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August 2023 Issue 74



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Futures Day 2023

On Thursday 20th July, Park Hall Academy hosted their second annual "Futures day". The aim of the day was to inspire and educate pupils on the wide range of careers that are available to them and to have the highest career aspirations for themselves. Pupils took part in workshops and heard directly from professionals working in an array of industries.

Full story page 22



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the **ColeshillPost**

the **CastleBromPost**

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

Sales:
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B46

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Sept 18th – 6pm til 8.30pm

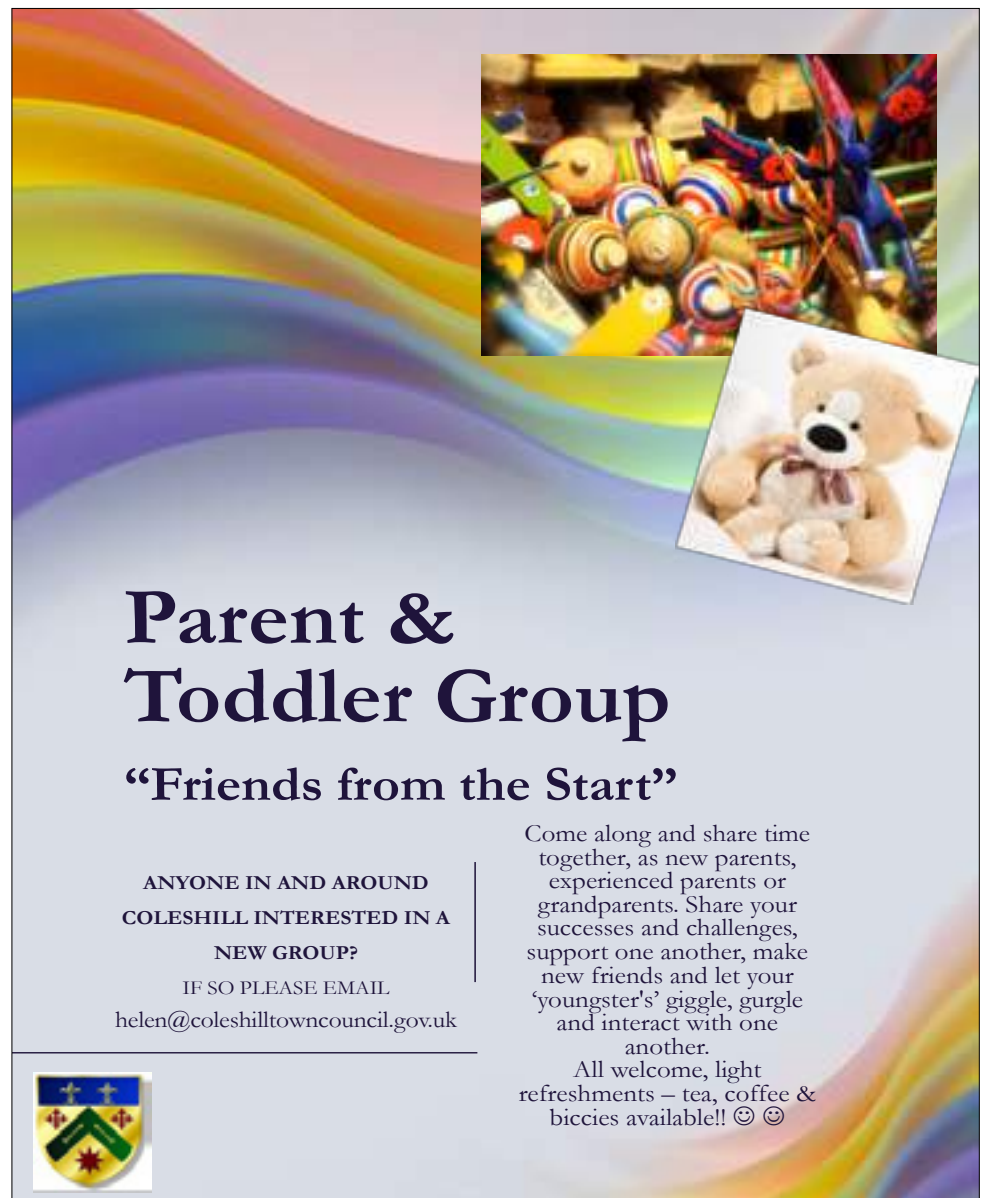
- We meet up on the 3rd Monday of every month
- Relaxed informal business networking
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- If you would like to sign up for future presentations (ask a member of the team)



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 email: networking@biznetlocal.co.uk
 call: Serena 07805430191

VENUE TBC





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Charity Haircut

By Alice Belcher

☛ On Friday 3rd March 2023, my lovely mother was diagnosed with breast cancer - grade 3. This meant it was fast spreading, she underwent her first operation on Wednesday 8th March 2023, just a few days after the diagnosis. The operation went well, however, it was discovered the cancer had spread to her lymph nodes. Therefore, she underwent her second operation on 29th March 2023. The sample was then sent to the USA, for a recently funded test where it determines if chemotherapy is required. Unfortunately, it came back that my mom does require chemo and then radio. However, this test is one of the examples of what Cancer Research funds from the money raised.

On Wednesday 12th July 2023, I am getting most of my hair cut off (bob length,

not a fully shaven head!) which will be sent to the Little Princess Trust charity. Little Princess Trust is a charity that provides real hair wigs, free of charge to children and young people who have lost their own hair through cancer treatment or other conditions. The type of chemo my mom is having will result in hair loss so she will know exactly what these young people will be going through. I will personally be making a donation to Little Princess Trust charity.

With the help of you lovely people, I will also be raising money for Cancer Research UK. Until these recent events, I've not personally witnessed the amazing work that Cancer Research do and I'm looking forward to helping raise money for an amazing cause. Obviously, that wouldn't be possible without the generosity of people donating so a huge thank you in advance! However, I understand times are financially tough, so please don't feel obliged to donate, a simple message will also go a long way.

Just giving link: bit.ly/3O4O6TE



SUMMER SAVINGS

<p>Porcelain Paving City Gris 600 x 600 x 20mm 00088121</p> <p>WAS £28.40 £24.00 per m²</p> <p>£28.80 inc. VAT</p>	<p>Tobermore Sienna Block Paving Graphite 208 x 173 x 50mm 00051456</p> <p>WAS £39.20 £29.50 per m²</p> <p>£35.40 inc. VAT</p>
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Open Spaces Society chairman slates government for lack of action on public access

'The Open Spaces Society is often critical of the government's approach to open access opportunities.' So said the society's chairman, Phil Wadey, in his keynote speech at the society's AGM on 6 July.

He continued: 'Back in January, the government announced an environmental improvement plan for England which aspired to having every household no more than "a 15-minutes' walk of a green or blue space". We called for such green space to be permanent in nature, such as by registration as a town or village green, or by dedication of public rights of way, but there remains no detail on how the plan will be made effective.

'Nearly 17 years ago, the Commons Act 2006 allowed the reopening of common-land registration in certain circumstances in designated local authority areas [pioneer areas]. The window for making applications was short: only 13 years was allowed in each of the pioneer areas in England. This led to the society appointing staff and consultants to beat the deadline, and we have applied for 86 pieces of land to be registered as common so far.

'While deadlines with clear effect can be useful to stimulate public response, other deadlines can be far more sinister,' said Phil.

'We were dismayed when the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Dr

Coffey, announced plans to reintroduce the cut-off date, more accurately known as Path Extinguishment Day, that her department had decided to repeal last year, without ever knowing exactly what they are extinguishing. We continue to lobby for the exemptions to be brought in at the same time as the cut-off date provisions are commenced, as we fear that government will otherwise not get around to the exemptions that will save some of our rights of way.

'I therefore call on all who can to go out and apply to record the rights of way they use that are not yet on the definitive map: let's see if the various user groups and volunteers can do as well with rights of way recording (in percentage terms) as we have with commons recording, and let's see if recording our paths means that more households will be close to guaranteed green spaces,' Phil concluded.



photo of restricted byway, between North Walsham and Mundesley in Norfolk, recorded on the definitive map in 2021 following an application by the Open Spaces Society.

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<p>HANNAH SILVESTER</p>  <p>Midlands Comedy Awards Breakthrough Act</p>	<p>DAVE TWENTYMAN</p>  <p>One of the most in demand MC's in the country</p>

Friday 1st September - 8.00pm

<p>Ticket link →</p> <p>Earlybird £12</p> <p>Any Q's? Call Harvey 07941 628247</p>		<p>Venue: Coleshill Town Hall B46 3BG</p> <p><i>With licensed bar & free parking opposite</i></p>
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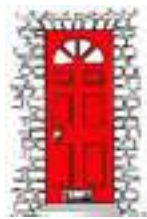
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Property News

The Property market.....what now?

☛ It will be no surprise if I tell you that the property market has changed over the last six months and it would seem the good times are behind us.....for a while!

We are long overdue a downfall in the market, and although predictions range from a drop in price of between 5% and 35%, I think it is more likely that we will have a soft landing and prices, although will fall, will not be as dramatic as the press makes out.

So, what do you do if you are thinking of selling. For a start don't panic! If you are selling to buy another property then the price of the new property would have dropped as well, that means you are no worse off. What you don't want to do is compare prices from 12 months ago and still think you will achieve that price for yours. Don't be fooled into thinking that your property would have survived the price drop, it hasn't! This is where you need professional advice about the market and its current position. Don't listen to the sales hype, don't be flattered, do your own research and make a decision based on fact. No one wants to have to keep dropping the price because you haven't had a single viewer?

There are certain properties that will always sell in a downward market, in my experience

these tend to be two bedroom starter homes and bungalows. There is a trend at the moment for downsizing, we have seen a lot of this in the past 12 months. As we get older we want a property that is smaller and easier to manage. This doesn't mean that bigger properties will not sell, there is always someone out there looking, it's just that you need to be competitive on price and make sure your property stands out from the crowd. What you might think is acceptable i.e. shabby paintwork, untidy garden, outdated kitchen, etc will be a big turn off for that elusive buyer. You wouldn't sell your car without washing it would you?

Bricks and mortar as always been a solid investment. We are now seeing Landlords, who bought investment properties in the 1990's, selling as they get older. Its hard work being a Landlord with all the new legislation they have to adhere too. There are two sides to this scenario, firstly it will release first time buyer properties onto the market, secondly it will reduce the housing stock for renters. Only time will tell how this will all work out, but as mortgages become more expensive as will the monthly rental amounts. Property prices are out of control and we need this adjustment to bring back some sanity. It's time to calm things down, take a deep breath and look around us, it couldn't go on forever.....

Ingrowing Toenail?

☛ Do you have an ingrowing toenail or have you ever had one? Then you will know how painful this is and difficult to cope with.

A simple issue with your toenail can seriously impact on your everyday life reducing your mobility and depending on your health can even be a threat to life.

In-grown Toenails

FACT Can be cured by a Podiatrist

FACT Cutting a 'V' in the middle doesn't help

FACT Common causes are tight shoes or poor nail care

- ✓ **ANTI-BIOTICS** Don't cure the problem but can help with the infection
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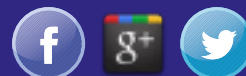
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➤ For most people, the answer to both of those questions will be a resounding yes. So with that said, why have so many people still not safeguarded their home the RIGHT way?

Imagine this...

You've made a Will, stating that, in the event of your death, you intend for your spouse to inherit everything, including your share of the family home. But what if your spouse needs care in later life? Your spouse may be expected to pay for their care themselves... but care fees are getting more and more expensive every year, costing anywhere between £26,000 and £52,000. How can they afford to pay for their care fees and leave some money as inheritance for your children?

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.



For Couples

If you jointly own your home, we can protect your property with one of our powerful Protection Wills. These wills provide your partner/spouse with a right to continue to occupy the property

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!

Do you have Savings?

While the family home is usually the most valuable asset, we can also help you to protect your savings. Speak to us today to find out the best way to protect your assets.

Protect your Home and your Savings from unnecessary, avoidable losses.

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If you want to be certain that your assets will pass down your loved ones or children you'll need more than a basic Will.

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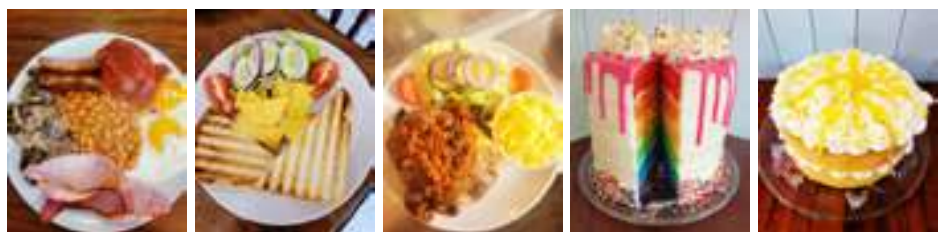



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Hello from your local Slimming World groups



► Summer's here and in our groups we've been getting ready to enjoy it without compromising on our healthy eating focus and weight loss goals. Our members have the 'tools' to guide them through any challenges they could be facing. School break, days out, summer holidays, changes of routine, barbecues, picnics, pub lunches, the list goes on! All of these are discussed in group so members are empowered, ready and able to enjoy them all. There is no need to give up for summer or wait until September to join us. A decision that could mean the difference between a stone plus weight loss or gain by the time the kids go back to school.

Here's some tips and a recipe from us that hopefully will help everyone keep healthier and trimmer for summer.

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

Stay on track in the holidays



Here's how to breeze through the summer hols and be slimmer at the school gates come September!

A six-week break from school doesn't have to mean a break for your weight loss. If any of these scenarios sound familiar, we can help you make lifestyle shifts that work for the whole family...

'Cooking from scratch goes out the window!'

Having the little ones at home is a great opportunity to get them involved with meal prep – and tasks like grating, stirring and whisking are ideal. (Leading the way and

passing on healthy eating habits is another bonus that we hear from our members.) Get out your recipe books and copies of Slimming World Magazine, (look out for consultants out and about in the community giving out free copy's) or visit our web site for a free 7 day plan for some ideas and ask the kids to pick their favourites. And if it's still too hectic for any chopping, peeling and cooking, these low-prep dinners are a doddle to make (we promise!)...

Family-friendly meals

- Create a quick Indian fakeaway using a Slimming World Chicken Tikka Masala food range meal (available from Iceland), boil-in-the-bag plain rice and a pre-prepared salad.
- Whip up a fuff-free Chinese with a pack of stir-fry veg, ready-sliced lean meat (visible fat removed) or Quorn, pre-chopped garlic, ginger and chilli (Free if they're in white wine vinegar) and soy sauce.
- Make some easy pizzas using a Healthy whole meal pitta bread as a base, with tomato purée and your favourite healthy Free toppings.
- Crack some eggs and experiment with omelette's ... they're quick, easy and as filling as you want them to be, and on the table in 15 minutes!

'I'm tempted by the kids' treats'

Protect yourself by thinking ahead, spotting your 'danger zones' and getting safe weight loss boosting things prepared that you can nibble on. In our groups there's always ideas for everyone, whether you're sweet or savoury were here to help you change old habits. Remember there's nothing banned at Slimming World its all about knowing what better choices to make.

'I want to make the most of my time off with them'

If you're heading out on a day trip, hang on to your money and know that you can still eat healthy and lose weight with a bumper Food Optimising picnic. As well as ideas in group, members have a fantastic website with loads of recipes to dive into. They can tuck into home made pasta and potato salads, cooked drumsticks (skin and visible fat removed, of course), a healthy frittata, cooked lean meats,

hard-boiled eggs, fresh fruit and fat-free natural yogurt, its all about the small changes that you learn to make that takes recipes and shop bought items from high calorie, high fat food to slimming friendly (while everyone else joins the endless food queues).

It's hard to fit in my usual exercise'

Where possible, you could get the kids to join in with your activity plans – or failing that, join in with theirs!

- Members have access to our fun on demand activity videos, created especially for them, and suitable for all ages. Or search online for alternatives, they'll be loads available.
- Dig out the helmets and set off for a fun family bike ride.
- An energetic game of football, frisbee or cricket would be a great activity – or you could suggest a brisk walk around the park or on the beach. (Our members can earn awards to keep them motivated with our body magic activity programme)
- Set up a badminton net, trampoline or school sports day-style races in the garden.

And if you're thinking you'd like that extra support and access to our member podcasts, recipes, website, app and recipes give one of the consultants a call or just pop along to a group... it's never too late to make a start.



Summer satay bowl

The scrummy sauce adds a nutty sweetness to this crunchy vegan salad

Ready in 30 mins Serves 4 | 3 Syns per serving



Ingredients:

- 2 level tsp sesame seeds
- 250g dried rice vermicelli noodles
- Low-calorie cooking spray
- 300g plain firm tofu, drained and cut into bite-size cubes
- 2 carrots, sliced into batons
- 2 red peppers, deseeded and finely sliced
- 100g runner beans, strings removed and finely sliced
- ¼ large cucumber, sliced into batons

- ¼ red cabbage, finely shredded
- Sprigs of fresh coriander and mint, to serve
- Pinch of dried chilli flakes (optional), to serve

For the satay sauce:

- 2 level tbsp smooth peanut butter
- 2 tbsp soy sauce or tamari
- Juice of 1 unwaxed lime
- 1 level tsp maple syrup
- 1 small garlic clove, crushed

Method

1. Preheat your oven to 180°C/fan 160°C/gas 4.
2. Spread the sesame seeds out on a non-stick baking tray and bake for 4-5 minutes, until golden, then set aside. At the same time, soak the noodles in just-boiled water for 10 minutes, then drain and cool under cold running water. Divide between 4 bowls. Mix together the satay sauce ingredients with a splash of water and set aside.
3. Spray a large non-stick frying pan with low-calorie cooking spray and put it over a medium-high heat. Cook the tofu for 3-4 minutes, until crisp and golden, turning occasionally.
4. Arrange the tofu and vegetables on top of the noodles. Sprinkle a quarter of the sesame seeds and sauce over each bowl, then scatter over the herbs and chilli flakes (if using) to serve.



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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 Jacqui 07814 675180

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 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, Jacquie 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 Pavestone rally is a race to raise money for four charities the Rainy Day Trust, the British Heart Foundation, Crash, and Variety the children's charity.**

The race takes place 6th - 11th of September and the rules of the race are you must buy a car for under £500 and dress both the car and the rally drivers up in fancy dress for a fun-filled adventure completing challenges along the way across Europe travelling to Monte Carlo via Ghent, Strasbourg, Innsbruck and Milan. The £500 rally car is a Silver 2002 Peugeot Partner with all the works being done by the local car garage in Colehill F

C Motors to get it race ready and get the team to Monte Carlo and hopefully win! The team name is 'Team Toolbank' and is made up of 3 racers: Maxi - Paul Maxwell from Toolbank, Ian the Power Tool Taylor - Ian Taylor from Stanely Black & Decker and Mr Tapes - Dave Seal from Advent tools & Komelon.

Advent tools a hand tool supplier and are a local business based in Colehill industrial estate.

"We have taken part in this race as we always aim to be the measure of change for a better tomorrow, times are hard at the moment for everyone however this is a time when charities need the support

more than ever and we'd love the support of the community and local business."

"So far, we have raised £7,270.00 of our £10,000 target and have just over 6 weeks left."

Donations start from £5, and every penny goes straight to the four charities, if any local business would like to have their logo on the rally car there is currently space and can email pavestone-rally@outlook.com for more information.

The link for a donation page:

Sponsor Me - Online fundraising Service (charitiestrust.org)

"We also have a TikTok page where people can follow for rally prep and updates (@teamtoolbank)."

The charities:

The BHF is the UK's largest independent funder of cardiovascular research in the UK. For over 60 years BHF has pioneered life-saving research that has helped halve the number of deaths from heart and circulatory disease in the UK. BHF also helps provide vital support and information for the 7.4m people living in the UK with heart and circulatory disease.

The Rainy day trust relieve and assist persons in need who are or have been engaged in hardware/DIY, housewares, brush ware, pottery, glass, builders merchants, ironmongery, garden supply, and all allied trades, and their dependants, in particular, but not exclusively by providing advice, support

and financial assistance.

CRASH is a grant making charity, providing grants, pro bono professional expertise and materials to Homelessness Charities and Hospices to improve their buildings. CRASH acts as a facilitator, for companies in the construction industry to help homeless people and people with life-limiting illnesses.

Variety the Children's Charity promote and provide for the care and upbringing of sick, disabled, and disadvantaged children within the UK and the advancement of education and the relief of financial need of children within the UK. They also provide the provision of facilities for recreation and leisure time occupation for children in the interests of their social welfare with the object of improving the conditions of life for such children.



The Retro Games brings local businesses together for their first event



Members of the PLOTT Team

► **The Retro Games is an event that harks back to the sports days you remember from your time at school. It's an afternoon of team-building for local businesses through events chosen because they're fun, accessible and above all, retro. You'll find hula-hoops and space-hoppers, egg-and-spoon and three-legged races, and more. There's something for everyone.**

The Retro Games events are run by Dennis Kennedy and his team from The Community Games. Its aims are to inspire people within the community to try new activities and encourage them

to lead healthy active lives. Dennis worked with Anna Plotnek of local brand and web partner PLOTT and together developed the idea for the Retro Games. This brings all the sports, games and fun of The Community Games events to the business community.

"Sports and games bring communities together through physical and social activity, creating a legacy of fitness and belonging."

"We wanted the business community to benefit from our events too, by trying a variety of activities. There's always something fun for everyone."

Dennis Kennedy, Community Games.

Launch day included ten local businesses and the afternoon of games and sports was universally acclaimed a resounding success. The sun was shining which definitely helped and the costumes were brilliantly ridiculous.

The real purpose of the Retro Games is to get people to try something new, get active, and have some fun while raising money for a very worthy cause. Everyone

involved is a winner, but one team came out on top. Congratulations to Aspire Sports on their win.

"Team Plotters had a great afternoon, maintaining competitiveness throughout and walking away with the award for best fancy dress. Who could ask for more?"

"I'm really proud to have helped launch the Retro Games with this event, and am very much looking forward to next year's Games."

Anna Plotnek, PLOTT

The proceeds raised by the Retro Games goes into supporting Dennis and his team in the good work they do, bringing local communities together and introducing people to sports and games, and to try something new.

"We hope the Retro Games provided a much-needed break from the everyday hustle and bustle, allowing you to unleash your inner sporting legends. Remember, it's all about striking that perfect balance between work and play. So, until our next adventure,

let's keep those netball shootouts sharp and continue creating memories that will be remembered for years to come."

Dennis Kennedy, Community Games.

If you'd like to find out more about The Community Games or how your business could get involved in the Retro Games, do get in touch via the website or social media.



Back row - Laurie Kennedy and Katie Hale. Front - Dennis Kennedy and Anna Plotnek



Take Away & Delivery Menu

OPEN MON - TUES 4PM - 10.30PM,
WED TO SAT 1PM - 11.00PM, SUNDAY 1PM - 10PM

DESSERTS

New York Style Cheesecake, Slice.....	£3.50
Cheesecake slice.....	£3.50
Chocolate Fudge Cake, Slice.....	£3.50
Toffee Pie, Slice.....	£3.50
Oven Baked Warm Cookies, (4): milk chocolate, white chocolate.....	£3.99
Haagen-Dazs Ice Cream.....	£5.99

Large strawberry cheesecake, cookies & cream, vanilla or chocolate

FAMILY SAVER MEAL DEAL

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9" 12" 15"

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Fries &
Can of Drink

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COLLECTION SAVER MENU ONE

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Any small (9") pizza,
fries and small drink

£9.99

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(Limited Time only)

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and small drink

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Can of Drink)

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CHICKEN NUGGETS MEAL

(Limited Time only)

Chicken Nuggets (5),
fries & small drink

£6.99

DOUBLE SAVER MENU

(Limited Time only)

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2 x 12" Pizzas for £21.99
2 x 15" Pizzas for £26.99

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News from St Clement of Alexandria Green Lane, Castle Bromwich (known locally as St Clements Church)



“Just one small positive thought in the morning can change your whole day.”

St Clements decided that it was important to recognise Father’s Day on the 18th June, so after the service, milky ways and twix were given out to members of the congregation, reminding us of the importance of fathers and those that take on this responsibility make to all of our lives.

On Sunday 2nd July we were very pleased to be able to give the following announcement to the Congregation of St Clements and look forward to working together with St Mary and St Margaret Church, with Revd Fiona Harrison-Smith at the helm.

St Mary & St Margaret Castle Bromwich and St Clement of Alexandria Castle Bromwich “Bishop Anne, the Acting Bishop of Birmingham, with Lord Bradford as Patron of St Mary & St Margaret, is delighted to announce the appointment of the Revd Fiona Harrison-Smith as the next incumbent of the parishes of St Mary & St Margaret Castle Bromwich and St Clement of Alexandria Castle Bromwich.

Fiona is currently the vicar of St Gabriel’s Weoley Castle in Church of England Birmingham. Arrangements for Fiona’s institution and collation will be announced as soon as possible. In the meantime, please keep Fiona, her family, and her present and future parishes, in your prayers”.

Change of Name - As you know the pandemic scuppered the Oasis Community Café so much so, that in March 2020 we had to shut down what had been a very successful 8 years and which suddenly came to an abrupt end. Not defeated, a small committee was formed with the backing of the PCC and after much thought, work and decisions that proved not easy to make, work started on the 5th December 2022 to transform the then Bridgeman Room and what was called the warden’s office (storeroom) into a new kitchen with a small seated area. This area is now complete and will take the Church back to its original vision which we had in 2012 when the first meeting took place. This is a much smaller space with access through the main Church (which is now left set-up as a Church) or the rear entrance.

After much thought and consideration the new name will be MARY BRIDGEMAN TEA AND COFFEE LOUNGE and will accommodate about 24 people at any one time with a new much reduced menu on offer. There is still much to be done, learning how to use all the new equipment for a start, from the dishwasher to the coffee machine. The Forget Me Not Memory Café which is run by volunteers from the Church on the last Thursday of each month, will move into this space giving a much quieter area for those that come with their carers. The Chapel will be open for those that wish to have a quiet space to sit, reflect or remember loved ones.

What day(s) we will open to the public and how often has yet to be decided, especially as we need to rely on our wonderful volunteers, but at the present time the Committee is looking towards the end of September. We will keep you posted.

On Monday 26th June and Monday 3rd July, St Clements were pleased to be able to welcome Smith’s Wood Primary Academy Year 2 children. The Rev. Gloria Smith and our Lay Reader Anne Daniels were on hand to explain about the Church and were supported by Ann Kew, our Sacristan.

We are also very grateful to Jenny Watts who keeps us updated on what having an allotment means, with all the challenges and the lows and highs of gardening, the hard work and the rewards gained. Read on....

The allotment is in full swing now and every time we visit, new growth can be seen. This also however, includes the weeds which have also enjoyed the combination of rain and sunshine. We leave some weeds to flower for the bees and also use nettle leaves to make food for the plants. This is done by soaking the leaves in a bucket of water for a month, then watering down the resulting liquid by 1 part nettle liquid to 9 parts water. This makes a nitrogen rich food for leafy vegetables such as cabbages and kale.

The tomatoes and courgettes are growing well and we have picked our first courgette which was very tasty. Our beetroot and turnips are almost ready, we are just waiting for them to grow a bit bigger. The beans are climbing their way up the poles and are just beginning to flower.

Unfortunately, due to the cold and wet spring, the fruit harvest this year so far has been much smaller than previous years as the blossom we had earlier in the year didn’t develop into much fruit. The grapevine however is bucking this trend and has lots of trusses of green grapes so we are looking forward to these being ready in a couple of months after they have had a chance to mature.

Our pond is teeming with life and we have had lots of tiny froglets hopping around the plot. They spend most of their time on land although they go back to the pond on hot days. In a few years, hopefully they will lay their own frogspawn.

Month in August - Change of date - Forget Me Not Memory Café will be on Thursday 17th August (3rd Thursday of the month) from 1 – 2.30 pm for those with memory loss and their carers.

Future Dates for your diary

Annual Garden Party Saturday 9th September
MacMillan Coffee Morning Saturday 7th October
Sponsored Walk Saturday 21st October

If you want to know more about our Services or Groups you can get in touch here:

Phone: 0121 748 5550

Church Website: www.stclementschurchcb.co.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/stclementschurchcastlebromwich

Email: office@stclementschurchcb.co.uk





Cllr Martin McCarthy, Castle Bromwich Ward (Solihull MBC)

Welcome to our August update

Our schools have broken up for the summer holidays and we are now well into the Blackberry picking season with hopes that August may be not quite as wet as July has been.

New 20MPH school roads Speed limits.

You may be aware that SMBC have recently introduced a 20mph speed limit on Hurst Lane North and Green Lane, this covers the approaches to Castle Bromwich Infant School and several other places in the area, if you have any opinion how well the new limits are working? Please get back to me.

There is a further Consultation with SMBC and the parish Council. This looks at possible further areas for 20 Mph speed limits, these are: Option A Hazelhurst Road (Yew Tree) to Wyckham Road (Junction with Windleaves). Option B - An area wide 20mph speed limit incorporating the interior residential roads between Chester Road & Green Lane.

Any comments, we look forward to hearing from you.

Arden Park new young children's playground.

We joined our Parish Council colleagues for the opening of the improved Arden Park young children's play area on Thursday 20th of July, this was with Castle Bromwich Parish Council Chair Pauline Allen Cutting the Ribbon to usher in a wide range new equipment and play opportunities for our young children.

Lanchester Park update.

My recent visit to Lanchester park was a pleasant one, you cannot beat a gap in the rain sometimes! The park and Bosworth wood were tidy reflecting the hard work done this year by local volunteers and the SMBC parks department.

The remedial work on the Football pitch is progressing following temporary removal of the goal mouths to support recovery of the grass in these areas, we look forward to a fresh pitch being laid out for the new playing season.

The Basketball court has not yet been so lucky and continues to await a replacement of one of the hoops at the Southern end.

Regular Councillor Surgery at Castle Bromwich Library.

My next monthly surgery is scheduled for Monday the 7th August, this takes place at the Library at 14:00, no appointment is required, please email, or call me if anything urgent comes up in the meantime.

Our emails are

martin.mccarthy@solihull.gov.uk
alan.feeney@solihull.gov.uk and
leslie.kaye@solihull.gov.uk

21 million scam emails reported

Almost 21 million reports have been made to the Suspicious Email Reporting Service (SERS), resulting in the removal of over 235,000 malicious websites.

SERS was launched by the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) and the City of London Police in April 2020 to enable the public to forward suspicious emails to an automated system that scans them for malicious links. Since its launch, almost 21 million reports have been made to the service.

Mobile phone providers also offer a service that allows customers to report suspicious text messages, by forwarding them to the number 7726. The service is free of charge and enables providers to takedown malicious websites and block malicious texts from being sent across their network.

As of 31 May 2023, 54,000 text message scams have been removed as a result of suspicious texts forwarded to the 7726 service.

Commander Nik Adams, from City of London Police, said:

“Every year, thousands of people in the UK are scammed by a fraudulent email or text message. Phishing scams, whether it’s a text message claiming you have missed a delivery and are required to pay a redelivery fee, or an email claiming to be from your bank are a common security challenges that both individuals and businesses across the UK face on a daily basis.

“If you receive an email or text message that you think might be a scam, don’t respond to it or click any links in the message or email. Instead, contact the

organisation directly using contact information from the company’s official website, and not the links or numbers provided in the message itself.

“If you think you have been a victim of fraud, report it to Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or by calling 0300 123 2040. By reporting phishing scams or suspected fraud, you are directly helping us in our work to identify and stop these criminals and helping us protect others from these scams. If you are in Scotland, I ask that you report the fraud directly to Police Scotland by calling 101.”

How to protect yourself from scam emails and texts

Received an email or text that seems suspicious? Report it. Your reports enable us to remove the emails and websites criminals use to commit fraud and cyber crime.

1: Forward suspicious emails to report@phishing.gov.uk. Send emails to this address that feel suspicious, even if you're not certain they're a scam - we can check.

2: Forward suspicious text messages to 7726 (it’s free of charge). Your provider can find out where the text came from and block or ban the sender.

3 - If you’ve lost money or provided personal information as a result of a phishing scam, notify your bank immediately and report it to Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or by calling 0300 123 2040. In Scotland, call Police Scotland on 101.

Please note: Sometimes a forwarded email may not reach us because it is already recognised by spam detection services. You can also take a screenshot of the email and send it to report@phishing.gov.uk

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With our family ownership we feel in a position to give a much more caring service when called upon, compared to large corporate companies. We also feel we can be much more cost effective in comparison to the corporate funeral homes.

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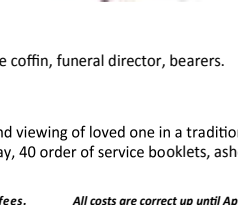
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*cost excludes cremation, burial, doctors or minister's fees. All costs are correct up until April 2021

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Castle Bromwich
Hall Gardens

News from Castle Bromwich Historic Gardens



➤ Whatever the weather this August it's good to be able to get outside, stretch the legs and look up at the wide blue? sky.

We're lucky to have so many trees and pockets of green in Castle Brom. as well as across the council and road boundaries into Castle Vale and Hodge Hill. They all help make our visual landscape more pleasant and of course continue to help absorb all the pollutants we continue to pour into the atmosphere.

The Gardens Trust tries to do its bit to maintain the many many mature trees and valued habitats of the formal historic Gardens. The Trust also works with the owner (Birmingham City Council) of the 30 acres of Parkland beyond the Gardens. The Historic Parkland, sometimes called 'Lady Brads' is protected and surrounded on all sides by fast roads and the 'collector road'

Considering it's awkward urban position the Parkland is still home to a growing range of wildlife – with even muntjac deer being spotted regularly. Since the Trust started working on restoring the natural habitats on the Parkland there has been a marked improvement in the number of bird species observed and further surveys on the plant varieties and water habitats are indicating quite rapid improvements after decades of neglect.

It is really pleasing that the Parkland is being enjoyed by more people now that the paths have been opened up a bit and the area is less intimidating. This summer however we are particularly on the alert for fire. The fire brigade have already had to be called to douse fires on the area and we urge users of the area to remember that even a dropped match can start something awful.

August Garden opening times extended.

From August 1st to Sept 3rd the Gardens will be opening its gates for 6 days a week! We will just be closed on Mondays, so we can catch up a bit with the gardening and office work. So regular strollers, dog walkers, cycle tourists and buggy pushers can now find another excuse to pop by to spot the robins, count the bumblebees on the lavender or watch the shadows move on the human sundial.

As usual we have a jam packed programme of activities and events for our audiences too ... why travel into city centres when you can have music, theatre and other entertainment on your doorstep.

Highlights this month include

Three super outdoor theatre plays for all the family.



Peter Pan - in truly wild mode from SlapStick Picnic - even Captain Hook is wearing gingham, (August 6th), A firm favourite with children, a new David Walliams play Bad Dad (Heartbreak Productions, August 13th)

And to round off the month we're open Bank Holiday Monday, 28th with another hilarious and breathtaking romp in search of Lewis Carroll's Jabberwocky (Calf2 Cow theatre)- definitely for all ages!



Pack up you picnic baskets, find a spot on the lawn and enjoy live theatre without the hassle of travel. Ticket prices around £12- £15

1940s themed Murder Mystery evening



Many people have been missing the big '40s weekend we used to run. While we cannot do that in the same way again, we do have a treat for all those who love the dressing up, the stories and the music.

On Friday evening Aug 11th you're invited to join us in a wander around the Gardens together. However, all is not as it seems and not everyone can be trusted. When a ghastly murder is discovered on the grounds, will you be able to use your little grey cells to follow the clues, interrogate the suspects, and uncover the truth?

The mystery, devised by our friends from Ceridwen Theatre, has a 1940s themes and builds on Dig for Victory and Spitfire stories.

The whole evening experience includes two free drinks and nibbles (with more on sale during the evening) and once you have found the culprit, we can all relax and while away the night with live music and songs from our favourite 40s songbook.. Old Friends Kevin McCracken and Suzi Woods will be entertaining under the stretch tent.

It all is leading up to a really fun experience and we're hoping everyone will be keen to get out their 40s gear to be part of the action (don't worry, you don't have to act! Just go with the flow)

Our 40s hairdresser Karen Bebbington is also scheduling some slots just for us who want to go the whole Victory Roll updo for the evening.

Tickets for the whole evening are £40 and can be booked online... or call in at the Gardens and secure your place at entrance kiosk.

Nick Butterworth visit



Fans (young and old) can reserve tickets for one of 5 sessions with Nick throughout the day and be treated to him telling us how Percy came about, some story telling from the man himself and seeing how he does his drawings - with the possibility of audience participation too. Plenty of time for selfies and book signing btw.

This will be a popular event , so get you tickets as soon as you can



Many local families have been enjoying the presence of that much loved book character Percy the Park Keeper in the Gardens over the last year. We are now delighted to announce that the author and illustrator of the Percy books, Nick Butterworth, will be paying us a visit on August 16th. This is a really rare outing to this part of the world for Nick, so we are really honoured and very excited.

Our musical programme continues during August, with celebration concerts of the 50th anniversary of Pink Floyd's Dark Side of the moon (5th Aug), more early evening Melon Ground Sessions and the return of our Bank Holiday Monday Musical Chill on August 28th

.. and there's still more

As if this weren't enough, checkout our online event calendar for family bushcraft sessions, relaxed drawing in the Gardens, woodland adventure workshops, First Songs in the Orchard for the very young and more.

However you make use of these unique, ancient and special Gardens this August our staff and volunteers love welcoming everyone. Not only do we like to help people smile but every visit and purchase you make goes directly to helping the Gardens charity to keep looking after the Gardens for the future.

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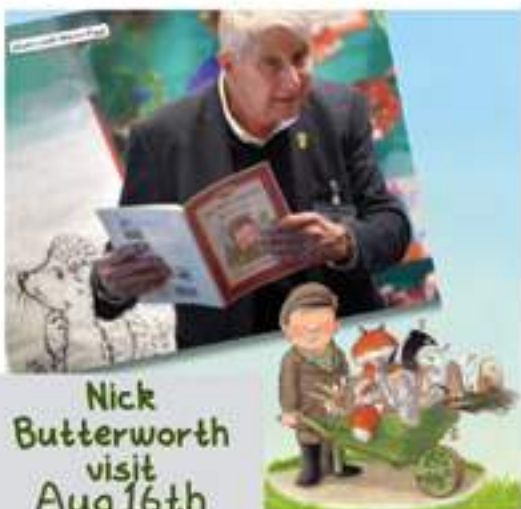
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Nick
Butterworth
visit
Aug 16th



MurderMystery
40s style
Aug 11th



SCAN ME

Castle Bromwich
Historic Gardens



Saqib Bhatti MBE, MP for Meriden

August Update

➤ I am delighted to announce that the Department of Transport has again extended the Government's £2 bus fare cap until October 2023. This will be succeeded by a longer-term fare cap of £2.50 running from 1 November 2023 to 30 November 2024. The cap encompasses local bus routes, including the 71, 94, 96, X12 and X13. In Castle Bromwich, buses are the most relied upon form of public transport, and being able to ensure that bus travel remains affordable and accessible is of the utmost importance. To make sure this is achieved the government has committed £300 million to the long-term recovery of the bus sector until 2025 and another £200 million to help with cost-of-living pressures. It is also important that we keep working towards our net-zero transport network and to this end, zero-emission buses have been deployed and will hopefully become the standard within our community.

As you know I have been campaigning for better access to quality healthcare for my constituents, this is why I am welcoming the government's plan for the NHS. The Long-Term NHS Workforce Strategy was announced in July 2023 and aims to alleviate the issues faced by the NHS by increasing the number of staff and reforming the way the service is run. This marks the biggest reform to the NHS workforce in its 75-year history. The strategy sets out £2.4 billion worth of funding over the next five years, aimed at additional education and training places. By 2037 there will be an extra 60,000 doctors, 170,000 nurses and 71,000 healthcare professionals. This

significant increase in the NHS workforce will reduce patient waiting times, making healthcare more accessible.

The strategy is also focused on retaining current NHS workers by increasing flexible working, creating more opportunities for professional development, and ensuring that the NHS remains a fulfilling and rewarding workplace. The plan will reform the NHS by placing an emphasis on using technology and innovation to modernise the way healthcare is delivered. This will allow staff to spend more time with patients, providing the best quality of care available.

I believe that these reforms will secure the future of healthcare in this country and help to alleviate the long waiting times people are facing for treatment. A modernisation of the NHS has been necessary to improve how healthcare is delivered and to provide the essential help needed by NHS staff.

The announcement of the NHS Long-Term Workforce plan comes just after the opening of a new Urgent Treatment Centre in Solihull. The new centre was opened in June, following campaigning by the Solihull and Meriden Conservatives including myself, who pushed for better access to healthcare for people across the Solihull Borough. The UTC offers medical services for minor injuries and minor illnesses and is run by different healthcare professionals, including emergency nurse practitioners and GPs. This offers local people an accessible healthcare service for those who do not need to go to A & E. The UTC brings vital medical services to the locality, and I am thrilled to be a part of bringing this wonderful service to the local community.

On a personal note, I recently celebrated the joyous news of the arrival of my second son, who was born in June. As my family expands, I have been reflecting on how truly blessed we are to raise our children in the wonderful Solihull borough.

Finally, I want to wish you and your family a wonderful summer.



Scott Bevan History Column:

'Old Tommy' kept boyhood promise

➤ This month's history column is sourced from an article first published in the Castle Bromwich Advertiser in May of 1956. It details a little bit about the life of a gentleman named Mr Thomas Rhodes who was born in and was also a long term resident of Castle Bromwich. I think we are all very much aware that modern day life is very different to those lives lived by generations past, but I find this article absolutely fascinating as an insight into the life of a Castle Bromwich resident born in the latter part of the 19th century and his attempts to better the lives of those around him.

From the CASTLE BROMWICH ADVERTISER, May 1956....

"When 81 years old Mr Thomas Rhodes, of 185, Water Orton Road, Castle Bromwich, used to go to Birmingham as a young lad the sight which struck him most was that of small children running the streets in bare feet and dressed only in rags and tatters. Says Mr Rhodes: 'I vowed and declared then that I would do my best for both the old and young in the years to come', and he kept that promise. In the past 20 years he has collected more than £700 for Father Hudson's Homes, Coleshill. At the 'Coach and Horses' hotel Castle Bromwich, the figure of 'Old Tommy' as he is always called became familiar with all the customers as each week he took round the collecting box.

"Mr Rhodes is a man who can truly be said to belong to Castle Bromwich. He was born in a little house near the Green on December 21st 1874 and claims he is the oldest native of the village. His mother died when he was two years old. She left a family of six children. His father

although earning only 16 shillings a week as a road man, (his territory stretched from the 'Fox and Goose' to 'Stonebridge') paid 3d a week for each of his children to go to the village school, the school that is still in use adjoining the village Green. Before he set off to school in the morning Thomas would go to the Bradford Arms, which in those days was a farm as well as a public house, to fetch the pails of skimmed milk for the family.

"At 11 years of age he was out at work, earning 6d for a 12 hour day at Mitchell's Farm, Shard End. He had 'the audacity' to ask for a rise after 12 months and was rewarded with an extra shilling a week. At 14 he was old enough for factory work. He walked three miles to Bromford Wire Mills every day and earned himself 5/6d a week. For the wage of 4.50d an hour he worked on the scheme which brought sewage to Water Orton, but later he became a railwayman and stayed in that job for more than 20 years.

"Mr Rhodes this week recalled the days when he and his stepmother picked flowers from the land in Castle Bromwich and sold them in the Bull Ring, Birmingham. It used to cost 3d to put each basket down in the Bull Ring and you made sure you sold all your flowers within two hours, otherwise you had to pay another 3d. The only butchers shop in the village in those days was in Old Chester Road, where 'The Gables' now stands.

"An interesting link between the Rhodes family and Castle Bromwich is provided by the fenced off tree which stands at the Hall Road crossroads. Lady Bradford had the tree specially planted after she had come to Castle Bromwich from London after her marriage and the planting of the tree was accomplished by Mr Rhodes father.

"Castle Bromwich has changed a lot since Mr Rhodes was born. What does he think of the change? 'Well it suits the people of today but it doesn't suit me'. But he admits the good old days were really hard times. When Mr Rhodes was born for instance, his father had to walk all the way to Coleshill to fetch the nearest doctor, Dr Wall, a well known figure in those parts. The old water filled sand pit on the green was an ideal spot for winter skating, Mr Rhodes remembers the opportunity for earning a copper or two for putting on the ladies skates. "Mr Rhodes will be remembered for his work with the Trades and Labour Council at Coleshill, of which he was president for a number of years".

After reading the article I wondered what Thomas would make of modern day Castle Bromwich? Barely recognisable as the village he would've known, I'm sure. Gone are the fields, meadows and pastures and in their place stand shops and houses, footpaths and roads. Still. To quote Old Tommy himself, it most probably suits the people of today, however, I doubt very much that it would've suited him.



Tree planted by Lady Bradford

Castle Bromwich Library Book Club

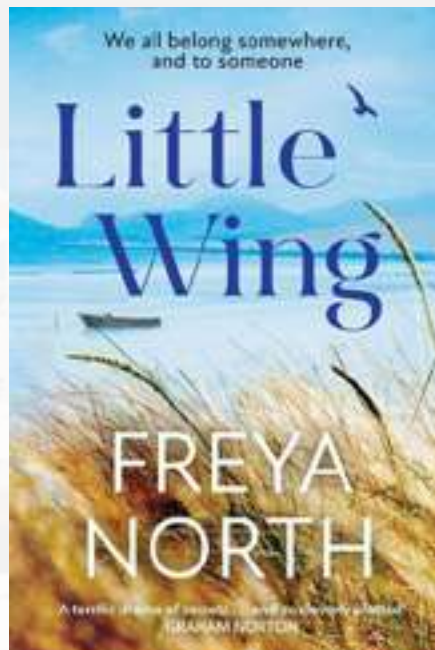
Little Wing by Freya North

1969. Florence Lawson, a 16-year-old girl who dreams of being an artist, finds herself pregnant and banished to one of the most remote parts of the UK. 1986. Dougie Munro, searching for adventure, leaves the Isle of Harris - the island of his birth - for art college and a career in London as a photographer. 2004. Nell Hartley, content with her life in Colchester managing a care-in-the-community cafe, discovers a shocking truth about her family. Between the sprawl of London, suburban Essex, and the wild, unpredictable Outer Hebrides, three lives collide and interweave as questions are asked and secrets surface. What happened to Florence?

Why is Dougie now so reluctant to return home? How can Nell make peace with the lies she's been told? A novel about resilience, forgiveness and the true meaning of family, about finding one's place in the world and discovering how we all belong somewhere and to someone.

If you like multigenerational stories, you will love this. It's about family, friendship and a sense of belonging. A beautiful book from start to finish.

Review by Castle Bromwich Library member



The keepsake by Julie Brooks

1832. The morning after her father's funeral, Prudence Merryfield wakes to the liberating thought that this is the first day of her new life. At thirty-five and unmarried, she is now mistress of her own fate. But a cruel revelation at the reading of her father's will forces Prudence to realise that taking only the most drastic action will set her free. Present day. Eliza is gifted a family heirloom by her aunt - a Georgian pocket book, belonging to her ancestor, Prudence Merryfield, whose existence reverberates through the lives of generations of Eliza's family, the Ambroses. Intrigued by what she reads inside, Eliza is drawn more and more into the infamous 'Merryfield Mystery'. What happened to Prudence who so bravely dared to defy convention two hundred years ago - then disappeared?

This is a dramatic tale of twists and turns. It is heart breaking and uplifting with romance and secrets. A wonderful story.

Review by Castle Bromwich Library member



All about Evie by Matson Taylor

Ten years on from the events of 'The Miseducation of Evie Epworth', Evie is settled in London and working as a production assistant for the BBC. She has everything she ever dreamed of (a career, a leatherette briefcase, an Ossie Clark poncho) but, following an unfortunate incident involving a Hornsea Pottery mug and Princess Anne, she finds herself having to rethink her future. What can she do? Is she too old to do it? And will it involve cork-soled sandals? As if this isn't complicated enough, her disastrous love life leaves her worrying that she may be destined for eternal spinsterdom, concerned, as she is, that 'even Paul had married Linda by the time he was 26'. Through it all, Evie is left wondering whether a 60s miseducation really is the best preparation to glide into womanhood and face the new challenges (strikes, power cuts, Edward Heath's teeth) thrown up by the growing pains of the 70s.

This book is a ray of sunshine full of warmth, humour and emotion. You'll become fully immersed into Evie's life and wish you had a friend like her. A great book!

Review by Castle Bromwich Library member

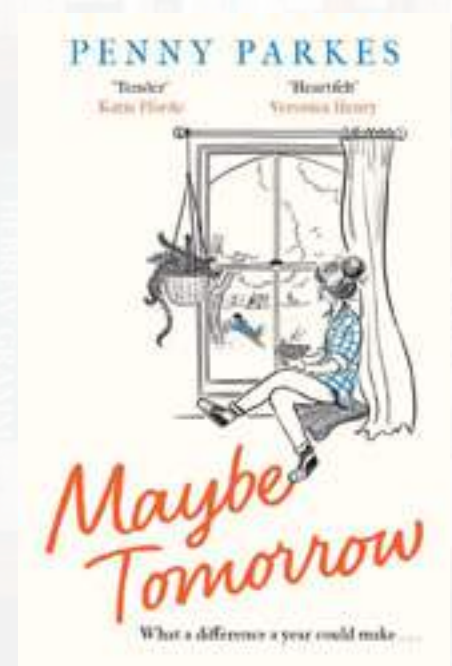


Maybe Tomorrow by Penny Parkes

Jamie Matson had once enjoyed a wonderful life working alongside her best friend, organising adventures for single-parent families, and her son Bo's artistic flair a source of pride rather than concern. She hadn't been prepared to lose her business, her home, and her friend. Not all in one dreadful year. And now she finds herself reeling - rebuilding her world, with Bo at its heart - swallowing her pride and asking for help. Jamie certainly hadn't expected to find such hope and camaraderie in the queue at her local Food Bank - thrown together with an unlikely and colourful group of people - all of them struggling to get by, yet still determined to reclaim their lost careers and agency over their lives. Even if just choosing their own groceries again is a goal they can all share.

Heart-warming and uplifting - a story about the power of friendship, compassion and kindness. This book will stay with you long after you have read it.

Review by Castle Bromwich Library member



Castle Bromwich u3a

► Castle Bromwich u3a has been busy and have been welcoming new members.

Firstly we had a very informative talk about the West Midlands Air Ambulance service and donated £241.

Then this week we learned about the Commonwealth War Graves Foundation and how they commemorate the war dead. Our members made a generous donation at the end of a very interesting talk.

Lots of interesting and exciting events are planned over the summer and new members are always welcome. We meet on the last Wednesday of the month at Arden Hall, B36 9PB. Doors open at 1.30pm and it costs £2 for visitors. Come along and see if it suits you.



u3a's Share Ideas

On Wednesday some members of Castle Bromwich and Coleshill and District u3a met at The Trinity Centre, Sutton Coldfield, to meet members from other groups and share ideas. We also listened to members of The Third Age Trust talk about their ideas for the future of the u3a.

Need a change? Want to make some new friends? Come to our next meeting on the last Wednesday in the month and give us a try. We meet at Arden Hall at 1.30pm. Hope to see you there.



Castle Bromwich Parish Council

Parish Youth Councillors

On Tuesday July 11th, six youth councillors were co-opted onto the Youth Council, watched on by the Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr. P Allen and other guests. Our new Youth Councillors are: Cllr. Joseph Puar, Cllr. Zac Jones, Cllr. Alfie Taylor, Cllr. Michael Stoner, Cllr. Abi Stokes, and Cllr. Jayden Hussain. Voting took place within the meeting for a Chairman and Vice Chairman, which resulted in Cllr. Michael Stoner as Chairman and Cllr. Alfie Taylor as Vice Chairman. Their duties will include addressing relevant issues, engaging in the community, and contributing to improving the lives of young people. They will also perform civic duties, such as representing the Parish Council at the Remembrance Parade, the Civic Service, and other local events.

History of Arden Hall

The Community and Leisure Officer is currently researching the building of Arden Hall. Janine has some photographs of the work taking place and the basic minutes of the parish council from pre-Arden Hall to when it was built and opened in October 1965.

If anyone has any information on why the hall was built, who funded it, and whether residents paid sixpence a month to help raise funds, please email leisure@castlebromwichpc.gov.uk or pop in to chat with her on the coffee mornings held every Thursday from 09:30am-11:30am in the Spencer Lounge, rear of Arden Hall.

A date for your diary:

On Sunday, September 17th 2023 Arden Hall will be open from 11:00 a.m. to 15:00 p.m., showcasing photographs of the history of Castle Bromwich and surrounding areas. This is in conjunction with the National Heritage Week. If you have any historical memorabilia, please call 0121 747 6503 and ask for Janine, and a table can be added in the hall to showcase your exhibits.

This is a free event, and we have networked with the Heritage Open Days Organisation. Their website gives a list of events to visit throughout September, where thousands of volunteers across England organise events to celebrate our fantastic history and culture. It's your chance to see hidden places and try out new experiences, all of which are FREE to explore.

To find more information on events at Arden Hall, please check out our large event notice board next to the entrance to Arden Hall, attend our coffee mornings every Thursday between 09:30 and 11:30 and visit our socials, web page and Facebook group.

Contact us for events or hall hire on:

Telephone: 0121 747 7150

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/castlebromwichpc.gov.uk/>

Email: ardenhall@castlebromwichpc.gov.uk

Webpage: <https://castlebromwichpc.gov.uk/>

Castle Bromwich & District Lions Club

By Terry Higgs

I'll start this report with a reminder that our Lions Club meet every Thursday of the month at Castle Bromwich Hall Hotel. The meeting room is provided courtesy of the Hall management and begins at 7.30pm. Any of you that maybe interested in joining us or seeing what goes on are most welcome to come along. It would help if you gave either me or Phil, our Secretary a ring to let us know but in any case I will be waiting outside the main entrance wearing my Lions jumper ready to meet and greet.

At our last meeting in July we discussed an appeal made by Kids Cancer Charity on behalf of a family in Castle Bromwich. One of the children has cancer and we were asked to help fund a holiday for them with Haven holidays. We were happy to donate the £500 requested.

Even if we wanted to, because of regulations we could not give any more details but on behalf of everyone we do wish them well.

We continue to support the Social supermarket Around Again at Chelmsley Wood with a monthly donation. We have an ongoing agreement with Aldi who supply us with £100 worth of food at cost, on a monthly basis.

On fundraising, for various reasons we have had to cancel a couple of our fund raising activities. However one for your distant diary, we will be holding a Barn dance at the Hotel scheduled for the 29th September 2023. Well keep you posted. Don't forget to check with our Facebook page which will keep you up to date with our activities.

Contact numbers:

Phil 07969 621256

Steve 07754 950290

Terry 0121 747 0615

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The refurbished toddler play area at Arden Hall is now officially open!

► Castle Bromwich Parish Council has revamped their toddler play area which now features a shipwreck structure, parent and toddler swing, hammock swing, springers, activities and balancing items, all designed with inclusivity in mind. The play area was funded by the Parish Council and designed and installed by one of Europe's largest playground manufacturers, Proludic.

Chairman Councillor Pauline Allen was there to cut the ribbon and welcome the young children to their new play area.

Phase 2 is planned for next year, which will see a new and improved Junior area for older children. The park is open 8:30am to 8pm daily over the summer, so come down and try it out!



Gardeners tips august 2023

The height of summer

We are now at the height of summer and water may be lacking... no don't laugh – even if we've had weeks of rain the ground can easily become parched at this time of year, and as we know tomatoes really hate it when they go from dry to wet too often..

Grass and lawns

Lack of water will reduce the speed at which the grass grows. It still needs the occasional cut, but we often leave our grass a little longer in summer as cutting it too short can stress the grass - a major cause of lawns turning brown. As a general rule don't remove more than a third of the height when mowing and your lawn will remain greener for longer. If you have done any grass seed downing or turf laying in the spring, ensure that you keep it watered; it is still a bit delicate.

Hedges

We have a lot of hedging in the Gardens and by August it is ready for its second cut of the season. The timing of box hedge cutting has to be carefully managed. If it's too sunny the newly cut leaves burn in the sun. A dry overcast day is ideal for us gardeners to perform our cutting but we find it is the clearing up of the cuttings that takes the time! If you want to get a perfectly level hedging erect a string line with a couple of bamboo canes at either end, you can then cut to the level of the line and ensure all dips wonky edges are removed. Cutting for prolonged periods often leads to dips in concentration, so following a line makes it so much easier.

Until this season the Gardens have managed to avoid the dreaded Box Tree Moth *Cydalima perspectalis* which can totally devastate box trees and hedges, which would be a real (and expensive) disaster for our Gardens if it takes hold. Climate change and deregulated or careless importation of plants (with the larvae onboard) has caused a speed up of the spread of the moth. We'll be following organic guidelines and research from Europe, where the moth has been for sometime, to try to keep the infestation under control. Our Gardeners have already begun to introduce a 'biological weapon' of nematodes – these are microscopic creatures, that act as parasites on other insects. They release bacteria into the host's body to kill them. The nematode then eats the host. Gruesome- but 'natural'. We continue to look at a variety of ways of tackling the problems... but if you see 'webbing' in our box hedges in the Gardens, don't touch them – you don't want to be transferring any bugs to other places ..

Vegetables

August is the month for harvesting those crops that needed a bit of warmth and care earlier in the season. Cucumbers, aubergines and tomatoes are now ready to be picked and eaten. Main crop potatoes are now lifted and can be stored, keep them cool and dry but don't put them in the fridge as you could end up with sweet gritty potatoes as the starch contained within them turns to sugar.

Lastly we are now at the height of summer so remember to sit back and relax occasionally and enjoy the fruits of your labour!



PARK HALL
ACADEMY



Park Hall Futures
Futures Day 2023

Park Hall Futures day



➤ On Thursday 20th July, Park Hall Academy hosted their second annual “Futures day”. The aim of the day was to inspire and educate pupils on the wide range of careers that are available to them and to have the highest career aspirations for themselves. Pupils took part in workshops and heard directly from professionals working in an array of industries.

“Futures Day has been absolutely brilliant, it’s been great to see the pupils listening with interest about routes into the different careers and the key features of the variety of roles. Our pupils work hard to secure excellent academic progress, today’s event opened their minds to the vast array of career opportunities that they can pursue having achieved such high standards of academic achievement. Our goal is for pupils to be enthused about their futures and go on to embrace long and fulfilling careers.” (Mrs R Churchill, Assistant Headteacher)

to support Park Hall Academy’s careers programme including HS2, Royal Air Force, Border Security, Paragon Banking, Kier Construction, Business Management, Service Engineering, Occupational Therapist, Paramedic and Criminology lecturer.

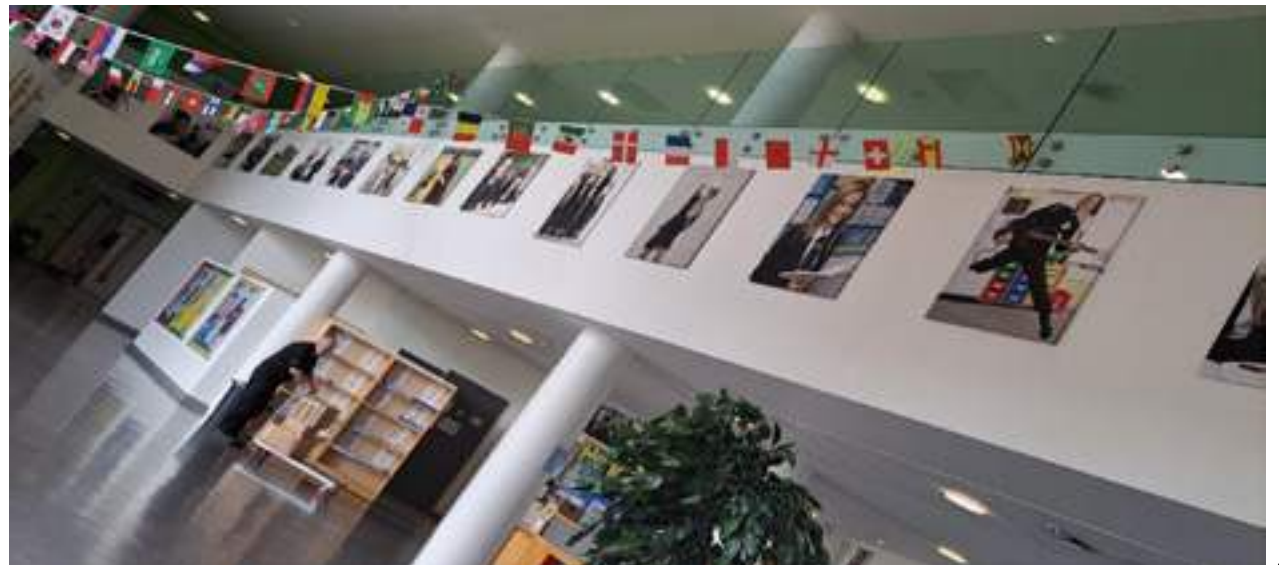
Thank you so many to all of the parents who came in to support - we really appreciate your time!

To end the term on Friday 21st July, we held our annual World Culture Day. We transformed Park Hall Academy into a hive of creativity and celebration by exploring a huge array of World Cultures.

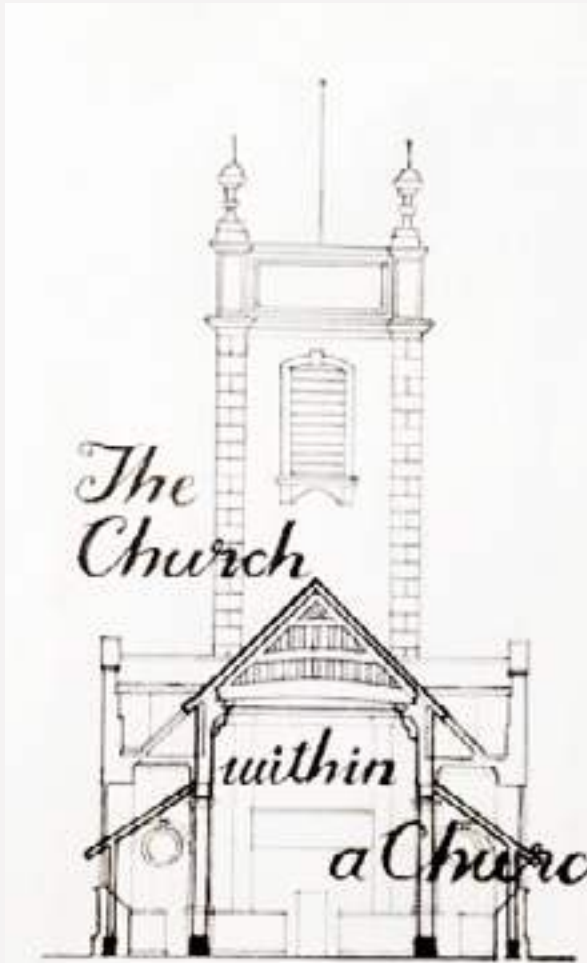
Each student followed a personalised timetable throughout the day and taken part in different workshops from around the World. With over 20 different workshops throughout the day, students took part in activities including; Bhangra Dance, Dohl Drumming, Day of the Dead, Islamic Patterns, Chinese Lanterns, Songs from Paris, Blackout Poetry, Minecraft Cities and Sports from around the world.



Pupils heard directly from guest speakers and asked questions about the industries and the pathways that they can explore. 21 employers gave up their time



An Introduction to St Mary & St Margaret Church



☛ Up here at Castle Bromwich Parish Church we are still very much missing our dear friend, local historian Bill Dargue.

He sadly died on the last day of last year and of course we all continue to think of his widow Joan and their family.

Bill was a Southport lad who came down to Teacher Training College in Saltley and put down his roots in Castle Bromwich.

He became passionately interested in the history of our area in general and in the church of St Mary & St Margaret in particular.

For years he was also Captain of the Bell Ringing team and he never stopped delving into the fascinating story of our unique church building.

By contrast I am a Brummie and I first discovered the church on an expedition from Small Heath into the "countryside" on my trusty Hercules touring model. I wouldn't have been much above twelve so it would have been around 1948.

I can't pretend to remember details, but I was not a long distance cyclist and my legs have always been short, so I do remember the long winding pull up the very heavily wooded Old Chester Road hill. I think I got off for a drink at the spring in the hedgerow and walked the rest.

I was so glad to emerge into "civilisation" at the graveyard wall and to see the sign on the bend " - Castle Bromwich - " That sign is still there - on my now, front garden wall.

Of course, there is no way I can claim that, at twelve I knew I was going to be an architect, but I do remember thinking the building I guessed to be a church was very

unusual to say the least and wondering how long it had been there.

Little did I know either how much it would feature in my life. That - as they say - is another story!

When I discovered Castle Bromwich 75 years ago, I also didn't know I had entered in the same way that travellers had done for hundreds of years before me.

It is a cul-de-sac now, but the old Chester Road was one of the country's ancient "saltways". Traders in that essential commodity from pre-historic times, coming from the Cheshire saltmines to the south, had no option but to cross through the marshes of the meandering River Tame, to find the only fording place for miles in either direction.

They then had to climb the wooded escarpment, forming the northern edge of the Forest of Arden, and find themselves in what is now Castle Bromwich!

During the Roman occupation of Britain, they established a garrison at Coleshill to enforce their rule in the area. Commercial and other traffic using the old Chester Road must have grown to quite a volume and recognising the strategic importance of the river crossing they set up a checkpoint on the high ground to observe movement. This would enable them to sense any potentially dangerous trends and perhaps levy a tax or two from the passing traders.

With the dangers of the travel in those times, it is feasible that the Romans also set up or added to a roadside shrine where offerings for safe passage could be made. Is this the basis for our Parish Church?

To be continued...

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When I'm Sixty-Four

By **Indira Mahun**



When do you know that it's time to give your body a rest and stop working? And is just knowing enough?

Sadly, for many people the choice to carry on working into old age is no longer a choice but a need. Even when it is physically and mentally draining to get up each morning, get ready and find that motivation to

go to work, many still do.

There may be several reasons for this.

- You have not yet reached the retirement age when you would be eligible for the state pension.
- You cannot survive on your work pension alone. This might be because you have not paid into it for enough years.
- You still have the burden of making mortgage payments because paying it off early was not possible.
- You are used to a lifestyle where having less money than what your job provides would mean going without.
- Or simply, you have no savings, nothing to fall back on, and no-one else to turn to when you need to.

We work all our lives. We help and support our children. We give them what they want and what they need so they don't have to go without. We do what we can to make ends meet through the good times and the bad. I say 'we' because I am referring to the majority of people. Many people will reach an age when they should stop working but find that they cannot because having to manage without that pay packet is not possible.

Being part of a couple makes life a bit easier. You know you have each other to rely on. However, as you get closer to retirement, survival can be much harder if you are having to manage financially on your own. This depends, of course, on the circumstances that have surrounded your life and where you have worked. Some workplace pensions offer a generous lump sum payout plus a decent pension. But not everyone will be in a position to receive this.

And life is tough. We live in a day and age when there are significant essentials that we cannot go without. A car, a mobile phone, a computer, a holiday now and then, and nice clothes. And these are the needs that come after our basic needs of food, warmth, and shelter.


This is why it is so important to have a decent pension when you retire. Maybe you have worked in several places throughout your life. Those little pension pots you have lying around can easily be transferred into one place. Don't forget about them or let them go. If you cannot trace them yourself there are people who will do it for you. So many people will be unaware of what they actually have in pension funds because they overlook some of the jobs they have done in the past. Chase them up.

Young people will probably be of the opinion that retirement is far off in the distance. But it will creep up on you and before you know it, it will be time to start thinking about taking your pension. Don't let that time be one that you will regret. Do something about it now. This applies especially to those who are self-employed and making pension contributions seems to be just another expense, but it is one that you should seriously think about sooner rather than later.

Not only this but those in self-employment often fail to make enough national insurance contributions which means that the state pension will be out of reach too. This really concerns me. Young people who are self-employed and not at all concerned about paying their national insurance contributions or paying anything towards a pension. Don't put yourself in a position where retirement will be a time of hardship.




If you are employed by a company your employer has a legal obligation to make payments into your pension on your behalf. This is the law and is set at 3% from the employer and 8% from the employees' salary each month. Plus, if you are a basic rate taxpayer (20%), you will automatically get full tax relief from the government. This means that if you pay £100 a month into your pension, £20 of this will be the government's contribution. Check if your employer is making these payments as required by law.

I guess the purpose of this article is to raise awareness about the importance of thinking about your pension as early as you can. As soon as you start working, it's time to start paying into a pension fund. It is never too early and, believe me, you will be so glad you did when the time comes to put your feet up and take it easy.



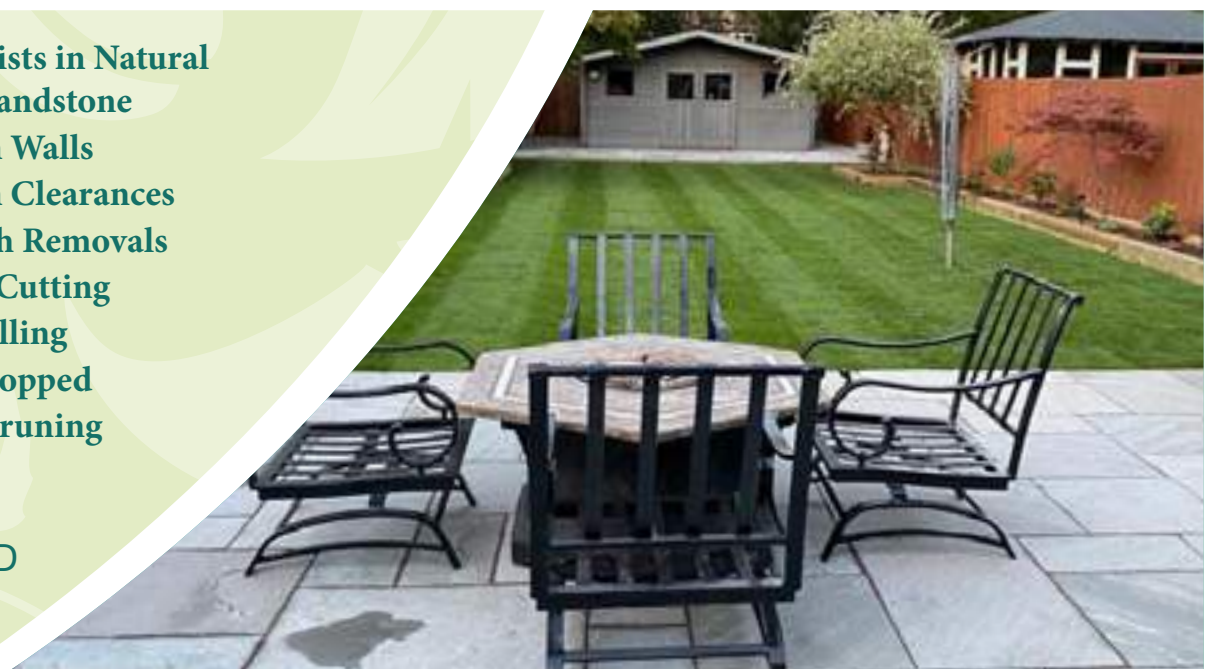
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Pet Page

New York



New York Image by Richard Skipworth)

Recently I was lucky enough to visit New York. While many people prioritise seeing the Empire State Building or the Statue of Liberty, my top priority was to see a New York dog park. I learn about dogs and training from people all over the world, and Americans talk a lot about dog parks. I was fascinated to see one for myself.

The one near our hotel had two sections, one for small and one for large dogs. Double gates for safety into both; they had benches around the outside and a mound in the middle. You were only allowed in with a dog; all dogs were off-lead. This particular one also had a button that

would turn on a water feature; this was a stream about the size of your gutter that ran through them both.

It was fascinating to watch the interactions. One thing that jumped out was breed traits and how dogs bred to do a job for generations were still doing it as best as they could on a warm June day in the middle of NYC.

The labrador that has been bred to retriever on land and in water found that tiny stream of water and was playing in it and lying in it. The golden retriever was retrieving a ball, and the collie was busy herding up all the dogs and doing its best to keep everyone in check.

Knowing what your dog was bred to do is beneficial, as it can often display in their behaviour. Sometimes people can pick a dog on what they look like and not always research what the dog was bred to do, then label the dog 'naughty or bad' when breed traits rise to the surface.

Sighthounds recall can be very questionable when they see a squirrel running up a tree; that's no surprise as, for generations, they weren't taught to check in and have a conversation with us if they saw something move; they were bred to react on impulse. We can always work on it, but it's important to be aware of it too.

I'm sure someone is reading this thinking my dog doesn't display their breed traits. Trust me; I get it. I had a greyhound that lived with a cat and was more interested in grass than a squirrel that ran around in front of them on a walk.

All dogs are wonderfully unique, and a combination of genetics, environment, personality, and learning helps make them who they are.



In the dog park, a few individual dogs were struggling with that environment, which was tough to see. However, many I observed so far away from their original roles adapted in such a man-made environment; they were living in the moment and living their best lives. I stood there in complete admiration. We are so lucky to be able to share our lives with dogs. They really are awesome.



Birmingham Dogs Home - Forever homes



Paddy

Breed: Jack Russell Terrier **Gender:** Male (N)

A Little about me

Hello, I'm Paddy. I'm an affectionate boy who loves to give receive plenty of cuddles. I am looking for a terrier experienced home to call my own.

My Carers Notes

Paddy is a sweet boy once he has built a bond with you, he is a very typical Jack Russell and can be independent at times when out and about.

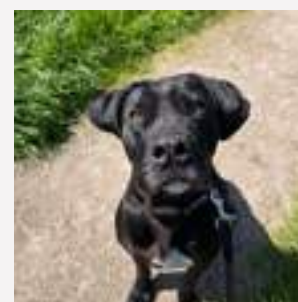
Paddy loves to explore his surroundings and is extremely loving. Paddy is also known for having occasional bursts of energy where he can

become very excitable and boisterous resulting in jumping up and can become mouthy, because of this we are looking for a home that can work with Paddy and help manage this.

Paddy loves going for walks and following his nose. Paddy would benefit from home based in a quieter area, as has shown to be reactive near traffic and towards other dogs on walks.

Unfortunately Paddy does not seem to understand what toys are currently at the centre, however we do believe this may change in a home environment.

Paddy is looking for a home where he can be the only dog so he can have all of the attention to himself. Paddy was previously left alone for a few hours and was houstrained but may need a refresher course with this in his next home.



Tiana

Breed: Cane Corso **Gender:** Female (N)

A Little About Me

Hello, I am Tiana. I am a big loveable girl, who enjoys following my nose and checking out new areas.

My Carers Notes

Tiana is a beautiful, big girl who just needs a little time and patience. Although she's shy at first, with some space you'll soon see her affectionate side come out.

She loves pottering around our paddocks and following her nose. Tiana does like to play with tennis balls but not for long as she is only just learning that toys can be fun to play with. Tiana would love an understanding family who can give her the time and patience she needs, and they will see a very rewarding side of her.

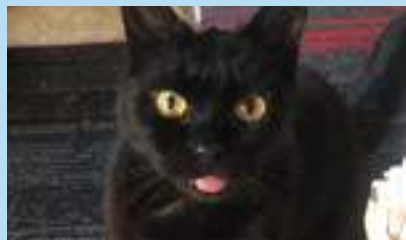
Because of Tiana's size she has been halti trained which makes walks with her very pleasurable and to help benefit new owners.

Tiana isn't the most confident with other dogs, so will be looking to be the only dog in the home. We feel she would strongly benefit from socialisation on walks.

Ward End Cat Rescue

We are a small, homebased 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.



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.



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.

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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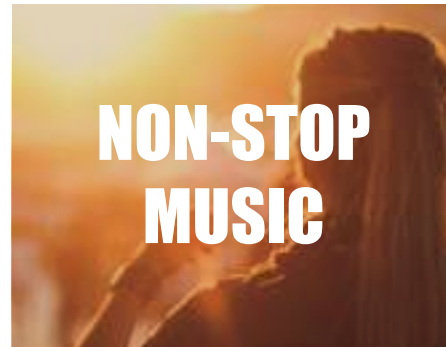
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Following on from last year's success we are excited to be holding our 2nd One day music festival. It's time to party and get your dancing shoes on.

It's fabulous to bring the community together whilst raising funds for a very worthy cause.

We have some great bands playing this year..

No Proof, Audio Junkies, Monster May, Darren Hands, Dept of misinformation-this year's winner of the battle of the bands and many more...



We would like to say a massive Thankyou to the following...

- Mark Pritchard & Liam McFarlane from Proscaff Scaffolding for once again providing us with our fabulous stage and Central Roofing group of Hereford providing the ply. Also, Alan Hey for gifting us the carpet.
- Joe and Lois keeping us all fed from the Filling Station.
- Terri-Anne Coupe from Switch Radio hosting this event.
- Ryan Lowry and the crew from So Called Studio providing the backline.
- To Paul Haywood and all the staff at The Dog Inn.
- Jamie Carrolan for allowing us to pick his brains for his music knowledge.
- Dave's Security and his team for keeping everything in order on the day.
- Alan Heys name from Floor 2000
- Massive shout out to all our musicians who have given their time for free.



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Twin Rivers WI Charity Family Day at Blabers Wine Estate

● Twin Rivers WI would like to invite you to a Charity Family Day at Blabers Wine Estate on Sunday August 20th from 2pm-9pm.

There will be lots of fun activities- lawn games, a treasure hunt and vineyard tours. Bring a picnic and enjoy the stunning views from the lawns at Blabers Hall. There will be an icecream van on hand to keep us cool. Dogs on leads are more than welcome.

We ask that all soft and alcohol drinks be purchased from the bar - there will be a selection of Blabers Hall's delicious wines as well as local beers and ciders.

All funds raised will be in aid of Twin Rivers WI's Charity of The Year -Father Hudson's Care - in particular St Catherine's Day Care Sensory Garden.

Tickets cost £3 for WI members, £5 for adults and £10 for a family ticket (up to 2 adults and 3 children) and are available from TRWIEvents@gmail.com or at Cafe on the Hill.

We'd love to see you!!



CHARITY FUN DAY BLABERS HALL WINE ESTATE



Sunday, 20 August 2023

2.00pm to 9.00pm

Blabers Hall Wine Estate, Green End Road,
Fillongley, CV7 8EP

Twin Rivers Women's Institute, in collaboration with Blabers Hall Wine Estate are hosting a picnic to help raise much needed funds for the St Catherine's Day Service sensory garden development for vulnerable adults with learning and physical disabilities. A great cause and local charity!

- Free Parking
- Bring Your Own Picnic Food
- Family games on the lawn*
- Ice-cream Van
- Vineyard tour
- In order to support our hosts, only drinks (wine, beer, soft and hot drinks) purchased on site to be consumed.



TICKET PRICES

Adults £5 each / £3 for WI members

£10 family ticket - 2 adult/3 children (£1 each addition child)

Email TRWIEvents@gmail.com OR visit Cafe on the Hill for tickets

*Fun activities to be announced!

Yoga Summer school 2023



➤ If you happened to walk past various community halls in Water Orton and Shustoke through the summer holidays, over the past 30 years, you might have been surprised by what was going on inside.

People with legs in the air, bodies in unusual positions, strange breathing! Don't worry it's just our charity Yoga summer schools in full swing.

Starting back in the mid-eighties the late Wilf Wood began a summer school of Yoga in Curdworth to raise money for local charities. In the nineties a wonderful teacher, Val Miller, then took over the reigns. Each summer, in the village of Water Orton, Val got together different teachers to share practices and the money raised divided between a local special-educational needs school in Coleshill (then called Blythe School now Woodlands) and other local charities that students had put forward.

As the summer school became more popular Maureen Hill became the organiser and over the past few years I have been entrusted with this wonderful summer scheme,

which has been held at Water Orton primary school and Shustoke village hall.

So, for 4-6 weeks every year we have wonderful teachers from around the Midlands come and teach, with all donations from students going to their chosen charities.

We have welcomed all schools and styles and over the years have enjoyed everything from Sivananda to Iyengar, Yin to Vinyasa, sound baths to Ashtanga, Yoga Nidra to Tibetan chanting and Qigong.

Since 2005 alone these sessions have raised over £10,000 for local charities – we have welcomed hundreds of students of Yoga through our doors and many, many wonderful teachers of Yoga.

We look out for each other. Friendships are made. Hands are held. Ideas are shared.

Fancy joining us? This years Summer school is back at Water Orton primary school between Thursday 10th – Thursday 31st August 7.15pm – 8.30pm.

Bring a mat and a smile with you. We look forward to welcoming you.



Denise Walters

www.smallworldyoga.co.uk

Water Orton Yoga Summer School 2005-2019

➤ The Summer School pre-dates the history given here by some ten years at least and regular yoga sessions have been happening in Curdworth and Water Orton for much longer. I have traced sessions back to a lady called Sunita Cabral who I believe taught Wilf Wood and of whom Val Miller was a student.

The Summer School of yoga in Water Orton is for people who wish to continue their yoga throughout the summer and for people new to yoga to experience a 'taster'.

We have enjoyed the facility of the lovely hall at Water Orton School for five weeks during school holidays, sometimes more. Yoga sessions have been happening throughout the year at the school since the mid 'nineties'. Our second venue; Shustoke Village Hall has supported us on several occasions when we were unable to use the school location.

During the Summer School a different tutor runs the session which contributes to our share culture.

Our room costs on many occasions have been covered with donations enabling income from students to be devoted to charitable causes.

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**A HEARTY THANK YOU AS ALWAYS TO
EVERYONE WHO MAKES OUR SUMMER SCHOOL
HAPPEN. MAUREEN HILL AND DENISE WALTERS**

Retro-fit trees into housing estates to bring nature back, charity to tell councils



****The 48 local nature recovery areas and responsible authorities are listed in notes to editors.****

The Woodland Trust will challenge councils to bring back nature to the places we live* as councillors and officers converge on the Local Government Association (LGA) Conference in Bournemouth today.

The charity will present its new report - Trees and Woods at the Heart of Nature Recovery in England - to delegates which sets out a raft of solutions, including adding more trees into housing estates with less than 16% tree cover, 30% canopy cover for new developments, and access to greenspace within 10 minutes of everyone's doorsteps. To coincide with the launch, the Trust is urging people to back its campaign calling on councillors to take urgent action for nature.

The report, designed to help councils and communities write their Local Nature Recovery Strategies, follows the Government's announcement on Friday that it has made £14m available to the 48 local authorities tasked with leading on drafting the plans.

Ecologist Louise Wilkinson, Nature Recovery Lead at the Woodland Trust who co-authored the report, said:

"We recognise the enormous strain on local authority budgets and wrote this report to offer a helping hand

on how to surmount the challenge of rapid declines in nature. This year the Government handed local authorities the task of involving communities in writing Local Nature Recovery Strategies. This is a golden chance for communities to map out what they want to see, where to bring nature back, and crucially, to embed this in local policy. It's a tough task so we have published the top steps that should be incorporated."

Since 1970, 35% of species have declined in abundance. This means today's children now have a 70% less chance of seeing a hedgehog than their parents did, while dormice populations have fallen 48% since today's primary school pupils were born. The proportion of urban green space is also declining**

Responsibility to turn the tide rests with local authorities as well as national government. As part of the 2021 Environment Act, the Government is tasking designated local authorities to develop Local Nature Recovery Strategies bespoke to their areas – an action required by law. These plans are designed to be easy to grasp and are geared to reflect the views of local people on where they want to see areas of nature-rich space for public use.

Darren Moorcroft, chief executive of the Woodland Trust, explained why trees are vital:

"Trees and woods are critical in creating better, healthier places for people to live and all communities should have

access to these benefits. As well as driving nature's return, tree numbers correlate to improving people's health and well-being – something that's being increasingly recognised by leaders across the globe. This is why our report calls for councils to ensure more trees on new and existing housing estates as well as improved access to woodland, so that trees and woods can benefit their residents and nature alike."

To help ensure these plans are placed high on agendas, the Woodland Trust is asking people to contact their local authorities via its campaign website. The e-action will demand that local authorities declare a nature crisis. It is estimated that while 80% of councils have declared a climate emergency, fewer than 15% that have declared a nature crisis.

Dr Moorcroft, continues:

"We have launched our campaign that takes two clicks to let your local authority know you want it to declare a nature emergency. We know many people feel unheard but we're asking them not to underestimate the power of lending their weight to campaigns that challenge elected politicians to listen. Our report is focussed on solutions, not panic. There are answers to the crisis we face. We just need action – and it can be done."

To contact your council and back the e-action, visit woodlandtrust.org.uk/campaigns. To read the report in full, visit woodlandtrust.org/publications

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COLESHILL & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

First of all please note that our new venue for the Gardening Club meetings will now be held at **COLESHILL COMMUNITY CENTRE**, corner of Station Road and Temple Way!

August event is on 21st August, an outing to **STONELEIGH ABBEY**. Meet at the Abbey car park at 11am, cost of entry is £7. If you need a lift speak to a committee member, or contact me on the number below.

September meeting is still to be arranged but will be 18th. More information to come.

16th October a talk from Roger Umplebey, "THE BUG MAN". At Coleshill Community Centre, 7.30. Members £3.50, Non Members (all welcome), £5. Refreshments provided.

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Local Sports



Water Orton Cricket Club Social Nights

We are now putting the finishing touches to our forthcoming social nights all of which are listed below. Tickets will be available over the bar at the cricket club on a Wednesday or Friday evening or Pete

Coles 07812 241046

Tickets are also available from Paul Messenger 07538 601246 at the tennis club.

For all the events tickets go on sale about two months before each event.

Saturday 7th October 2023 The fabulous Hamilton Browne with his fantastic LIONEL RICHIE SHOW.

He has appeared several times with Lionel Richie and tours all over Europe with this tremendous tribute show. Tickets £10 each

Saturday 14th October Eamons Quiz Night

Teams of 4/5/6 players £2-00 per player.

Please be in and your team registered by 7.45pm.

Saturday 11th November The Elvis Experience.

Tickets £8-00each

Mark Green and his fabulous tribute to Elvis Presley, a great night out.

Watch out for more shows we are lining up. Live Bands, The children's Christmas Party and our New Years Eve Show. We have some excellent shows booked for early in the New Year. We have a wonderful Elton John Show. Yes, we know he said he wasn't touring anymore but he is coming here on the 2nd March 2024. Not to be missed. Marcus Andrews does a brilliant tribute show. Tickets £8-00 each.

All details will be in future editions of The Post and details are also displayed on the cricket club and tennis club notice boards. Come and join us for some great nights out you will be very welcome. See you soon.



Castle Bromwich Cricket Club Story

➤ Once upon a time in the quaint village of Castle Bromwich, nestled amidst the rolling hills, there stood a place of camaraderie and sportsmanship: the Castle Bromwich Cricket Club. This haven of cricketing passion brought together young and old, uniting the community in their love for the gentleman's game.

The club's history traced back to the late 19th century when a group of enthusiastic villagers decided to form a cricket team. They cleared a patch of land, lovingly transforming it into a humble cricket ground, where the grass was green and the wickets stood tall.

Over the decades, the Castle Bromwich Cricket Club flourished. Generations of families embraced the sport, passing on their skills and knowledge from one cricketing legend to another. The club became a symbol of unity and pride for the village, attracting cricket

enthusiasts from neighboring towns to witness the magic that unfolded on the pitch.

Each summer, the cricket ground came alive with the echoes of cheering fans and the rhythmic sound of leather against willow. Local matches were keenly contested, and rivalries turned friends into foes and back into friends again. But above all, the spirit of sportsmanship prevailed, as players shook hands after a hard-fought battle, celebrating the joys and sorrows of the game together.

In time, the club expanded, and a quaint clubhouse with a white picket fence was erected. It became the hub of social gatherings and post-match celebrations, where victories were jubilantly toasted, and defeats were gracefully accepted as part of the journey.

As Castle Bromwich Cricket Club gained recognition, it ventured into friendly matches with neighboring clubs, further solidifying its presence in the cricketing world. Young talents were nurtured, and

dreams of playing for the national team took root in the hearts of the aspiring cricketers.

But beyond the competitive nature of the sport, the club remained deeply rooted in its sense of community. Fundraisers, charity matches, and coaching camps for underprivileged children became regular features, reflecting the club's commitment to giving back and making a positive impact.

As the years passed, the Castle Bromwich Cricket Club grew into a cherished institution, a testament to the spirit of unity and love for cricket that bound the villagers together. Its legacy, etched into the history books, served as an inspiration for generations to come, reminding them that with passion, determination, and a strong sense of community, anything was possible. And so, the tale of Castle Bromwich Cricket Club continued, its story forever intertwined with the spirit of the game and the hearts of its people.

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email: editor.postgroup@outlook.com**



Coleshill Town F.C.

After the unprecedented success for Coleshill Town Football Club in the 2022/23 season, (achieving the highest ever finish in their 138 year history and reaching the play offs for promotion) the Chairman and manager are looking forward to the 2023/24 season with great expectations!!

Chairman Paul Billing has added to his leadership team with the appointment of new directors to help with the development of the club. We welcome Paul Hathaway, Liam Molesworth, Alan Beckett, Paul Dolan and Ted Maher to our team and look forward to taking the club to new levels.

The manager has managed to retain most of the successful squad for the new season and recruited some old and new players to help us push for promotion this season.

The manager from last season, Cameron Stewart, has been retained once again and further strengthened the team to meet the new season challenges.

"We are looking forward to a fiercely contested season, competition in the team for positions will also be fierce but I am confident the depth and strength in my

players and management will keep us at the top of the league".

The chairman also stated:-

"We have high expectations in the Northern Premier League (NPL), the FA Cup (away to either Coventry United or Studley on Saturday 19th of August 2023), the FA Trophy (at home to Carlton Town FC on Saturday 9th of September 2023)."

Now that the NPL fixtures have been published, the first game of our 2023/24 season will be a home match v Loughborough Dynamo FC on Saturday 12th of August 2023, kick off 3pm at the Pack Meadow Stadium in Packington Lane, Coleshill.

Our full fixture list is printed within this article, keep it handy!!

We look forward to welcoming you to the Pack Meadow Stadium in Packington Lane to see us progress through the season, great football, great beer and food, great company!!

Entry fees are unchanged from last season.

Adults £10

Concessions (over 65) £8

Children under 12 free when accompanied with an adult.



Team colours home and away

COLESHILL TOWN - Pitching In Northern Premier League - Midlands

Sat	Aug	5		Emirates FA Cup Extra Prelim
Sat	Aug	12	Loughborough Dynamo	H
Tue	Aug	15	Sporting Khalsa	A
Sat	Aug	19		Emirates FA Cup Prelim
Mon	Aug	21	Lye Town	H
Sat	Aug	26	Corby Town	A
Mon	Aug	28	Sutton Coldfield Town	H
Sat	Sep	2	Harborough Town	A
Sat	Sep	9		Emirates FA Cup 1Q
Sat	Sep	16	Quorn	H
Sat	Sep	23		Isuzu FA Trophy 1Q
Sat	Sep	30	Shepshed Dynamo	A
Sat	Oct	7	Rugby Town	H
Sat	Oct	14	A.F.C. Rushden & Diamonds	A
Sat	Oct	21	Coventry Sphinx	A
Sat	Oct	28	Cambridge City	H
Sat	Nov	4	Walsall Wood	H
Sat	Nov	11	Hinckley LR	A
Sat	Nov	18	Spalding United	H
Sat	Nov	25	Anstey Nomads	A
Sat	Dec	2	Boldmere St Michaels	H
Sat	Dec	9	Gresley Rovers	A
Sat	Dec	16	Sporting Khalsa	H
Sat	Dec	23	Loughborough Dynamo	A
Tue	Dec	26	Bedworth United	H
Mon	Jan	1	Sutton Coldfield Town	A
Sat	Jan	6	Corby Town	H
Sat	Jan	13	Lye Town	A
Sat	Jan	20	Cambridge City	A
Sat	Jan	27	Coventry Sphinx	H
Sat	Feb	3	Quorn	A
Sat	Feb	10		Isuzu FA Trophy 3Q
Sat	Feb	17	Shepshed Dynamo	H
Sat	Feb	24	Rugby Town	A
Wed	Feb	28		Emirates FA Cup 4Q
Sat	Mar	2	A.F.C. Rushden & Diamonds	H
Sat	Mar	9		Isuzu FA Trophy 1
Sat	Mar	16	Gresley Rovers	H
Sat	Mar	23	Boldmere St Michaels	A
Sat	Mar	30	Harborough Town	H
Mon	Apr	1	Bedworth United	A
Sat	Apr	6	Hinckley LR	H
Sat	Apr	13	Walsall Wood	A
Sat	Apr	20	Anstey Nomads	H
Sat	Apr	27	Spalding United	A
Sun	May	12		Isuzu FA Trophy 2
Sat	May	25		Emirates FA Cup 2
				Isuzu FA Trophy 3
				Emirates FA Cup 3
				Isuzu FA Trophy 4
				Emirates FA Cup 4
				Isuzu FA Trophy 5
				Emirates FA Cup 5
				Isuzu FA Trophy 6
				Emirates FA Cup Quarter-Final
				Isuzu FA Trophy Semi-Final
				Emirates FA Cup Semi-Final
				Isuzu FA Trophy Final
				Emirates FA Cup Final



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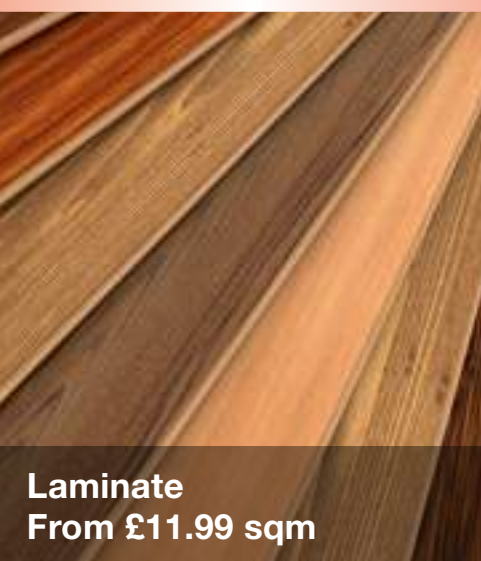
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