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# the Coleshill Post

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Covering: Coleshill North, Coleshill South, Coleshill Industrial, Water Orton, Curdworth, Maxstoke, Shustoke, Lea Marston, Marston & The Whitacres

August 2023 Issue 114



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## ATLP Children's University Gold Graduation Summer 2023

Wednesday 28th June 2023, 70 students from The Coleshill School took part in the ATLP Children's University Gold Graduation ceremony at Birmingham University. Our very first Arthur Terry Learning Partnership Children's University event!

**Full story page 21**  
(and more from Coleshill School on page 20)



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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.**

We work with you to create the most appropriate package for your business, after all it's in our interest to make each advert work and keep everybody happy.

We can design professional artwork if needed and offer sound advice based on years of knowledge.

By choosing to advertise with us you are also showing your support for the community and the customers you hope to serve.

## Getting in touch

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[editor.postgroup@outlook.com](mailto:editor.postgroup@outlook.com)  
**07805 430191**

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## WHY CHOOSE HYPER-LOCAL?

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Shustoke

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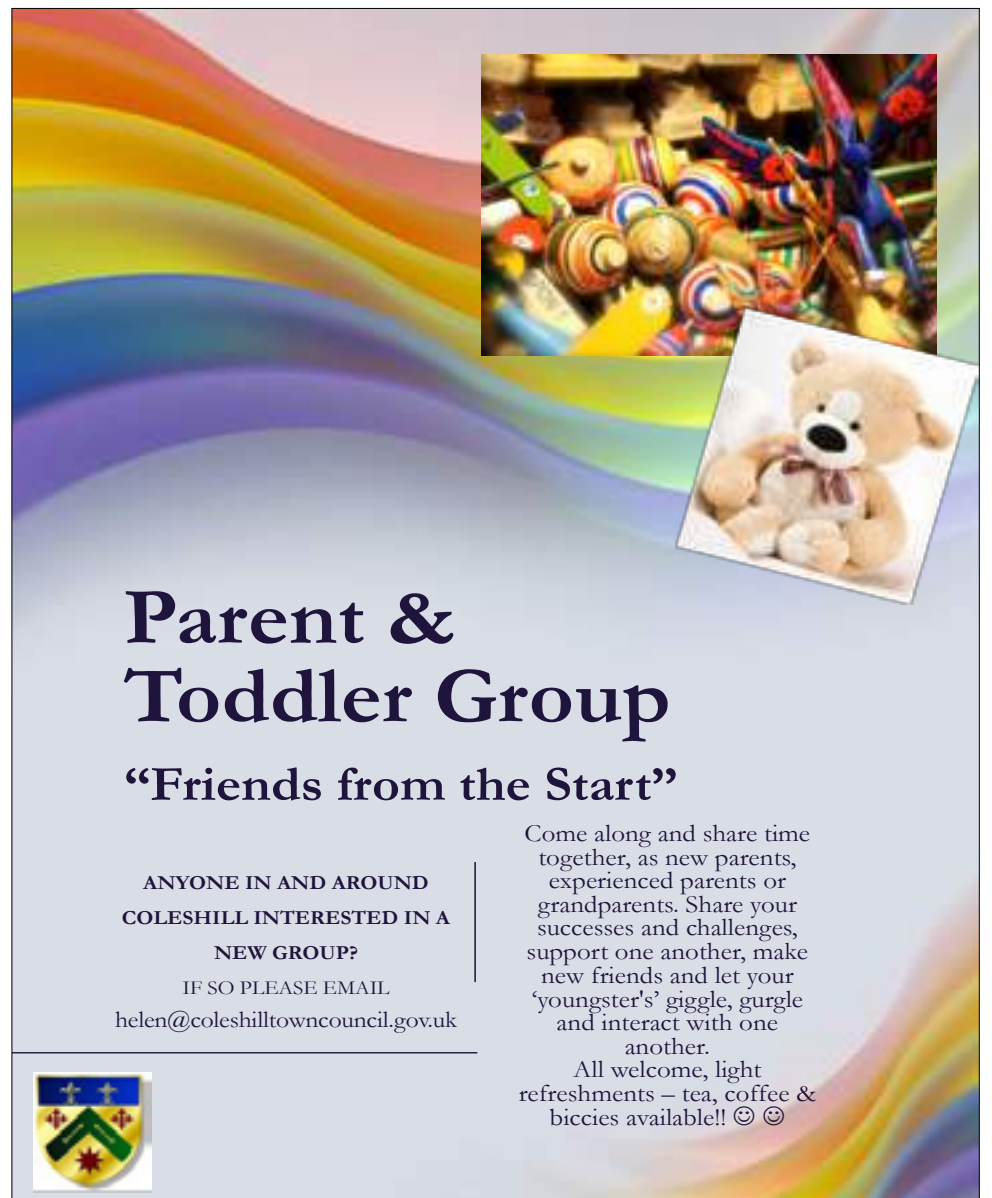
- We meet up on the 3rd Monday of every month
- Relaxed informal business networking
- No Commitment
- Raise your business profile
- Meet like minded people
- Business card and leaflet table available (bring your literature)
- If you would like to sign up for future presentations (ask a member of the team)



**Price £5 per person**  
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 Tea and Coffee available

Contact us  
 email: [networking@biznetlocal.co.uk](mailto:networking@biznetlocal.co.uk)  
 call: Serena 07805430191

**VENUE TBC**





## Parent & Toddler Group

### “Friends from the Start”

ANYONE IN AND AROUND COLESHILL INTERESTED IN A NEW GROUP?  
 IF SO PLEASE EMAIL [helen@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:helen@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk)

Come along and share time together, as new parents, experienced parents or grandparents. Share your successes and challenges, support one another, make new friends and let your ‘youngster’s’ giggle, gurgle and interact with one another.  
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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](https://bit.ly/3O4O6TE)**



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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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# 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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## Protect your Home

**Is your home your most valuable asset? Have you worked hard your whole life to pay for and maintain it?**

➤ 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 will 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.

Accord can help ensure your loved ones benefit as much as possible from your estate.

Act today and protect those you love

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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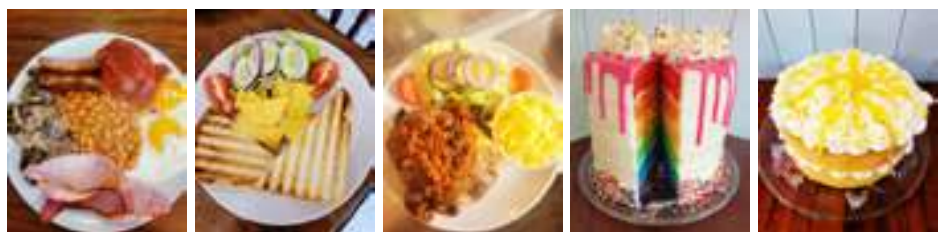
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# Hello from your local Slimming World groups



☛ 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, wether 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 an 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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### Monday

- Castle Brom** - The Baptist Church, 5.30 & 7.00pm Claire - 07917867577
- Tile Cross** - St Peters Church, 4.00 & 5.30pm Nataley 07939 949136
- Yardley** - St Edburghas Church Hall, 9.00am, 3.30 & 5.30pm 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

[slimmingworld.co.uk](http://slimmingworld.co.uk)





► **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 (charitustrust.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

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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

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**Cllr Peter Fowler, Coleshill North**

## August update

### Gilson

Residents of Coleshill and Water Orton will be aware of the closure of the main road running through the hamlet of Gilson. The closure was caused by a fractured water pipe beneath the road surface in Gilson Drive which washed away the sand and gravel, causing a sink hole. Sadly, the damage spread right across the main road and this resulted in Severn Trent having to close the road for health and safety reasons. I have been making regular visits to the site and liaising with staff from Severn Trent to keep up to date with any progress. At the time of writing the road is now scheduled to reopen by the 31st of July.

### HS2

I am grateful to Cllr Dave Reilly, Lead Councillor on HS2 at the Borough Council, for his updates and progress on the areas within Coleshill and Water Orton. I look forward to Dave's update in this month's Coleshill Post.

### Maintenance of Cole End Park

I met recently with the Nature Reserve Officer from the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust to discuss the height of the wildflowers along the River Cole embankments and the removal of the Himalayan Balsam in the park. He explained that the park, owned by the Borough Council, was made a Local Nature Reserve back in 2013. It has a children's play area, woodland, footpaths and various areas of wildflowers, including those along the River Cole embankments. He informed me that arrangements are being made for the cutting back (to knee height) of

the wildflowers along the embankments.

This will be done with every effort made to protect any nesting birds and will take place from the 1st of August to help maintain and open the view of the river.

The removal of the Himalayan Balsam in areas of the park and by the river will also be carried out at the same time.

### Coleshill's (Packhorse) Bridge

I have been talking with the County and Borough Councils about removing the overgrowth, between the bridge and the footbridge, which has made the area unsightly and hides the view of Colehill's historic bridge. I hope this area will now be maintained on a regular basis.

The Environment Agency are responsible for the maintenance on the Harvester side of the bridge and by Chasseur Walk. I will be meeting with them on the 31st of July to discuss the EA's plans to help improve this area. I hope to be able update you all in the September or October edition of the Coleshill Post.

### Trees

A number of residents in Coleshill North have asked me about getting more trees planted along the grassed areas on Station Road. I am meeting with the County Council's Forestry Officer to look for possible areas and types of trees that could be planted there.

### Bus Stops

It was pointed out to me that some of the signage and times at the bus stops throughout Coleshill were out of date, showing the wrong bus numbers or just completely missing. I took the officer for Transport from WCC around Coleshill and he checked each bus stop along the route, noting down which bus stops carried the incorrect information and which areas needed any repairs or new timetables. I hope that very soon all the bus stops will carry the correct information.

### A446 Dual Carriageway

Parts of the A446 have been looking untidy for some considerable time now. I invited the County Council's Highway's Officer to survey the state of the damage to local roundabouts etc. and drove her around pointing out the equipment left behind by various agencies such as frames, cones, sandbags and the dirty or damaged highway signs on the carriageways and in the town.

I am hopeful that a clean-up will take place in the near future.

### Greenman Crossroads

Like all residents, I look forward to the end of the disruption caused by installation of the traffic lights at the Green Man crossroads. Hopefully, when finished, they will stop the frequent accidents there and will enable pedestrians to cross the roads more safely.

If I can be of any help, please email me at peterfowler@northwarks.gov.uk or 07710 317782

**Kind regards Peter.**



**Cllr Steve Stuart, Water Orton North Warwickshire Borough Council**

## So what's been going on?

➤ **As the proverb goes, "It never rains but it pours" and it certainly feels like that there are many issues relating to the village that have placed stress and strain on individuals, properties, infrastructure and even the very air that we breathe.**

On all of the matters we face though there are empowered villagers finding their voice and making it be heard.

So what's been going on?

Well HS2 continues to disrupt the village, elsewhere in this paper you should find details of a health survey where you can include your details to the over 100 villagers who have raised their concerns about the medical and emotional impacts on them and their families since the trucks started to rumble through the village.

The planning application for the old school site has been submitted. Since the original consultation the amount of dwellings has increased significantly. Everyone can pass comment on the scheme as submitted and its impacts. You can also access the plans via the campaigns page on my website at [www.waterortonsteve.co.uk](http://www.waterortonsteve.co.uk)

The old school site was the only site listed for housing in the village that was in the North Warwickshire Local Plan. Recently the Council voted to reopen this plan. I voted against this move, the only councillor to do so, having not been given any reason why it was in the interest of the village to vote in favour. My voting record on all issues is listed on my website.

I also recently attended the debate at NWBC on the proposal for Warwickshire to join the West Midlands Combined Authority. Whilst I would be very interested in seeing greater joined up thinking and the ability to access funding to develop the Villages connectivity and transport infrastructure the plans right now seem incredibly rushed and underdeveloped. There may be consultation undertaken with residents, I'll keep you informed so you can have your say.

The changeable weather has also again shown up the issues with drainage within the village. Whilst this is primarily a county issue I am seeking to see that these matters that are repeated time and again are now considered village wide rather than occasional hot (or wet) spots.

Attendance at surgeries has been really strong and its been fantastic to meet people face to face and help with issues that they face. You can see me every Tuesday at the Robert Lloyd Rooms between 10 & 11. Also there are other sessions which are advertised on my website.

**Finally, on village notice boards there are notices giving details of opportunities for volunteers to help improve the village. It is fantastic to see these initiatives which tap into the positivity of individuals which isn't dampened by the weather.**

**See you in the village!**

### Advance Notice

Water Orton Parish Council will shortly be advertising for the position of Parish Clerk. Details of the position will be advertised at the Parish Council Website [www.wopc.org.uk](http://www.wopc.org.uk) For an informal discussion about the position please contact Steve Stuart (Chair of the Parish Council) on 07999777345 or [SteveStuart@wopc.org.uk](mailto:SteveStuart@wopc.org.uk)

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# COLESHILL CIVIC SOCIETY

## Missing Buildings and Spaces 4

By John Hoyle



The legendary mill by the bridge at the bottom of the hill in Colehill. All the buildings in the photo are no longer to be seen. The mill itself called Cole End Mill was in fact a corn mill demolished just before the 2nd World War. It had been built in the 18th century when the River Cole ran down the side of Lichfield Road



This photo of a tatty building is Dabbs and Nicholson, parts of the building are probably late 16th century. It had been the Three Tuns Inn, the archway led to stables for horses. In the mid 1900's it was a brewery and bottling company. The bottling taking place in outside units through the archway. In the 1960's I remember buying bottles of beer and pop from the off licence. In the 1970's it was renovated by NWBC and became an Indian restaurant



Hemmings Tea Shop was the end of the row of shops on the East side of the High Street. It changed hands and became Hardwicks a general store. It was notable in having a milk machine outside. After the renovations on the High Street it became a DIY shop, firstly Turners, then Readings and finally Hawthorne's Hardware. It looks quite different these

days because in the renovations by NWBC the road by the side was used to build apartments along with a small amenity area.



A photo of Angel Yard behind Upton's Bakers taken in 1980. Many of the premises on the High Street had been Inns, in Georgian times there were allegedly 22. Some were merely Ale Houses where the house owner sold off their surplus ale.



Upton's bakery was once the Angel Inn, the entrance has long gone but the outline of the carriage entrance can still be seen. In the yard there were stables, still in use until Angel Mews was built. In fact many will no doubt remember the horses stabled in the yard.

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

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

## Parkinson's dance classes start again

☛ Colehill's popular weekly feel-good dance classes for those living with Parkinson's Disease and their carers are restarting on Thursday 3 August.

The new venue is Southfields Farm, Packington Lane, Colehill B46 3EJ. The classes are from 2.30pm to 4.30pm.

Dance specialist Kath Kimber-McTiffen will lead the sessions, as before. The programme is designed to be fun while also supporting health, well-being and confidence.

To join, please book in advance by visiting <https://www.sonrisaarts.co.uk/maturemovers> and scroll down to the bottom of the page.

Alternatively, email [participation@sonrisaarts.co.uk](mailto:participation@sonrisaarts.co.uk) or call 07870 683979.

Past participants should also say if they are planning to return.

The cost is £3 per person including refreshments, with a free taster to anyone that hasn't been before.

The sessions are supported by a grant from the National Lottery Awards for All scheme.

Colehill also has a drop in Parkinson's Cafe, which meets at the Hudson Avenue Community Centre on the third Tuesday of every month from 10.30am -12ish.

## Air Pollution



☛ My name is Judith Cleaver and I live in the centre of the village (Birmingham Rd) I have had asthma for many years but in the last few years since HS2 broke ground it has got a lot worse, the last 2 years being the worst, I Have had to have extra medication and steroids on several occasions, even losing my voice on numerous occasions.

The red dust that lives on our windows, houses, roads and cars is going into our lungs and I would like to know how this has affected people in Water Orton.

I put a comment on Facebook to see if I was the only one, No I was not! I had a lot of people state they were having breathing difficulties too. I decided to put a survey on Facebook, which was designed by Steve Stuart our Borough councillor and the Chairman of the Parish Council for me.

So far 124 people have filled in this survey but I would like more people to have access to fill it in hence this article.

If anyone has any information that will help our case please fill in the survey if you have not already done so.

You can access the survey at

[www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/WOHealthSurvey/](http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/WOHealthSurvey/)

or use the camera app on your phone to use the QR code.







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**NO DOGS PLEASE**

# Sutton Coldfield Marquetry Group achieve their best result to date at the 2023 International Marquetry Exhibition

## ➤ Sutton Coldfield Marquetry Group achieve their best result to date at the 2023 International Marquetry Exhibition

Sutton Coldfield Marquetry Group who have been based at Curdworth Church Hall for the past 25 years entered far more exhibits in this year's International Marquetry Exhibition, than ever before, a great achievement. Whether they won prizes or not every one of them was worthy of its place in the event and added much to the profile of our group, particularly as we were the hosts for the exhibition this year. Middleton Hall proved once again to be a splendid venue and the exhibition included well over 200 exhibits including three from Hungary.



### *A Christmas Carol by Mike Roberts*

Mike Roberts gained 1st place in Class 5 the Premier Class and was also awarded the Rose Bowl for the best exhibit in the exhibition with a picture entitled A Christmas Carol.

Brian Freeman took the top awards in Class 6a the Advanced Miniature class gaining:

1st prize with **A little bit of Malta 1**

2nd with **I'm thirsty**

3rd with **American Express**



### *A Christmas Carol by Mike Roberts*

Graham Hopkins did well with his pictures

In Class 2, he came

1st with **Change of shift**

2nd with **The Round House**

3rd with **Girl in a hat**

and was Highly Commended for **Bamboo**

Jean Robinson won two awards with the same entry:

The Phil Jewel Award for the exhibit most liked by a non-marquetarian, with her exhibit **One more run**.

She also won the Eddie Leader Award for the exhibit most liked by visitors to the exhibition, again with the picture entitled **One more run**.

Jean also gained the Presidents Commendation Award. This is awarded to an individual to recognise exceptional work, sometimes carried out behind the scenes, which often goes unacknowledged.

St. Albans Group won the Group Shield, this is awarded to the group gaining the most points in the competition. St. Albans gained 42 points, but Sutton Coldfield came joint second with Chelmsford on 32 points our highest score ever.

Hopefully after such a good showing we will have even more members entering next year's exhibition. It was good to see that many of our members visited the exhibition and it was well attended by the public. Being half term Middleton Hall attracted many families. We ran free beginner's courses every day, and over the week 20 people completed our coaster course.

Kerry Rath a well-respected member of our group passed away last year and the exhibition included a tribute gallery of his fine work. It was a pleasure to meet his widow, son, and daughter in law at the exhibition and they were very pleased with this display of his work. It included a splendid vase that he had planned to enter in the exhibition's Advanced Applied Class.



Part of the exhibition in the Main Hall



*One more run by Jean Robinson Awarded The Phil Jewel Award. The Eddie Leader Award and the Presidents Commendation Award*



*A little bit of Malta 1st in Class 6a by Brian Freeman*

There was an even more local connection to Coleshill at the exhibition. Victoria Walpole who was brought up and lived in the village for many years came 1st in the Beginner's Applied Class, and won The Artistic Merit Cup with her entry **Moving Water**. Her entry was a font cover that she was commissioned to make for Coleshill Church. Now that the exhibition is over this piece of artwork is back in its rightful place and can once more be seen by anyone who visits the church.



*A Christmas Carol by Mike Roberts*

## SUTTON COLDFIELD MARQUETRY GROUP

Sutton Coldfield Marquetry Group is affiliated to the Marquetry Society and was founded in 1998. We are a friendly enthusiastic and expanding group, and attract a broad mix of men and lady members of all ages. We meet every third Thursday of the month in Curdworth Church Hall, Curdworth and hold numerous beginner's workshop sessions throughout the year for anyone who would like to try out this absorbing hobby. Many of those that attend an initial taster session are surprised at what the craft has to offer and continue to attend our monthly meetings and develop their skills guided by our experienced members in a friendly relaxed environment.



### *Club night at Curdworth*

Marquetry is very different from other crafts and can be a very relaxing and enjoyable hobby. Learn all about the craft from experienced tutors. Marquetry is the craft of creating decorative designs and pictures by skilfully utilizing the grain, figure and colours of thin wood veneer. Why not come along and have a go? Join one of our free evening workshop sessions where you will complete two marquetry coasters, a typical example of which is shown below, while gaining knowledge of the craft and developing enough skill to be able to move on and complete your own marquetry project. Use this opportunity and see how rewarding marquetry can be. Marquetry is also an inexpensive hobby especially if you are a member of a group. You only need a craft knife cutting mat some PVA glue. Admittedly you also need a selection of veneers which can be expensive, however, as a member of our group for the £3 charge to cover the hire of the hall you will also have full use of our extensive stock of wood veneers at no cost.

For more information contact Mike Roberts, Tele, 07519 896901.



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

# WEST MIDLANDS COMBINED AUTHORITY. NORTH WARWICKSHIRE LOCAL PLAN. HIGHWAYS UPDATES. ATTLEBORO LANE SCHOOL SITE PLANNING APPLICATION.

☛ A bit of a dry article this month about council structures and Planning and Development policy, with a few roadworks and planning updates thrown in at the end.

Both main topics are 'live' and have understandably been causing some concern in Water Orton over the last few weeks. So, I'll explain the facts and offer some observations. As ever, if you want to know more, have any concerns, or want to offer feedback, then please do ring or email me.

### WEST MIDLANDS COMBINED AUTHORITY

As seemingly bureaucratic and uninteresting as council governance and decision-making might seem our North Warwickshire membership of the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) is a hot topic as I write. The questions at hand is should we join the WMCA?

Currently neither North Warwickshire Borough Council nor Warwickshire County Council are 'constituent' members of the WMCA. Neither have notable voting rights nor do they contribute a financially significant membership fee.

Historically from a North Warwickshire perspective membership of the WMCA has been resisted because of WMCA's need for development land and a lack of clarity about what the benefits for NW will be.

National Government changes to local government boundaries, administration, and indeed regional Mayors are being formulated now as work on the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill is completed. The Bill will soon become an Act of Parliament and consequently the question of WMCA membership is back on the table. This time round it is being proactively driven by the Warwickshire County Council Executive, whose interest in joining the WMCA appears to be to secure greater economic investment for business growth, transport, and wellbeing improvements; and secondly from my interpretation, as a route to secure a Unitary Council structure for Warwickshire.

You may recall that I have written about WCC's Unitary ambitions before and I remain opposed because no meaningful plans for an effective local service delivery structure have been set out in their Unitary proposal. A Unitary structure would see the current six local councils that make up Warwickshire (North Warwickshire, Nuneaton and Bedworth, Rugby, Warwick, Stratford, and Warwickshire County Council) all merge into a single local council. Undoubtedly a Unitary structure would bring financial savings from economies of scale, but the 'cost' of having North Warwickshire services run from Shire Hall in Warwick remains unclear, especially for matters such as our Green Belt and local guardianship against unwanted housing and commercial development.

### What is the West Midlands Combined Authority?

The function of the WMCA is to grow the regional West Midlands economies in their sub regions such as Birmingham and the Black Country. Through Government funding the WMCA invests in things like house building, transport, employment skills and growth, culture, community inclusivity, and wellbeing.

WMCA is not a council, rather it exists to manage Government funding and commission local services. Importantly, it has a role to reform existing public and council service structures. The WMCA is led by a single directly elected mayor, this is currently Andy Street.

The 'constituent members' of the WMCA: Birmingham; Sandwell; Solihull; Coventry; Walsall; Dudley; and Wolverhampton. Additionally, there are also ten non-constituent members, including NWBC and WCC, who retain their own powers and funding and who determine local policy and service priorities.

### What is the Situation in North Warwickshire?

In the middle of June North Warwickshire Borough Council became aware that 'closed' discussions were taking place between the WCC, WMCA, and others about the possibility of WCC joining the WMCA as a full constituent member.

The problem with this proposal is that if WCC resolve to join WMCA as a constituent member then the District and Borough Councils will automatically be forced to join on the same basis. Locally in North Warwickshire we are in a challenging situation of not having any say on WCC's decision. It is not an acceptable that North Warwickshire residents might not have a say in the decision about who controls the delivery of all local council

services such as education, social care, transport, housing, planning and development, waste management, community health and wellbeing.

Fortunately, the decision to join isn't solely in WCC's hands. They will need the consent of the existing constituent members to join and that isn't a foregone conclusion, because they understandably have very real interests in keeping money and control in their own communities. However, that position may change because the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill gives the Secretary of State powers to direct Councils about their membership of Combined Authorities.

There are clearly several serious issues of principal and practice that stem from a scenario of NWBC being forced to join WMCA, not least the failure to consider the views of NW residents in this decision and the financial implications for North Warwickshire.

### What Next?

As I write our cross-Party position at NWBC is to oppose the formation of a Unitary council and to reserve our final decision on the merits of joining WMCA until further information is made available, particularly concerning the principle that any joining authority (i.e. NWBC) must enjoy the same benefits in terms of funding and decision making as existing constituent members.

Without doubt these are interesting times! We find ourselves in a position not of our own making, not having any real understanding of the consequences, and facing democratically and operationally unacceptable time limits to make decisions.

Clearly this WMCA debate will dominate the remainder of 2023 and I will keep you updated.

### NORTH WARWICKSHIRE LOCAL PLAN.

And now to the North Warwickshire Local Plan discussions.

I have written extensively about the Local Plan, the planning policy document that allocates housing and commercial development sites and sets material planning policy for North Warwickshire up to 2033. You may recall I chaired the council committee that oversaw the production of the current Local Plan and I continue to chair that committee.

Before I start on this update, I'd like to make it clear that I consider the Local Plan to be one of the most important policy documents in the whole council. It is not something to be politicised nor is to be amended lightly because it has a very real and direct impact on communities and on peoples' lives, not least because of its lawful allocation of development sites for 9,589 new build houses and 60 hectares of land for commercial development.

Quite understandably local interest in the Local Plan has increased following a vote taken by Full Council at NWBC at the end of June to review the Local Plan on receipt of new national Government direction that is expected to be announced as part of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill.

In the interests of transparency, with my Conservative councillor colleagues I voted in support of conducting a review once national policy direction and guidance had been received.

I am told that there has been some confusion amongst Water Orton residents that I voted to scrap the current Local Plan. That is not correct. Scrapping the Plan was not the motion voted on. If it had been nobody in their right mind would vote to scrap the Local Plan for the very real reason that once a housing or commercial site has been allocated in a Local Plan it can never be unallocated. Scrapping the Plan would significantly increase the site allocations for new build houses and commercial units because any new sites in a new Plan would be in addition to what is already allocated. That would be absolute madness! And this is not even to mention the £500,000 cost of producing a whole new Local Plan.

### A Living Plan.

All Local Plans are living documents. They get amended during their life as new Planning Law and Government direction is set and when local commitments are delivered. All amendments are carefully and methodically considered. When the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act is passed, we will review the Local Plan to ensure it is compliant with the new legislation set out in the Act. Hence, my support for the motion to review on receipt of new lawful duties.

### When should a Local Plan be reviewed?

To be effective Local Plans need to be kept up to date. The main way we determine how well the current Local Plan is performing is to undertake an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR). The first AMR was completed in November 2022 and looked at each Local Plan policy and our delivery against our house and commercial building targets. The next AMR will be completed before Christmas.

From our last AMR we know that we have two pieces of work to complete to pass the next review: Firstly, to continue production of the Employment Development Plan policies; and secondly, we need to complete the Gypsy and Traveller Development Plan policies too. Both tasks are about the allocation of land for use and development and the setting of material planning considerations for planning decisions made in North Warwickshire.

### What are the Proposed Government Changes to Local Plan Processes?

When the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill becomes an Act of Parliament there will be changes to the main lawful duties set out in National Planning Policy Guidance. These are:

- Faster plan making. Producing Local Plans will be required to be done in 30 months – our current Local Plan that we adopted in 2021 took 73 months albeit Covid did interrupt the process somewhat.
- Abolition of the Duty to Cooperate. This is really positive as it lessens the lawful duty councils have to help neighbouring authorities by committing to deliver some of their housing numbers. In the current Local Plan we accepted an additional 3,790 homes on behalf of Birmingham and 413 on behalf of Tamworth because they demonstrated they didn't have the available space to build them. Clearly with a change to the lawful duty to cooperate we will review these 'duty to cooperate' commitments.
- A greater say for local communities in decisions.

So, our North Warwickshire Local Plan is lawfully sound. We have a five-year housing supply, which is critically important, and we conducted a successful review of the Plan last year. We are in an excellent position because a 'sound' Plan means that developers can not make application to build wherever they want.

### HIGHWAYS AND PLANNING SNIPPETS.

I know there will be some frustration when I report that Gilson Road continues to need to be closed for another four to five weeks. The sink hole problems continue to be actively worked on but have not been repaired.

After engagement with HS2 by my colleague Martin Watson and I, HS2 agreed to conclude and remove the roadworks and traffic direction at the junction of Watton Lane with the A446 to relieve local pressures on the road networks in Water Orton.

Cllr Martin Watson has made great progress securing Highways commitment to deal with the flooding problems along the Birmingham Road in Water Orton which have caused serious problems for some residents. I'll report more as we go forward.

Sterling work is being done by local resident Elaine Sumpter to get 1,000 names on the petition to implement speed restrictions in Water Orton. Having knocked on countless doors and attended all sorts of meetings and gatherings Elaine is almost there, so if you haven't signed the petition then please do. Once we have 1,000 names the petition will be presented to Warwickshire County Council and the Highways Authority who will have a duty to respond to it. This is incredible commitment by Elaine on behalf of her community.

Finally, the public consultation for the new housing development site on the old school grounds on Attleboro Lane has been extended to 7th August. If you want to see the planning application, then log onto the planning section on the NWBC website and click where it says 'search for a planning application' and type in PAP/2023/00266.

Apologies again for the length and complexity of this update and well done indeed if you have managed to read the whole thing! As ever, if I can be of any help my email address is davidreilly@northwarks.gov.uk and my phone number is 07770 704 617. With kindest regards, Dave.

# Arriving in Style at the Year 11 Prom!



➤ Year 11s from The Coleshill School celebrated their Prom at the Heart of England Conference Centre on Friday 30th June 2023.

Proud parents came at the start of the evening to watch the students arrive in all types of transport and an array of fantastic vehicles including horses, an ice-cream van, limousines, classic cars and various luxury cars.

Year 11s were unrecognisable, they certainly 'dressed to impress' and looked stunning in their fantastic dresses and suits.

Both staff and students danced the night away and a great time was had by all.

Mr Smith-Childs, Headteacher, said: "This has been a fantastic evening. We are so proud of our Year 11s and the hard work and dedication they have put in over the past few months. It has been a pleasure teaching them and watching them develop into amazing young adults with their futures ahead of them. We wish them all good luck for the future and will see many of them in our Sixth Form in September".





## ATLP Children's University Gold Graduation Summer 2023

● Wednesday 28th June 2023, 70 students from The Coleshill School took part in the ATLP Children's University Gold Graduation ceremony at Birmingham University. Our very first Arthur Terry Learning Partnership Children's University event!

Parents proudly watched as their children, dressed in red cap and gowns, received awards in recognition of their dedication to extra-curricular learning activities. The Coleshill School had 70 Gold Award winners achieving over a 100 hours of learning activities. Students received awards ranging from Gold Undergraduate for 100 learning hours to Gold Postgraduate certificate for achieving over 600 hours. This year was particularly special with dance performances in the awards ceremony and students speaking about their Children's University journey.

The Children's University Trust provides 5 to 14 year olds with exciting and innovative learning activities and experiences outside school hours. The passport to learning has been created where students collect stamps for hours of accredited learning which contribute to the award of a certificate.

Mrs Kirkwood, Children's University Coordinator, commented "It was a fabulous event in a beautiful setting and we were all inspired by the location. We are so proud of our students and what they have achieved.

The only challenge was re-locating their caps after they were all thrown in the air in celebration on the University Grounds!"



## Curdworth W.I.

Well the year is marching on at a pace and we are certainly having a great year at Curdworth.

We did enjoy our Coronation celebrations – making our crowns and practising our curtseys – thank goodness we don't have to do much curtseying in our everyday lives as it didn't come easy to many of us! However it created much fun and laughter and it's always good to have an excuse for a glass of fizz!

Life could have fallen a little flat after all the Coronation excitement after but not for us. Very quickly we were onto our Summer Craft and Produce Show – what a wealth of talent there was on display – beautiful craft work – beading, embroidery, knitting and sewing and even some lovely poetry. Wonderful flowers from the green fingered and the most delicious preserves and baking. The standard this year was so high, the judges had a really difficult job and in the end there were three equal Show winners – Sandra Bullivant President, Samantha Ireland Vice President and member Joy Wiseman – congratulations to them and to everyone who entered the Show.

On July 12th we visited the National Memorial Arboretum and enjoyed a lovely ride round on the train with commentary from two very informative guides who pointed out the memorials, their history and relevance, both those close and some further away visible through the lovely trees. It doesn't matter how many times one visits the NMA, there is always something new to see and always something to see that one just didn't have time to fit in last time. And of course there is always time for delicious refreshments and a browse round the shop. A visit there is always a mixture of reflections - how lucky we are to have such a beautiful memorial park, immense gratitude to those who fought to give us our freedom and still do to-day and sadness for so much loss and the futility of war. I'm sure we shall visit again!



*President Sandra, Vice President Samantha and members Liz & Kate enjoy the train ride at the National Memorial Arboretum*

We now look forward to an afternoon of patchwork in August – will we achieve a cushion cover or a family heirloom bedspread?! In September we will open our doors to everyone at our special Open Evening, when everyone who is not a member is welcome to come along and 'take a look' at us. Our speaker on that evening will tell us of the ongoing and still very much needed work of Troop Aid, an organisation that does so much to support our serving soldiers. And then in October we are going to learn willow weaving. Yes WI is a busy life, but a very, very enjoyable one, that I can recommend to everyone!

**Curdworth WI meets on the 1st Thursday of each month at the Village Hall in Curdworth {B76 9HH} at 7.45pm. For any further info call Sandra 01675 470079 or Liz 07811 147728**



**Cllr. Alistair Brett, Coleshill Town Councillor**

**Cllr. Jane Farrow, Borough Councillor, Coleshill North ward**

## **To keep decisions local, we need to be vocal - the background and risks attached to Warwickshire joining the West Midlands combined authority**

It's been a couple of months since the local elections in May and British democracy in all its pomp and ceremony was seen to be done. Some of us got the Councillors we wanted and some of us got the ones we didn't, but generally political life carries on almost as normal in our little patch of Warwickshire – HS2 continues to annoy the hell out of many but not of course, the West Midlands mayor ( more on him later ). The potholes in our highways start to resemble farm tracks and the 8 a.m scramble to get a GPs appointment is now a feature of modern life – there may even be an app for that, there is for everything else.

But beneath the veneer of democracy is a more worrying trend – the majority of voters simply don't turn up for local elections and turnout in most of our wards was in the low 30%. Turnout for Police and Crime Commissioners can be a risible 15% - that's about four electors and their dogs, who sadly can't vote though apparently in Water Orton parrots can and do win council seats.

It is very easy to blame the voters for this perceived apathy but surely the candidates of all parties and Independents alike have to engage with their electorate, listen to their needs and aspirations and offer attractive policies which address these concerns and inspire voters to go out and vote, believing that voting CAN make a difference. Above all the electorate has a right to expect the highest standards of honesty, integrity and transparency from their representatives as this erosion of trust is one of the main reasons that people are losing faith in politicians and the ability of politics to change things.

The electoral system itself is also starting to creak and electoral administrators are warning of a possible collapse of the system under the weight of Government changes. One of the most direct causes of this strain is voter I.D – a very costly solution desperately scrabbling around for a problem. The number of cases of election fraud in this country is miniscule with only 14 cases reported cases requiring follow up and yielding only one conviction in the 2022 round of elections.

Meanwhile, the Electoral Commission recently reported that 14,000 people were turned away from polling stations during this May's election. However, the Electoral Commission have suggested that the true figure could be much nearer 400,000, as the 40% of polling stations which had "greeters" and told voters they needed I.D didn't record how many voters they deterred. So that's up to 400,000 disenfranchised voters in order to catch one voter cheat, hardly seems fair or democratic does it?

Jacob Rees-Mogg speaking at the NatCon conference in May, admitted that the old system worked "perfectly well" thereby suggesting that the new rules were an attempt to gerrymander results with young people in particular being the most affected and given the least range of I.D options. An over 60's travel pass is deemed acceptable I.D but not a young person's railcard, again hardly seems fair but perhaps that's the point. Fortunately, the Association of Electoral Administrators ( AEA ) reported very few instances of "voter rage" in this May's election – probably as a result of the low turnout not overwhelming polling staff. The AEA fear that the forthcoming general election could be very different with a high turnout leading to I.D check delays and almost certain queues putting even more strain on a creaky electoral system which, according to the Local Government Information Unit, will struggle to recruit polling staff who are increasingly wary of conflicts or threats connected to voter I.D in a high-pressure, high stakes General Election.

Yet we still cling onto the quaint tradition of traipsing down to a polling station to vote, which hasn't changed since the Great Reform Act of 1832. The only reason for the Government barring electronic voting is that it would probably encourage young people to vote and is perversely, a system the Government themselves use for selecting Prime Ministers. Our electoral system may be a bit old, shaky and in need of modernising but is luckily still trusted by candidates and electorate alike. We only need to look across the pond to our American cousins to see what happens when trust in elections is undermined, we must be vigilant that it doesn't happen here.

### **Why we need to get vocal to keep decisions local**

Talking of local accountability and voter consultation (or perhaps lack of it) we come to something which exploded like a low budget movie CGI effect a couple of weeks ago – the proposal that Warwickshire County becomes part of the West Midlands Combined Authority, a proposal which has the potential to ride roughshod over any semblance of local democracy and will change the character and culture of North Warwickshire forever. Local councillors are outraged and you should be too. We love being separate from the huge West Midlands conurbation and it creates a unique identity which makes this area such a great place to live.

But what is driving this unwanted and hastily, ill-conceived plan? Here in Shakespeare's county we appear to have more than a few echoes of Macbeth, the bard's drama of ambition and power - though it may end up being "A Comedy of Errors". The two main protagonists are Izzi Seccombe, Conservative Leader of Warwickshire County Council and Andy Street, Conservative Mayor of West Midlands with Michael Gove playing a bit part.

Ms Seccombe has previous form on this proposal as it was first mooted around 2014 when she was the new leader of Warwickshire County Council but it was ultimately rejected in about 2015 and to quote her at the time:

"The council felt strongly that joining the West Midlands Combined Authority would not be in the best interests of our residents, which has to be our primary concern and focus."

So what has changed? Well, it is the belief of a great number of our local councillors as well as Matt Western, Labour M.P for Warwick and Leamington, that this is a desperate act of gerrymandering to Hoover up some extra votes for Mr Street's re-election bid in May 2024 and could explain the breakneck speed with which this is being pushed through as well as the lack of consultation with you the voters. It's worth remembering that the Conservative mayor, Andy Street is an enthusiastic champion of HS2, the effects of which bring misery to many residents of our area and will do for years to come. In 2022, he described HS2 as "A roll of the dice" for the West Midlands, so it seems that even he thinks the perceived benefits will be more down to luck than judgement.

One of the effects of this proposal would be the threat of a "One Warwickshire" unitary authority with County Hall in Warwick taking over the functions of our current five districts including North Warwickshire. Quite what would happen with our town and parish councils has not even been mentioned. The omens aren't good as there are only 21 town or parish councils in the entire West Midlands as they believe biggest is best, Warwickshire alone has 219! Some may think losing layers of local government is a good thing but it needs to be remembered that these are the most local, most responsive and most community focused institutions in the local government structure as well as the most cost effective. Who is more attuned to serve your community's needs and concerns? an accessible parish, town or borough councillor who lives in your area or an anonymous representative who has their base 25 miles away in Warwick or an office somewhere in the West Midlands? We don't know any of the details of the deal and as well as representation it could affect policing, health, transport and housing for years to come and all without the people of Warwickshire actually having a say. So if you have never contacted your local Councillor or M.P just do it this once and do it now to have your say, otherwise it may be too late to call a halt to this land grab. And who said local politics was boring?

**Contact: [alistairbrett@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:alistairbrett@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk)  
07734 496778 or [janeffarrow@northwarks.gov.uk](mailto:janeffarrow@northwarks.gov.uk)**



# SHARE A STORY

contact:

[serena.postgroup@outlook.com](mailto:serena.postgroup@outlook.com)

# Police News



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



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



## Arrests in Water Orton

### Two in custody for theft.

At approximately 02:00 hours on 5<sup>th</sup> July, we were made aware about a suspicious incident at scrap yard in Water Orton where items were being stolen.

Officers attended including a police dog unit.

The dog unit then traced the offenders into a nearby field where they were arrested, and tools/property was found.

Incident number 20230706-0013 relates.



## Police incident, Gilson

### On Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July, officers from Coleshill SNT and Bedworth assisted ambulance crews with an injured male.

PCSO Yaqub from Coleshill SNT, Bedworth Response Officers, Fire & Rescue, Ambulance and Air Ambulance service attended a concern incident on Gilson Road, Gilson where a male was electrocuted whilst doing some building work.

Initial health checks were completed by the ambulance and Fire & Rescue service.

The male had minor injuries and was taken to hospital as a precaution.

We wish him a speedy recovery.

Teamwork makes the dream work.

[#communitypolicing](#)

[#teamwork](#)

[#KeepingYouSafe](#)

## Coleshill Carnival

### Coleshill SNT attends the Coleshill Carnival.

On 16<sup>th</sup> July, PCSO Yaqub from Coleshill SNT attended the Coleshill Carnival.

It was lovely to see everyone enjoying themselves and it was a great event.

Thank you to the organisers for another fantastic carnival.

We look forward to attending the carnival next year.



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES IN WATER ORTON 1. 30.05.2023

Host	Opportunities	Contacts
Water Orton in Bloom	Planting up and watering village planters	Belinda O'Meira 07501009034
Water Orton Bowls Club	Assistance with grounds and clubhouse maintenance	Keith Hanley 07944441843
Water Orton Boys Brigade and Girls Association	Leadership support	Mr Kim Smith: 07940 541121 / kimberleypfs@googlemail.com
Water Orton Carnival Committee	Planning, Carnival Day duties and fund raising	Toni Harrison 07920112470
Water Orton Company of the Curtain	Front of house, back stage, props, costume, scenery	Tina Williams 0758050802
Water Orton Library	Library duty, Rhyme Time, gardening, cake making	Lynda Davies 0121 747 7757
The LINK	Meet and Eat Friday lunch	Jane Fowler: 0121 7486360
Water Orton Methodist Church	Coffee morning, Table Top Sale and gardening teams	Gill Day: 0121 747 9897/gillday@live.co.uk Margaret Smith: 07738703376/bandm7@talktalk.net
Orton Manor Nursing Home	'Bright Hour' activities alternate Tuesdays	Margaret Smith 07738703376 Gill Day 0121 747 9897
Water Orton Parish Church	Tuesday morning café, Food Bank	Rev Paul Tullett: 01217302081 / paulofwaterorton@hotmail.com Mr Kim Smith: 017940541121/ kimberleypfs@googlemail.com
Water Orton Parish Council	Community and environmental activities	Kate Clover: 07444582592 clerk@wopc.org.uk
Water Orton Primary School	Pre-loved School Uniform Project	stevestuart74@gmail.com
Old Salts Rugby Club	Thursday Hub, gardening and tree pruning work	Mick Lee-Chairman 0776188585/mickle18@hotmail.com
Water Orton Tennis Club	Various support role	Paul Messenger 07538601246
Water Orton Scouts and Cubs	Leadership support	Stuart Mann 03333441495/ volunteer@waterortonscouts.org.uk
Water Orton Youth Club	Leadership support	Rev Paul Tullett: 0121 7302081/ paulofwaterorton@hotmail.com

This list is the starting point for compiling and reviewing village volunteering opportunities. To update or correct your details or add your organization, please contact Margaret Smith 07738703376/bandm7@talktalk.net or Gill Day 0121 747 9897/gillday@live.co.uk

## WOMBATS (Water Orton Mothers Babies and Toddlers)



**W.O.M.B.A.T.S**  
Water Orton Mums Babies  
And Toddlers

**HOLIDAY SESSIONS** Morning session only  
3rd, 10th, 17th August  
10:00 - 11:30 AM

Entrance  
• £4: 1 adult + 3 children  
• £1 per additional adult/child

@Wombats Refreshments available:

Teddy Bear Picnic  
♥ 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> August  
♥ @The Vicarage Water Orton (B46 1RX)  
♥ Entrance: optional donation  
(In the event of rain, session will be held at the LINK)

12:00 - 2:00 PM

● We are open for morning sessions at the Link, New Road, Water Orton (10.00 – 11.30) on 3rd, 10th & 17th August. Entrance is £4 for 1 adult and up to 3 children. £1 extra per additional adult or child.

Join us for Teddy Bear Picnics on 24th & 31st August 12-2pm being held at the Vicarage and is also open to older children. Entrance is free for Adults, Children and Teddy Bears although there is the option of making a donation. In the event of rain these picnics will be held at The Link.

## 5 YEAR ANNIVERSARY Green & Yellow Tour – No.9



A typical circus elephant, as would have visited Coleshill in 1910

● We are standing on Morrisons land which was formerly an allotment site for the Coleshill Sons of Rest from the '40s onwards. Most industrial towns had a Sons of Rest, where retired male workers could socialise, and pass time away. Each had its own small community who met for a cup of tea and a chat, or to play a game of cards, dominoes, or darts.

A website called Spaghetti Gazetti (no longer edited) ran the story on the Coleshill Circus elephant with 5 eye witness or family member reports of the circus elephants visiting Coleshill (memories vary between 1910 and 1914).

When the circus arrived in town in those days, the elephants would walk along in the procession in a line, each one holding onto the tail of the one in front with his or her trunk. As the elephants began the slow trek up the hill at Blythe Road that day, one of their number reached out with his trunk and snatched a swede from a

farm cart. No one noticed the incident but as the circus trundled further up the hill into Coleshill town, this particular elephant became very distressed as it was having difficulties breathing.

By the time the elephant reached the top of the hill, he was gasping for breath and within minutes promptly keeled over and expired. They decided to dig a hole in a patch of ground (that was later allotment site for the Sons of Rest).

The hole was planned to be large enough to accommodate the carcass of an elephant and the biggest grave ever witnessed in the town. However, the best efforts of so many strapping young fellows were not enough to dig out a resting place for the gigantic creature. The elephant's body could not be wedged into the hole so they cut his head off and stuffed it into the hole next to the body.

As the sawed off the elephant's head, they had cut a swede almost exactly in half!

We are now heading towards the second Coleshill lychgate, on the corner of the Memorial Park.



Elephants were trained to walk trunk to tail



# 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 governments 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.



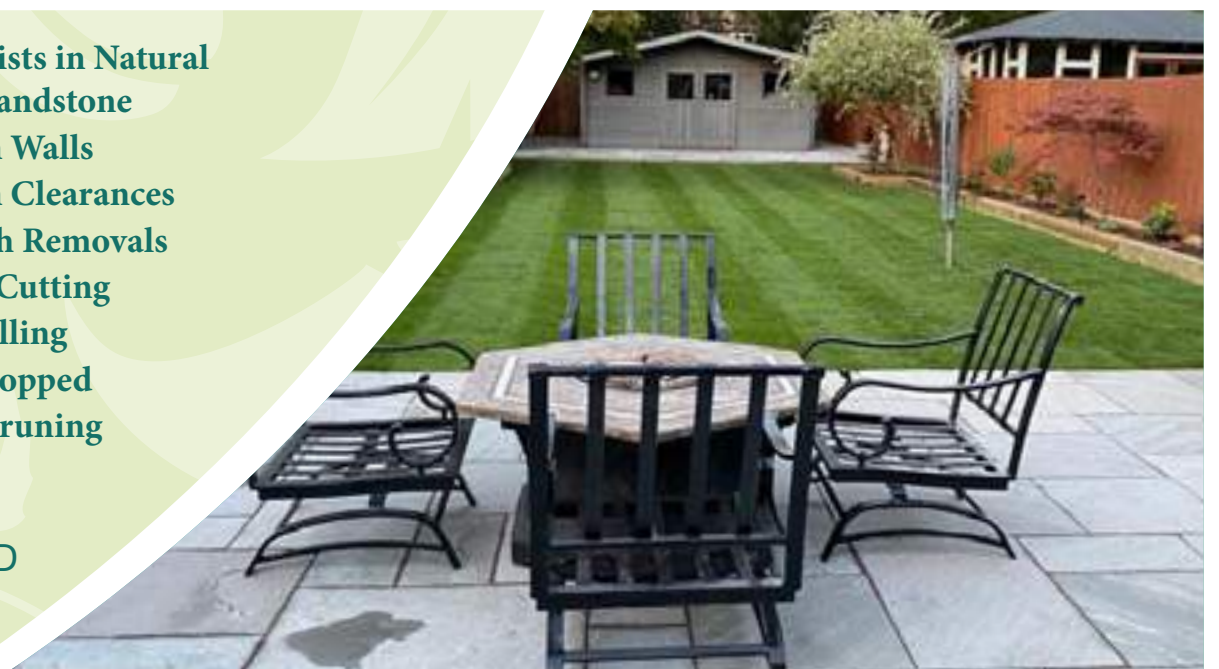
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# Pet Page

## 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.

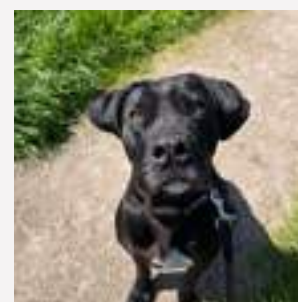
Paddy loves to explore his surroundings and is extremely loving. Paddy is also known for having occasional bursts of energy where he can

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.

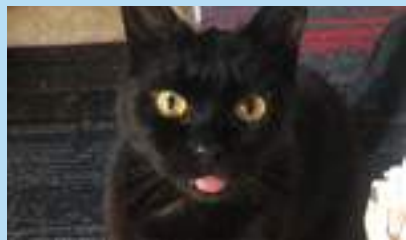
Because of Tiana's size she has been halti trained which makes walks with her very pleasurable and to help benefit new owners.

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](mailto:wardendcatrescueofficial@outlook.com). Thank you



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# THE DOG INN

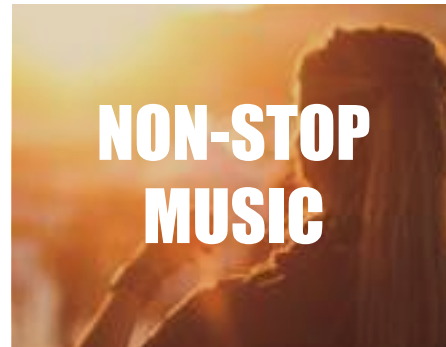
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 our charity of the year.

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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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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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](http://woodlandtrust.org.uk/campaigns). To read the report in full, visit [woodlandtrust.org/publications](http://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,  
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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.



## Water Orton Cricket Club story

Water Orton Cricket Club was a place where magic happened. Tucked away in the heart of a quaint English village, the cricket grounds had seen generations of players come and go, each leaving their mark on the hallowed turf. For over a century, the club had been a bastion of camaraderie, sportsmanship, and unwavering love for the gentleman's game.

At the center of it all was Jack, a passionate cricketer who had grown up watching matches at the club. From a young age, he dreamt of donning the club's whites and playing alongside his heroes. Every afternoon after school, he would rush to the grounds, where the sound of leather against willow echoed through the village.

As the years passed, Jack honed his skills, and his determination caught the attention of the club's seasoned players. One summer's day, he received the call he had been longing for – an invitation to join the senior team. His heart pounded with excitement as he pulled on the club's jersey for the first time.

Over the next few seasons, Jack's talent blossomed, and he became the club's star player.

His thunderous sixes and crafty spin bowling endeared him to the spectators, drawing crowds from neighboring villages to witness his brilliance. But Jack's true joy came from being part of the Water Orton Cricket Club family.

The club's spirit extended beyond the boundary ropes. They organized charity matches, cricketing workshops for local children, and fundraising events for community causes. The club became an integral part of village life, where the sport served as a catalyst for bringing people together.

But like all stories, there were challenges. Financial struggles loomed over the club, threatening its very existence. However, the spirit of Water Orton Cricket Club refused to be dampened. The village rallied together, holding bake sales, raffles, and seeking sponsorships from local businesses. Their efforts not only kept the club afloat but also strengthened the bond between the villagers and their beloved team.

One season, a prestigious county tournament was announced, and Water Orton Cricket Club was invited to participate. It was a chance to compete against some of the finest teams in the region and put the village on the cricketing map. Excitement buzzed through the air as the team prepared

rigorously for the challenge.

The tournament was a rollercoaster of emotions, with thrilling victories and heartbreaking defeats. But the camaraderie among the Water Orton players remained unshaken. They fought as one, lifting each other during tough times, celebrating together in triumph.

As fate would have it, Water Orton Cricket Club reached the final. The village was painted in a sea of excitement as fans filled the stands, cheering for their team. The final was an epic battle, with every twist and turn keeping the spectators on the edge of their seats.

In the last over of the match, with two runs needed to win, Jack stood at the crease. The weight of the moment was immense, but he remained composed. The bowler ran in, and with a perfect straight drive, Jack sent the ball racing to the boundary.

The stadium erupted in jubilation as Water Orton Cricket Club clinched the title. It was a victory not just for the team but for the entire village – a testament to the power of unity, passion, and the magic of cricket. And so, the legacy of Water Orton Cricket Club continued, inspiring generations to come, and reminding the world that sometimes, in the smallest of places, greatness is born.

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



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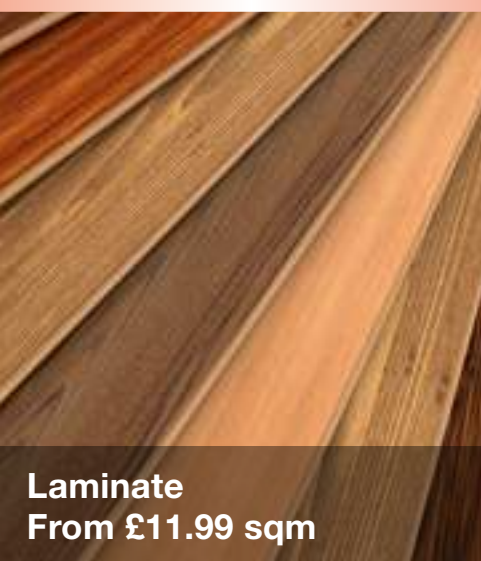
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