into another medium.

The short film “The Bench” was made in collaboration with Sutton Coldfield Movie Makers and has already accrued twelve awards in film festivals all over the world. The great news now is that Coleshill audiences can watch this film AND a second one, entitled “Bad Day for Contemplation”, also written and directed by Jon and featuring actors from Coleshill Drama Group, in Coleshill Town Hall on Sunday 9th July at 2.30pm. The screenings are FREE OF CHARGE and will be followed by a question and answer session with the writer director, actors and cinematographers. Refreshments will be available from the Bar.

Do not miss this free opportunity to see what your local Drama Group has achieved and now offers this entertainment to anyone who would like to come along. Perhaps making a film is something you have often wished you could do. Maybe you would love to “have a go on stage”. This is your chance to find out all about Coleshill Drama Group, which has been entertaining the community for 90 years, to learn of new avenues its members are exploring and to become part of a busy group in one of several different ways. Not only is The Group always looking to welcome new members as actors and directors, but also, for those who do not wish to “tread the boards”, there are many skills to be learnt in set and stage design, costume design and making, properties for the stage, and sound and lighting design and operation. If you just feel that you would like to be part of The Group, then extra hands are always needed to construct and dismantle stage sets, make the tea, help front of house during productions and many other jobs. In short, there is something for everyone.

Coleshill Drama Group’s members love what they do and need the plentiful support of audiences to make all their efforts worthwhile. Please come along on Sunday afternoon July 9th, meet the Group and enjoy two films made by the very people you know and see in Coleshill.

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Coleshill Drama Group showcases a Double Film Premiere!

Screening:
“The Bench”
 and
“Bad Day for Contemplation”

Two short films, written, directed by and starring members
of your local drama group, followed by Q and A.

Sunday 9th July @ Coleshill Town Hall

Doors open 2:30 First film starts 3:00

Limited refreshments available at the bar.

Meet your local filmstars!

FREE ENTRY

Absolute 10 Years



➤ Back in 2013 two guys set out on a journey to start their own business. Working together previously for over 15 years in the midlands for a roofing contractor it was time to move on. Vic Pepperell and Ant McManus both coming from a roofing background with Vic having a career in sales and Ant in contracting. It was a combination that was destined to succeed.



"Where it began", small office at the rear Chester Road, Castle Bromwich.

Following the launch of Absolute Roofing Solutions Limited from here they went on to securing contracts that would take them to new premises within the year.

Still wanting to be in Central England with all routes to the UK from the motorway network Absolute moved to Coleshill to join Absolute Scaffolding Limited in larger premises.



Jubilee Works, Coleshill.

The combination of having a Scaffolding Company meant that our clients would receive a better service. Ant being from contracts knew from previous experiences that having to subcontract work to scaffolding companies can sometimes go wrong as there is no control. So, the partnership with Absolute Scaffolding works well for all and for our clients.

Not wanting to stop there the ambition for both was to be one of the largest Roofing contractors in the Midlands. In the first year they secured over 90 contracts and today with over 270

contracts and maintaining the quantity over the past 4 years is a significant growth.

However, there was still more they could offer to the clients so in 2014 Absolute Solar (now Absolute Electrical & renewables Limited) was formed and in 2017 with the knowledge they had gained from the construction industry they established Absolute Building & Maintenance, Absolute Roof Tiling, Waterproofing and Absolute Self Storage. Absolute Group have a portfolio that are established and recognisable names in the Construction Industry throughout the Midlands and UK.

Throughout the years success comes with rewards and during the time we have enjoyed great days with our clients.



Cheltenham Gold Cup, with familiar faces from the Group and our clients.

Absolute have always supported staff with ambitious careers from promotions to accommodating their staff needs on working hours for younger families. Here at Absolute, there is a good balance of experience and ambition throughout the staff. Currently with over 100 people working for Absolute Roofing they have provided stability for their staff during the uncertainty of the past few years and difficulties faced within the Construction Industry. The motto of Absolute has always been "look after your staff and they will look after you".

Working throughout the UK Absolute have maintained working relationships since the beginning. Year on year we look to encourage further growth by offering a complete package for our clients. We don't intend to stop there and will always look to improve and manage our client's expectations and requirements.

As we enter our 10th Year it is not without recognising the support of our suppliers, and the dedication and hard work from all our staff.

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Summer Feet

During the Summer we find ourselves wearing more open shoes such as sandals or sliders. Although these can help to keep your feet cool, they expose our skin to the hot weather which can make them drier. An open-backed shoe will also allow for more movement around your heels when you are walking which can in turn make the skin around your heels hard.

Our skin is elastic and needs to be able to stretch to allow us to walk comfortably. When the skin is dry and hard it becomes less stretchy and so is prone to splits and cracks. If these occur, they can be very painful and if left untreated may lead to an infection.

The way to treat and prevent these cracks is to essentially give your skin its stretchiness back! The best way to do this is for us to work together. We recommend regular routine treatments with one of our HCPC registered Podiatrists who can keep the hard skin reduced and regular cream application by yourselves daily. Our own Help4feet foot cream is a great cream for helping to keep the hard skin soft as well as hydrating your skin. Please ask for more details at the practice.

Another issue affecting many over the summer is aches and pains in the feet caused by wearing flat sandals with little or no support for the foot. We recommend for longer walks wearing supportive trainers however we do sell our own help4feet Sandals which are fashionable and supportive. These are an excellent alternative to standard flat sandals and help the foot function better when walking. Please contact the practice for more details.

If you think you may benefit from seeing a Podiatrist, you can give us a call on 0121 749 6313 and book in to see one of our HCPC registered Podiatrists.

The Heart of England Singers Summer Concert

Basking in the triumph of the Vivacious Vivaldi concert in May held jointly together with the Chandos choir, the Heart of England Singers now move swiftly on to their annual summer concert which will be a scorcher this year.

The concert will be held at St. Philip's Church Dorridge and the choir will be led by the renowned soprano Susan Bates ably stepping into the boots of our late lamented Musical Director, her husband Martin Bates, as choir conductor.

The choir will be augmented once again by the ever popular Songsquad from St. Alphege CE Junior School led by Allison Taylor as guest performers.

This year the theme will be songs from popular musicals which will include Mamma Mia the Musical, extracts from Les Miserables and Phantom of the Opera

and stirring James Bond theme tunes. There will be something for everyone and a good sing-a-long to some well-known tracks.

Tickets will be just £12 (£6 for under 16's) and will include refreshments either in advance or on the door. (ticketmanager@gmail.com or www.ticketsource.co.uk/the-heart-of-England-singers).




Heart of England Singers
Conductor Susan Bates

Summer Concert
featuring
Songs from popular Musicals

With guest Performers
St Alphege CE Junior School Songsquad
Conductor Allison Taylor

7.30pm 8th July 2023
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This is an upsetting scenario... and unfortunately, it could happen to any of us without the right protection.

The sad truth is that around 200,000 family homes are sold every year to pay for care fees. Estates are drastically reduced- sometimes to nothing at all- to pay for care, leaving beneficiaries with little to no inheritance. The lower limit for care fee means testing is currently set at £14,250. However, your loved ones' inheritance could be even less than this simply because the home and other assets were not protected in the right way.

Don't leave your home open to any risks.

All of this can be avoided- with careful planning and professional advice, you can protect your home and savings so that your children can benefit as much as possible. Putting yourself in control means you'll prevent government authorities and other parties getting their hands on your assets.



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and buy a replacement property if necessary. The capital share you have in the property will also be protected. The property is also safeguarded from local authority means testing.

The ideal scenario is that half the property is protected from loss, and the other half is disregarded by local authorities. What this means for inheritance is that at least half of the property's shares will be passed down to your children.

This plan of action is applicable even if you have a mortgage!

Future stress and heartache for your family and beneficiaries can be avoided, but you must act sooner rather than later. If you fall ill and require permanent care, or if you unfortunately lose mental capacity for any reason, it will be too late to protect your home and assets.

Act now!

Sadly, many people put off planning for the future until its too late, leaving children and loved ones devastated to realise that the situation could have been easily avoided. The sooner planning is put into effect, the more effectively we can help you ensure that your assets go to those you love ... not those you don't!

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Hello from your local Slimming World groups



☛ Summer really has started and isn't it lovely to see the sunshine! In our groups we've been sharing ideas and tips ready for summer, from days out to barbecues and of course thinking about upcoming holidays. We've also been celebrating our men recently with our 'Man of the Year' competitions. Nominated and voted for by their fellow slimmers it's so inspirational to hear about life changing stories and see the photos brought in by these guys of their transformations. Slimming World is definitely 'not just for girls', we have many men in groups these days and they do incredibly well. Man of the year is always a celebration that all the consultants love. There've been so many fabulous success stories, but we've picked Andy's story to share with you this month. Have a read, about not only his weight loss but his Diabetes reversal too. We hope it inspires others to believe in what can be achieved.

There's a deliciously sweet summer recipe for you to try too.

Wishing you a happy and healthy month ahead... Toni x
(07971 686 698)

6 Stone down and diabetes reversed – I'm a new man!



My journey began over 10 years ago, I'd been diabetic for many years, was over 18 and a half stone with a 44-inch waist, I did very little activity and was constantly working away from home.

I decided I needed to lose some weight and I initially lost around 3 stone which did take me a couple of years but then found I could not progress any further. My diabetes seemed to be getting worse and I knew that I really needed to do something. I looked around and almost by accident was introduced to Slimming World by my daughter Kate who joined at the same time as me and was a constant buddy in losing weight.

I had some initial success and loved the process of food optimisation, managing

syns and focusing on free food which is the food that needs no weighing, measuring or counting. Things like fruit and veg but also lean meat, pasta, rice, potatoes and much more. I never had to go hungry and amazingly I started to lose weight regularly and steadily. I regularly attended the Slimming World sessions and even continued throughout the Covid lockdown period. It was so enjoyable and I loved achieving milestone awards... Half a Stone, 1 Stone, 1.5 Stone, 2 Stone !!! It was a life changing period for me, and I reached my target weight.

Most of all, what I loved was that attending and staying to group was fun!

I began to notice that my diabetes was changing. My diabetes levels began to improve dramatically. So much so that I vividly remember the morning I attended my diabetic clinic and was told I no longer need to test my blood sugars levels every day. That moment of joy will stay with me for ever! My medication was also dramatically reduced.

Post Covid and for several months I'd stopped going to group, slipping back into old habits. I started to regain weight so I returned to Slimming World and re-joined Jayne's group in Chelmsley Wood. It was like coming home and with the support of the group I very quickly got back in the groove to achieve my target within three short months. This time I also decided to engage in Body Magic which is Slimming World's activity programme. I was introduced to the 'activity pathway' and starting small and at my own pace I built in

routines and adopted a regime of running on my treadmill building up to twice a day for 15 minutes each session. I measured the distance I ran and also monitored my blood sugar levels during this time. The results were amazing! In group every small step was recognised and celebrated, and I soon achieved my bronze and silver body magic awards, encouraging me to continue.

Significantly, from the moment that I started back at Slimming world and started Body Magic I had a clear graph that showed my blood sugar levels reduced to even lower levels and my Doctor advised me that I had now reached a stage where I was now pre-diabetic! I continued to run twice a day and it became business as usual.

Looking at my journey, things have changed so much for me... I had previously reached 18.8 stone and I now weigh 12.8 stone. My waist size was 44-inches and is now 32-inches. I was XXL in most clothes and I now buy mostly medium. I no longer test daily for diabetes and my blood sugar levels are down to pre-diabetic levels. I look in the mirror every morning and tell myself 'Believe'!

My most recent achievement is being voted Man of the Year in group by my fellow slimmers. Knowing that I inspire and motivate others on their weight loss journeys is a fantastic feeling. That's what Slimming World is all about, ideas, tips and lots of support that'll help you take the steps to change your life. So I'd say if you're thinking of joining, look up your local group, walk in and never look back except to see how far you've come.

Raspberry & lemon ice-cream squares

Crunchy, creamy and cool, these fruity squares are the perfect sweet treat for summer

Ready in 30 mins (plus 5 hrs freezing) Makes 16 | 3 Syns each



Ingredients:

- Grated zest of ½ unwaxed lemon and juice of 1 lemon
- 1 level tbsps sweetener granules
- 400g low-fat custard, canned/carton
- 300g fat-free natural fromage fraise
- 2 egg whites*
- Low-calorie cooking spray
- 12 ginger nut biscuits
- 25g low-fat spread
- 250g raspberries, halved

*Pregnant women, the elderly, babies and toddlers are advised to eat eggs showing the British Lion stamp if eating raw or partially cooked eggs.

Method

1. First, make the lemon ice cream. Put the lemon juice and 2 level tsp sweetener in a small pan over a low heat and heat gently until dissolved. Stir in the lemon zest and cook for 1 minute or until reduced by half and slightly syrupy. Set aside to cool.
 2. Put the custard and fromage fraise in a bowl and stir well to combine, then stir in the lemon syrup.
 3. Whip the egg whites in a clean bowl until they're frothy and holding their shape. Whisk in the remaining sweetener, then fold the mixture into the custard. Transfer to a shallow freezer-proof container and freeze for 4 hours or until just firm but soft enough to spread, stirring every 30 minutes to stop crystals forming. (If you have
- an ice-cream maker, you can use this instead.) Take care it doesn't freeze solid.
4. Meanwhile, spray a shallow 20cm x 20cm tin with low-calorie cooking spray and line it with greaseproof paper. Put the biscuits in a freezer bag, seal well and bash them with a rolling pin to make fine crumbs. Melt the low-fat spread in a small pan over a low heat (or in the microwave), then stir in the biscuit crumbs and mix well. Spill the crumbs into the lined tin and spread out evenly.
 5. Spoon the ice cream on top of the biscuit layer and level with the back of a spoon. Press the raspberries in lightly.
 6. Freeze for 1 hour, then cut into 16 equal squares to serve. (If made in advance, soften in the fridge for 15 minutes)

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Monday

Castle Brom - The Baptist Church, 5.30 & 7.00pm Claire - 07917867577

Tile Cross - St Peters Church, 4.00 & 5.30pm Nataley 07939 949136

Yardley - St Edburghas Church Hall, 9.00am, 3.30 & 5.30pm Julie 07530 552653

Tuesday

Coleshill - The Catholic Church (sacred Heart & St Teresa)
3.30pm, 5.00pm & 6.30pm Toni 07971686698

Kingshurst - Seeds Of Hope, St Barnabas CH, 5.00 & 6.30pm from 28th March
Diane 07432 123206

Kitts Green - Evangelical Church, 5.30pm Becki 07864 872816

Shard End - Aylesford Hall, 9.00am & 10.30am Donna 07516 726534

Hay Mills - Hay Mills CC, 9.30am Amy 07904 242379

Wednesday

Castle Brom - Arden Hall, 9.30am Diane 07432 123206

Castle Brom - St Clements Church, 3.00, 4.30 & 6.00pm Nataley 07939 949136

Marston Green - The Parish Hall, 3.30, 5.30 & 7.00pm Jacqui 07814 675180

Water Orton - The Link, 5.30 & 7.00pm Paul 07505708121

Thursday

Castle Vale - St Cuthberts Church, 5.30pm, Richard 07733820994

Chelmsley Wood - The Fordbridge Centre (by Asda), 5.30pm, Jacqui 07957133435

Sheldon - St Thomas More, 4.00, 5.30, 7.00pm, Jayne 07453 348184

Smiths Wood - SJB Centre, 5.00 & 6.30pm Nataley 07939 949136

Friday

Chelmsley Wood - The Family Tree, 9.00am Jayne 07453 348184

Sheldon - St Thomas More Church, 9.00am Jacqui 07814 675180

Saturday

Chelmsley Wood - Three Trees Community Centre, 9.00am Michael 07957 510533

Chelmsley Wood - The Family Tree, 8.30 & 10.00am Jayne 07453 348184

Castle Brom - The Baptist Church, 8.00 & 9.30am to Donna 07516726534

Bordesley Green - St Pauls Church, 9.00am Maria 07974 805252

Sheldon - St Thomas More, 7.30 & 9.00am Jacqui 07814 675180

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The TRWI Craft Group Strike Again!

☛ You may remember the cheerful post box topper that was attached to the top of the red landmark at the bottom of Coleshill High Street by the garage (to commemorate the coronation of new King Charles III)? Well, the crafty ladies at Twin Rivers Women's Institute had so much fun that they have done it again.

This time they decided to commemorate the theme of 'World Oceans Day'. On the 8 June every year, World

Oceans Day is held to highlight the value of the seas and how the world should work together to ensure our ocean's health and wellbeing.

As you can see in the photo(s) the ladies did a fantastic job. They've included all sorts of animals: an octopus, star fish, turtles, polar bears, penguins, whales and fish – even seaweed! It has been causing quite the stir with people parking up in order to go and take photographs. If you have not had a look yet, do not miss the chance to

go and see it.

The ladies have hit upon something that has taken off in a special way. This will not be last topper they do and are already considering what the next theme will be.

So keep your eyes open for the next one.

If you would like to come along to a Twin Rivers meeting to see what we are all about: we meet on every second Tuesday of the month at Coleshill Town Hall. Come along and join in the full. All ladies welcome.



Coleshill Manor Snake

☛ Pied Piper Pest & Wildlife Management are used to being called out to deal with weird and wonderful native wildlife but on this occasion the wildlife encountered was definitely weird but not so native.

The Pied Piper office received a call from Coleshill Manor asking for one of our technicians to attend site immediately as there had been reports of a large snake slithering around in the under growth and the report was that the snake had tried to bite the landscape gardener who was trimming back the bushes around the security gatehouse.

Once on site the snake was quickly tracked down and to our surprise it was not one of the native species, we were expecting to find but in fact a fairly decent

sized corn snake sunning itself in the early morning sunshine on top of one of the well-manicured bushes.



Corn snakes are native to North America so this was obviously an escapee, or it had been intentionally dumped.

The corn snake was quickly boxed up and placed in a secure area of the gatehouse while awaiting collection by a local RSPCA officer.

Please Note if you do have an exotic pet and for whatever reason you can't keep it, please don't just dump it out in the British countryside, it's illegal

to intentionally release a non-native species into the wild in the UK and you may be thinking that your giving your pet a life of freedom and no harm will be caused by its release but that's so far from the truth the impact that your exotic pet can have on our native wildlife is massive and the effects from there release can be long lasting.

Sadly, many exotics are not equipped to survive long in the British countryside so they in turn suffer a miserable existence with many perishing soon after their release.

Don't just dump your exotic pets, it's not fair on them and its definitely not fair on our native wildlife species, instead contact a local rescue centre to see if they can take your exotic pet off your hands and rehome them.

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WARM HUB

Town Hall Tue to Thu 10 to 1 and Community Centre (Tue only). Come in for a chat and activities if you wish.
Free refreshments.

INFORMATION

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Young at Heart
Stitch Club

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Carers Trust
CAB (Citizens Advice Bureau)
MIND
Vision Support
Wellbeing

GROUPS

Walking Tours
Keep Fit & Natter
Walking Sports
Art & Crafts
Knit & Natter

COLESHILL CIVIC SOCIETY

Missing Buildings and Spaces 3

By John Hoyle



This building is Cole End Farm, it was in fact quite a large farm, farming a large area. When it was sold for development it was demolished and the estate behind was built. Orchard Close being built on the orchard. Old Mill Road and the shops before the bridge replaced the farmhouse.



This photograph is the Coleshill Swimming Baths. A number of the older Coleshill Residents may remember the place, There are diving platforms and a hut which belonged to a swimming club. The pool was used by the Grammar School boys, in the 20's and 30's holding regular timetabled swimming sessions. There must have been better summers in those days or people had thicker blood.



A well known corner of the High Street, Woodman Corner. It was by the mini roundabout, the Woodman, a well known inn in the day When it closed it became a general store. On the Coleshill side of the inn was Dr Wall's barn.

Dr Wall is remembered fondly in Coleshill. He and his wife were also the doctors at St Gerrards for many years his wife being the anaesthetist for the operations. We all remember his daughter Dr Edge who served many years as a family doctor in Coleshill. The whole block was demolished in the 1960's by the current shops and flats and incorporates an amenity are on the corner by Upper Crust.



Coleshill was once blessed with two railway stations. The one in the photo was at the end of Station Road. This was called

Forge Mills Station, at the time there was an engineering works and plans for Hams Hall. The station was approximately where the current station is sited. The second station, named Coleshill Station was on the Hampton Line, never very busy. I have heard rumours that the Royal Coach used to stop there for a visit to Packington Hall. A second rumour was that during the war trains loaded with ammunition were hidden there. The Hampton Line closed for passengers in 1917 and this station was renamed Coleshill Station in 1923.

All the articles I have written for the Post have been taken from the Civic Society archives. The items in the Archives are currently catalogued and held in an Access database. However since covid little work has taken place and they need a good 'spring-clean'. If anyone out there would like to become involved with this work please contact me. A note through the letter box of the Old Market Hall on Church Hill would be great.

If anyone has any corrections or suggestions about future articles please contact me through the Coleshill Post Editor or Colin Lewis at House and Home on the High Street.

Mayor sets new ringing tradition



► Coleshill Mayor Cllr Caroline Symonds set a new Coleshill ringing tradition when she visited the tower to present her Coronation volunteering certificates to ringers.

It was the last official duty of her mayoral year, and so she was offered and accepted the opportunity to be rung out of office. The new mayor Cllr Tony Battle also accepted the offer when his term ends.

Both had a quick ringing lesson.

The tradition was added to a list of ringing traditions now out of use.

Few residents today recall the days when the church bells acted as a kind of airborne news agency. The sound of different combinations of bells floating over the town could tell you about a fire, who had died and their age, when to go to bed - even remind you when Pancake

Tuesday had arrived.

Battered!

The pancake bells (fourth and fifth) rang on Shrove Tuesday morning to remind Coleshill housewives to use up all the left-over flour, eggs and fat in the house - foods forbidden during Lent.

Blues and twos

The treble and tenor (the bells at opposite ends of the ring) were rung to warn of a fire.

For whom the bell tolls

Today, a bell is rarely tolled for funerals. But tradition has it that the bell would give the gender and age. A man would have three strokes rung three times; a woman two strokes three times; and a child three strokes only. The age was indicated with one stroke for each year of life.

Clocking off

Before clocks were common, everyone relied on church clocks for telling the time. The day would begin and end with the curfew bells - the fifth would ring the curfew at 8pm, and the tenor the month. Curfew, from the Norman French for covering the fire, minimised the risk of wood and thatch structures catching fire.

Star turn

You are not hearing things at Christmas if you hear Little Donkey and Twinkle Twinkle Little Star coming from the tower: it really is possible to play tunes on the bells. It's a good test of bell control as well as fun and a chance for the ringers to do something different, so listen out nearer Christmas.

Cllr Symonds award was one of two presented to the church. Now well over two years since the town had a vicar to lead the church, Coleshill's ringers and church members pulled together to ensure all services, funerals and weddings were covered, as well as the usual open days, fund raisers and other aspects of church life.

Their certificates thanked them for their exceptional commitment and outstanding voluntary work. Cllr Symonds also presented each ringer with a thankyou bag of wine and chocolates - Quality Street, of course.





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PUBLIC NOTICE

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is applying to change an existing licence as follows

To keep an extra 14 goods vehicles and 17 trailers at the operating centre at Edison Road, Hams Hall Industrial Estate, B46 1DA

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating Centre (s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, Stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice.

Representors must at the same time send a copy of their Representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of the notice. A Guide of Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

WARWICKSHIRE CAVA



COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY ACTION

Ever thought
about volunteering?

Meet Ellen

Volunteer Coordinator for
North Warwickshire at Coleshill Library

Tuesday 18th July



Tuesday 15th August


Tuesday 19th September

Tuesday 17th October

Tuesday 21st November

1.30 – 3.30pm



Volunteer Drivers Needed

Beeline Community Transport is a charity that provides volunteer drivers to transport those in need of essential transport to hospitals, clinics, surgeries, day centers etc. Volunteer drivers use their own cars, mileage expenses are paid.

Have you got a car?

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For more details and to find out more about joining our happy team of volunteer drivers please telephone
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Between 9 am & 1 pm (Mon to Fri)

Answer phone at all other times, if you leave a message we will get back to you as soon as we can.





Cllr Dave Reilly. Water Orton Ward. North Warwickshire Borough Council.

HS2 Bromford Tunnel and Coleshill Earth Works. Gilson Road and Traffic Congestion. Attleboro Lane School Site Planning Application. Water Orton Old Salts Warm Friends Hub.

➤ **Some significant updates this month primarily focussing on Water Orton, but which also have consequences for our wider community.**

HS2 Attleboro Lane Tunnelling Works Start.

I am desperately sorry to report that HS2 have decided to start tunnelling works before the North Warwickshire Borough Council legal challenge has been resolved. HS2 have stated that they believe that they have the lawful authority under the 2017 HS2 Act of Parliament and have started the process of tunnelling; even though the Government Planning Inspector has not yet reported to the Secretary of State for Transport on their findings arising from NWBC's legal challenge. Indeed, the Department of Transport has not yet determined whether HS2 need to apply for approval by securing a Transport and Works Act Order to approved the relocation of the tunnelling works from Castle Vale to Water Orton, yet HS2 have decided to go ahead and start.

It is absolutely astounding that a government funded project can determine it acceptable that they don't need to await the judgement arising from proper 'due process'.

Succinctly, the NWBC legal challenge is that HS2 does not have the lawful authority to relocate the tunnel entrance from Castle Vale (as was approved under the 2017 HS2 Act of Parliament) to Water Orton. HS2 argue that under what is called Schedule 17 of the HS2 Act they do have the power. Our NWBC position is that Schedule 17 is for minor design changes, such as the design of a bridge or earth works, not the wholesale relocation of an engineering operation that will run 24/7 for 6 years. That is not a minor design change.

In real terms this decision means that the tunnel boring machine is now operating continuously until the 'into Birmingham' tunnel is finished in six years. A second tunnel boring machine will join the current machine in August and this second machine will start boring the 'out of Birmingham' tunnel. Both machines will operate simultaneously and will use high pressure water jets to grind the subsoil and the line the excavated areas with a total of 20,797 concrete segments, making 2,971 concrete rings to form each of the two tunnels through which the trains will run.

The tunnel boring machines will each remove 1.87M.t of excavated material formed mostly of Mercia Mudstone. The spoil will leave the tunnel as a slurry and near to Attleboro and Vicarage Lane will be dried into cakes at an onsite plant. These 'cakes' will then be used for embankment construction of the Coleshill Viaducts that will start at Coleshill Heath Road and run through to Gilson and Chattle Hill.

In addition to the fact that the tunnel mouth will be a monstrous concrete bowl with at least three detached storage buildings for maintenance, emergency response equipment, and energy and air supply into the tunnel, the 6 year construction process will see all of the waste spoil 'cakes' transported by road to either Coleshill, or to Junction 9 M42 near to where a spoil storage site will be constructed.

If you are reading this thinking it is only Water Orton community who will be affected, then think again. All of the massive quantity of spoil 'cakes' will be moved by road using the M42/M6 loop, Junction 9 Dunton Hall, the A446 from Dunton Island all the way down to Coleshill Heath Road, and the A4097 Kingsbury Road. Absolutely unbelievable!

So, what of the NWBC legal challenge. Well, we are stuck. Until we are given the Planning Inspectors judgement, we cannot challenge HS2. If the Planning Inspector determines HS2's actions are lawful then the legal challenged is finished anyway. If the Planning Inspector determines it is unlawful, then it will go to the Secretary of State who will have to determine what to do about a multi-million-pound construction project that has started and whether the works need a Transport and Works Order application. I have no words.

Gilson Road Closure.

I am sure that everyone will now be well acquainted with the sink hole that has caused the emergency closure of Gilson Road, a closure that is putting pressure on traffic flows on the A446 and through Water Orton where it is exasperating the problems of the roadworks on Watton Lane at the junction with the A446.

Since the gridlock of four weeks ago when a perfect storm of problems on the M42 and M6 combined with the Gilson Road

emergency road closure, resulted in major congestion on the A446, which already had two sets of active roadworks at Coleshill. Since this event all local councillors have been working together in discussions with HS2 and the Highways Authority about the need to better coordinate roadworks in the area.

While nothing could have been done to predict the closure of Gilson Road, I am pleased to report that over the last couple of weeks the benefit of better planning has been paying off with WCC Highways now approving significantly time-limited and time-specific closures that are better coordinated with HS2 works. Unfortunately, very little can be done to change the HS2 roadworks because they are all so tightly scheduled into the construction programme; however, we are on their case.

Particular thanks must go to Cllr Peter Fowler from Coleshill who has been doing great work engaging with Severn Trent over the Gilson Road sinkhole. As I type the forecast is that the closure will last for a further four weeks while the sinkhole is infilled, and the rest of Gilson Road is checked for subsidence risk. Seven Trent are leading on these works because it appears that the sink hole was caused by a water pipe fracturing and washing away the sand and gravel sub-surface underneath the road. Various options to speed up the works and reopen the road are being explored, but clearly safety can not be put at any risk.

You may recall that it has always been the case that Gilson Road would be closed for a period so that the HS2 line could cross Gilson Road at ground level. The HS2 Act gives the power to permanently reroute Gilson Road into what I will describe as a 'U' to get it under the railway line at the point at which the railway crosses the M42 on a new yet to be built bridge next to Gilson Drive. The new 'U' route will start just past the old Grimstock Hotel travel down to the M42, under the new bridge, and then in the shape of a U come back up to re-join the current Gilson Road at its junction with Gilson Drive. These works will require a future closure albeit hopefully the new road can be built and made traffic ready so that any future closure will only be for the time it takes to connect the new road to the existing route. We'll keep you updated.

Planning Application PAP/2023/0266 – New Homes on the Old School Site Water Orton.

The planning application to develop the Old School Attleboro Lane site in Water Orton has been submitted the Local Planning Authority North Warwickshire Borough Council. This represents a significant step forward in actions to build new houses on the site.

The planning application and all the associated documents can be found on the NWBC website, planning application number PAP/2023/0266. The application is for: "The erection of 59 dwellings, including the restoration and conversion of the former Water Orton Primary School, associated landscaping and access".

The applicant submitting the planning application is Countryside Partnerships, a joint venture between Warwickshire County Council and a property development company. It is important to note that there is no relationship or other influence between NWBC and WCC on this matter; Countryside Partnerships will be treated in exactly the same manner as any other developer. The planning application will be independently determined by NWBC Planning and Development Board, of which I am vice-chair, in line with the statutory guidance and direction as set out in the National Policy Planning Framework. I will not comment on what has been published because as a member of the Planning Board it is imperative the I keep an 'open mind' until the Planning Board comes to a decision of whether to 'grant' or 'refuse' the planning application.

Totally understandably there is significant interest in the proposed development of the Old School site from neighbouring residents who are already, and quite rightly and correctly, taking a robust interest in the development to ensure that it is the best it can be, and so becomes a well-designed addition to Water Orton's built community.

As with all new build housing developments there are number of residents who will be interested in the development of the site with a view to purchase of a new build property for themselves or members of their family. I have written before that I am keen to secure an agreement that prospective purchasers who are looking to buy a first home and who live with their family in the village should be afforded priority, together with our older village residents who may be looking to downsize. I will keep you updated.

The planning application is now open for public consultation until 16th July 2023. To let NWBC have your views on the development you can either submit views through the NWBC website page by typing 'nwbc planning' into Google and then selecting the first choice headed 'Planning / North Warwickshire'. This will then take you to a page where you select 'planning application search'. Having clicked this type in the application number, PAP/2023/0266, and that will bring up all of the planning application papers. Mid page you will see a button that says, 'Comment on Application'. Click this and fill in the form. Alternately, you can email me or your local councillors with your views and we will forward them onto NWBC Planning Department.

I have written about this proposed development site on several occasions over recent years and you may recall the following facts:

- The North Warwickshire Local Development Plan granted outline planning permission to build up to 48 new homes on the site and directed the retention and reuse of the Victorian School building. This means that the site can be developed with up to 48 new homes and that the old school building must be retained. You may note the published application if for 59 dwellings which includes 5 dwellings inside the old school and 54 units on the remainder of the site.
- Since the site was allocated outline planning permission in September 2021, HS2 have decided to locate the aforementioned tunnel mouth next to the development site and commenced tunnel boring.
- At the May meeting of the NWBC Planning Board Emergency Tree Protection Orders were granted on fifteen trees located on Plank Lane, the field behind the Green, and on the proposed development site.
- The Old Victorian School is now included in the Water Orton Conservation Area, which while not yet fully approved, provides significant legal protection from demolition for the Victorian aspects of the building.
- The Water Orton Village Green already has significant legal protection having been lawfully designated as a Village Green in 1968. This means that no changes can be made to the Green or any trees or hedgerows on it without the express permission of Water Orton Parish Council.
- It is important that any consultation response that you might want to submit relates as best as possible to matters that are known as 'Material Planning Considerations'.

Old Salts Warm Friends Hub.

Finally, a quick parish notice just to say that the Thursday Old Salts Warm Friends Hub at the Old Salts Rugby Club has now started a summer break. It will resume on Thursday 7th September, and will then run every Thursday through to next June.

A huge thankyou to the fabulous volunteers who have so generously given up their time and energy every Thursday for the last six months since we started at the beginning of 2023, hopefully everyone will enjoy a well-earned rest over the summer. Thanks especially to Lesley and Mick Lee from the Club and Sally the Chef who have been absolute stalwarts; and thanks also to the many Hub members who have so willingly helped when needed. Thank you.

The Warm Friends Hub has been a fantastic success. We have a regular group of thirty to forty members, and I estimate that we have an additional group of well over fifty people who pop in when they fancy a chat and some fun and friendship. Watching first-hand the improvement in everyone's mobility and fitness when we do the exercises has been absolutely incredible, well done team and keep it up! We're going to be watching closely on 7th September to make sure you haven't been shirking and not stretching and power walking over the summer; there's no excuse !!!!!

As ever, If I can be of any help my email address is davidreilly@northwarks.gov.uk and my phone number is 07770 704 617. With kindest regards, Dave.



Space station investigation success

➤ Linden and Bella, Year 9 students from The Coleshill School, applied to have time using a camera on board the space station to do an investigation into plant life on earth.

This application was successful and they were given the chance to use a camera provided that they could write the necessary computer code to operate it. They spent a lot of time over the Christmas holidays working on and testing the code which Linden took the lead on compiling. This was submitted in February 2023 and upon checking received approval.

Last month it was sent up to the space station to be used on a camera in ESA's Columbus module.

Mr Tomlin, Teacher of Science commented "We are so proud of the work that Linden and Bella have put into this project to work successfully. We've recently received back the data from their investigation which includes a number of photos shot from orbit. The slightly unusual colouration is due to the use of an infra-red camera as that is more informative about plant vigour than standard visible wavelength photos are."



Thousands raised at RAFA Rides



➤ **Over 1,000 cyclists from across the globe came together to support the RAF community on Saturday 17 June with RAFA Rides, the RAF Association's annual cycling event.**

Over 400 riders tackled routes in soaring summer temperatures around the Leicestershire and Rutland countryside at the in-person event at Kendrew Barracks, formerly RAF Cottesmore, in Rutland, with more than 650 people taking part virtually around the world.

Among the riders at Kendrew Barracks was BBC One Saturday Kitchen presenter and RAF Association

Ambassador Matt Tebbutt, who took a break from his hosting duties to take on the 100-mile route.

Virtual riders took part from the many places members of the RAF community find themselves. There were riders in France, Germany, Qatar, New Zealand, North Dakota, Greece and Japan - all united for one cause.

Together they raised over £110,000, which will be used to support people in the RAF community who are in need.

The event, which was made possible thanks to the generous support of headline sponsor Lockheed Martin UK, and modelling and simulation software provider PLEXSYS UK, was created to allow people all over the

world to come together, either in person or virtually, in support of the RAF community.

The Association's Head of Community Fundraising Jenn Shephard said:

"We were delighted with the turnout for this year's RAFA Rides and we're extremely grateful to everyone who took part, either at Kendrew Barracks or remotely. It was truly heartwarming to see people from all over the world come together to support the RAF community."

If you have been inspired to take part in RAFA Rides 2024, find out more and register here: rides.rafa.org.uk/

Cllr Steve Stuart, Water Orton North Warwickshire Borough Council

Your new Independent Borough Councillor



It is an absolute honour for me to be able to write to you as your new Independent Borough

Councillor. Many thanks to all of you who helped or supported my campaign for election or have congratulated me afterwards. I will do my utmost to represent you, and all in the village of Water Orton, to the best of my ability for the next four years.

Should you wish to speak to me in person I hold surgeries at the Robert Lloyd Room at the Parish Church on Tuesdays between 10-11 (they do tea, coffee and breakfast sandwiches too). Also, ahead of Parish Council Meetings on the final Thursday of each month at 6.30 and at 10.30 on Saturday 24th June and Saturday 29th July alongside their tabletop sale.

If you can't make these times you can also contact me via my website which is now live at www.waterortonsteve.co.uk Here you can also access the latest campaigns, read the latest updates of actions taken on your behalf and see which way I have voted at council meetings.

Plenty of you have been in touch already and it has been a pleasure and privilege to help.

One issue that has been most pressing was the impact of roadworks both inside and on the approaches to the village, especially with the problems with the sinkhole in Gilson. Although highways

are a County rather than a Borough Council issue, I have taken this matter up.

Being on a geographical spur we not only impacted by roads within Warwickshire but also those managed by Birmingham and Solihull. These authorities don't necessarily work together. With the seemingly constant impact of HS2 it only takes little extra action from those dealing with utilities to make it feel like us villagers are completely cut off from the rest of the world!

A meeting is presently being facilitated between officers at all three of these authorities which authorise streetworks. Whilst there is a significant amount of work that has already been booked in, I'll be looking to see that any future approvals are more sympathetic to the needs of residents.

There are other major areas of concern as well. I have been liaising with residents and making representations on their behalf both in relation to the commencement of tunnelling activity and the imminent planning application submission for the old school site.

On both these issues it is important that any impacts are minimised in terms of their severity and that they are as temporary as possible.

Finally, a quick word of thanks to all those who made the recent Village Carnival such a fantastic spectacle and success. It was wonderful to see so many people sharing in a genuine community event. I hope that some attending will be inspired to join the committee and help in organising and delivering this annual highlight again next year.

Coleshill Ladies Probus Meeting



We met at the Coleshill hotel on Tuesday 30th May. Our speaker today was Ruth from Daybreaks Trust Greyhound Rescue.

She brought along two of her greyhounds, who were delightful and extremely well behaved. (They received lots of attention from group)

Ruth explained a lot about the trust and greyhounds, which we all found fascinating and learnt many facts about the greyhound.

Ruth regularly takes in greyhounds that have no further use to their owners and who have finished their racing careers.

Ruth set up the trust in 2006 and to keep the rescue Centre open, it needs £10,000 per month, this is spent on vet bills, food, health checks, heating, staff etc.

Ruth has 2 assistant managers and also relies on volunteers.

In the 17 years since she started this project, the trust has taken in and rehomed over 3400 dogs.

All the new greyhounds that come into the trust, have to be socialised, by letting them meet new people and introduce them to everyday activities, how to accept a treat, learn to play etc.

Greyhounds have a good temperament and are quite content to sit on the sofa with you most of the time.

Greyhounds love sardines and pilchards, which are also very good for their coats.

They can also be left for hours at a time, so if anyone has any concerns about rescuing a greyhound and they go out to work, this could be an ideal dog for them.

Ruth takes the greyhounds to care homes, as the dogs love to be stroked and fussed over, and the residents love to see them.

If you would like more information, please see the website daybreakstrust.co.uk.

Our next meeting in June is a trip to Bourton-on-the water.

We would also like to welcome our (hopefully) new members Judy and Rose. It was a pleasure to meet you and hope to see you both at future meetings.

We meet at the Coleshill Hotel on the last Tuesday of every month and If you would like to join us, we will be pleased to see you.

Please call Dorcas on 01675 464686 or Gill on 01675 462541

International award for Victoria's font cover

Coleshill parish church's unique font cover made by former Coleshill School student Victoria Walpole has won top awards at the Marquetry Society's 2023 International Marquetry Exhibition.

The cover, titled Living Water, and described as superb and inspiring work, took first place in the Beginner's Applied category, the Walter Dolly award for the best piece of work by an independent member, and an Artistic Merit award awarded to the best piece of work which conforms to the Marquetry Society's definition of a 'Creative Composition'.



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All your latest news and information from the Warwickshire Police Local Policing Team for North Warwickshire South (Coleshill) and West (Water Orton/Curdworth)



Follow us on Facebook, search for: Atherstone & Coleshill Safer Neighbourhood Team or scan the QR code here.



Accident in Curdworth

Officers are appealing for witnesses or dashcam footage following a collision involving a car and a motorbike near Sutton Coldfield on 7th June.

At around 10.43am on 7th June police received reports of a car and a motorbike having collided in Curdworth, where the Kingsbury Road meets Farthing Lane.

The rider and pillion on the motorcycle received non-life-threatening injuries and were taken to hospital.

Anyone with information is asked to contact us via Warwickshire.police.co.uk/report, citing incident 92 of 7 June.

Water Orton Carnival

On Saturday 17th June, PCSO Smith from Coleshill West SNT attended Water Orton Carnival.

It was great to see the community spirit and people enjoying the delights of the carnival in the sunshine.

The carnival is an annual event and is always a hit, especially with the local community.

We look forward to attending again next year.

Thank you to the carnival committee for their hard work and for another fabulous carnival.

Speed checks completed

Coleshill SNT have been out conducting speed checks on Station Road, Coleshill and Station Road, Polesworth.

Over the two locations 64 speed checks were conducted.

Two vehicles were caught exceeding the speed. They were travelling at 37 MPH and 48 MPH in a 30 MPH zone! The speed limit is there for a reason!

We conduct speed checks to keep our communities and road users safe.

Further speed check operations will be conducted.

Cycle Patrols conducted in Coleshill Town

Coleshill SNT have been out on cycle patrol this month.

It was good to see everyone was enjoying themselves and it was nice speaking to members of the community!





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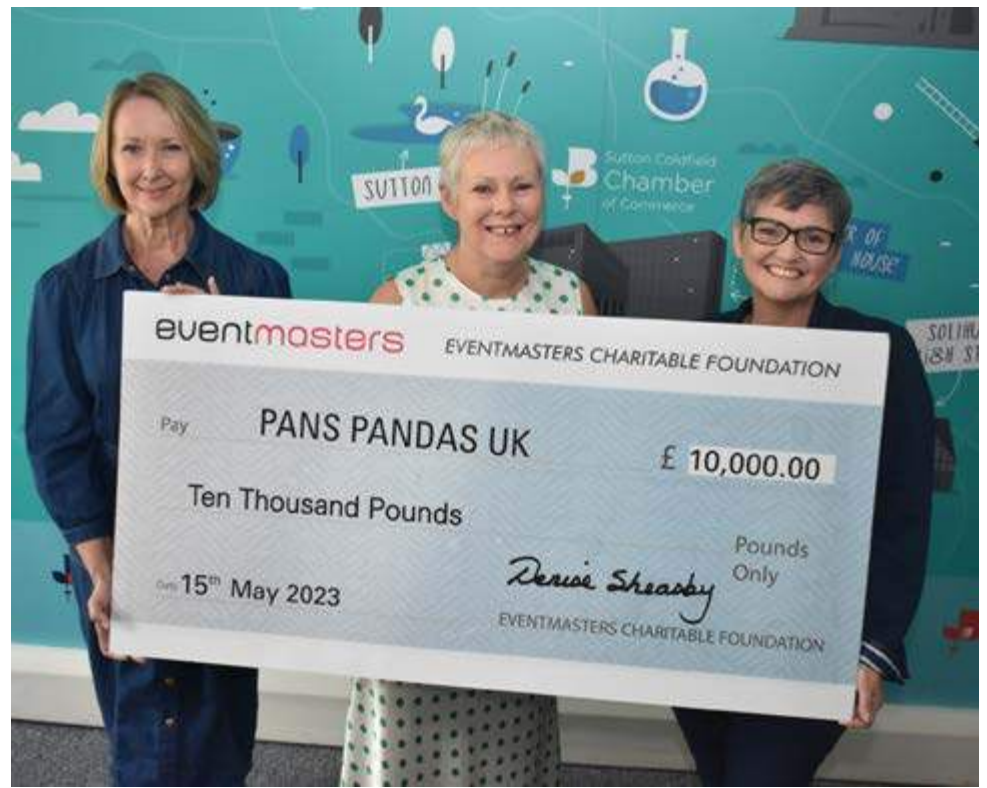
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Eventmasters donates £10,000 to Chamber's charity of the year



● A donation of £10,000 has been made to charity PANS PANDAS UK following a successful fundraising drive at Greater Birmingham Chambers of Commerce's annual dinner and awards.

Birmingham-based sports hospitality agency Eventmasters made the donation through its charitable foundation after hosting a silent auction at the annual dinner and awards, which took place at the ICC in March.

PANS PANDAS UK is the GBCC's charity of the year, as chosen by president Deb Leary.

The charity was established by a group of parents with children who are affected by two specific conditions – PANS and PANDAS.

They are a set of conditions which result in an inflammation of the brain, causing a variety of neuro-psychiatric conditions such as OCD, tics and eating restrictions.

These conditions are often misdiagnosed or blamed simply on bad behaviour and poor parenting.

The charity was registered in 2018 in a bid to make a difference to the way these conditions are understood by the medical profession and the general public.

Deb Leary said: "When there are so many charities for people to choose from, I am eternally grateful to the Chamber membership and all those who attended the Chamber awards dinner for giving so generously to my chosen charity.

"The total is so amazing and will make such a difference."

Vicky Burford, chair of PANS PANDAS UK, said: "As a small charity facing a rapidly growing demand for support, all the team at PANS PANDAS UK are delighted to have received this incredible donation from Eventmasters.

"It will make a huge difference to how many families and children we can help. Continuing our work raising awareness, improving health services and supporting families living with these devastating conditions will be made possible through the generosity and backing of brilliant companies like Eventmasters."

Based in St Paul's Square, Eventmasters is a leading sports hospitality firm and an 1813 Club member of the GBCC.

Managing director Denise Sheasby said: "Eventmasters, through our charitable foundation and silent auction fund raising efforts during the awards evening are delighted to present a cheque for £10,000 to PANS PANDAS UK.

"Thank you to all of the GBCC members who placed bids during the auction, it certainly was a terrific event.

"Having spoken with Vicky, it is clear that young people who sadly suffer with this condition, and their families, are in vital need of the support that this charity provides."

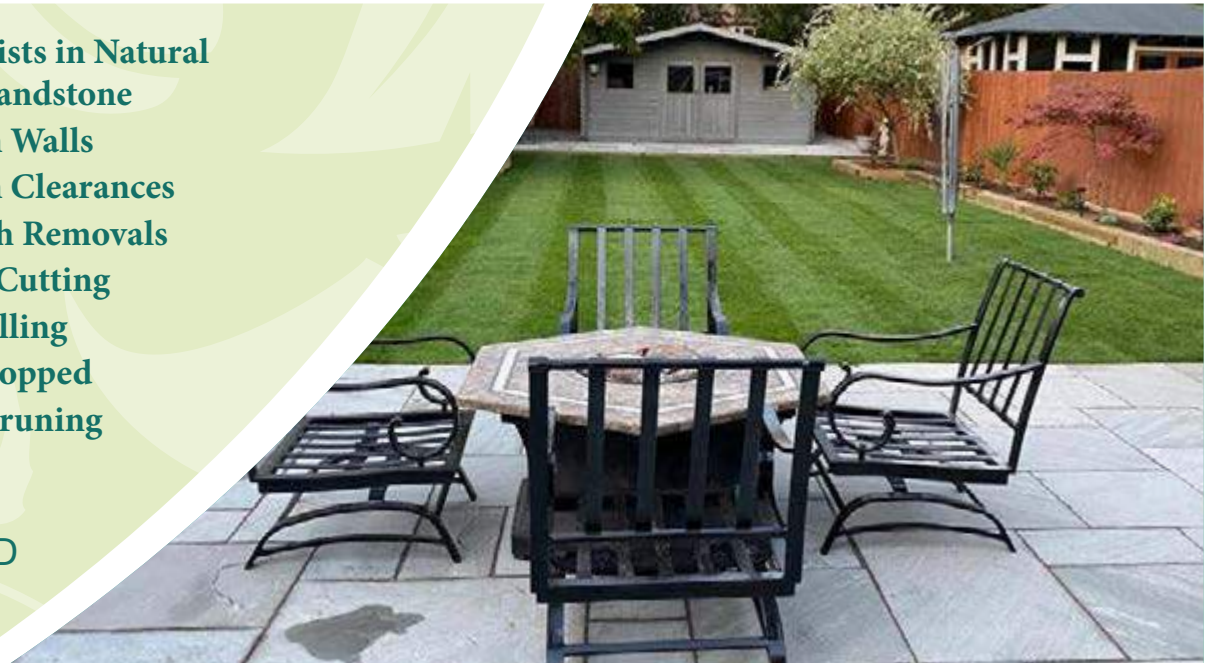
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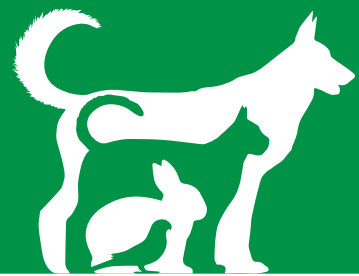
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Pet Page

Birmingham Dogs Home - Forever home for Monty



Monty Breed: Crossbreed Gender: Male (N)

A little about me

Hello, My name is Monty. I am such a handsome boy and I just love attention, my canine carers say I need to work on my manners but sometimes I just cannot contain my excitement and need to make sure everyone knows I'm here!

Canine Carer Notes

Monty is a gorgeous lad who has so much to offer his new family, he is such a clever boy and loves our agility equipment. Monty is ideal for someone who has had boisterous dogs before as this is Monty's 3rd time being returned to the centre.

During Monty's stay at the centre he has been very boisterous with us and does push boundaries at times, he will need an active home where he can use up his energy so he can settle down for snuggles at home.

Monty does also have slight food aggression and would need someone who understands this and will leave him as he eats.

We are looking for an adult only home with no other pets so Monty can have all the attention for himself.

If you are interested in adopting Monty, please fill in an enquiry form below. You will then receive a questionnaire to complete. If your application is successful, we will then contact you regarding the next steps

If you are interested in adopting Monty, please fill in an enquiry online or call the below number. You will then receive a questionnaire to complete. If your application is successful, we will then contact you regarding the next steps

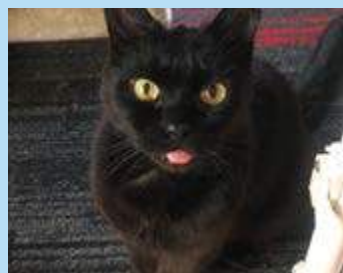
For enquiries please ring our Birmingham Centre on 0121 643 5211.

Ward End Cat Rescue

We are a small, home based rescue, run solely by volunteers.

Here are a few of our cats who ready for adoption, please feel free to email us for more details, sending us a contact number, address and who lives in your household.

Marley is a totally adorable elderly cat who needs his retirement home. He was adopted out from us 16 years ago and now his owner has gone into supported housing he has returned to us. We are happy to pay for his Vet treatments even when he is in his new home.



Tilda is a pretty young cat who was living on the streets left to have repeated litters of kittens, she is now safe and neutered and ready for her new home.

Matty is a handsome, young, lively cat who was living on the streets. He isn't keen on other cats so needs a pet free home.



If you're looking to adopt a cat, or if you'd like to support the work of Ward End Cat Rescue, please visit our facebook page **WARD END CAT RESCUE OFFICIAL** or email us on wardendcatrescueofficial@outlook.com. Thank you

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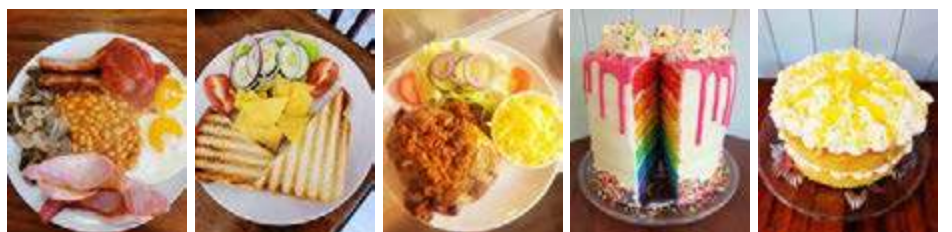
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Interiors & Decorating



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Decorating tips

► **Painting and decorating can seem like a big job but sometimes it's the little things that make all the difference. It can be easy to overlook the little details when you're focussed on getting the work finished but as professionals we find that it's usually these things that make the difference between an average job and an excellent job.**

So knowing that the devil is in the detail let's have a look at some techniques and ideas that can make all the difference. Most of these will occur during the preparation process which highlights how important the prep is for achieving a high quality finish.

Firstly filling and caulking. It's usually easy to spot the main areas on walls and woodwork that require filling but it helps to turn on the torch app on your phone and view the surfaces from different heights. This usually shows up things that weren't as noticeable previously. If holes appear to be very small, such as little nail holes in skirting board, don't fall into the trap of thinking the paint will fill them. This is very rarely the case and they will be noticeable on your newly painted white woodwork. Similarly make sure you invest in a tube of caulk and be certain that it is caulk rather than silicone which we'll discuss shortly. You'll often see cracks where woodwork meets the walls such as along the tops of skirting boards and down the sides of architraves. Run a bead of caulk along these and smooth it off for a professional looking and tidy finish. Although you're unlikely to be painting the uPVC window frames it's also worth checking those and caulking them too if necessary. Now back to the silicone issue- If you notice the paint not adhering properly and almost breaking up when you try to cut in along window frames and kitchen units etc. it's because the window fitters or whoever else has used silicone to seal them. There's a special word for this practice that professional painters can be heard muttering under their breath all over the UK. Unfortunately no type of paint will adhere to silicone, window fitters and kitchen fitters should be using paintable sealant but often neglect to do so. The paint

just dissipates from the sealant making it impossible to cut in a neat line. There are solvent based primers that sometimes seem like they work over it but they will fail and start flaking off sooner rather than later. The only way to achieve a lasting decent finish is to remove the silicone and reseal with caulk.

Now for priming. If you've got any bare woodwork that needs priming prior to painting then check it for knots first. These will need to be sealed with either knotting solution or a product called Zinsser BIN which is a primer that contains shellac- the substance that blocks the knots effectively. Failure to do this will result in the knots eventually bleeding through the paintwork leaving the brown spots that can often be seen on white woodwork. Another thing to be mindful of with bare wood is the issue of it 'furring up'. This happens when the primer or paint soaks into the fibres in the wood making them expand and stand up leaving a rough almost spiky feeling surface. The same goes for MDF which is notorious for it. To overcome this you need to sand it smooth between a couple of coats of primer until it stops happening. On the subject of MDF, the end of panels can often also feel very rough where it's been cut. This can be to the extent of sanding after priming not being enough. In this case it helps to smooth it over with a thin layer of filler which you can then sand smooth.

Now that we're on the subject of sanding we can look at a few areas where this makes all the difference. We all know that it is necessary to sand previously painted woodwork to achieve a 'key' for the new paint to adhere to, and also that it is good practice to sand out runs and lumps etc. But it is also usually beneficial to sand walls and ceilings prior to painting to try to reduce the effect of roller and brush marks. If you paint over them then they will still be there and just look like you've caused them. They can never be avoided completely but starting with as smooth a surface as possible reduces the severity of them. On that subject, it can be tempting to use a very thick roller sleeve that holds more paint for speed. Unfortunately this makes it very difficult to achieve a smooth enough finish so make sure you use a roller sleeve with a shorter pile or 'nap'.

When it comes to painting your ceiling have a look at the light coming into the room. You might have noticed what look like uneven roller marks on ceilings making them appear patchy even after several coats. This is known as 'flashing' and is a particular issue when there is a strong light source at one end of the room such as patio doors. There are techniques that mitigate this such as working quickly and away from the light source, maintaining a 'wet edge' but in severe cases it really comes down to the paint. It needs to be as flat a matt finish as possible and most manufacturers make products specifically for this issue. Dulux Trade call it 'Ultra Matt', Johnstone's Trade go with 'Perfect Matt' and Benjamin Moore keep things simple with 'Ceiling Paint'. They all do a good job if you're struggling with the above issue.

We'll finish with a quick look at wallpapering. We could talk all day about wallpapering tips so we'll just mention a few things relating to patterns that will make all the difference. Firstly, if you're papering a whole room then unless you're extremely lucky one of the corners isn't going to match. The best thing to do in this scenario is pick the most inconspicuous corner and start there. That way when you eventually get back round to that corner and finish that's where the mismatch will be. The most common method is to start at the corner where the door is. That way it isn't noticed when someone walks into the room and sometimes if the door frame goes right into the corner then it's only a small amount that mismatches above the frame. The other thing to be aware of with patterns is placement or centralising. Rather than automatically starting at a corner check for features such as fireplaces or furniture placement. If the paper has a bold pattern it will usually look better if that is centred above a fireplace or above a headboard in a bedroom. Similarly take into consideration the horizontal pattern. If it is a significant horizontal design that repeats then try not to cut through it. So for example make sure that the ceiling line runs in between the pattern rather than half way through it.

There are more tips and tricks than we could ever fit into one article but hopefully some of these simple ideas will help you to achieve a better finish.



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The Coleshill School



OPEN EVENING 6.00-8.00 pm Thursday 12th October 2023



Ofsted March 2020: *'Staff have high expectations of pupils at this school. They expect pupils to behave appropriately, work hard and achieve well. The school places as much emphasis on pupils' personal development as on their academic success'.*

We would like to welcome families to our Open Evening on Thursday 12th October 2023. Come along and meet our fabulous staff, have a tour of the school with our amazing students and enjoy a range of action-packed activities to help you make this important choice for your child.

Our motto of **'Work Hard, Be Kind and Take Responsibility'** reflects everything we do. We are a welcoming school with high expectations of all members of our school community. We believe that every child can achieve beyond their potential and look to nurture their talents and abilities within a culture of success.



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Ofsted graded our school GOOD in ALL AREAS (March 2020)

The ambition of The Coleshill School is to provide a high quality education that transforms the life chances of our students through a 'knowledge engaged' curriculum. Our framework of cognitive education enables children to think independently and contribute positively to society and the wider world.

Our students *'enjoy school'* and thrive in a culture of success where *'pupils' learning is effective and organised well'.* *'Promoting pupils' wider development is a strength of the school.'*

Our students achieve consistently good outcomes at GCSE and Post 16. We offer a broad curriculum that enables our students to make strong and sustained progress.

'Across all key stages, including in the Sixth Form, pupils make good progress from their starting points.'



For further information, to arrange a student-guided tour and meet with staff please contact:

enquiries@thecoleshillschool.org.uk

A school that is a member of the Arthur Terry Learning Partnership

We are proud to be a member of the Arthur Terry Learning Partnership www.atlp.org.uk. The ATLP is a growing multi academy trust of thirteen primary schools, six secondary schools and one teaching school, based in Birmingham, North Warwickshire and Staffordshire, with more than 10,000 students and over 1,000 members of staff. All academies are quite distinctive and separate schools, serving different communities and phases: but all either are, or have the capacity to become good and outstanding.

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Shustoke Primary School



King Charles III Coronation Celebrations at Shustoke C of E Primary School

● The children at Shustoke C of E Primary School have taken part in a host of special events to mark the Coronation of King Charles III. On Friday 5th May, they wore red, white and blue clothes, had a special celebration lunch and had a souvenir

picture taken. Each child was given a Coronation medal, a special pencil and a commemorative disc.

On Friday, the whole school took part in our Coronation Themed Book Tasting and Buddy Reading session. The children partnered up with their reading buddy to share

their learning about King Charles and the Coronation, before sharing a range of books relating to the Royal event. Everyone was lucky enough to enjoy some biscuits whilst reading!

Throughout this week, the children are all taking part in design technology projects, which have a royal theme.



Curriculum Enrichment Opportunities at Shustoke C of E Primary School

● Throughout each academic year, we always strive to provide opportunities for the children to experience new things. Recently, we were very lucky to secure a visit from the Explorer Dome. The children were 'transported into space' and had the opportunity to see real images of the planets and our solar system. It was very exciting for everyone, and they had a wonderful time.



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The Girl on the Bus (Short story)

By Indira Mahun

Without thinking, I reach out to pull my gloves on. The bitter air rushes in and the wipers are on full speed as darkness shrouds the city. I sit huddled in my cab as the passengers wait in line to board.

I see her as she stands and waits, hands stuffed into her pockets and face partially covered by the pink fur surrounding her hood. Every day, without fail, she is here at the same stop. Where, I wonder, does she go? She steps onto the bus, almost drenched to the skin. What is she - thirteen at the most? She slides her pass through the window of the cab. Her skin, almost pallid and bloodless, is a sharp contrast to mine.

Imagination on overdrive, I shiver as the cold wind bursts through the open door. The panic passes, and with no time to ponder, I turn my attention to the next passenger. They all pile on forcing me to focus on their bus passes and tickets.

'Come on mate, hurry up. It's freezing out here', a voice calls out. I ignore him. You get used to seeing the same faces each day. There might be the odd one or two unfamiliar ones and this character is one of those.

He climbs aboard, shows me his pass and mutters, 'might be able to hear if you didn't have that stupid hat on'. My grip on the steering wheel tightens and a blast of heat races through my entire body. My turban, my pride, my destiny and way of life. It is not a hat. It is what defines me. It is who I am.

There are no seats left and continuing to mumble under his breath, he finds somewhere to stand. A puddle forms by his feet and he scowls at the other passengers. I lower my gaze so as not to glare at him. He had already pushed my buttons and the heat is still rising. I can take any kind of abuse, but a racial slur is the tipping point. With the welfare of the other passengers in mind, I take deep breaths to gain some control over my emotions.

'Watcha looking at?' he hisses at an unsuspecting elderly victim. She shuffles a few inches away from him and turns her head to look out of the window.

I pull away from the stop. It's fairly quiet on the road but still, I carry on at a slower pace than normal using all my strength to keep from pushing down on the gas pedal. He doesn't know any better, I tell myself. His ignorance and lack of knowledge is somewhat encouraging in helping me to calm down. Even then, my nerves are on edge. I need this job and Daljit would never forgive me if I went home unemployed again. I reach into the side of the cab, pop a sweet into my mouth and manoeuvre the bus to the next stop.

A few get off and more get on. The bus is full, and the next stop is the final

destination for the girl. I glance into my rear-view mirror. She has pulled the hood down and sits with her head bowed, and eyes glued to her phone. I wonder what she is looking at. I feel a rush of emotion wash over me. My protective side threatens to take control and I need to know where she is going, who she is going to meet and why she is out at this time of night. The seat next to her becomes vacant and the unpleasant passenger slides into it. She slides further towards the window to avoid contact. Her face is now staring into the darkness as she slips her phone into her coat pocket. My heart wrestles with my mind and I know I cannot intervene; that would be way above the call of duty.

Anjali's cute face gazes at me from the picture I keep in the cab. She is only four. She could be that girl boarding a bus on her own in a few years' time. The thought terrifies me. For sure I'll be that annoying dad who drops her off to school every day in the car. Better safe than sorry. Let her moan and complain. She is my life.

Icy cold fingers stroke the back of my neck and I turn sharply. There is no-one there. The bus is heated. I shiver again. The bell rings and I slow down at the next stop. They both stand up ready to leave and I want to tell her to wait until the next stop. The rain had receded to a point where it was bearable. She alights and disappears, hood up and hands in pockets. The darkness slowly wraps its arms around her and holds her in its embrace. The 'hat-man' follows a few steps behind and there is nothing I can do. 'Stop making presumptions,' I tell myself and I am angry at being such a hypocrite. Isn't it me who is always telling other people not to judge a book by its cover? I fail to convince myself especially as the cover of this particular book was not in any way inviting or appealing.

Will I see her again tomorrow? I desperately hope so unless she is snuggled up in her own bed safe and sound. With just a couple more hours to go, I blow an imaginary kiss towards my little girl as she looks at me from her picture.

Night shift over, I stop for a coffee and do a quick round of the bus. People leave some strange things lying around and I had made it a habit to carry out a final check before heading back to the depot. I momentarily smile as I remember my horror at finding a set of false teeth grinning at me from a seat. Unless it had been a prank, I could think of no valid reason for someone forgetting their teeth. The image of the girl invades my mind; so delicate, almost fragile. I pray that she is safe and has a warm home to go to. Finishing my round and cup of coffee I make my way to the driver's seat but wait - what is that? Someone has left their bus pass behind. It must be her; she had been sitting on that seat. I reach over to pick it up and sure enough; the haunting, and somehow

elusive, features stare back at me. It must have fallen out of her coat pocket.

I stuff the pass into my own pocket, reminding myself to hand it back to her tomorrow night. Hoping she hadn't panicked too much at finding it missing, I settle into my seat. It's an unforgiving night as the rain continues to battle against the brutality of the wind. Not a night for a young girl to be wandering around on her own.

The journey back to the depot is a long one and not my favourite time of night. Days are a much easier ride and, I'd go as far as saying, pretty enjoyable too. People go about their daily routine and London certainly isn't short of weird and wonderful characters to brighten my mood. The loneliness of the night drive however.....as I said, I would avoid if I could. But the money is good, and I can't knock it back. Night shifts are heavily in demand and I know it would be foolish to turn them down.

I wander into my daughter's bedroom. She is fast asleep, and the mass of golden brown curls gently frame her face. What a character she is, I think to myself, gazing tenderly at her deceptively angelic face. I know she has me wrapped round that little finger of hers, but I don't care. I am the luckiest man in the world and vow never to take anything for granted. Instinctively, I bend down to give her a gentle kiss on her cheek and leave, closing the door behind me.

'Hey, can I get you a drink or something?' Daljit, busy working on her thesis, asks absent-mindedly. It's coming up to five in the morning and I have often walked in to find her fast asleep at her desk. Working part-time suits her for now and she will make her way to the office around mid-day. We are also lucky to have mum with us who drops Anjali off to school every morning leaving Daljit to get some rest.

'No, I'm ok. I'm going up. Been a long night. You need to sleep, it's so late,' I reply. 'Be up in minute'.

I went out like a light.

Back at the depot and daylight has just started to fade. As per habit, I walk around my bus for a quick check before starting my shift. I feel the weight of the bus pass in my pocket. I take it out and place it in the cab where I can see it. My sleep had been restless, and I still feel a bit dopey. I knock back the strong coffee and I'm seated, ready to leave. It's a better night than last night. At least it's dry but the temperature has dropped even further. The weather app on my phone predicts frost tonight which, in turn, means hazardous driving conditions.

I set off, my mind racing ahead of the bus itself. At each stop, I pick up my usual and, not so usual, passengers. They're a good bunch round here except for the odd one or two. Friendly enough, they smile or nod or do neither, showing me their pass and moving on up the bus. I was relieved to find that I had been put on the same route for night shift for the next month. It just made the job that little bit easier.

I reach 'that' stop and there are more people waiting than usual. I quickly let them on without even checking their passes properly. The last passenger steps onto the bus and I wait. I can't leave. My limbs refuse to act and still I wait. Had she got on without me realising? No, I had seen every person and she had NOT got on to the bus tonight. Through my rear-view mirror I can see clearly to the back of the bus. Although it was full, there was no doubt about her absence.

'You alright mate?'

I nod and force my body back into action. Should I have waited a bit longer? Maybe she was running late, and I had left without her. No matter how much I tell myself that she is not my responsibility, my heart beats faster than I would like. I catch a snippet of a conversation between two women standing a couple of feet from my cab. 'Girl.....yes.....on her own.....such a shame..... so sad.....'

After that, I don't know who gets on or off the bus. I reach the last stop, and the bus is empty once more. Desperately needing a hot drink, I get off and grab one from my usual late-night café. My head is full of stupid thoughts; I need them gone but they persist.

Get a grip, I tell myself, she is not your concern.

I do my usual round of the bus and then settle back into the driver's seat. The lights dimly light the darkness of streets that are starved of life. The bitter wind howls as it travels through the trees and buildings. My nerves are still on edge. What was it with me trying to be the knight in shining armour all the time? She is, of course, fine. The bus is moving now, and I manoeuvre it skilfully round a particularly sharp bend where I narrowly miss that unforgiving lamppost.

My eyes are drawn to my rear-view mirror. My grip tightens on the steering wheel as my foot instinctively bears down on the brakes.

And there she sits; at the back of the bus, smiling at me!

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782 Career Physical Fitness Challenges & World Records

Armed Forces Day Sports Challenges 24 June 2023.

► Barston Village footpaths was the latest venue for Paddy Doyle achieving another documented 4.40 mile cross country speed march challenge carrying 45lb backpack finishing in a time of 53 min. 51: 48 sec, four days later as part of the UK Armed Forces Day events, Doyle set four outdoor multi terrain duathlons and a cross country speed march challenges carrying 35 lb backpack of expedition kit, along the River Leam and Centenary Shakespeare way footpaths Royal Leamington Spa. The results are as follows:

1.5 mile cross country run / walk, 3 mile kayaking (fibre glass), 2 mile cross country run/walk: 1hr. 13 min. 00sec

2.5 mile cross country run/walk, 3.5 mile kayaking, 3 mile cross country run/walk: 1hr. 45 min. 24 sec.

3.5 miles cross country run/walk , 4 mile kayaking, 4 mile cross country walk/run: 2 hrs. 17 min. 58 sec

4.5 miles cross country run/walk, 4.5 mile kayaking, 5 miles cross country walk/run: 2hrs. 52 min. 56 sec.

5.5 miles cross country run/walk carrying 35lb backpack: 1 hr. 08 min. 18 sec.

" It was a hot morning but I had to dig in every step of the way, the multi terrain duathlons stretched and challenged me as I had to change over from the kayak to the footpaths as quick as possible, it was great being part of the UK Armed Forces Day Sporting Challenges, from start to finish walkers and kayakers cheered me on, once again the support team made sure I got to every checkpoint, they took photographic evidence and film footage to verify my times."

Doyle's career physical fitness challenges and World Records is now 782 documented sporting feats covering 9 different sporting categories.



Picture credits David Hastings (Warwickshire UK)

Local Sports



Water Orton & District Tennis Club



What a great start to our new season. Our men's team were promoted in the Warwickshire Spring League after some really good results. Now a decent start to our men and ladies' teams in the Warwickshire Summer League.

All of our Junior and Youth coaching groups are currently full and we are looking at the possibility of setting up some extra group sessions in the school summer holidays.

Our adult sessions are rapidly filling so we are looking forward to a good summer season.

There are a few spaces left on our ladies' group and our Beginners Adults and Cardio Fitness

sessions are now both full. Our work with the local schools is increasing, with The Woodlands School in Coleshill visiting our club twice each school term week.

We have now started working closely with Water Orton Primary School as quite a few of our junior members come from there. We want them to have a weekly visit to our club to benefit from using our club facilities and junior equipment.

Thanks to our sponsorship from MKM Building Supplies in Minworth we now have our outdoor Bar-B-Q area. This has enabled us to run our family and in-club tournaments and then have a Bar-B-Q to finish off the evening.

We would like to say a big thank you to all of our members who support our social activities with us. Also, our junior/youth members, as we have some really talented youngsters coming through.

Our coaching team are doing a great job. Thanks everyone, now lets keep it going.

Castle Bromwich Cricket and Sports Club



The 4th of June at Castle Bromwich was a historic day for Warwickshire Super 9s Disability Cricket Team as they hosted Staffordshire at Castle Bromwich Cricket Club. A good size crowd turned out to watch the game that was always transmitted live over the internet. Warwickshire has played Stafford a number of times over four years but had not won

until this match. You guessed it Warwickshire played a fine match and managed a victory that was celebrated long into the night.

Team Names

From back left to right Muhammed Furqan, Damien Halford, Louis Blair, Daniel Lamb, Yasir Ghalib, Aqeel Hudda, Dean Wattison, Sohail Munir and Mohammed Abbas

Front players Hannah Pettigrew, Kearan Gibbs and Roman Pugh

Castle Bromwich's first and second teams have made quite different starts to the season with the first team sitting nearer the lower part of division three however the second team is now in second place so congrats to them.

Junior nets are running Friday at Castle Bromwich rear of arden hall. Age groups 7-8 from 5-30pm to 6-30pm and 9-13 year olds 6-30pm to 7-30pm



Coleshill Town F.C.

BECOME PART OF A TEAM Coleshill Town Football Club Needs You!

Coleshill Town FC are looking for more volunteers to come and join us at Pack Meadow.

Manager Cameron Stuart and his team have made the town proud of their achievements, last season just missing out on promotion after making it to the Play Offs, which recorded the highest finish ever in the club's 138 year history.

This wouldn't have happened without people working hard behind the scenes to ensure Match Day runs as smoothly as possible.

We are on the look out for more committed volunteers who can help us build on the club's recent success and provide necessary help in several areas behind the scenes and become part of the Coleshill Town Home Match Day experience.

Coleshill Town FC are in need of, match day entrance

attendants, ground staff and merchandise sellers to help the club grow further and make visiting Pack Meadow an enjoyable experience.

All these offer opportunities not just on Match Days but during the week as well for people who are interested in volunteering at their local non league football club.

We are also looking to hear from people who have other roles in mind that they are particularly good or passionate about that might benefit the club in the short or long term.

If you are interested in getting involved in whatever capacity or would like more information, please feel free to contact:

Paul Hathaway

Phone: 07838993303

Email: Paul-hathaway@outlook.co.uk

Pre Season Fixtures

Saturday 1st July

HOME to Bolehall Swifts - 2pm kick off

Saturday 8th July

HOME to Chasetown- 3pm kick off

Saturday 15th July

AWAY to Sutton United - 3.30pm kick off

Tuesday 18th July

HOME to Hinckley- 7.45pm kick off

Saturday 22nd July

HOME to Racing Club Warwick - 3pm kick off

Tuesday 25th July

AWAY to Lichfield City - 7.45pm kick off

Saturday 29th July

AWAY to Mossley (Manchester) - 3pm kick off

Season starts Saturday 12th August, no fixtures yet.

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