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

February 2024 Issue 119



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Coleshill's Natasha scoops prestigious national honour

The Coleshill School's Natasha Blunt is celebrating after winning the EdTech Innovator of the Year accolade as part of the glittering National Schools Awards.

The awards were held on December 7 at the House of Lords and the annual event again highlighted excellence across the education sector.

Full story page 15

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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.

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the Coleshill Post

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Shustoke

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Marston
The Whitacres
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Minworth

B46

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Greater Birmingham Chambers of Commerce

Chamber reaction to inflation figures

Cameron Uppal, policy and public affairs advisor at Greater Birmingham Chambers of Commerce, said: "This morning's CPI announcement has confounded many city analysts that were predicting a minor fall in the rate of inflation."

"After seeing record rates of high inflation last year, it is evident from discussions with our members that inflation is still a concern for local businesses going into the start of this year."

"This is highlighted in our latest Quarterly Business Report where 30 per cent of businesses revealed that inflation was more of a concern than three months ago."

"In what is likely to be a General Election year, and with the Spring Budget imminently on the horizon, it will be interesting to see what measures the Government look to introduce to ease inflation and reach their own target of getting inflation down to two per cent."

"As a voice of business in the region, advocating for the needs of our members, we are continuing to lobby the Government on tackling underlying cost pressures firms are facing-coupled with entrenched recruitment challenges, easing supply chain disruption with our European counterparts and advocating for business rate reforms."

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New Year, New Me

The start of a new year marks an opportunity to pause, and think about where we would like to be in the future. There is often the temptation to draw up a list of unrealistic goals, placing pressure on ourselves to achieve a complete overhaul of our current lives. Setting unachievable goals can have the opposite effect on our mental health and lead to stress, anxiety and burnout. While it is important to have aspirations rooted in our values and personal ambitions, we also need to make room for small changes. Small changes, focused on our physical and emotional wellbeing, often build the foundations we need to reach bigger goals.

Putting mental health at the top of a New Year resolution list is an important place to start. There are many ways to make small changes to our daily routine that improves our wellbeing; practicing mindfulness, being physically active, resetting sleep routines, healthy eating and spending time outdoors. Start by focusing on one or two small changes. Remember new routines take time, you can always get back on track if faced with setbacks. Some changes can make a big difference, so take one step at a time.

For many people, the new year can be difficult. It is a time we take stock and reflect on the past year, and anxieties we have for the year ahead. This can be particularly challenging if we find ourselves overwhelmed by difficult thoughts and feelings. Seeking mental health support and talking with a therapist can help to understand life's difficulties such as grief, family difficulties, trauma, coping with life changes. Therapy is a safe place to discover new ways to approach challenging situations. If you are worried about your mental health it is important to seek professional support.

Dr Danielle Grey is a Clinical Psychologist and the Clinical Director for the Purple House Clinic, Birmingham. The clinic is based in Coleshill and offers private psychological health care. For more information visit www.purplehouseclinic.co.uk or call 0121 820 7851.



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Coleshill Drama Group

Following the huge success of our November production, when we had three nights packed with very appreciative audiences, Coleshill Drama Group now presents "A Play, a Pizza and a Puzzle". For one night only, Saturday 24th February, the comedy "Strictly Sex Factor on Ice" by David Tristram will be performed at Coleshill Town Hall at 7.30pm. As you may glean from the title, this play is great fun! Director Anne Bravey brings her vast experience to see the cast through the antics of putting on a show.

The play will be followed by a pizza supper and a short fun quiz with prizes, and the possibility of more antics to make you laugh. All tickets are priced at £15 and are available from the usual Coleshill High Street outlets - Coleshill Library, Gascoignes of Coleshill and Cafe on the Hill. Coleshill Drama Group is most grateful to these outlets and their lovely staff for providing a local place for ticket sales. Tickets are also available online at www.coleshilldrama.co.uk or telephone Sue Wallace on 01675 462674. Tickets must be purchased or ordered in advance to allow catering numbers to be known. Our licensed bar will be open and free car parking is available opposite the Town Hall in the grounds of Chantry House.

Don't miss this one off night of entertainment by the Group which has been bringing theatre to Coleshill for over 90 years. The Group is always looking for new members to join the "team", has for theatre is truly a team activity. It is not just the actors you see on stage, it is the direction and production team, the set design and construction, the backstage crew, the lighting and sound technicians, the front of house staff, bar and refreshment managers. If you would like to find out more or become involved in any of those activities and be part of our award-winning Group, please come along to this evening and contact Sue Wallace on the number above.

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A Play, a Pizza and a Puzzle!

The play

Strictly Sex Factor on Ice

by David Tristram

a pizza and a short quiz.

Saturday 24th February 7:30pm

Coleshill Town Hall

All tickets £15 each in advance only.

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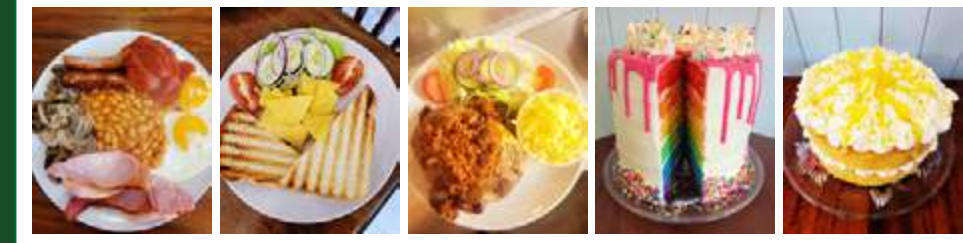


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Water Orton Cricket Club

Happy New Year to all our regular supporters, sponsors and players. We are now finalising our social calendar for 2024 and will keep you all up to date in the forthcoming editions of the Coleshill and Castle Bromwich Post. Details will also be displayed on our external notice board and our main notice boards, just inside the club entrance. We have some fabulous tribute acts already booked and are just finalising some Quiz Nights and Live Bands so we look forward to welcoming you at these future events.

Saturday 2nd March
Elton John Tribute Show
with the fabulous Marcus Andrews

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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 wills provide your partner/spouse with a right to continue to occupy the property and buy a replacement property if

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

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

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

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

Act now!

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

Do you have Savings?

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

Protect your Home and your Savings from unnecessary, avoidable losses. 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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Water Orton Ladies Club

Well here we are again 2024 and the start of another great year for Water Orton Ladies.

Last year after a wonderful New Year lunch to start the year, we looked forward to a varied program of speakers, who took us on a wild holiday via a slide show, to a village at the time of the English Civil War, on a voyage on the ill-fated Titanic and treated us to a look round the gardens of Calke Abbey in Derbyshire. We tried singing in sign language and learned about the once great pearl industry in Birmingham. We were out and about too - a visit to Shrewsbury in Spring and to Trentham Gardens in Autumn. A very busy and very enjoyable year!

We shall start this New Year with lunch at Grimscote Manor Hotel on January 18th, an event, which we very much look forward to and ahead, we have a another great program of speakers and special events. This year, our club is raising funds to support the Water Orton Scout Group and we have a program of great fund raising events lined up, a Quiz in March, a Craft & Table Top Sale Day in June and a Skittles Evening in

November. We shall be taking to the water on a boat trip down the Trent in June and making a visit to the British Ironworks Centre in September. Lots to do and lots of enjoyment to look forward to!

Our first fundraiser for the Water Orton Scouts, our Quiz will take place on 22nd March at Nether Whitacre Village Hall at 7.30pm. Teams of 4 - 6 people, a fish & chip supper, B.Y.O drinks and tickets are just £10.00. We hope you'll come along - it will be a great evening supporting a great cause. Please book your tickets with Liz on 07811 147728

Visitors to our club are always welcome. We meet at The Pavilion in Openfield Croft in Water Orton (B46 1RE) on the third Thursday of each month from 2 - 4pm - a friendly afternoon, with an interesting speaker and lovely tea and cake. Why not make a visit to us one of your New Year Resolutions!

Liz Tranter Chairman 07811 147728



In aid of Water Orton Scout Group

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Anti Social Behaviour - Water Orton



11th January Coleshill SNT attended Water Orton due to reports of anti social behaviour occurring in the area of Long Leys Court. Despite the group of youths leaving the area upon Police arrival, initial attendance gave officers PC 2300 Thompson & PC 1372 Breeze an opportunity to engage with the local residents and take on board their concerns. Going forward, patrols will be conducted in the area as we look to tackle the issues that are occurring.

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Hello from your local Slimming World groups



We've had a fabulous January, with all of our groups welcoming more members than ever. As we look towards February, and Valentine's Day, love and hearts will be all around us, so this month we've brought you a couple's story of how they're getting ready for their big day. Plus, some tips on looking after your own Heart Health.

There's also a special valentine inspired recipe for you to try. ♥

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

They both said 'Yes' to happy hearts!



Valentines' day signals hearts and love in the air and here's a couple of love birds who between them have so far lost 6 stone. Sharon and Neil joined Claire's Slimming World group after a surprise wedding proposal from Neil. Sharon says, "It was a complete surprise, one I'd waited for 30+ years for!" We've been together since we were 14 years old, and I knew straight away I wanted to lose weight to feel my best for the big day. We booked our dream wedding in Cyprus for September 2024 and together we walked through the door of our local Slimming World group.

Neil says, "From the off we loved that with just small changes we could still eat our favourite meals like spaghetti bolognese and curries and have good size portions too! It's been an important journey for me as my dad died at the age of 47 because of heart problems, so it was important that I started to look after my own heart health. I love representing us men too and spreading the word that Slimming World is not just for girls."



Heart disease causes more than one in eight male and one in 14 female deaths in the UK, so (while it's not the most cheerful of topics) knowing how to keep your heart healthy is vitally important.

Excess weight is a major factor that puts our heart at risk. Heart disease is also linked with high blood pressure, raised cholesterol levels and type 2 diabetes – conditions related to being overweight. The good news is by joining Slimming World and making positive changes to your lifestyle, you can reduce all these risks.

Here's how to help keep your heart in good shape:

Aim for a healthy weight: Reaching and maintaining a healthy weight can reduce your risk of a heart attack and losing 10% of your body weight starts to bring a whole host of health benefits, including significantly reducing blood pressure, cholesterol levels and the risk of heart disease.

Preparing food the Slimming World way will help you eat for a healthier heart: Choose lean cuts of meat, trim any visible fat off, remove skin from poultry and opt for fat-free dairy.

Plan in some oily fish: Aim for two portions of fish a week, one of which is oily. The omega-3 fatty acids found in oily fish thin the blood, lower blood pressure and reduce the risk of a fatal heart attack.

Fruit and veg are your friends: They contain vitamins, minerals and antioxidants that reduce the risk of heart disease. Plus, they're all Free, so it's easy to eat five-a-day or more on the Slimming World plan!

Focus on fibre: Fibre slows the absorption of fats and eating foods rich in soluble fibre, eg oats and pulses, helps lower harmful blood cholesterol levels.

Sprinkle less salt: Too much can raise blood pressure. Cook your own meals from scratch to avoid the hidden salts in processed foods.

Include some unsaturated fat: Limited unsaturated fats (especially in place of saturated fats), can help us maintain healthy cholesterol levels.

Move more, more often: Becoming more active can reduce the risk of developing heart disease by 35% and reduce the risk of high blood pressure and cholesterol levels. We help you build up, step by step, at your own pace – no matter what your starting point.

Get the booze balance: Regularly drinking alcohol increases the risk of developing high blood pressure, making a heart attack or stroke more likely.

Stub it out: Smoking is thought to contribute to at least 15,000 deaths from heart and circulatory disease each year in the UK. The incredible news is, by stopping smoking now, your risk of a heart attack will halve in one year.

Stress less: While studies don't directly link stress to heart disease, they do point to the coping mechanisms some people adopt, like smoking, overeating and drinking.

Raspberry and cherry jellies

Luscious layers bursting with fruity flavours... There's so much to love!

Ready in 15 mins (plus 9 hrs chilling) Serves 4 | ½ Syns per serving



Ingredients:

- 11.5g sachet sugar-free raspberry jelly crystals
- 100g fresh or defrosted frozen raspberries, plus extra to decorate
- 12g sachet powdered gelatine
- 160g pot Müllerlight No Added Sugar Cherry yogurt

Method

1. Put the jelly crystals in a measuring jug. Add 150ml boiling water and 100ml cold water and stir until dissolved. Allow to cool.
2. Divide the raspberries between 4 deep, individual heart-shaped or round ramekins in a single layer. Divide the cooled jelly mixture over the top, so that it just covers the raspberries. Cover with cling film and freeze for 15-20 minutes, or until just starting to set.
3. Meanwhile, put 100ml boiling water in a measuring jug. Add the gelatine, stir until dissolved and leave to cool. Whisk in the yogurt and divide the mixture between the ramekins. Chill for 6-8 hours, or until firmly set.
4. When ready to serve, dip the ramekins into warm water for a few seconds, then carefully turn out onto small serving plates. Serve immediately with the extra raspberries.

*Switch the raspberry-and-cherry theme for all-out strawberry! Use a sachet of sugar-free strawberry jelly crystals, fresh strawberries and a 160g pot of Müllerlight Strawberry yogurt.



yes you can

with Slimming World

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, 7.30am, 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

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 Jayne 07453 348184

Thursday

Castle Vale St Cuthberts Church, 5.30pm & 7.00pm, 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, 9.00am, 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 Claire 07917867577

Saturday

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

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

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

Bordesley Green St Pauls Church, 9.00am Maria 07974 805252

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



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More than 20,000 dogs returning to Birmingham for Crufts 2024

Plenty of paws are heading to the NEC in Birmingham for Crufts 2024, taking place from 7 – 10 March, with tickets on sale now.

Organised by The Kennel Club, Crufts 2024 will run from Thursday and through the weekend with a four-day action-packed schedule celebrating our four-legged friends and all things dog. The event will showcase over 200 diverse breeds and see dogs from all walks of life put their best paw forward in fast-paced and fun competitions including agility, heelwork to music, flyball and obedience. For those keen to shop till they drop, over 500 stands selling all sorts of doggy delights will cover 25 acres of the NEC.

The family-favourite Scrufts final will see the nation's pets compete for the 'top dog' title and on Sunday evening, one of five very special finalists will be crowned as the winner of The Kennel Club Hero Dog Award, as voted by the public. Following four days of competition, one canine Crufts competitor will put their paws on the coveted Best in Show trophy, which in 2023 was taken home by Orca, the Lagotto Romagnolo, whose 'tail never stops wagging'.

The popular Discover Dogs area will be welcoming over 200 different breeds, of all shapes, sizes and personalities, enabling visitors to learn more about the variety of our four-legged friends from breed experts and discover which canine might be the right companion for them.

Over the four days Crufts welcomes over 20,000 dogs, 150,000 people and sees over 8 million TV viewers tune into the Channel 4, More4 and All4 broadcast.

More information and tickets for the event are available on the Crufts website: Crufts.org.uk. Tickets are free for under 8s, and advance tickets start at £14 for children (aged 9-15) and concessions, and £21 for adults.



Crufts Agility 2014 - Credit Yulia Titovets - The Kennel Club



Corgis at Discover Dogs at Crufts 2023 Credit The Kennel Club - Annabel Lee-Ellis



Cocker Spaniel at Discover Dogs Crufts 2023 Credit The Kennel Club - Ellie Smeaton

Celebrities share their 2024 goals in support of Mary's Meals



TV stars and siblings, Scarlett and Stuart Douglas support Mary's Meals

Jean Johansson, Eilish McColgan, Gary Maclean and Scarlett and Stuart Douglas encourage others to take on new challenges while fundraising for charity

Running, baking and craft-making are just some of the activities that celebrities are taking up at the start of 2024 as we all embark upon our New Year's resolutions.

Jean Johansson, Eilish McColgan, Gary Maclean and Scarlett and Stuart Douglas are all supporters of international school feeding charity, Mary's Meals.

Mary's Meals feeds more than 2.4 million children every school day in 18 of the world's poorest countries including Haiti, Malawi and Syria. The promise of a nutritious meal encourages children into the classroom, so that instead of working or looking for food, they can gain an education and hope for a brighter future.

There are a number of different ways to fundraise for the charity and top TV and sporting stars are asking others to share in their goals for the year ahead to help feed more hungry children in 2024.

Scottish long-distance running champion Eilish McColgan, who is training for this year's summer Olympics, is encouraging people to sign up for Move For Meals to help them stick to their New Year's fitness plans.

She says: "The Move For Meals challenge is a really simple way to turn your moves into meals and make a life-changing difference to hungry children across the world. From walking to running, swimming and playing football, you can take part in Move For Meals in any way you choose."

Meanwhile, if you're looking to brush up on your baking skills this year, celebrity chef Gary Maclean is urging families to pull on their aprons and fundraise through Raise Some Dough.

The MasterChef: The Professionals winner says: "A bake sale is a great way to perfect your favourite cake, while raising

funds to enable this incredible charity to reach the next child waiting for Mary's Meals. Baking is also an excellent activity to keep the kids entertained and by Raising Some Dough, you can help instil that charitable spirit in your little ones too!"

The start of a new year often sees people take up new hobbies, including arts and crafts. A Place In The Sun presenter Jean Johansson believes sewing, knitting or crocheting can be a wonderful way to unwind, while fundraising for those in need through Make For Meals.

Jean says: "Maybe you're already a nifty knitter or a master maker, or perhaps 2024 will be your first foray into the world of crafting. Either way, you can turn your creativity into life-changing meals for children. By simply selling your crafts to family and friends, or setting up a making marathon fundraiser, you can raise vital funds for Mary's Meals."

And if you're perhaps lacking motivation to maintain those New Year's resolutions, why not team up with a sibling or family member to tackle them together?

Brother and sister-presenting duo Scarlett and Stuart Douglas have joined forces to Double The Love this January. Until the end of January, donations made to Mary's Meals will be doubled by a group of generous supporters, up to £1.1 million.

Scarlette says: "Stuart and I are competitive siblings and we're always challenging each other to achieve our goals."

"At the start of this year, we'll both be Doubling The Love and donating to Mary's Meals. The fact that Mary's Meals can feed a child for a whole school year for just £19.15 is an amazing feat. And with Double The Love, £19.15 will feed two children for a school year, so there's never been a better time to donate!"

To find out how you can support Mary's Meals while achieving your 2024 goals, visit marysmeals.org.uk.

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Martin Watson. Coleshill North & Water Orton Ward Councillor. Warwickshire County Council and Curdworth Ward Councillor. North Warwickshire Borough Council

COUNCILLOR GRANTS. FLOODING. TRUCK STOP. KINGSBURY WATER PARK. HS2 UPDATE. GREENMAN CROSSROADS. AIR QUALITY AND ROAD SAFETY WATER ORTON.

Happy New Year all, and for those of you who could I hope you and your families had a good Christmas and New Year break! Firstly, you will notice this update is not from Cllr Dave Reilly who does a fantastic job but is currently unavailable due to being unwell. I am sure you will join me in wishing Dave a full and speedy recovery.

Councillor Grants.

I'm delighted to have concluded round 2 of my Councillor grant application process and can confirm that I managed to award the full amount available to me for this year across both rounds with money to support worthy causes such as Coleshill Young at Heart, Lee Marston Parish Council, St Peter's and St Paul's Church - Water Orton, Old Saltleians RFC - Warm Hub, Water Orton & District Tennis Club - Working with Local Schools in Coleshill, Water Orton Library & Community Centre, Coleshill Partnership and Water Orton Parish Council. All worthy causes and I hope the monies go some way to helping the great work you all do.

Flooding Across the Region.

Many of you will be aware that we recently had some significant flooding across the county and whilst the South seemed to have had it worst, we had our fair share in the North, particularly in Lea Marston and Marston, where we saw significant floods along Haunch Lane, Old Kingsbury Road and Coton Road. The principal reason was just the sheer volume of surface water and with the River Tame at capacity the water had nowhere to go. The County Highways and Flood Team worked to address the immediate issues before Christmas and returned in the New Year to carry out further survey work and I am waiting on a report to see what can be done to look at longer term remedies.

If you spot any issues with blocked drains or gullies in your local community, please report it at <https://warwickshire.gov.uk/reportit> and click on report flooding or drainage issue.

Curdworth Truck Stop Appeal.

The appeal against North Warwickshire Borough Council refusal for the proposed Truck Stop at Hams Hall took place on Wed 17th Jan at the Atherstone Council offices and I would like to thank all those residents and the representatives from Curdworth Parish Council who supported us in person on the day. The purpose of the day was for the appellant and the Council planning team to put their respective cases to the Planning Inspector to allow her to decide to either uphold their appeal or agree with our refusal. The appellant's case was based on 'the need for this development' and ours was based on 'inappropriate development of the greenbelt'. Hopefully, those present think we put our case across well, we now have to wait and see what the Inspector decides, but we are hopeful she will decide in our favour.

Kingsbury Water Park.

The water park is a wonderful asset that is enjoyed by local people and many visitors due to its beautiful scenery, lovely café, Echelles railway, children's play area and the wildlife to mention just a few of the attractions. Regular visitors may have noticed the new bins, which Cllr Andy Jenns and I have been pushing for a while now and whilst we had a little delay installing them due to the recent flood water they are now in place and look great. Can I please encourage all users of the water park to make full use of the bins or take your litter home. I am sure all dog walkers will welcome the additional bins as this will reduce the time we spend walking along with little presents from our dogs. Can I also remind dog walkers that bagged dog poo can go in any bin, not just the specified dog bins.

HS2 Phase 2A and A4097 Marston compound.

Following the most recent update by HS2 the current position is that all elements of HS2 Phase 2A, so the line from Junction 9 of M42 to Leeds that would have crossed Bodymoor Heath Road at the Water Park and gone through the Water Park alongside the M42 have been cancelled.

The Government have stopped preparation of the Bill that would have been needed to secure the Act of Parliament to build the line, so it is fair to assume that following the issues surrounding HS2 so far, we will not see Phase 2A to the East Midlands and Leeds resurrected in the foreseeable future.

Phase 1 Act of Parliament remains in place, and this includes the Marston Compound on the A4097 and a section of the start of the Phase 2A line that will run along the side of the compound but stop short of the balancing ponds that have been built by Seeney Lane. We do not think we will ever have track and infrastructure laid on this section, but we may find that HS2 do the earthworks in preparation, however, even that might be cancelled if they are looking for cost savings, which we know they are.

The Marston Compound is still classed as a temporary structure and HS2 must under the terms of the Act of Parliament return it to agriculture land once construction has finished.

The Marston compound will continue to operate for the construction life of HS2 and that has now been extended to 2033, however, all HS2 construction works north of Faraday Avenue at Hams Hall, have been 'Paused' for two years. This includes the works at the Villa Training Ground, Middleton and through to Lichfield. It is not clear how long the pause will be in place for, and having seen a newspaper article recently saying that HS2 estimate it needs another £76billion, I cannot see any Government agreeing.

Coleshill Greenman Crossroads.

Regular users of the Greenman Crossroads will hopefully now be seeing the benefit of the new traffic light scheme with reduced queuing at peak times and safer crossing for pedestrians. I do understand there were some local concerns about dispersed traffic, particularly on Church Hill, and hope that as people become more familiar with the new arrangements this will diminish. I know speaking with regular users of the junction they have experienced a significant improvement and feel much safer using the junction and crossing the road now. Frustratingly there are some road users who are still ignoring the 'No Right Turn' putting themselves, other road users and pedestrians in danger and I would urge drivers to comply with the new arrangements as the Police are aware and will prosecute when they see this happening. You have been warned!

We are still finalising some minor works, which include the signage for the new 20mph zone and the 'hatched' no stopping zone on Blythe Road at the bottom of Church Hill and Cllr Dave Humphreys and I continue to push for these to be completed as a matter of urgency.

Water Orton Air Quality and Road Safety.

Cllr Dave Reilly previously advised you about me being able to get some monies for monitoring stations in Water Orton. I was delighted to secure the £350,000 funding and as Dave previously advised the funding will pay for an expert air quality consultancy company to erect the monitors and working in partnership with North Warwickshire Environmental Health team, take monthly readings of a range of airborne pollutants over a three-year period. The findings from these five monitors will provide a comprehensive evidence base on a wide variety of air quality pollutants across the whole village and as the dataset trends develop month by month, we will be able to match the results to HS2 and other activities in and around the village. This should create an evidence base of data to enable us to take action to improve matters.

With regard the Road Safety concerns you may be aware that using some of my Highways Delegated Budget I paid for 3 speed surveys in the village and the evidence has been used to develop some ideas about reducing the speed in the village and improving road safety. I am due to review the proposed options with the Highways team this month and will then look at securing funding.

Hopefully, you have found this information useful and as always please do get in touch if I can assist in any way, Regards, Martin.

If I can be of any help my email address is martinwatson@warwickshire.gov.uk and my phone number is 07392 262598.

Coleshill's Natasha scoops prestigious national honour

The Coleshill School's Natasha Blunt is celebrating after winning the EdTech Innovator of the Year accolade as part of the glittering National Schools Awards.

The awards were held on December 7 at the House of Lords and the annual event again highlighted excellence across the education sector.

Natasha was one of eight award winners in categories specifically designed to reward hard-workers, innovators and exceptional school leaders.

Natasha, Head of Sixth Form and Associate Assistant Headteacher at Coleshill, has spearheaded the Arthur Terry Learning Partnership's (ATLP) Children's University initiative since its introduction.

Her award is recognition, among other things, of the online integration of Children's University across the ATLP. The success celebrates her work of introducing

new EdTech into school settings for the benefit of students and staff.

Natasha, the ATLP's Children's University Lead, received her award from East Hampshire MP Damian Hinds, the Minister of State for Schools.

Ian Smith-Childs, ATLP Secondary Strategic Lead / Headteacher commented: "Natasha is a phenomenal leader who richly deserves the recognition of this award. Thousands of students have been inspired by Natasha's dedication to personal development, enrichment and extra-curricular activities. Over 700 children took part in enrichment activities at The Coleshill School and thousands took part across the wider Arthur Terry Learning Partnership in 2022/23. We are grateful and proud of Natasha".



COLESHILL CIVIC SOCIETY

Missing Buildings and Spaces 9

By John Hoyle



This row of houses is on Parkfield Road, on the opposite side of the road from the Parochial School or Back Lane School. The trees at the end of the row mark the bottom of the Coach Inn grounds. This is now Lyon Court but much earlier had held a bowling green



Just along Parkfield Road from those cottages was the old Methodist Church and a second photo shows its position on the corner of the road. The photos date from about 1900.



At much the same time, there was a Wesleyan Home Missions Gospel Car which operated round Coleshill and district. It was perhaps raising funds for the new chapel opposite The Red Lion.



Round the corner of Parkfield Road leading to the Woodman Inn. It looks as if there was a halt sign at the junction of Parkfield Road and the High Street.

In the late 60's the whole corner was demolished and rebuilt with modern shops, some parking and at the top an amenity area with seats and a small garden. This all means that those who purchase food from Upper Crust may enjoy their food in a better environment than when these photos were taken.

On the corner was the Inn which to some people gave it's name to the corner. 'Woodman Corner' by this time, probably early 60's there was no longer an Inn but a small general store and other small shops. The whole block was demolished from 1963 as part of MRDC 'modernization' when many of the historic building of Coleshill were demolished. A time of plenty for developers!



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

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

Success for Shustoke C of E Primary School

A team of children from Shustoke School took part in the Inter Schools Dodgeball tournament which was held recently. They came first in the qualifying rounds which was a wonderful achievement, however they have then taken first place in the final. We are so proud of all of the players who showed teamwork, skills and abilities and great sportsmanship. Mrs Bond commented 'I was so proud of all of the team. Their behaviour was impeccable and they supported each other throughout both events.'

Congratulations Team Shustoke!



Journey to the Stable

The Year 2 children from Shustoke C of E Primary School undertook a magical Journey to the Stable. They began with a trailer ride around the farm where they were transported to Bethlehem!

A very kind shepherd guided them to an inn where they met a grumpy old inn keeper who told them about a special couple who were looking for a place to stay.

They found a bright star above a stable and inside there was a very special baby. Three wise men came to visit Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus with some very precious gifts.

The children made their own lanterns to help guide them on their journey. They could hear donkeys and animals in the distance! They were so excited to be able to meet and feed some of the animals. They decided to name the alpacas Bob and



Coleshill Cemetery Garden of Remembrance

Coleshill Town Council conducts yearly audits of the Garden of Remembrance. The 20-year lease on the following plaques has expired or will expire in 2024.

Any plaque with an expired lease will be removed and replaced in due course.

If you wish to extend the lease of your plaque on the Garden of Remembrance, or you wish to check the expiry date of your plaque please contact Coleshill Town Council on 01675 463 326 or email zo@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk

Wall & Row	Plaque Number	Plaque Name
BB	1	William George Wagg (Bill)
BB	2	John Truman
BB	14	Audrey Eileen Ling
BB	16	Roy Harold Seeney
BC	14	Stanley Francis Ling
CB	1	George Frederick Lindsey
CB	2	Nora May Cranmer
CB	10	Jack Wassall

CB	13	Walter John Poole (Jack)
CB	17	Norman Hackett
CB	23	Walter Henry Clarke
CC	10	Bryan Abbott
CC	16	Mary Eliza Linforth
CC	17	Marjorie Hackett
CC	20	Albert H Whitbread
CD	20	Dora Beatrice Whitbread
DA	10	Vera Keeling
DB	2	Joan Spooner
DB	4	Sam Clarke
DB	8	Keith Fowler
DB	14	Pamela McHardy
DB	19	George Gilbert Watkins
DC	12	George Thomas Kitson

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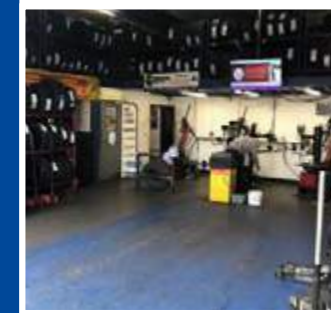
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Next Town Council Meeting – 28th Feb
7pm Venue TBC

GROUPS

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Young at Heart
Stitch Club

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CAB (Citizens Advice Bureau)
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GROUPS

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



Cllr Steve Stuart, Water Orton North Warwickshire Borough Council

Dear Fellow Villagers

Just over a year ago I planted a load of bulbs.

I noticed elsewhere the signs of spring and the finger like leaves reaching skywards. Buds formed and the flashes of yellow sprang out.

But from my soil...nothing.

And then slowly, very slowly, the shoots started to break the surface. The growth continued and eventually more and more followed. It was quite a nice little display that started late but seemed to last a good long time.

This year, I'm writing this whilst it is perishingly cold outside, the same daffodils started to show whilst the tinsel was still up. When the nights were at their longest and darkest, when most life was seemingly wanting to huddle away from any threat these colourful signs of growth were wonderful to behold.

Hope is a wonderful thing. Lights shine brightest on the darkest nights. And apparently fragile flowers can grow strong through even the stoniest of soils and bloom on for many years.

As a village there are many seemingly constant challenges. We aren't immune to the regional, national or global environment either. We do however have the ability to try and make a hopeful local future.

In the coming weeks and months there will be opportunities to engage and help influence what priorities for improvements we want to see in our community. Think of it as deciding which kind of bulbs we want to grow.

They may not bloom immediately, and we may worry about whether they will appear at all, but the benefits

we want to see can last and delight for every year going forward.

My fellow ward councillor for Water Orton, David Reilly, has recently been taken ill. I'm sure you will share, like myself, hopes for a quick and full recovery.

If you wish to contact me with your hopes (or concerns) for the village please visit me at my surgeries at the Robert Lloyd Room between 10 & 11 am on Tuesdays. Or alternative I have Saturday morning sessions at the village Library on 3rd & 17th February at 10.30 – 11.30. Or feel free to email or contact me via my website at www.waterortonsteve.co.uk



SHARE A STORY

contact:
serena.postgroup@outlook.com





CTC Christmas Charity Fair

What a super afternoon we all had at Coleshill Town Hall during the annual Coleshill Charity Christmas Fair hosted by the Town Council on Saturday 2nd December 2023. This is an established tradition, a fair that offers stalls to all local charities and community groups and clubs that want (and need) to raise funds to help them keep going in the forthcoming year.

The stalls are offered FREE to local charities, community groups, clubs and other fundraisers, and if there are any spare stalls left, following the initial allocation, then small local independent or home-based businesses can pay just £10 for a stall to fill up the spaces.

Entertainment was arranged, through our local community and this year we had a couple of new performers. We started off with a super local adult choir, 'Local Vocals,' who raised their voices to the rafters! Thank you.

Our second set gave a wonderful opportunity to a small group of Coleshill School sixth formers, who came together to form their group and play and sing for us. This takes courage to stand on the stage and entertain the public, and they did very well. Thank you.

Our third set was a wonderful young man who stepped in, at the very last minute to save the day, and simply sit at the piano and played beautiful music. **Thank you Jake.**

Our final slot was the fabulous Coleshill Town Band 'Beginners Brass' group, who set up all their instruments and closed the entertainment schedule with rousing Christmas carols to fill the hall with musical magic. Thank you.

So, a **HUGE thank you** goes out to all our entertainers, and to all the tutors, leaders and parents linked to these groups who make these events happen.

The fair itself was filled with twenty-eight stalls, all offering a wide mix of food, crafts, toys, tombola's, raffles, games, and more. The decorations along the walls of the Fifield Hall flashed and town hall Christmas tree twinkled as loads of people came through the doors to browse and buy. Refreshments were offered in the Old Court Room run by the amazing Jeanette and Leah, and our face-painter Maci, decorated children, and adults, faces with fun festive motifs!

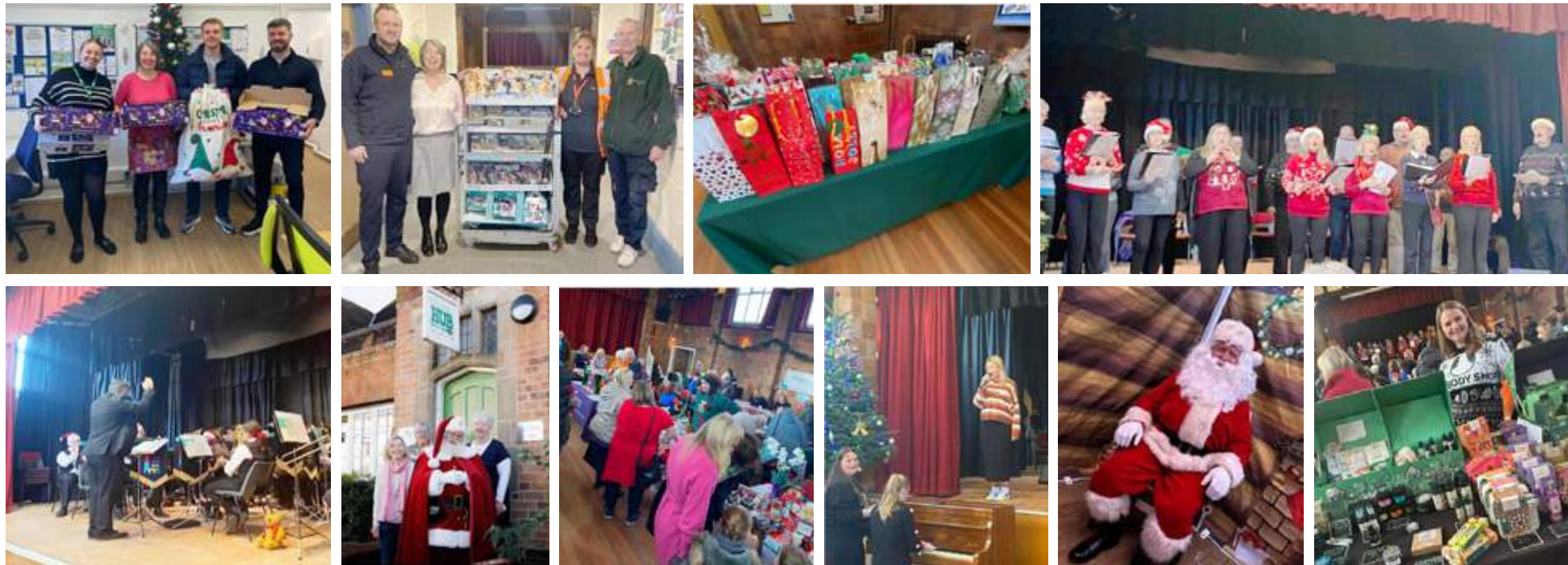
In the Hudson Room, Santa Claus sat contently in his grand grotto, chatting, laughing and treating every child who wanted to see him. Each child received a free present – either donated by HVAC Recruitment (who are based in North Wales, please note, the lovely Fin & Keiran drove down from Prestatyn to deliver us 150 selection boxes) or one of the 150 toys donated by Sainsburys Distribution Centre at Hams Hall. WOW, WOW, WOW – how lucky are we to receive such generous Christmas gifts, all donated by socially conscious and generous businesses that WANT to give back to others. THANK YOU ALL.



Santa told us, as we all packed away, that he had met some of the most polite, respectful and kind young children in Coleshill that day, especially a lovely young elf who had helped him, all day, called Martha – he described her as "a star."

Even the local Fire Station made an appearance to support the fair, they arrived and came in to chat to everyone, and tell people to come outside and sit in the fire engine, but just before the first child agreed, their alarms went off and they had to rush off on duty!! Hopefully, they will stay longer next year!

All in all, it was a super event, busy, fun-packed, entertaining and wonderful seeing the community come together at this special time of year. Well done Coleshill, here's to more community successes, togetherness and adventures in 2024. Hope you all enjoyed a fun-filled MERRY CHRISTMAS and we wish a prosperous HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE.



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Swift technology works by using microwave energy to treat under the virus causing verruca or warts and creates heat which causes an immune response.



What is a verruca & a wart?

Verrucae and warts are caused by a virus called the HPV virus. The virus gets in and grows in the top layers of the skin. The virus hides itself from our immune system and so can sometimes last a long time on our skin. They can become very uncomfortable when not treated and can spread to multiple parts of the body.



Swift is a convenient treatment and requires no after care, meaning you should be back to your normal day to day activities the same day. Compared to other verruca treatments such as acid treatment, liquid nitrogen and verruca needling which require after care and can limit your activity after. Clinical studies have shown Swift to have an 80% success rate.



If you would like to learn more about Swift and Verrucas and take look see the Swift machine we have a **FREE talk on the SWIFT treatment on 17th February at 10:00.** Please call and book in for this half an hour talk at our practice in Castle Bromwich.

Free Foot Check ups for February

We all get regular check ups for our teeth but when was the last time you had your feet checked? It is something many of us overlook and neglect, and often until there is a problem with our feet we never think about looking after our feet. So many things can go wrong with our feet, from fungal nails to heel pain, that is pays to have an occasional check up. At Walsh Podiatry we are trying to change this for February by offering anyone a FREE foot check up appointment. This is a 10 minute assessment of your feet where we will look at your circulation, sensation and motion and then give you any specific advice you may need.

Just give us a call and book in for your free assessment in February! **0121 749 6313**
Walsh Podiatry, 329 Chester Road, Castle Bromwich, B36 0JG, reception@walshpodiatry.co.uk

COLESHILL & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Monday 19th February

is the Gardening Club's AGM

7.45 at Coleshill Community Centre

2 Temple Way,
corner of Station Road, B46 1HH

Following this there will be a bring and share supper, wine, tea coffee will be available.

**£3.50 for members
and £5.00 for visitors**

all will be made welcome!!

For more information contact

Meda on 07549037477

UK Fostering

In the UK Today there are more than 70,000 children in foster care and the numbers of children entering the care system continues to rise. There is a desperate shortage of foster families to meet this growing need and we need your help! UK Fostering is an independent fostering agency set up by a team of dedicated professionals who are passionate about changing the lives of children.

UK Fostering receives thousands of referrals for children needing foster families every single month and we try to provide families who can meet the needs of these children. We do so by considering the child's heritage, family contact, schooling, emotional needs amongst other criteria. Due to limited number of foster carers available in the sector, we can't always provide the best match for each child. This has got to change.

UK Fostering are currently recruiting for foster carers from all walks of life and ethnic backgrounds so the question we want to ask you is; have you the space in your home and your heart to become a foster carer?

Eligibility for fostering is not restricted by age, sexuality, race, religion or by whether you are in a relationship. Foster carers are required to have a spare bedroom for the child who is matched with them and to have the passion, drive and commitment to help them through their trauma.

When you become a foster carer, UK Fostering provides generous fostering allowances to you, whilst also providing outstanding support and an excellent service to the local authority. This means that UK Fostering carers are highly in demand.

Many of our foster carers have been kind enough to share their stories on our social media so you can have a look for yourself and follow our team in the Midlands at https://www.instagram.com/uk_fostering_midlands/ or <https://www.facebook.com/MidlandsUKF>

If you are interested in fostering (even if you are not sure if you are eligible) please get in touch for a chat with our friendly team who will be happy to explore with you.

Ring us on 0345 222 0518

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Visit: www.ukfostering.org.uk

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Come Home Safe – Teachers Teach, Drivers Drive

We were appalled to hear 16th January that the government are unwilling to consider changes to the Transport Act 1985 Section 19 and 22 permit schemes for schools.

As we said when we launched our Call to Action of 16 November last year, the law and regulations which govern school minibus transport is both unjust and confusing. It's potentially unsafe for the pupils and staff involved and also the general public. The current law is not fit for purpose.

Many private schools are required by law to operate at the cutting edge of best practice of minibus operation by having an Operators (O) Licence, which is commendable.

In contrast, state schools and other private schools (including those registered as charities), are covered by regulations, principally Section 19 under the Road Traffic Act 1985. This results in poorer safeguards for pupils and drivers.

The Section 19/22 document states that it is "not a legal document and doesn't provide a definitive interpretation of the legislation." It further states that DVSA staff "can't advise on the legality of your operation once the permit is granted. You should seek your own advice if you're in doubt about this."

It is evident that there a two tier safety approach within the current legislative framework and the confusion produced is unsafe.. This is outrageous!!

Our view

After discussion with many people within education and elsewhere, it is clear that schools have two choices in this unjust and potentially unsafe situation:

- Legislate for best practice – which means all school minibus operators operate under an O Licence.
- Use commercial minibus and coach operators to provide school transport.

These can co-exist and there are currently excellent examples of both models of practice in different schools, with many thousands of schools not owning minibuses at all.

Overall, the way forward is to implement O Licence legislation. To ensure safe practice for all, the law must be simple, succinct, straightforward and routinely enforced and recorded.

So we are looking for urgent support from Government to redress the current inequality in safety regulation in safety for young people and teachers alike.

This is a matter above politics, it is a matter of life and death.

Stephen and Elizabeth Fitzgerald
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Pet Page

Henry's Friends - Dog walking service

Hello, I'm Michelle and I run Henry's Friends Dog Walking Service. I have extensive knowledge of rural walking in the wonderful B46 countryside.

I offer adventurous small group walks (3 dogs), for dogs who can go off lead, are friendly towards other dogs and people and have good recall.

These are varied rural walks along country lanes, over field footpaths and through woodland. In warmer weather, a splash and a swim in a stream are also included!

I also offer paired walking, for dogs who can't go off lead but do like other dogs. These are a mixture of local walks and sometimes walks further afield.

Various walking equipment can be used (if deemed suitable), to give your dog 'on lead freedom,' so that they can be paired up with a pal for a fun trip out.

Individual walks are for either one dog on its own or multiple dogs from the same household who prefer to be walked alone.

This can be for many reasons: reactivity, nervousness or because they are puppies or elderly dogs who require just a short stroll. Maybe your dog is recovering from

a medical procedure or an injury etc or perhaps you just want your dog to receive undivided human attention and interaction. Whatever the need, just ask. Walks are available at weekends too. This is such a useful service to call upon.

My pet pop-in visits are great for puppies or elderly dogs, who need some company during the day. Food and water can be refreshed and a short walk or potter round the garden can be given.

I can also provide pet sitting in your own home, so if you'd like a couple of hours or a day out or even a weekend away, then your dog's care needs can be covered.

All services are discounted for multiple dogs from the same household.

So whether your dog is an avid adventurer or just prefers a peaceful pootle around the block, Henry's Friends Dog Walking Service, hopefully has something for everyPAWdy and all at very reasonable rates.

Weekdays or weekends, whatever the weather! Hope to meet you and your dog soon.

Here are some top tips for winter dog walking

- Grit, salt and de-icer. During the winter months, there is likely to be grit and salt on the roads and pavements, which is bad for your dog's feet and can also make them ill if they lick their paws, so remember to give your dog's paws a rinse in warm water when returning from your walk.
- It is really important to let your dogs sniff. It's how they get so much of their information. There is a lot of communication going on between other dogs, from what they can sniff. It's really good for their well-being. So please let them sniff when you're out and about; it is important.
- Depending on the age and breed of your dog, you may need to consider building up the duration of walks. Don't go from a 10-minute walk to a 2-hour one for obvious reasons. We know how much we can ache if we do any exercise, so bear that in mind. If your dog is not used to walking, build up the duration gradually. If you have an older dog or young pup or are just generally unsure about how long you should be walking your dog, then always speak with your vet.
- Be aware that not all dogs are off-lead and can go off-lead; some dogs have injuries or are rescues that may have had traumatic experiences and may be undergoing some rehabilitation work. So, if your dog goes off the lead, please do your best not to just let your dog approach other dogs without seeking permission first.
- Keep your dog away from frozen water, such as lakes, ponds, and rivers, as it's impossible to tell how secure the surface is. If you think they will be tempted to jump in, keep them on a lead.
- Don't forget the poo bags, and always have more than you think you will need; just like us, our dogs are not always like clockwork, so it's always handy to have spares in case.
- Ensure you wash away any de-icer that might have spilt when topping your car up as this is highly toxic to dogs.
- Snow can become trapped in dogs' paws, so keep their hair short between their pads to help this.
- Ensure you keep your dog and yourself safe when walking in the dark. There are lots of USB rechargeable collars for your dog available, as well as reflective coats, leads, and flashing lights. Wear lighter colours yourself and invest in a good torch.
- Depending on your dog's breed, size and coat, it might be necessary for your dog to have a coat depending on the weather conditions, but it will vary from breed to breed. But remember to do what is right for your dog and ensure they are comfortable.
- Make sure you keep yourself safe, walk in lighter areas that are well-lit, ensure your mobile phone is charged and you have it with you so you are contactable and make sure someone knows where you are.
- Please remember that it's a legal requirement to have a tag on your dog's collar with your surname, your address and your postcode. While it's not a legal requirement, I'd also recommend your telephone number on there.

Birmingham Dogs Home - Forever homes



August

Breed: Presa Canario

Gender: Female (N) **Age:** 2
Meet August, a 2-year-old Presa Canario cross who is looking for her forever home!

August is a sweet and affectionate girl who loves nothing more than cuddling up on the sofa with you and

playing with her toys.

August is a quick learner, and she already knows her basic obedience commands such as sit, give paw, and recall, although she has been known to push her luck on occasion, so does need further help learning basic manners.

Despite being young, August has a lot of energy and can be boisterous, but this just means that she needs regular exercise and mental stimulation to keep her occupied. August has been fully Halti trained in our care, to make walks more enjoyable. She would

be best suited for Quiet home with owners who are willing to commit to these needs and keep her calm. August would do best as the only pet in the home, where she can receive all the attention and love she deserves. August is very under socialised with other dogs and does need to be the only dog in a home, but she would strongly benefit from additional socialisation whilst out on walks.

If you are interested in adopting August, please contact the centre on 0121 643 5211 to enquire.

Calling all dog owners in B46 and a bit beyond!



Are you looking for a reliable, qualified, and dedicated dog walker? Then Henry's Friends Dog Walking Service is here to help.

What I offer:

- * **Dog walking:** rural or town walks
- * **Pet visits:** check-ins to ensure your dog is happy and comfortable
- * **Pet sitting:** company in the comfort of your own home, when you can't be there.

Contact Michelle at Henry's Friends Dog Walking Service for info:

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PRESSURE GROUP'S PLAN TO SECURE URBAN GREEN SPACES FOR THE PUBLIC

The Open Spaces Society⁽¹⁾, Britain's oldest national conservation body, has made a host of recommendations to secure urban green spaces for public enjoyment.

These recommendations have been published by the House of Commons' Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs Committee, which last year conducted an inquiry into the ecological, environmental, and human benefits of green space, and the most effective solutions to making cities greener and nature rich.

The society proposes among other things:

A full review of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)⁽²⁾ to take proper account of open spaces.

A national plan for open spaces, with a standard for the amount of green space to be provided, and ring-fenced funding to secure good-quality spaces close to people's homes.

A mandate on developers to provide open space as integral to all major development, and to dedicate that land as town or village green⁽³⁾, so that local people have rights of recreation there and it is secure for ever.

An improved process for Local Green Space⁽⁴⁾, with stronger protection to ensure that local open spaces are not vulnerable to development.

An amendment to permitted development rights and permission in principle for development so that new development does not adversely affect public rights of way.

Says Nicola Hodgson, case officer for the society: 'The government has missed significant opportunities for tackling the urgent nature and climate crises. It has failed to bring forward strategic policies that would enable the planning system to work positively for nature and people.'

'The current open-space provisions and policies in the planning system relating to the disposal of open space are designed mainly to assist developers rather than to protect existing green space. Mitigation measures may not even benefit the same neighbourhood as that which has lost green space.'

'We say that the planning system must give the same or greater priority to the protection and creation of open space as it does to other infrastructure requirements. Provisions to secure robust legal protection and funding for long-term maintenance of urban green space must be addressed urgently. Councils should be adequately funded to improve access for recreation and protection of open space using the powers available to them [see the society's guidance to local councils].'

'We look forward to the report from the EFRA committee, and hope that it can make a real difference to open space protection and provision,' says Nicola.

www.oss.org.uk

1. The Open Spaces Society was founded in 1865 and is Britain's oldest national conservation body. It campaigns to protect common land, village greens, open spaces, and public paths, and people's right to enjoy them.

2. The NPPF was first published in March 2012 and last updated in December 2023.

3. Town and village greens are land where the public has enjoyed 20 years informal use without permission or challenge. A landowner may voluntarily dedicate a town or village green without such evidence. Once registered, the land is protected from development by section 12 of the Inclosure Act 1857 and section 29 of the Commons Act 1876, and local people have legal rights of recreation there in perpetuity.

4. Local Green Space is included in the NPPF (paras 105-107) and is designated by planning authorities when the local or neighbourhood plan is introduced or updated. The effect of designation is not clear, the NPPF merely states that 'policies for managing development within a Local Green Space should be consistent with those for Green Belts'.



Kingsmead Field in Canterbury, Kent, voluntarily registered as a town green by Canterbury City Council in 2019.

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Interiors & Decorating

Platinum February Update



We thought we'd start the year off by looking at some of the various decorative features of houses and the history behind them as well as giving you some ideas on how to go about decorating them. Many of these features started life with a practical purpose that was eventually no longer necessary and so they became purely decorative. Other features were decorative from the start.

Cornice: This is more commonly known as coving and is used to cover the join in the corner between the ceilings and walls. Historically it was a standard feature in most properties but maybe less common in more modest houses. Large stately homes would have very ornate designs inspired by classical architecture with the most intricate designs reserved for the most prominent rooms and rooms that would host guests.

Dado Rail: A dado rail is a thin strip of wood that runs around the whole room at a height of around ninety centimetres. They are more common in period properties such as Victorian and Georgian houses and are rarely installed in new properties.

This is a shame because they can offer many varied options for decorating. They were originally introduced in the Georgian period when furniture such as chairs would be leant against the walls- the dado rail prevented the furniture from damaging the walls. Once the Victorian era was underway they started becoming more of a decorative feature until they eventually stopped being used. They were re-introduced in the early twentieth century as a purely decorative feature. Most commonly these days they are painted with white gloss, satin or eggshell in line with the rest of the woodwork. It can however be very effective to use darker colours on the woodwork to make it more of a feature. Another interesting look is to paint the dado rail the same colour as the walls for a more subtle feature. It can also add interest to use a different colour or variation of the colour on the walls above and below the dado rail.

Picture Rail: Very similar to dado rails these are usually situated closer to the ceiling and were originally used to hang pictures from. If you visit any stately homes or watch historical period TV dramas you may have noticed pictures hung from chains attached to the picture rail. These days they are purely decorative and as with dado rails usually painted to match the rest of the woodwork. The area of wall above the picture rail is known as the 'frieze' and is usually painted white as part of the ceiling but interest can be added by experimenting with different colours. As a point of interest, although these days the frieze is simply a small section of wall, it was originally an ornate plaster moulding that ran from the cornice down to the picture rail.

Skirting Board: This is the wooden trim that runs around the base of the walls. It was introduced to disguise the transition between wall and floor and to protect the walls against knocks and bumps. As dado rails fell out of favour in the Victorian era skirting boards became bigger and more of a feature. These days they are often very minimal and simplistic in design.

Ceiling Rose: Rarely fitted these days, a ceiling rose is traditionally a very elaborate circular plaster moulding that would be fitted to disguise where the light is attached to the ceiling. When they were first introduced people were still using gas lights. The elaborate design of the ceiling roses was intended to catch the smoke that rose from the gas lights. They were also often designed with holes in them to allow the fumes to escape between the ceiling and the floor above. They are now only installed for decorative purposes and can be a very effective way of adding interest to an area that is often over looked. They are usually painted the same colour as the rest of the ceiling. Anyone that has painted a very intricate ceiling rose will know that it takes a lot of patience to ensure you cover all the difficult corners in the design.

Architrave: This is the strip of wood that frames the doorway- sort of an extension of the skirting around the door frame. Its function is to hide the usually untidy join between the plaster wall and the door casing and also to cover any cracking caused by shrinkage and movement between the two. The word architrave comes from the beam or lintel that sat on top of columns in classical architecture.

Corbels: These are ornamental brackets used to decorate archways in many period properties. They can be very imposing so they require a room with a lot of space but when done well they can turn an otherwise bland arch into a stunning feature.



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We are committed to increasing transparency with all communities across Warwickshire and our Scrutiny Panels play a key role in this.

We welcome applicants who live, work and study in Warwickshire. We are particularly looking for people who have been subject to stop and search or use of force, or knows someone who has, to consider applying.

To apply the application form can be found here Independent scrutiny panel | Warwickshire Police or email EDHR@warwickshire.police.uk for more information.

Independent Advisory Groups

We are asking for people from all communities and backgrounds to come forward to help Warwickshire Police keep your communities a safe place to live and work.

By joining an IAG you'll be invited to provide vital advice on different issues such as critical incidents, policies and procedures and the impact they may have on your communities. Although we cannot always act on everything, when we can't we will explain why, and we will always value your ideas and input.

We are reshaping our IAGs, so this is an exciting time to join. If you are interested or would like more information please visit our website Independent advisory groups | Warwickshire Police or email EDHR@warwickshire.police.uk and we will be in touch.

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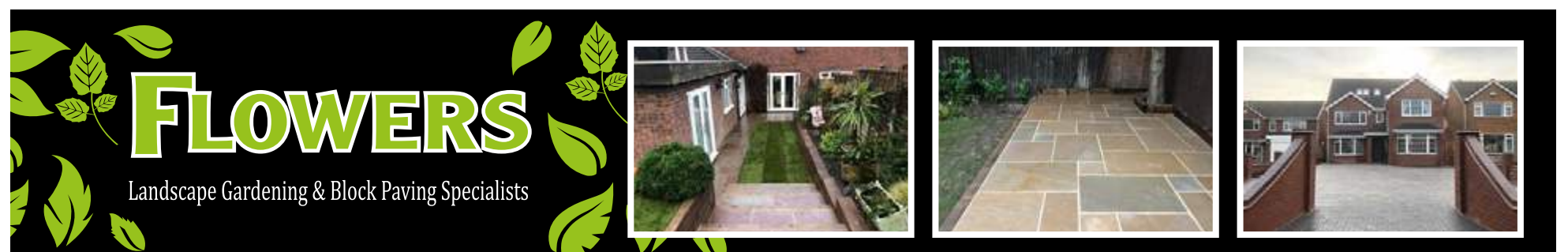
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Attention Craft Stall Holders



Water Orton Cricket club is holding a Craft Fair on Saturday 23rd March 2024.

If you are interested in booking a table, please contact Daphne on 07784088163. There are limited spaces, so it's first come, first served.



Local Sports



Congratulations to Water Orton cricket team after a success 2023/24



Water Orton Cricket Club (WOCC) picking up Div 3 champions trophy. Shaluka, WOCC first team capt, picked up the trophy at an award ceremony held at Edgbaston cricket ground. First team players and the club chairman, Pete Cole, were also in attendance and proudly collected the award off Oliver Hannon Dalby



Shaluka first team capt and WOCC chairman Pete Cole collecting the awards at Edgbaston

Skipper shaluka devinder was quoted saying " its been a real tough few years for the club, so it's so pleasing that we are ushering in a new era with success by winning trophies and enjoying our cricket again" water orton that field three sides on a Saturday, the first eleven will now compete in the second division of the Warwickshire cricket league. Shaluka added " We've had some really talented players join our ranks over the last couple of seasons and we've been able to give them the chance to showcase their skills, hopefully this may encourage anyone looking for a new challenge to come and get involved"

Award winner was the WOCC's very own Podge, who picked up best player... Podge has had a successful season with 30 wickets, an average of 4.60 runs per wicket. The best match figures were 6 wickets for 3 runs including a hat-trick . A great performance fully deserving best player award.



Pete Cole with Podge and Ibrahim Alikak

Podge said "It was a pleasure to receive this award on a personal level and for the WOCC which has been my club since a child (a few years ago now admittedly). It just shows that hard work individually and togetherness as a team can grind out the result we needed to put us in a position for promotion in the 2023 season. More of the same this season will put us in prime position for promotion in 2024. I wouldn't have been anywhere in the run in for this award if it wasn't for the rest of the lads so

a big thanks to all of you."
#UPTHEWOCC



Podge being presented with his award by Warwickshire's cricketer Oliver Hannon Dalby

Many thanks Andrew Walker



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2024 Will Be A Tough Year For Coleshill Endurance Athlete Paddy Doyle



Regardless of the winter weather conditions, former Paratrooper and ex RAF / Army Reservist Paddy Doyle will be digging deep to maintain his fitness levels, aiming to achieve not only his 850th career physical fitness challenge and World Record but the 900th milestone. Doyle will be adding to his sporting feats target sport categories which will be archery and rifle disciplines.

"I have been having skills training with GB archery and will have coaching from the National Bore Rifle Association in January kayaking, mountain biking, cross country military speed marches combined with target sports will be demanding but I am looking forward to it."

Doyle's aim is to achieve the global World Fitness Endurance Challenge Record Title of 1000 physical strength speed stamina feats covering the most sporting disciplines, Scotland's multi World Record Holder and rated GB fittest man William Cannon set the target in 2021, to date Cannon has over 630 records and Doyle has 839.



Water Orton Cricket Club Social Events 2024/25 is a new Season, with new beginning's and new ideas!

Experience the newly developed website for information of events, matches, cricket teams, venue hire and membership opportunities. Please enquire for more information via the below website and email address.

New Website: www.waterortoncc.com

New Email contact address for membership, venue hire, cricket matches, recruitment and ladies and junior sections.

Please contact: enquiries_wocc1@outlook.com

Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages available for members

So, what is on at the WOCC..... We have the following tribute acts and events booked FOR YOU to experience these are super great nights.

Elton John 2nd March, Lionel Richie 28th Sept, Rod Stewart 12th Oct, Tina Turner 16th November. Tickets are available upon request via the email address, please list in title for your preference. They are limited and do sell out.

We have the Cheltenham Gold cup day



T10 tournaments running throughout the year Teams of six, various teams play each other via a league and knockout system throughout the day, with the bar open and entertainment planned for other teams and spectators to enjoy.

We also will hire the venue out for occasions, again please enquire for availability and costings

WANTED

Cricket Players for the first team div 3 Champions and second Saturday teams. Sunday team players are also required.



Sponsorship opportunities, match day player of the match, why not have a sponsorship board to advertising your business to players and spectators, or even sponsor a player and have your company logo on social media.



Juniors girls and boy's players of all ages for those willing to learn and those players developing into the district or county players. We have experience coaches to help push you in the right direction and we will give you the opportunity to play and hopefully be put forward into the Warwickshire cricket trial program. Alan Dabbs is running the juniors/ladies

Water Orton Cricket Club Youth Section

TRAINING AT WATER ORTON CRICKET CLUB,
COLESHILL ROAD, WATER ORTON, B46 1QX

A well established friendly youth section with ECB qualified coaches providing excellent coaching for boys and girls of all abilities at £5 per session.

Starting Friday 12th April 2024

Mini Storks (boys & girls) 4-7 years old.

4.30-5.30pm

Beavers (boys) 8 -11 years old.

Hens (girls) 8-15 years old.

5.30-6.30pm

Academy (boys & Girls) 12 -15 years old.

6.30-7.30pm

We also provide ladies coaching sessions on a Thursday evening starting at 6.30p.m. on 18th April 2024 Water Orton Cricket Club, Coleshill Road.

There are opportunities at Water Orton Cricket Club for players and parents. This is a community club supporting community interests and pushing the development of players.

We are always after new coaches and will listen to new ideas. If you would like to play or help or lean to run a team, we can help you achieve this with the right guidance and courses being offered by Warwickshire county cricket board Men, ladies, girls and boys teams, players, coaches and helpers are all welcome at the WOCC.



Coleshill Town F.C.

Coleshill Town FC match reports All Northern Premier League Midland Division games

Monday 1st January 2024

Sutton Coldfield Town 2 v 2 Coleshill Town

A visit to our near neighbours, and a reunion with ex manager Cameron Stuart, his back room staff, and several ex CTFC players. A very even first half was turned on its head just before half time when Alex Smith was sent off, unfairly picked out as the culprit for a goal mouth melee. Coleshill unexpectedly took the lead just after the break, a fine solo goal by Sam Fitzgerald but then it was backs against the wall. The home side equalised just after the hour but Town re took the lead when Chris Cowley scored direct from a corner, although Captain Niall Rowe claimed he got the final touch. Sutton piled forward and got their second ten minutes from time and then Coleshill held on for a well earned point.

Saturday 6th January

Coleshill Town 2 v 2 Corby Town

Another good game between two evenly matched teams. The first half finished goalless as the two sides cancelled each other out. City took the lead within three minutes of the restart. Jonathan Letford then equalised on the hour mark, his first for the club, and he deserved that for the hard work it puts in. Cambridge scored from the penalty spot two minutes from time and it looked like it was a defeat for Coleshill but the Coleman levelled the score in the dying seconds with a shot from Alex Tomkinson, with his rarely used right foot.

Saturday 13th January

Lye Town 3 v 1 Coleshill Town

An action packed game, numerous chances at both ends and both goalkeepers pulling off save after save. Lye took a narrow lead on the stroke of half time. Early in the second half Coleshill had a great shout for a penalty but it mattered little as Niall Rowe lashed a corner into the roof of the net to level the scores. It could have gone either way but Lye's forward pair proved the difference as between them Lye scored two more to secure the points.

Saturday 20th January

Cambridge City 4 v 3 Coleshill Town

Coleshill started brightly but found themselves 2-0 down by half time. A rollicking at the break made a difference and Jonathan Letford pulled one back, Cambridge went 3-1 up, Letford scored again and a George Washbourne cracker levelled the scores at 3-3. After being two down a draw would have been a great result but the home team scored a winner with one minute left on the clock.

Coleshill Town FC. Juniors mini soccer We have a new sponsor!

Thank you so much to Leon Brown and LNR Grabhire Ltd.

Coleshill Town FC Mini Soccer has produced teams for CTFC Juniors for the last four years and Leon was part of the coaching staff in the initial stages. His sponsorship now means the Mini Soccer is sustainable and we can continue producing teams season on season.

THANK YOU!

Mini Soccer sessions are on a Friday evening 4.30-5.30 at Coleshill Town Football Club, Pack Meadow, Packington Lane. B46 3JE for players Reception to Year 4. All abilities welcome. First session Free then £15 for 4 sessions.

For more details contact Alan on 07791740976

COLESHILL TOWN F.C JUNIORS MINI SOCCER ANNOUNCES PROUD NEW SPONSOR THANK YOU!

01675 820240

www.lnrgrabhireltd.co.uk

Water Orton & District Tennis Club

First can we wish all our members, neighbours and club sponsors a belated Happy & Healthy New Year, which hopefully will be another successful year for our community club.

We are now planning our calendar and setting up our membership groups for 2024, for which all newcomers will be made welcome. There are a few spaces for Saturday morning junior coaching groups, adult beginners group on a Tuesday evening, and our Cardio Tennis fitness group on a Friday evening. There are a spaces in our ladies session on a Thursday evening, from 6.00pm until 9.00pm, just drop in as and when you can at a time to suit you.

Our adult improvers group on a Tuesday evening, has several spaces so if you have played before but not for a while, then this is the group for you. Our mixed adults on

a Friday from 7.00pm also have a few vacancies, as we intend to expand some of the groups numbers.

Its a very welcoming friendly club and all standards and abilities are made to feel welcome. Our coaching team are all LTA trained and DBS accredited. They are there for you if you need any help. Come and have a few "taster" sessions before you decide on becoming a member.

If you want to find out more about us, times costs etc just text our Club Secretary Paul Messenger on 07538 601246 or e-mail paul.messenger82@hotmail.co.uk and we will get all your questions answered and details returned to you as soon as possible.



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For prices, media pack and more information

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or email: serena.postgroup@outlook.com



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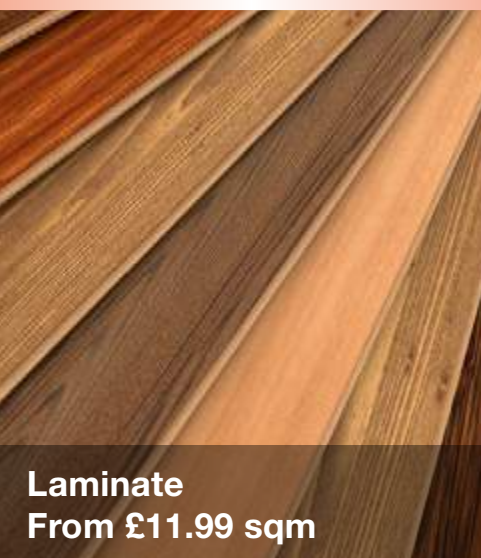
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