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June 2024 Issue 123



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CRAIG TRACEY MP JOINS LOOSE WOMEN STAR TO CAMPAIGN FOR NEW CANCER DRUG

North Warwickshire and Bedworth MP, Craig Tracey, has joined forces with 'Loose Women' star Nadia Sawalha to support a campaign for access to a new cancer drug. Nadia's close friend, Hannah Gardner, 37, who has incurable breast cancer, believes the drug Trastuzumab deruxtecan, sold under the brand name Enhertu, could give her another six months with her three-year-old daughter, Lilah Rae.

However, the drug, deemed too expensive by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE), has been rejected for use in treating HER2-low secondary breast cancer in England.

Full Story on page 6



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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.

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This is an upsetting scenario... and unfortunately, it could happen to any of us without the right protection.

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

Don't leave your home open to any risks.

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



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

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

Act now!

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

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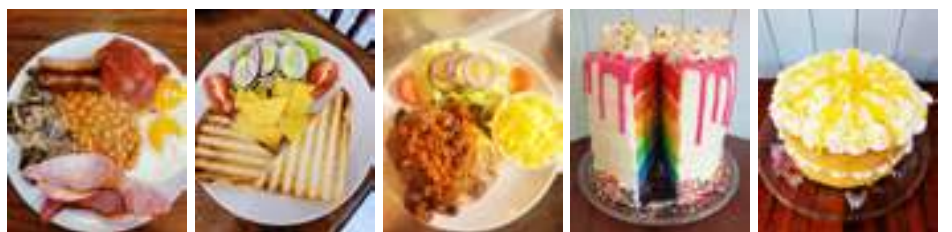
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Craig Tracey MP joins Loose Women star to campaign for new cancer drug



North Warwickshire and Bedworth MP, Craig Tracey, has joined forces with 'Loose Women' star Nadia Sawalha to support a campaign for access to a new cancer drug. Nadia's close friend, Hannah Gardner, 37, who has incurable breast cancer, believes the drug Trastuzumab deruxtecan, sold under the brand name Enhertu, could give her another six months with her three-year-old daughter, Lilah Rae.

However, the drug, deemed too expensive by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE), has been rejected for use in treating HER2-low secondary breast cancer in England. Hannah has been supported by Craig Tracey MP, who is the Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Breast Cancer. He said: "This issue has been on my radar for some time and I was very disappointed to hear the decision by NICE. We won't stop fighting for this. Hannah's story is a very emotive reminder of why the approval of Enhertu in England needs to be done without further delay."

Hannah was given her primary breast cancer diagnosis in 2013, aged 26, after

discovering a large lump in her left breast. In June 2022, she was informed that she had stage 4 incurable breast cancer, specifically HER2-low breast cancer.

Mr. Tracey raised the issue in Parliament, telling MPs: "She brought the campaign to Parliament because it's the only realistic treatment left available for her and time is not on her side. Can we have an urgent debate on getting all parties, including the drug companies, NICE, and NHS England, back to the table and urgently approving Enhertu?" House of Commons Leader Penny Mordaunt MP vowed to discuss the campaign with the Secretary of State for Health.

Following this, Craig convened a meeting in Parliament with NHS England, NICE, and the drug companies, during which they agreed to return to negotiations on the issue, which they have confirmed has now commenced.

The campaign was also featured on the Lorraine programme. Enhertu is already given to some patients with secondary breast cancer — with a fine line separating those who will miss out. Around 1,000 women a year in England have been denied the drug.

COLESHILL CIVIC SOCIETY

Missing Buildings and Spaces 13

By John Hoyle



Who can remember St Paul's School or The Central School? Before the Second World War and for some years afterwards, boys in Coleshill who qualified for Grammar School chose to not take up their place. This was due to a number of reasons. The uniform and similar items were too expensive for some families so boys opted to go to this secondary school which while nominally a Catholic School accepted all denominations.

The county reorganised after the schools on Chelmsley Wood estate were built and the school was renamed Archbishop Grimshaw.



The entrance to the right of the main entrance had that name above it. Another view from the bridge. This view from the north, taken when the leaves had fallen.



The view from the south is one which will have been forgotten as I suspect

that it was taken not long before the redevelopment of this site. In that the main front of the building was retained and converted into offices.



This property had been purchased by the Catholic Church in 1884, the site had previously been the Tannery owned by the Pridmores, the tannery and the tannery pit were situated behind the large property on the side of the High Street which was the home of the Pridmore Family. The house was initially used by the Catholics as a home for girls from the Marston Green Homes. Eventually the tannery buildings behind the house were demolished and a large extension built to form the Central School. However I do understand that the tannery pit still existed in the 1950's although the site had been secured the boys at the school investigated the site as much as they could get away with. Eventually the school was closed, all was transferred to the new Archbishop Grimshaw School just the other side of Bacons End roundabout. The extension which formed the main part of the school demolished. The house was converted into offices and behind the house a group of houses built and further away an old people's home built.

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.

If anyone has any corrections, additions to this article or suggestions about future articles please contact me through the Coleshill Post Editor or Colin Lewis at House and Home on the High Street or email me with any relevant information or photos. Johnhoyle707@gmail.com

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Bedroom Two



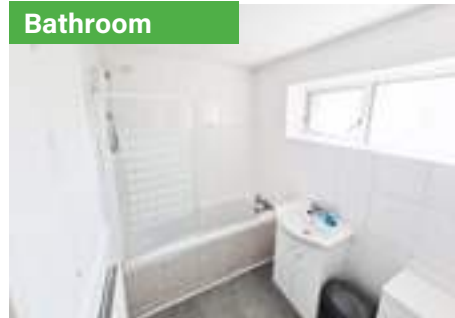
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Fitness and Wellbeing

Let me introduce myself, I'm Linsy and I have worked on and off in the fitness industry for too many years to admit! This column will hopefully give you an idea of Fitness & Wellbeing classes, venues and events locally (or even in your own home).

Now, more than ever, it is important to give yourself a little time to work on your physical and mental health with all of the stresses and strains of modern life. Whether it's just going for an evening stroll, jumping around in an exercise class, sweating in a game of 5aside or dozing in a gong bath, there is lots to do in the area or online.

I will try to give you an insight into a different class/venue available each month and if you are someone who has an event you would like to introduce please let me know and I'll do my best to cover it.

So this month, as we head into better weather and the outdoors beckons, I thought I'd start with one of the biggest free fitness and social events worldwide-ParkRun. Ignore the name, parkrun is open to everyone (not just hardcore running folk). Lots of people walk rather than run, many take their canine friends or children (seeing a sleeping child in a push chair being 'power pushed' is not unusual).

Park run is a straight forward 5k course which happens at venues countrywide on a Saturday morning no matter what the weather.

To get started you simply register online for free (visit www.parkrun.org.Uk). This will give you a unique code which you scan at the finish line to get an official time. You can then get access to see information such as your ranking based on age, how many people did the event you attended and where you came in that event (or you can choose to ignore the stats if it's not your thing or you would rather not know!). It is a great, low pressure, fun, community based way to enjoy a walk/run without feeling self conscious, and you can try to knock a few seconds off each time you do it.

Along the route there are friendly volunteers (no getting lost, don't worry) and if you are very lucky (it happened to me at Perry Barr) you might get a treat from a brand who have sponsored a particular event (although I think the donut on completion may have contained as many calories as my slow plod around burnt off that day).

Children can participate with adults, and on a Sunday there is a shorter 2k parkrun for children age 4-14years old at some venues.

Fancy it? Locally there are runs at-Kingsbury Water park
(get there early and parking charges apply-I think it's £2),

Babbs Mill

Sutton Park

All venues start at 9am and if it's your first time get there a little earlier for the 'first timer' talk from the days Race Director.

Be warned, once you try it you are likely to get the bug and your Saturday mornings may forever be spent hurrying out of the door with your trainers and barcode.

Sue Hann, a busy local mum had this to say about Parkrun and what it has done for her *'I love parkrun because it isn't all about running. I have volunteered on 200 occasions and the friendships and support network I have gained is life changing, there is no judgement and everyone supports each other'*

If you want to see what it's like (try before you buy!) you can spectate and give a bit of encouragement along the route to passing participants. There's often someone dressed up, hungover, or being dragged along by their dog to entertain the 'supporters' and get you itching to have a go!

All you need is some trainers and to be ready to go on Saturday morning...what's stopping you?



Park run kingsbury finish line



Dinosaurs were at parkrun before Maxstoke castle



Sutton Park has another scenic 5k to offer locally



Everything is covered in the first times briefings so you know what to expect.



Water Orton CARNIVAL

Saturday 15th June

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Glitzy Bits
Fashion Blog
June 2024



As the days grow longer and the sun starts to (hopefully) make a more permanent appearance, it can only mean one thing: summer is just around the corner! Bright colours and bold patterns have been popular this year and as predicted oranges, bold pinks and vibrant greens have been in big demand. We are seeing lots of broderie anglaise in trousers, shirts, dresses and jackets which is proving to be an absolute winner and looks both classy and chic. With the warm weather comes an exciting opportunity to refresh your wardrobe and embrace the vibrant, breezy styles that this season has to offer.

So, what better way to kick off your summer fashion experience than by attending the much-anticipated Liliann Styled by Ryan Fashion Show? Mark your calendars for Sunday, 7th July 2024, and join us at The Cameo Suite, Coleshill Hotel, for an unforgettable afternoon of style, inspiration, and fun.

Doors open at 2pm, and you will be warmly welcomed with a refreshing drink upon arrival. This is not just any fashion show; it's a celebration of the latest trends and timeless pieces that will define your summer look. The Liliann Styled by Ryan team has meticulously curated a collection that embodies the essence of summer – think flowing fabrics, bold prints, and a

palette of sun-kissed hues. Whether you're looking for the perfect beach ensemble, chic evening wear, or versatile day-to-night outfits, this fashion show promises to deliver just what you need to elevate your summer wardrobe.

But the excitement doesn't stop at the catwalk. Attendees will have the exclusive opportunity to view the new collections up close and personal. And for those who love a good deal, there will be end-of-line offers you won't want to miss – a chance to snag some fabulous finds at unbeatable prices. The afternoon will be a delightful blend of fashion and fun, as you mingle with fellow fashionistas and soak in the creative energy of the Liliann Styled by Ryan team.

The Liliann Styled by Ryan Fashion Show on Sunday, 7th July 2024, is set to be the highlight of the summer season. With doors opening at 2pm, you'll be greeted with a drink and an array of beautiful new collections to explore. Don't miss out on the chance to enjoy an afternoon filled with fashion, fun, and fabulous offers. We can't wait to see you there and share the excitement of the latest summer trends. So, get ready to embrace the season in style – summer is almost here, and the Liliann Styled by Ryan Fashion Show is your ultimate destination for all things chic and trendy.

Tickets available via TicketSource or follow Liliann Styled by Ryan on Facebook for more information.

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Saturday 27th April Summer (age 7) started her walk up Snowdon with her friend Skye (age 6) by her side every step of the way showing her support and encouragement. Parents, family friends also accompanied the girls on their walk and all enjoyed a sunny trek. Summer wanted to do this walk to raise money for the charity MIND.



Summer smashed her Snowdon summit challenge for @mindcharity she has doubled her target raising over £1000 for Mind. So a HUGE thank you all for the incredible donations, kind words and encouragement videos from friends and family, it really helped her along the way. Thank you to our friends and family who also joined us on the challenge, we couldn't have done it without you. It was an incredible achievement made not only by her but her close friend Skye (6 years old) They were early birds catching the 7am bus, and completing it in 6.5 hours.



We are all so proud of both the girls and all they have achieved at such a young age. Well done Thank you! And thank you to those who have already donated! x x x

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Real-life spooky stories inspire chilling new novel by former Coleshill journalist



A chilling new supernatural thriller by an award-winning former Coleshill journalist has been inspired by real-life ghost stories from the region.

13 Doors, by G J Phelps, tells the story of a reporter who sets out to spend the night in thirteen genuinely haunted locations, with terrifying consequences.

And the author – real name Gary Phelps – has drawn on actual local

ghost stories that he collected over a 30-year career in newspapers to create the book.

Gary, who used to edit the Coleshill Herald and covered news in the area for many years, said: “All newsrooms have odd, unexplainable stories, where a member of the public has brought in a tale which the journalists just couldn’t explain. “After working in news for years, I’ve collected them – particularly from around the West Midlands – and when I came to write 13 Doors, I thought it would be interesting to weave them into the story.

“For example, there’s a story based on an interview I did with the manager of haunted pub in Sutton Coldfield, back when I was a reporter, and a fantastic story about a local van driver who ran over a ghost.

“Another chapter in the book was inspired by a mining disaster not far from Coleshill.”

In May, Gary appeared at Coleshill library to talk about the book, and

share some of the real-life stories behind it.

13 Doors is also largely set in the region, with locations like the Victorian cemeteries in Birmingham’s Jewellery Quarter playing a key part in the story.

In the supernatural thriller, news reporter Joe Baxter sets out to stay in 13 genuinely haunted locations, finding them through his contacts at newspapers across the UK.

Author Gary explained: “I have always been a devotee of horror and supernatural fiction and, as an Eighties kid, grew up watching classic movies of the time.

“I wanted to write a book that paid homage to those influences, while adding something new and different to the genre. Most of all, I wanted to write a horror novel that was rooted in my journalistic background.

“So, while 13 Doors is fiction, there are a handful of stories and anecdotes in it that are based on real stories – stories that journalists couldn’t explain.”

13 Doors by G J Phelps is published by the Book Guild Publishing, priced £9.99 and is available from all good book shops and can be ordered on Amazon.



We would like to extend our congratulations to Richard Parker on his election as Mayor of the West Midlands, and thank Andy Street for the impact he has made on the region during his two terms as Mayor. He has been a relentless champion for the West Midlands.

We look forward to building on our work with Richard and his team to date, and working collaboratively to implement relevant recommendations from the Business Commission West Midlands, to ensure that the region remains a destination of choice for investors, further enabling business growth and driving prosperity.”



Henrietta Brealey
 Greater Birmingham Chambers of
 Commerce CEO



Darcie the litter picking superstar!

Darcie was inspired to clean up her local area and fundraise for Father Hudson's after attending a Good Shepherd assembly by Kevin Hateley (our Head of Fundraising, Communications and Marketing) at her school. Father Hudson's offers Catholic Primary Schools assemblies during Lent to share more details about our work. This year we focused on our theme of homelessness and our project Tabor Living in Birmingham.

After the assembly Darcie set herself a target of £500 for a sponsored litter pick of Coleshill, Shustoke, Over Whitacre and Nether Whitacre, Shawbury and surrounding areas. She has been out collecting rubbish from hedgerows and verges day and night and has cleared plastic bottles and cans, took bags of rubbish, and improved the local area in the process.

Darcie's Dad, Scott said, 'The inspiration for the litter pick was really after Kevin's assembly and came from Darcie's willingness to help others. Darcie is a lovely soul who really cares for others and is very inquisitive. She met and spoke to a lovely couple who always litter pick in our area and asked to work with them. Darcie decided to use this idea not only to improve our local area but also help such a good cause. She is also doing a table top sale on Saturday to raise more funds and has been given an award at school for her good work in the community. There are now others doing the same thing for different charities so she has inspired others to do the same...'

Over Easter weekend we are pleased to share she hit her target, and we would like to say a heartfelt thank you to Darcie, her family and everyone who supported her JustGiving appeal. This shows how one person can make an enormous difference, no matter their age.

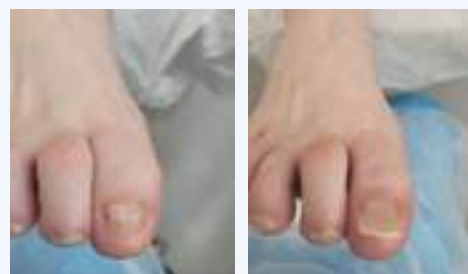
When we found out about Darcie and her mission, we were extremely impressed and invited her and her family into our Head Office to meet Kevin. Darcie also visited St Joseph's Care Home, where she was a whizz on our Tiny Tablet and enjoyed meeting and chatting with our residents. We are incredibly proud of Darcie and all her hard work and wish her all the best for the future. What an inspiration!



Summer feet incoming...

With the summer fast approaching many of us may be worried about how you can get your feet summer ready. Especially toenails. Our biggest asked question is how you can improve the look of your nails? Here at Walsh Podiatry, we have our best kept secret.

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So, what is Nail Reconstruction?

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Contact Walsh Podiatry to book your nail reconstruction on 0121 749 6313

OR book online at <https://walshpodiatry.co.uk/book-online>



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Early Years Play Space at Shustoke Primary School

The youngest children at Shustoke Primary School are delighted with a new instillation of outdoor equipment, which was recently fitted following a successful grant from Coleshill Grammar School Trust. The play space, which is situated on the school playground adjacent to the early years classroom, has been transformed into a wonderful area for outdoor activities such as climbing, water play, nature and minibeast exploration and messy play. The children have thoroughly enjoyed sampling the equipment, and will benefit immensely from activities which develop their motor skills and coordination. Climbing and other challenging activities have the added benefit of building confidence and resilience in a safe environment.

Anais (Age 5) commented, *"I love the new equipment. I can climb to the top of poles and jump off the step!"*

Jesse (Age 5) added, *"I love using the water play area. It's so much fun!"*

The Early Years equipment is part of the first phase of work to be completed in the outdoor areas of Shustoke Primary School, with subsequent phases of work due to commence in the coming weeks. In the next phase, children across the whole school will benefit from a large trim trail, sports goals and other playground enhancements. The next phase of the Early Years project will also begin this summer.

Shustoke Primary School welcomes families of children who are starting school this September to a Stay and Play on Friday 24th May at 09:15. Please telephone the school office (01675 481319) for a place.

Places are available for Reception Class starters in September 2024.



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SOCIAL GROUP

Hello my name is Peter

I have lived in Curdworth for the past 8 years. My wife sadly passed away last year. Life can get very lonely sometimes so I looked for a group I could go to, to spend time with other people.

Unfortunately there are no social groups at all in Curdworth.

So I thought why not start one up? We have a village hall and a church hall. I think it would be nice to socialise with other people and I'm sure I'm not the only one that would value some company.

Can you please let me know if you think this is something that we could do or if it's something you might be interested in. If you have any ideas of what people might like I would be very interested to hear them.

In the first instance I am just looking to see if there are enough people who would be interested in setting up a group.

My address is Number one Beehive Lane, Curdworth.

My phone number is 01675 475213.

My email address is peterwright606@gmail.com.

Hope to see you soon. Thank you. Peter

Police News



Community Engagement

PCSO Scott dropped in at Cafe Royale held at Alexander Court Community Centre, Princess Road, Atherstone.

As usual a lovely warm welcome and lots of banter from members and organisers at the centre.

It was great to see you all.

If you are feeling lonely and want some company why not drop in and join the group for a tea and chat.

All welcome.

TUES, WED, & FRIDAY
FROM 11.00hrs TILL 15.00hrs



Community Engagement Event

Community Engagement Event in Coleshill at Digby Road, Community Centre on Saturday 18th May 2024 from 0930am to till 1130am.

We will be offering free property marking items such as dual U.V/Black marker pens, purse dipping bells, crime prevention advice will be given and to also ask any questions you may have.

Property marking of any type including registering your bike is very important to help get your property back if stolen but more importantly it also allows the Police to apprehend criminals in possession of security marked property.

Come and meet your local officers.

Please Help us Find the Owners

Please help us find the owners of this stolen property.



This week the team recovered a significant amount of power tools, batteries and generators (we will post about this incident another time

Having returned some of the larger items (not pictured) to their rightful owners we are now in the process of trying reunite tens of thousands of pounds worth of tools we believe to have been stolen from all over the country.

The team have assessed some of this property as having identifying marks that can be linked to the people that lost them.

Over the coming weeks we will post images of such marks on our Facebook page and ask as many people as possible to follow and share in the hope that the owners recognise these identifiers.

<https://www.facebook.com/AthColesPolice>

As we post, if you recognise the identifiers as yours we ask that you get in touch with us by emailing ruralcrimeteam@warwickshire.police.uk

Get Connected with Warwickshire Police

Coleshill SNT have been promoting Warwickshire Connected.

Get connected with what is happening in your local area, keep up to date and get involved in shaping what goes on where you live or work.

Warwickshire Connected is a free messaging service brought to you by Warwickshire Police where you decide when and how you hear about the issues that matter most to you, whether that be getting regular crime updates, the latest information on ongoing incidents and emergencies or learning more about what your local police are doing.

This is also the place where you can get involved in helping to make your local area a safer place, tell us what police should be doing in your area, shape the initiatives that help to keep people and property safe and tell us what matters are causing your communities harm.

Follow the link to sign up today:

www.warwickshireconnected.com



Also please follow our Facebook page where we put updates of what Atherstone and Coleshill Safer Neighbourhood Teams get up to.

There are updates on going incidents, appeals and much more. We will be posting about upcoming events also so please take a look, see when they are and come along. We like to be as accessible as possible so using our social media page is a great way for us to communicate with our communities.



TWIN RIVER WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

April 2024 Report

We thought last month was busy, but this month tops even that! We have been working hard, but it has been rewarding and fun.

The TRWI Annual Craft Event

On the 26 March, a trio of crafting Queens visited to teach us three new crafts.

Karen White from Crafts with Karen performed sorcery with macramé, twiddling knots in string into hanging ornaments. It look difficult, yet Karen somehow helped everyone to understand how to do it. Some wonderful, beaded hangers were produced which, when dipping in aromatic oils, became air fresheners (perfect to hang on a car interior mirror).



Needle felting mini-panoramas was the name of the game for Carol Wise from Florafaunafelt. Of course, someone asked the predictable question: "Can you use cat or dog fur?" Carol assured everyone that you can actually use pet fur for felting, but to make sure it is mixed with felting wool. Some people's artwork was mind-boggling; including lovely beach and country scenes.

The final craft everyone played with was making Easter decorations out of clay. Who would have thought cake cutters would come in handy for clay work? As demonstrated by Allison Loughran from The Crafty Cottage Garden. Everyone got their hands dirty messing about with the clay but it was great fun. Like going back to school.



It was a wonderful turnout for TRWI's traditional, annual craft event and we are already looking forward to next year's exploration into all things creative.

Easter Treasure Hunt *UPDATE*

We promised an update on this didn't we? Well...the Easter treasure hunt went down an absolute storm! This local annual WI event has really gained traction. The shops up and down the High Street were more than happy to get involved. What a great show of shared community spirit.



We ensured that the treasure hunt was well advertised so that parents, carers and children knew when to start hunting. Of course, the ladies were skulking about the High Street and shops hiding bunnies, ducklings and chicks early in the day before the children were up and about.

The kids were in and out of all the shops and hunting all over the High Street – peering into bushes, under benches, down drains. We apologise if you caught any little faces peering through your front windows.

Some kiddies came away with more than one little fancy friend, but we doubt that anyone came away empty handed. Even some adults were happy to adopt a new knitted friend. We received so many lovely messages:

- "Thank you. Was out with my grandson and friends with her

2 grandsons today in the rain and we found a little rabbit and they found a beautiful, knitted duck each; they were made up! Said it was like being on holiday in Coleshill. You help make Coleshill a lovely place to live"

- "My little 2 found 2 each. Thank you, they loved searching."
- "My little girl was so happy to find this one at the park. Thank you!"
- "Thank you – we saw the post and went out looking. My 2 found one each and they were so happy! Thank you to all involved."
- "My kiddos has a great time today we only went out to do a bunny hunt. They were so excited when we found other cute things on the way. They're so cute, thanks so much. Bringing kids joy to Coleshill."

We were thrilled to learn that some people had travelled into Coleshill from elsewhere to give their children a day out. We are so pleased you all enjoyed it and that it bought people onto the High Street and into the shops. Enjoy the toys, it was our pleasure.

St George's Parade and Fun Day



On the 21 April, the Coleshill Partnership hosted the annual St George's Day Parade and fun day on The Croft. We held a stall of our own as a membership drive and a way of raising some much needed funds – money to be put towards future events.



The day started with us battling the gazebo and getting the tables ready – one for a tombola, the other to sell craft items and sell raffle tickets for the marvellous chocolate bouquet created by the craft group.



At 11.30am, a group of our members joined the parade to walk the High Street, dressed in red and white. They had a lot of fun waving their flags and doffing to the crowd. The weather held too! Was dry and the temperature was comfortable. As a result, the crowds were out in force.

We managed to clear the whole of the tombola prizes which is fantastic, raising £115.00. The raffle for the chocolate bouquet started slow until Karen physically took it into the crowds and encouraged people to buy a ticket, the result of which... another £93.00! Congrats to Lorraine Jenkins who was the lucky winner of the chocolate bouquet.

One of our giveaways (as well as the coveted TRWI bookmark) is a poppy making kit. The kit comprises of an easy to follow instruction sheet and enough raw materials to make a poppy. If you would like a kit, email us at TRWIEvents@gmail.com and we will gift one to you free of charge. Once you've made your poppy, give it back to us and we will attach it to the Remembrance Day poppy cascade and include your name on the list of people who have contributed.

A successful day had by all who participated. Well done to the organisers who did a splendid job.

Whitacre & Shustoke Spring Show

On Saturday, 6 April, a contingent of our crafty ladies descended on the above show to present some of their makes for judging, and they did BRILLIANTLY! It was a slew of 1st, 2nd and 3rd placings,

including:

- Julia Bowdler | 1st for her cork bag (scored a maximum 20/20)
- Jane Mills | 1st for her yummy chocolate cake
- Trish Hobrow | 1st for her flowering shrub blooms
- Jane Mills | 2nd for her vase display of mixed spring flowers
- Diane Arnold | 2nd for her cute baby cardigan
- Jane Mills | 2nd for her 'petite flower arrangement'
- Trish Hobrow | 3rd for her scrummy jar of Marmalade

Well done ladies. Well deserved.





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Hours. Mon to Fri 10:00 to 13:00

www.coleshillhub.org.uk

colehillcommunityhub@gmail.com

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Natter
Walking Sports
Art & Crafts

Statement from Sarah Feeny, Labour's candidate for Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner:

Sarah Feeny, Labour's candidate came a narrow second in the Police and Crime Commissioner election, which was declared 4th May. Sarah secured 39.2% of the vote in Warwickshire with the winning candidate getting 39.4% of the vote, missing out by mere 261 votes out of a total of 115,882.

Sarah Feeny comments:

"The outcome of the Police and Crime Commissioner election in Warwickshire is disappointing for me, but I respect the decision of the voters.

I do want to say thank you to everyone who voted for me and everyone who supported my campaign. The result was awfully close, and it does show that many people in Warwickshire share my priorities.

Whilst campaigning in towns and villages throughout Warwickshire, I have learnt so much first-hand about the issues people are dealing with. As

Warwickshire County Councillor I will not let this knowledge go to waste. I will use my position on WCC to support council initiatives that help address the causes of crime and support our hard-working Warwickshire Police Force.

I want to extend my sincerest congratulations to Philip Seccombe. I wish him the very best, I know he will serve with integrity and dedication, keeping the best interests of our community at heart."



Sarah Feeny



SHARE A STORY

contact:

serena.postgroup@outlook.com

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Sertec Group named as Company of the Year at the 'Metalforming Oscars'



CBM Award Winners 2024 (L): Darren Wilding, Joshua Wood (both G-TEM), Kayleigh Simm (KMF Precision Sheet Metal), Ben Higgins and Martin Hinckley (both Sertec Group)

A supplier of millions of components every day to cars, lorries and engines has been named as the Confederation of British Metalforming's Company of the Year at a prestigious event last night.

Sertec Group, which employs over 2200 people across ten global locations, beat off strong competition from the sector to win the main award, with judges impressed by 'its journey to excellence' that has seen it enjoy a major increase in productivity, improvements in on-time delivery in full and the implementation of a comprehensive employee engagement approach.

With 200 people in attendance at The Grand Hotel in Birmingham, the Coleshill Headquartered company was joined on stage by KMF Precision Sheet Metal's Kayleigh Simm (Apprentice of the Year) and G-TEM, who was a double winner on the evening (HSE Initiative and Energy Efficiency).

The latter, a global manufacturer of vehicle body structures, has demonstrated a clear passion for implementing ISO 45001 with the aim of creating a safer working environment, whilst its commitment towards Net Zero by 2035 has seen it introduce quarterly energy audits and commission a 200% increase in its solar power capability.

Emissions have decreased by more than a quarter (28%) because of these initiatives, with sales also growing by a staggering 56% due to major new business awards.

Steve Morley, President of the Confederation of British Metalforming (CBM), commented: "It has been another difficult year for the metalforming sector, who are facing up to global conflicts, continued supply chain disruption and high inflation.

"In spite of all this, our members have continued to show great resilience and innovation to post increased sales, export growth and investment in safety, people and new technology."

He continued: "This is illustrated by the winners at our Annual Dinner. All of them are striving to be the best they can be in their respective fields and, importantly, are committed to raising the profile of our sector and what UK manufacturing can do."

19-year-old Kayleigh Simm is putting 'girl power' on the industrial map after she was recognised as the CBM's Apprentice of the Year.

She joined Newcastle-under-Lyme's KMF Precision Sheet Metal in 2022 and her drive for engineering has shone through as she progresses within the company and, importantly, in the way she champions vocational learning to other young people.

This has seen her lead a KMF team at 15 school and college career fairs, as well as acting as an outstanding apprentice advocate on its Apprenticeship Open Day that attracted over 140 visitors.

Kayleigh is now setting her sights on undertaking a degree in Manufacturing Engineering.

Geraldine Bolton, CEO of the CBM, went on to add: "It is fantastic to have a female engineer win the Apprentice of the Year title, and this will no doubt help us attract more girls into our sector."

"Our Annual Dinner continues to be an excellent vehicle for promoting and celebrating the very best of the UK's metalforming sector. In addition to the awards, more than 200 guests also enjoyed an inspirational talk by Dave Heeley OBE, who has earned the nickname of 'Blind Dave' after raising hundreds of thousands of pounds completing marathons and other endurance challenges."

The Confederation of British Metalforming represents the interests of more than 200 UK manufacturers of fasteners, forgings, pressings, cold rolled and sheet-metal products.

Its Awards were kindly sponsored by Crowe UK, Greenfields Energy Group, Steel & Alloy Gonvarri Industries, and the University of Sheffield Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre (AMRC).

For further information, please visit www.thebcm.co.uk

Deborah Meaden says "I'm in" to Mary's Meals' Sponsor A School project




International school feeding charity launches Sponsor A School initiative with entrepreneur and TV star

Entrepreneur and Dragons' Den investor, Deborah Meaden, is backing international school feeding charity Mary's Meals' Sponsor A School project.

Mary's Meals started by feeding 200 children in school in Malawi in 2002 and now is providing school meals to more than 2.4 million hungry children every day in

18 of the world's poorest countries. The promise of a nutritious meal at school attracts these children into the classroom, where they can gain an education which can be their ladder out of poverty.

The Sponsor A School initiative invites people or groups to fundraise to provide school meals to an entire school. Supporters can simply choose the size of school they wish to sponsor, and they will be allocated a school in either Malawi or Zambia. Supporters can choose to make their donation upfront, or in stages, or begin to fundraise within their community.

Deborah says: "Helping the next generation in an increasingly difficult world is something I am deeply passionate about, and Mary's Meals is doing incredible work in attracting vulnerable children into education with a daily school meal."

"By sponsoring a school with Mary's Meals, you can ensure that every child in an entire school receives a daily meal, which will give them energy to learn and thrive in education and beyond. Sponsor A School is a rare opportunity to truly change the lives of hundreds of children."

Sponsoring a school will help children like Dorothy from Malawi reach their full potential. The introduction of Mary's Meals at her school has improved her daily life and given her the power to dream of a brighter future.

Dorothy says: "I am very happy to be here at this school. I like it here because of Mary's Meals. I have developed a hardworking spirit. My life is changing for the better."

Matt Barlow, Executive Director of Mary's Meals, says: "I am delighted that Deborah is backing Sponsor A School. It is an incredibly important initiative that helps Mary's Meals reach so many hungry children awaiting our support. This has a huge impact, not only for the children, but for their families and wider communities. Supporters who sponsor a school have a real sense of connection to their chosen school and to the children who eat our nutritious school meals. There are so many ways to get involved with Sponsor A School, whether as a group or an individual."

To find out more about Mary's Meals and Sponsor A School, please visit: www.marysmeals.org.uk/sponsor.

Community Growing

Laura Docker took on her first allotment plot in April 2021, and now has a large double plot in Coleshill, where she grows a variety of vegetables and flowers. In 2021, Laura won “Best Newcomer” at the North Warwickshire Allotment Federation awards, and in 2023 was awarded “Best Allotment” by Coleshill Town Council. In each edition, Laura will share her knowledge and tips for anyone considering joining the growing ‘grow your own’ community.

You can follow Laura’s allotment diary on Instagram, @lottieonthehill



June is the month where your growing space will really start to come to life. You’ll be able to start picking salad leaves and snipping chives to add to your meals, perhaps even some tomatoes if you’re lucky!

Unfortunately, along with the fabulous vegetable growth comes the nuisance of weeds and insects eating the fruits of your labour. But don’t despair and keep away from chemical treatments because all you need are companion plants and knowledge of the beasties!

Greenfly and aphids are a particular pest for gardeners, who I find particularly love my beautiful roses and other plants across the garden and allotment. The good news is that they make a delicious meal for the gardener’s friend – ladybirds! If you can, leave a small area of stinging nettles in your growing space, ladybirds love nettles as a place to hide and rest and you’ll be able to carefully relocate a few of them to areas of concern and let them snack away!

Frogs are also a great friend to have in your growing space, and even a washing-up bowl sized pond will provide a happy home to these webbed creatures. They will keep the population of pesky slugs under control without resorting to pellets and other methods, keeping your growing space healthy for both yourself and your garden’s eco-system.

If you are growing carrots in the ground, they may be attacked by carrot fly. Carrot fly is a small, black-bodied fly whose larvae feed on the roots of carrots and other plants such as parsnip, parsley, celery and celeriac. Alternating a row of carrots with a row of onions or spring onions, whose scent will confuse these pests and help to protect your crops.

Growing nasturtiums in your growing space will attract white cabbage butterflies. These beautiful looking creatures can have a devastating impact on your kale, broccoli, cauliflower, cabbages and other brassica plants. By strategically placing nasturtiums in the same areas, the butterflies will be drawn to the bright flowers instead – and

although they may appear to be destroyed, the amazing thing is that these flowers will grow back, and they are even edible. The seed pods can be dried and saved for planted out the following year, or they can be used in place of capers for a delicious addition to your dinner plate.

Placement of mint, chives and thyme are also great companion plants, giving off aromatic scents which confuse and deter a multitude of common garden pests from vegetable plants and flowers. Before you reach for chemical treatments, which can cause more harm than good in your garden, give companion planting (and ladybirds) a try!

Things to grow this month:

- There’s till time to grow runner beans and French beans, and these can now be sown directly into the ground.
- Beetroot can also be sown directly in the ground this month – you can also sow these in shallow seed trays and eat the leaves as ‘micro greens’.
- Cucumbers can be sown in individual pots or module trays, be sure to place the seed in ‘sideways’ to avoid rotting.
- Carrots can be sown now – if you are growing them in the ground, be sure to alternate a row of carrots with a row of onions to avoid carrot fly damage. Alternatively, sow carrots in a raised bed.
- Coriander is a quick-growing herb that can be sown in containers and picked as needed.
- Spring onion and salad leaves can be down in the ground or in large pots.
- Plant out your tomato plants in a warm, sunny position and make sure they do not get too dry.
- Potatoes can still be planted out, if planted into pots/bags then 5 tubers can be planted per 40L pot/bag – new potato sized crops will take around 10 weeks, with larger varieties taking up to 20 weeks.



The Coleshill School pupil in pole position for motorsport Career

A talented young racing driver from The Coleshill School is in pole position for a successful career in the motorsport industry after dedicating his spare time to winning on the racetrack.

Thirteen-year-old Jensen has been spending weekends karting for four years and is proving to be a top competitor, scoring third place out of 36 drivers in a recent event.

Jensen said: "When everything is going right for me on the track it's a great feeling. There's the adrenaline going round me. It's good fun trying to overtake people, going faster, but there's a lot more to it. Braking and setting the car up right are really important."

According to Jensen's dad, Scott, the young driver's love of motorsport started from an early age – although he wasn't named after famous Formula One star Jenson Button.

He said: "Jensen's always been car-mad. In fact, it's hard to believe, but his very first word was 'car'! He first went karting when he was six – we tried lots of different taster sessions and he ended up loving it. I've always loved cars myself, so I've supported him at every step.

"He's probably picked up the motorsport bug from me!"

With his ambition, hard work and passion, Jensen is on the road to an amazing career in the motorsport industry.

He said: "I'd like to be a racing driver, but I've got to be realistic. Engineering or working with cars would be great too."

Jensen's talent on the track has drawn support from family and friends. He's even managed to score two sponsors – EBC Brakes and A & P Fencing."

Also eager to support Jensen's budding career is The Coleshill School, which is part of the respected Arthur Terry Learning Partnership.

Scott said: "The school has been very supportive, especially Mr Smith-Childs, who always asks how Jensen's getting on. The school even encourages him to take a couple of days off for the championships. "It's great to see how much Coleshill value extracurricular stuff, even if it's not academic."

The skills Jensen has learned during his karting sessions extend beyond the track. Confidence and communication skills, as well as knowledge in maths, pressures and engineering, are laying great groundwork for Jensen's future.

Scott said: "Confidence is so important to his success, and he's earned a lot of respect. I've really seen him bloom in this environment, and he's made some friends for life.

"He's learned a lot about discipline too. He sets his alarm for 5.45 am on Saturday and Sunday, and the hard work has paid off. He's been in the National Series, racing all over the country.

"It's taught him he's only going to get out of life what he puts into it. He's put so much time into practice, and it's worked out for him. I'm really proud."

Ian Smith-Childs, ATLP Strategic Lead said: "We are so proud of what Jensen is achieving on the track – he's a great example to his classmates about how hard work and dedication can lead to results."



Castle Bromwich u3a

Castle Bromwich u3a had a most interesting talk entitled The Dog in your Medicine Cabinet by the Assistance Dog's charity Medical Detection Dogs.

We discovered that the dogs are trained to detect certain illnesses by smell and that they were extremely accurate.

The speaker, Mr Geoff Lambert, brought along his assistance dog Archie who was adorable and trotted around saying hello to the audience.

It could be the future of diagnostic medicine!

A big thank you to both our guests.

If you would like to join our u3a then please come to our next meeting at Arden Hall on the last Wednesday of the month at 1.30pm. It is £2 for a visitor which includes tea or coffee and biscuits. The next meeting is a quiz. Come and make new friends and learn something new.

Helen Abbott



BBC Gardeners' World Live announces exciting new features for 2024



Urban Gardens, a spectacular edible headline show garden by Adam Frost, orchids from all over the world, and new stages and workshops are just some of the exciting new highlights at this year's BBC Gardeners' World Live, returning to the NEC Birmingham from 13-16 June. It's the perfect summer day out for green fingered folks and first-time gardeners alike, with inspiring show gardens and floral displays to enjoy, achievable ideas to try at home, plants a-plenty to browse and buy, well-known gardening faces sharing expert advice, and hands-on workshops to dive into.

BBC Gardeners' World presenter Adam Frost's headline Show Garden, The Chef's Table, is sure to draw a crowd at this year's BBC Gardeners' World Live. The large, walk-through garden will be a vibrant celebration of home-grown produce, featuring a rustic outdoor cooking and eating space set amongst an array of tasty plants. Adam will be hosting a daily programme of 'plot-to-plate' themed conversations and delicious demos on his garden with chefs and culinary friends from sister event, BBC Good Food Show Summer, including James Martin, Michel Roux, and BBC Good Food's Cassie Best.

New for 2024 and designed to inspire town and city types, the Urban Gardens space, sponsored by Blue Diamond Garden Centre group, is packed with ideas, plants and products for creative containers, brilliant balconies and wonderful window boxes. On the Urban Gardens Stage, Ade Sellars (AKA The Good Life Gardener) will be hosting daily sessions by a line-up of expert urban gardeners, and there will be a Showcase Garden showdown between the UK's top young landscaping teams, fresh from their success at WorldSkills UK, the national youth skills event. Two talented teams will compete to create the perfect city garden, mentored by award-winning garden designer, Cherry Carmen. Blue Diamond will present their own feature garden, showcasing ten essential plants for urban gardens, with all plants featured – and more – available to buy in the dedicated Urban Gardens retail area.

Orchid lovers will be thrilled to hear that BBC Gardeners' World Live will be the new home for the British Orchid Council's annual International Orchid Show. This exciting 'show within a show' will be a major highlight of the breathtaking Floral Marquee and will feature displays by more than 25 - 30 specialist orchid growers, offering breathtaking displays and expert advice for orchid lovers!

Clive Lloyd and Nicky Wakley from the International Orchid Show said: "We can't wait to be in our new home at BBC Gardeners' World Live, sharing the secrets of

these exquisite plants with a huge new audience."

The BBC Gardeners' World Live Floral Marquee is always a treat for the senses with its heady scents, colourful displays by specialist plant growers and nurseries, plants to buy, and feature highlights. In this year's expanded Hot Off The Potting Bench walk-through gallery, visitors will be able to view brand new plants and varieties close-up as they vie for this year's Peter Seabrook Award for Best New Plant at BBC Gardeners' World Live. Horticulturalists, Lucy Chamberlain and Saul Walker will be hosting Plant Expert Workshops as well as offering one-to-one help at the popular Plant Expert advice desk and hosting garden tours and walks. Take a seat at the Floral Marquee's Let's Talk Plants stage to get floral advice from BBC Gardeners' World presenters, stage sponsor Hillier's plant specialists and special guests. Floral Marquee sponsor, Legal & General, will again host a lounge for their retirement customers.

Also new for 2024 is the Get Growing Stage, an exciting, informal, drop-in space that's dedicated to the joy of home growing. Garden Organic's Chris Collins will host a daily programme of top tips and growing advice, joined by a line-up of well-known 'Grow Your Own' gurus, including Jason Williams (Cloud Gardener UK), Hannah Reid, Adam Kirkland and Lydia Lakemoore. Chefs from The Pig and Lime Wood hotel will be hosting alfresco cooking demonstrations on-stage, next to The Pig Allotment Garden which marks the opening of the new The Pig on the Farm near Stratford-Upon-Avon in June.

Whether your garden is postage stamp or park sized, there's abundant inspiration at BBC Gardeners' World Live. Stroll along the avenues and take in the impressive Show Gardens by award-winning designers and teams, including Derby College with Derbyshire Historic Building Trust, Adam Marshall (AKA @greenfingeredcityboy) and Kate Mason for an NHS establishment in Lancashire & Pippa Probert will be presenting 'The Viewers Garden'.

Pick up interesting ideas for smaller gardens from the mid-size Showcase and Feature Gardens from designers including: A Plot Amongst the Chickens by Benjamin Shutler; Share My Space-With Nature by Carleen Osbourne; The Pig's Allotment Garden by The Pig (Homegrown Hotels); Nature's Embrace by Becky Sibley (Wild Thyme Designs Limited); Flora & Flavour by Hannah Reid; Take Me Home by Consuelo Franco (Franco Brain); Stop and smell the flowers by Julie Haylock (Sandhurst Garden Design). Plus border ideas from the ever-popular Beautiful Borders whose 2024 theme is 'Share My Space'.

In the Association of Professional Landscapers' APL Avenue Show Garden Competition, four member companies will be showcasing their skills, creating back garden designs inspired by the theme, 'The Good Life'. The entries this year include Anna Helps Garden Design with Costa Cadiz, Fenton Gardens with Lunatica, Dan Hartley Garden Design with Eco Oasis and Katerina Kantalis with The Mediterraneo Garden.

You're never far away from a familiar face at BBC Gardeners' World Live and visitors can enjoy some entertaining gardening chat at the BBC Gardeners' World Live Theatre. Presenters Monty Don, Adam Frost, Frances Tophill, Carol Klein and Joe Swift will be 'in conversation' with Nicki Chapman and swapping

summer garden tips with the BBC Gardeners' World Magazine editors. Theatre sponsor, British Garden Centres, will be hosting daily sessions with guests, Michael Perry.

Keen indoor gardeners can head straight for the new layout House Plant Hub designed by Hayley of Mint Plants with its tempting House Plant Market and Stage where host, Ellen Mary, and expert special guests will be sharing their secrets for happy, healthy house plants.

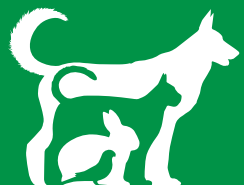
Shopping opportunities are a major attraction at BBC Gardeners' World Live with a vast range of plants for sale in the Floral Marquee, Plant Village, House Plant Market and new Urban Gardens zone. 100s of high-quality retailers will be on site, selling garden accessories, décor, tools, equipment and furniture, both inside and outside the show halls, with plenty of show offers and bargains to be had. There's a Plant Crèche for hands-free, hassle-free shopping and a car collection service available for heavier items.

The popular Health for Life Wheelbarrow Competition returns this year, nurturing the next generation of gardeners and growers. Children from local schools and nurseries will be creating wheelbarrow planters with a 'food and climate change' theme, sharing their designs with tens of thousands of visitors. There's plenty to keep young visitors entertained at the show too, like admiring carnivorous plants and bonsai in the Floral Marquee, joining The Conservation Volunteers for a drop-in seed sowing session, or enjoying fish and chips or an ice cream. Children aged five and under go free every day (ticket required) and under 16s go free at the weekend.

Tickets for BBC Gardeners' World Live include entry to the BBC Good Food Show Summer, featuring demonstrations, theatres, stages and talks, book signing, tastings and workshops, street food, and delicious food and drink to taste and buy. The show's foodie stars include Nadiya Hussain, James Martin, Michel Roux, The Hairy Bikers, Becky Excell and many more. Visitors can dine in style by booking a sit-down meal at the BBC Good Food Restaurant, inspired by the country's leading food website, bbcgoodfood.com.

Rachel Poletti-Gadd, Portfolio Director - Gardening Division at Immediate Live, organisers of BBC Gardeners' World Events, said: "From Adam Frost's headline Show Garden and Urban Gardens space to the Get Growing Stage, Plant Expert Workshops and more, we can't wait to share this year's exciting new highlights with visitors, along with the show's much-loved favourite features. We're also thrilled to be welcoming the annual International Orchid Show which will be a wonderful addition to our Floral Marquee. If you love gardens and plants, gardening and growing, or just enjoy a great day out with excellent food, drink and entertainment, there really is no better place to be this summer. Inspiration and new ideas to try at home, expert advice, famous faces, delicious food and unique shopping opportunities – BBC Gardeners' World Live and BBC Good Food Summer have it all!"

Tickets for BBC Gardeners' World Live at the NEC Birmingham (13-16 June), including entry to BBC Good Food Show Summer, are on sale now at www.bbcgardenersworldlive.com



Pet Page



Saying Goodbye

Let's be honest; this is the topic nobody ever likes to talk about. As many of you know, we recently said goodbye to Oscar and some of the decisions we made at the time I didn't even know were options when we lost our first greyhound. I wanted to share some of our experiences in case it can help others.

With Oscar, we said goodbye at home—this was a first for us. Our wonderful vet, who had been through so much of Oscar's journey with us, came to our house, and we let him go in his favourite spot. Although extremely sad, this felt also quite comforting and peaceful. We then chose to take Oscar to the pet crematorium ourselves, which again was the first and I found comfort in doing so. If this is something you are considering, knowing which services are local to you could be beneficial.

There is a company called Dignity Pets, which offers at-home farewell services for your dog. Their website is also a valuable resource to explore; they are also able to help you understand when your dog is nearing the point where difficult decisions need to be made. They offer questionnaires that can be helpful if your dog is unwell, and if you think the time is coming obviously, always seek medical advice. I haven't used these personally, but I have friends who have and said they were really impressed and comforted by them.

12 months ago we said goodbye to Belle. With Belle one morning, it was extremely clear she was very unwell, so we rushed her to our vets, left her there for investigations and within a short space of time, we had the call saying it was awful news. We got to say goodbye and were with her when she went.

We've also been in a situation where Josie, another of our greyhounds, collapsed while an inpatient at a

specialist vet, and we couldn't be there as she would have suffered and is unlikely to have survived while we travelled to her.

From some of those, I've learnt that having a rough plan in place has been very useful for us. For example plan A has been we would like them in the comfort of their own home. However if we had brought Belle home she would have suffered so we went with plan b (at the vets) and with Josie that wasn't even an option so do you need to be adaptable and do what's right for your dog.

Once you know it's happening, there are a lot of decisions.

You will be asked if you want to take your dog and leave them if they are at the vet's, if you would like an individual cremation, and what you would like to do with the ashes, whether you want them in a scatter tube or an urn.

Many of the decisions Jim and I have discussed way in advance of the situations arising with our dogs, such as whether we want them buried or cremated, whether we want to take them ourselves to the crematorium, and what we might do with the ashes. If it was an option, would we want them to be at home? Do we want our other dogs to see them during or afterwards? What do we want to do with the ashes?

I know it's tough, but I would really recommend considering some of this in advance. If you get that news, you are likely to be in such a heightened emotional state that trying to figure this out can be extremely challenging.

Honestly, Jim and I have been on the same page about some of this; some of it we haven't, and I am so grateful we had those discussions in advance. So when situations have arisen, particularly the ones with very little notice, we have both known the plan, and our focus has been on the dogs and supporting each other.

As for what comes after cremation, it's obviously a personal choice. For us, we have made different decisions for the different personalities. We have Louis in a greyhound urn that perfectly reflects his spirit. (see image) We have scattered in favourite spots, we have scattered in the garden, and then planted a bush in memory of them. I know people who have had ashes made into jewellery to keep a loved one close or

ornaments made. The decision is deeply personal, but having some consideration beforehand can ease the difficulty of making such choices during an emotional time.

We've been lucky to receive support from friends, family and particularly our dog friends and community afterwards. I also wanted to mention the Blue Cross; they offer bereavement services for you after the loss of your pets. It may be worth exploring the resources they provide, everyone handles things differently, but it's important to know there is help out there for you, and you shouldn't hesitate to reach out for help if you need to.

After losing your dog, some people start to think about welcoming a new family member into the home, and again, this can be difficult to think about. It's important to remember that no new pet can replace the one we have lost, but for some people, welcoming another into their lives helps with the grieving process. Others choose to wait a while, and some never take that step again; there is no right or wrong decision in this matter—it is entirely personal, and you should do what feels right for you.

The key message I wanted to share is that the process of saying goodbye to a cherished dog is a deeply emotional journey, it may not always go to plan, and you may need to be flexible, but having knowledge about available options can hopefully provide some comfort during a difficult time.



Birmingham Dogs Home - Forever homes



Karma

Breed: Akita **Gender:** Female

Meet Karma, a very typical 1 year old Akita who is looking for a home to call her own.

Karma is an active girl who thrives on exploration and enjoys playing with her favourite toys. She typically plays with quite independently and will exchange her toys for treats. Despite her independent nature, she has a sweet side that shines through once she's had the chance to get to know you.

Initially, Karma may be a bit nervous, especially around new faces and female individuals, however, she tends to warm up quickly once a bond has been established. While she may appear wary of handling at first, she's gradually learning to trust and can

be handled all over, though she may stiffen around her back end when unsure.

Karma does enjoy her walks and has shown a playful curiosity in wildlife and small furrries on walks. She can sometimes pull forward if she sees something particularly interesting, it is recommended to keep Karma on lead or on long lines when on walks as she doesn't have the best recall.

This lovely lady is not your typical lap dog; she values her independence and isn't particularly fond of cuddles or being overhandled. therefore, she would do best in a home with

older children, aged 16 and above, who understand and respect her boundaries, as she does enjoy her own space.

Karma does get on very well with other dogs at our centre, and while she enjoys the company of her fellow canines, she does exhibit food aggression, so will be looking to be the only dog in the home, with the possibility of walking buddies. Her food aggression is being actively addressed, and she is learning to sit and wait for her meals. Continued training and patience in the home are key to her success.

Karma is also undergoing muzzle

training which has been going well. This training has been used for vet visits and will need to be continued in the home.

Due to her Akita breed characteristics, Karma requires an experienced owner who understands the unique needs and quirks of Akitas and is happy to commit to multiple meets at the centre. She's a typical stubborn Akita who will benefit from consistent training and positive reinforcement.

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

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Interiors & Decorating



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Platinum June Update

Hi, we're back again.

Feature walls continue to be a popular choice when redecorating a room. Adding a different colour to an individual wall can provide a focal point and change the sense of space and dimensions of a room. Similarly, using a patterned wallpaper can enhance a room by creating a point of interest using colour and texture.

While the above is all true, so to is the opposite. A poor choice of colour or of which wall to use can have a negative effect on the sense of proportion in a room. With that in mind we'll have a look at some basic rules to be aware of when deciding on whether or not to include a feature wall in your project.

The first thing to consider is what you want to achieve in relation to the proportions of a room. If you have a long narrow room such as a lounge / dining room then using a strong colour on the long wall and a lighter colour on the two end walls will enhance the effect making it appear even more pinched together and more narrow. Sometimes in a room such as this a better effect can be achieved by using a feature colour on just the chimney breast if available.

On the other hand, if you use a strong colour on a short wall in a rectangle room it will have the effect of making the room feel squarer and more evenly proportioned. It is often said that using a bold feature colour on a longer wall in a room can make the space feel uneven and less desirable to sit or sleep in.

Another thing to consider in a living room is using a feature colour in the alcoves either side of the chimney breast. This can add depth to the room. Another very simple but effective technique is if there are shelves built into the alcoves to paint them the same colour as the walls. This will really enhance the effect that some thoughtfully placed ornaments or a lamp have on a room.

Also, you shouldn't feel limited to using one colour on a feature wall. A dado rail provides an obvious natural point at which to switch to a different colour but even if you don't have a dado rail there's nothing to say you can create your own line using masking tape and have two different colours on one walls. Using a darker colour on the bottom third of a room and a lighter colour above it can make a room feel bigger than it actually is.

When choosing colours the widely accepted wisdom is that dark colours make a room feel smaller and light colours make it appear larger. While this is often true it's more useful to think about colours as warm or cool. So warmer reds and yellows have the effect of moving towards you so make a room feel smaller while cooler blues and greys will have the effect of making the walls recede and increase the feeling of volume in a room. Conversely, as cooler colours such as bluest darker they start to make a room feel more cosy. A good example of this is Farrow and Ball's 'Drawing Room Blue'.

When using wallpaper for a feature wall it's worth considering choosing the paper before the colour for the rest of the room. Most paint suppliers are able to scan and match colours so if you take a sample of the paper into them they can match one of the lighter colours in the paper for you to use on the other walls. This will unify the overall theme of the room. When choosing patterned paper remember that an intricate pattern will make a room feel more cosy and a large pattern will make a room seem bigger, even in a small room. Another thing to consider is the texture of the wallpaper. Using texture on a wall can make a room feel cosier and warmer even if the paper is a similar colour to the rest of the room.

None of the above advice should be seen as set in stone. If once you've finished you're not sure about your choice we'd always advise living with it for a couple of weeks. When you've got the pictures back up and furniture back in the room the colours can take on a different personality. The worst thing that can happen is that you are not happy with the feature colour and need to re-do it. This isn't the end of the world- you've already done all the time consuming prep, re-painting one wall isn't a massive undertaking so don't be afraid to experiment.

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Philip Seccombe outlines his plans for a third term after swearing the oath of office



Philip Seccombe has outlined his plans for the future after swearing an oath of impartiality, as he prepares to begin a third term as Police and Crime Commissioner for Warwickshire.

Mr Seccombe won the Police and Crime Commissioner election on May 2, extending his period of office for a further four years. He was first elected to the post in 2016 and again in 2021, before topping the polls for a third time last week.

Among his first acts was to swear an oath to serve all the people of Warwickshire, pledging to act with integrity, transparency and diligence and give voice to the public, especially victims of crime. He also pledged to ensure the police can cut crime and protect the public, respecting the operational independence of police officers, and to work with partners to ensure the safety of the community and effective criminal justice.

Setting out his priorities for the next four years, he said he wanted to:

- Further reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and re-offending.
- Continue to increase police officer numbers.
- Increase support for victims and survivors of all crimes.
- Reduce road traffic fatalities and serious injuries.
- Engage with and listen to residents and communities.
- Build further financial resilience for Warwickshire Police.

Reflecting on his election success, he said: “Firstly, I feel very humbled and privileged to be elected for a third term as Police and Crime Commissioner for Warwickshire. I want to thank all of those who voted for me in the recent election, however, from now on, I will be acting for all communities and residents of Warwickshire, without fear or favour.

“I’m now looking forward to preparing a new Police and Crime Plan. I will be getting out amongst our communities and residents, to listen to what they have to say and to feed that into my conversations with the Chief Constable and other senior officers.

“Over the last eight years and particularly during the course of the election, I’ve had many comments from residents about visibility of the police. I want communities to understand that the police are there to protect them, that there are increased numbers and they are doing everything they can to engage with and listen to residents. That will be a priority for me and I think this will also help with those who have a fear of crime.

“One of the most talked about issues in policing at the moment is trust and confidence. There have been nationally - and sadly locally - cases where police officers have not conducted themselves as they should. I will be holding the Chief Constable to account to root out those officers who do not behave well and indeed to make sure that we don’t recruit new officers and staff who have a history that is not becoming of the service.

“I also want to do more for victims over this coming four-year period. Victims of crime are not always put at the forefront of the criminal justice system, so I am going to work with criminal justice partners to ensure that they are properly represented, get a fair hearing and they get support during the process of going to court and giving evidence.

“Finally, I think we can continue to build a resilient, professional and efficient police force here in Warwickshire. I certainly aim to be part of that and to encourage the force to do everything they can to improve their performance and indeed their standing within the community.

“There is plenty of work still to do and I’m looking forward to working hard to ensure I deliver this for local people across the next four years.”



Local Sports



Water Orton United Football Club

A season of mixed fortunes for the Open Age and Over 35's side has finished in April, with a top 3 finish and a semi final appearance by the Open Age side being the highlights.

The Open Age side, managed for the last 15 years by Ricky Robinson, have enjoyed an excellent season in the Championship of the Oakbourne & Coronation League. They are 2nd at the time of writing, 6 points clear of the team in 3rd, although they have 2 games to play and a superior goal difference. A top 3 finish is assured though, and it is a massive improvement having finished bottom of the league the previous season. Karl Walker finishing with 20 goals from 17 appearances along with great contributions from Jack Eagles (14 goals) and Oliver Burgundy (13 goals). A loss on penalties in the semi-final of the John Hasson Super Cup was a huge disappointment though.



The Over 35's team, managed for the last 17 years by Dean Robinson, had a less impressive season unfortunately in the Central Warwickshire Over 35's league. Finishing 9th out of 10 was bitterly disappointing despite some very positive recent performances, however it was a season blighted by many injuries and player availability. Long serving goalkeeper Neil Jackson retiring meant a difficult search for a mid-season replacement, with Danny Holmes joining to replace "The Cat" between the sticks. Despite the poor

end to the season, blighted badly by the poor weather causing numerous pitch cancellations, spirits remain high and you will always find us in The Dog pub for a debrief after each game. We will go again next year and continue to abide by our club motto – Even The Bad Times Are Good!



Both teams continue to look to recruit players or people willing to help Dean or Ricky. If you are interested, please contact Dean (deanrobin83@hotmail.com)

During the year, the club secured a grant

from the HS2 Community Fund and we have used this to purchase replacement goalposts, replace the gate for the storage compound, and also purchase a set of junior goalposts. Working with the clerk to the Parish Council, and the council leader Steve, we are looking to promote the start of a junior team(s) to use the village playing field for 5-a-side games, ideally age group U7's or U8's. There is a suitable size area for a new pitch that will be used along with the new equipment available for use on the playing field. If you would like to get involved or be interested to learn more, please contact Neil Jackson (neiljackson0507@gmail.com).

Finally, a big thank you to Phoebe at the Groundwork UK team who handle the HS2 Community Fund grant scheme. It is available for all clubs or associations to apply for a grant funding and the upgrade will mean we can remove the old ground sockets on the field which were a continual trip hazard that were dangerous.

Doyle Beats Former Arch Rivals World Record



849 career strength speed stamina challenges and World Records was achieved at Claverdon Village Warwickshire. Paddy Doyle completed a half marathon carrying 120 lb backpack crossing the finish line in 3 hrs. 35 min. 48 sec, beating the previous record holder and former Royal Green Jackets soldier Mike Buss (GB) who set the feat in London in 2004, his time was 7 hrs. 32 min. Doyle had to contend with uphill inclines along the roads and country lanes, but he kept to a sensible pace reaching the finish line just under four hours.

The next big challenge will be Doyle's 850th fitness endurance title, which will be an outdoor duathlon attempt.

"I knew I took on a hard World Record speed marching and walking on tarmac roads, my whole body felt the impact but it was worth the pain especially as I beat a former arch rival."

Water Orton Bowling Club

Our 16 teams have now commenced their league and cup program for the 2024 season.

In the Monday Over 55s league our A team have won 2 games and the B team have won 1 game but lost two by the odd point and sit 5th and 3rd in their divisions.

In the Wednesday East Birmingham Over 60's league the A team are top of Division 2 with 6 wins without loss, the B team have won 3 games and are top of Division 3, whilst the C team are also top of Division 4 with the D team currently sitting 3rd in Division 6.

In the Wednesday night Erdington league our A and B teams are both 5th in their respective divisions.

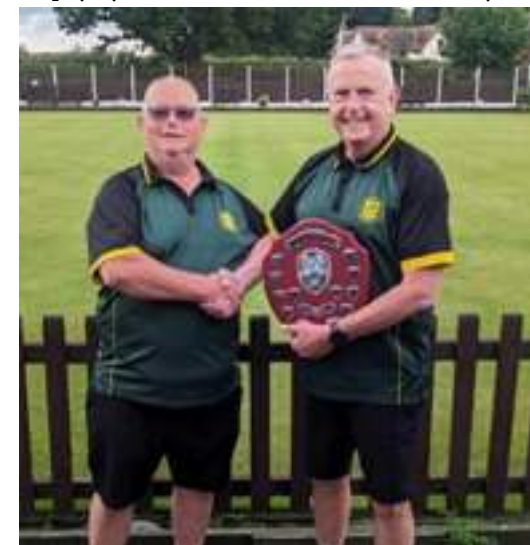
The Thursday night teams playing in the Sutton Benevolent League are both progressing well with the A team 4th in division Two having gained promotion last year with the B team sitting 2nd in division Four.

In the Friday morning Friendly league our A team have won 3 games and are 4th whilst the B team are currently 9th in their division.

Meanwhile the Saturday Parks league has started for both our teams, the B side compete in the morning league and are currently 2nd, whilst the A team play in the afternoon league are currently 5th. A good start to the season by all our teams.

On Sunday 12th May we held our First in-house competition, we had a fantastic turn out with

a record 26 entries, we saw some fantastic bowling throughout the day, and this year's Open Champion was our Club Captain Paul Johnson seen here being presented with his trophy by Committee member Keith Hanley.



Our next competition day will be Sunday 2nd June when we will hold our Pairs competition at 11:00.

We are always looking for new members, so if you would like to try the game we have equipment available for you to use so you try the game during our free coaching sessions on a Tuesday afternoon at 1:30 PM.

If you're interested please just call in or contact: Club captain - Paul Johnson (paul.wobc@gmail.com)



Coleshill Town F.C.

COLESHILL TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

After a disastrous last season, Four Managers, 60 odd turnover of players, narrowly avoided relegation, Chairman Paul Billing has finally appointed the man he had been after all along.



Grant Joshua is the man to lead CTFC into next season, a team that only 12 months ago made the league play offs, top five, and he is confident that this is the start of a new era. Grant has brought in experienced coaches, Chris Rabone and Ross Harris as Assistant Managers and Jason Scott as Goalkeeper coach. Grant is working hard at redeveloping the team and has already signed up several players that he has been interested in. He has also organised pre-season,



and he also knows which teams he will come up against next season as the format of the Northern Premier League Midland Division has recently been announced.

Step 4 – Northern Premier League – Midlands

1	AFC Rushden & Diamonds
2	Anstey Nomads
3	Bedworth United
4	Boldmere St Michael's
5	Coleshill Town
6	Corby Town
7	Coventry Sphinx
8	Darlaston Town
9	Grantham Town
10	Hinckley LR
11	Long Eaton United
12	Loughborough Students
13	Lye Town
14	Quorn
15	Racing Club Warwick
16	Rugby Town
17	Shepshed Dynamo
18	Sporting Khalsa
19	Sutton Coldfield Town
20	Walsall Wood
21	Wellingborough Town
22	Worcester City

Promoted
Lateral Movement

COLESHILL TOWN FC JUNIORS

The Junior teams had their chance for honours in their very own Tournament on Saturday 18th May.

And Wow! What a day!

Coleshill Town FC Juniors first HOME Tournament and it went like clockwork.

SIX age groups, 31 teams, 72 games, 6 referees, 6 Runners Up, 6 Winners (2 CTFC Runners Up and 2 CTFC Winners).

Thank you teams, managers, parents, staff, volunteers, you all pulled together and made it a brilliant day that we can build on and make it better and better as the years go on.

The pitch was magnificent and the weather was kind to us! Couldn't have asked for more!

Well done CTFC JUNIORS!



Coleshill Town Colts U12 Triumph in Promotion Play-Off

Coleshill Town Colts U12 football team has secured promotion to Division 1 after a nail-biting victory in a promotion play-off match. Despite facing injuries throughout the season, the Colts displayed exceptional resilience and determination throughout the campaign. Finishing second in the league with an impressive goal difference, the team's hopes were initially dampened when it was announced that goal difference would not be considered in determining the top team. This led to a thrilling play-off game against Solihull Silhill, the former league leaders. In a tense and competitive match, Coleshill showcased their superior footballing skills, holding their opponents to a 2-2 draw after full time. The game then went to a penalty shootout, where the Colts' goalkeeper made three incredible saves. With nerves of steel and composure, the Colts emerged victorious in the penalty shootout, securing promotion to Division 1. The team's achievement is a testament to their hard work, dedication, and the support of their sponsors, Green Frog Mechanical. Congratulations to the Coleshill Town Colts U12 for their remarkable success!



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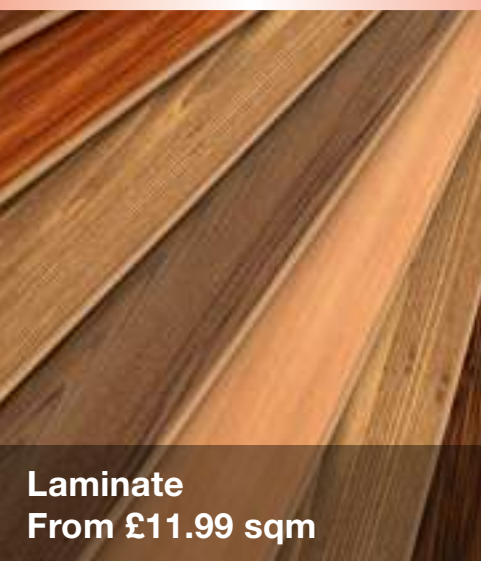
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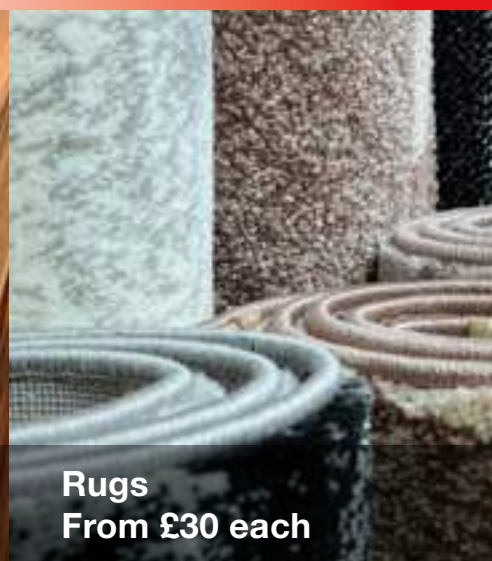
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