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Coleshill Town Council has honoured both Deanna and Barry Baker with the title of Honorary Freeman, something last awarded to Gordon Sherratt in 2013.

Full Story on page 29

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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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An update from the Parish Church of Water Orton

In November our church, along with many other churches, people from other religions and no religion will observe remembrance Sunday. This year it takes place on the 10th November, the Sunday closest to the 11th November.

The Armistice, an agreement to end the fighting of the First World War as a prelude to peace negotiations, began at 11am on the 11th November 1918. To this day we mark Armistice Day around the United Kingdom with a two-minute silence at 11am. In this silence we remember those who gave their lives in the First World war, Second World war and other conflicts since.

In 2018 Villagers raised funds for a memorial in Water Orton. On the memorial are the names of those who served in the military, who fell in both wars. I hope it will never be needed but there is space for any new names.



On Sunday the 10th November there will be a parade from the Digby Carpark (between the Parish Church and Digby pub) leaving at about 10:40am. We will gather at the memorial on Watton Lane; our service beginning just before 11am allowing for two minutes silence on the hour. There will be representatives there from the Boys Brigade, the Scouts, Cubs, Methodist Church and those in our community and surrounding communities.

During our short service there will be an opportunity to lay wreaths. Any organisation or member of the public are welcome to do so. If you would like to do so please arrive by 10:45am at the latest and make yourself known to me.

Two soldiers have been laid to rest in the cemetery by the church. On the

headstone of one is the bible verse, 'Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.' These men gave up their lives so that we might live.

This quote is taken from The Messiah, Jesus Christ, who gave his life for all of us. Some more of his recorded words are: 'For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life.'

On Sunday 10th November I will remember the sacrifice of Joseph Boneham, Charles Burton, Arnold Hawkins, Sidney Prosser and Gilbert Willdey who gave their lives in the first world war, those who gave their lives in the second world war: John Comley, Harold Crowley, William H. Fisher, Michael Kavanagh, Lewis Leak, Henry Merricks, Bernard Rhodes, Thomas Rhodes, Richard M. Smith and Harold L. Wright and Jesus who gave his life.

Please join us on the 10th November.

God Bless

Rev Paul Tullett



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Anti-Slavery Day 2024 – do you know how to spot the signs of modern day slavery?



Many people think slavery is something unheard of in this day and age, or it's not happening near or around them.

In actual fact slavery is happening, and it is happening in Warwickshire.

Police and Crime Commissioner, Philip Seccombe, commissions the West Midlands Anti Slavery Network to provide a service that supports victims of modern-day slavery. Nigel Oseman, is our Independent Modern Slavery Advocate working with partners including the police and local authorities, helping raise community awareness and also training front line staff and practitioners, he is always looking for opportunities to help people understand the issues surrounding this abhorrent crime. You can get in touch with the West Midlands Anti Slavery Network here.

We want to give you some help on how to spot some of the signs of slavery and where to report.

First it's important to know there are different types:

- General
- Labour exploitation, when a person is forced to work or provide a service against their will
- Criminal exploitation, when a person is made to commit crimes against their will
- Sexual exploitation, when a person is deceived, coerced or forced to engage in sexual activity

- Domestic servitude, when the domestic worker's mobility is restricted, and they are compelled to work extended hours for inadequate compensation

- Forced marriage
- Organ harvesting

There are some **key signs** that may help you spot if someone is a victim of modern day slavery:

- Show signs of being controlled and dependent
- Show signs of trauma including psychological and physical
- Act fearful, anxious, depressed, submissive, tense, or nervous/paranoid
- Have no passport or someone else is holding their passport/ID documents
- Act fearful of police/authorities
- Have little or no contact with family or loved ones

How can you help someone who you believe to be a victim?

There is a whole host of information on the West Midlands Anti Slavery Network website, with more detail on all of the above, and support for victims and survivors.

If you or someone you know is a victim of any form of exploitation, or you suspect someone may be at risk of exploitation, you can contact your local District or Borough Council, or Warwickshire Police on 101. In an emergency call 999.

Alternatively, you can contact the independent Modern Slavery Helpline to report any suspicions or concerns about individuals, premises or locations. Businesses can also call for advice. Call 0800 0121 700 or report www.modernslaveryhelpline.org.

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Purple House Anniversary

One year ago, I unlocked the doors to Purple House Clinic for the first time, filled with excitement, anticipation, and a little bit of fear. I knew the journey ahead would be challenging, but I also felt deeply driven by the opportunity to build a trusted and compassionate provider of mental health and neurodiversity services.

In just one year, our clinic has grown in ways I could never have anticipated. We have provided support to individuals from all walks of life: from teenagers struggling with anxiety, to adults grappling with burnout, depression, and trauma.

Walking through the door into therapy is tough. Even though we see the value of talking to someone, actually stepping through the door can be clouded with anxieties. Uncertainty about what to expect, shame that we've asked for support, belief 'my problem isn't big enough' or anxieties about connecting with the difficulties we have worked so hard to avoid or manage. One of the most rewarding aspects of this year has been creating a calm, safe space where people can comfortably access the care they deserve. We appreciate it can be difficult to access support around other commitments and also offer online and Saturday appointments.

I have an incredible team that has joined

me to provide a range of services including psychological therapies, autism and ADHD assessments, occupational therapy and sensory assessments, speech and language therapy and educational psychology assessments. The team, who bring a wealth of experience and compassion to the clinic, provide evidenced-based care where individuals feel understood, validated and respected.

Looking ahead, my goal for the clinic is to continue expanding our services. It can be difficult to access mental health support, whether due to long NHS waiting lists or stigma, and I hope the clinic can offer the care individuals need to navigate life's challenges.

Here's to another good year.



Dr Danielle Grey, Clinical Psychologist and the Clinical Director for the Purple House Clinic, Birmingham.



the
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Mental Health & Neurodiversity Services

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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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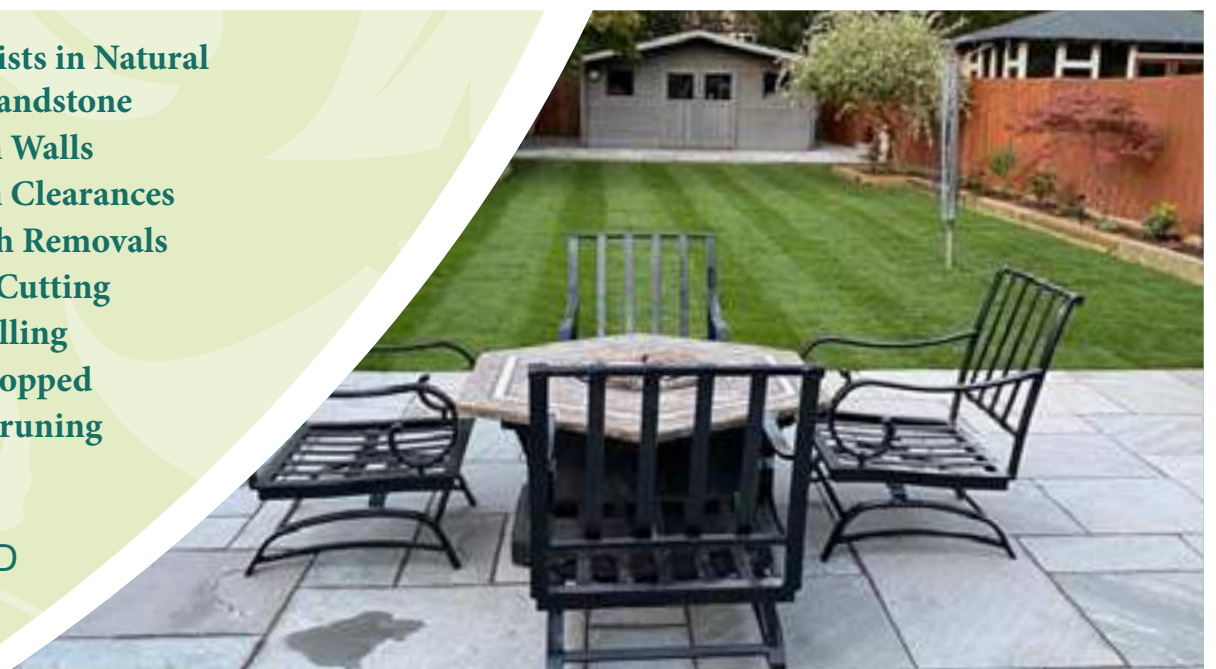
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JP Legal's recent cases

Thank you for your interest and support following these adverts. We want to bring to your attention two key cases that JP Legal have recently been instructed on. The first related to an employment tribunal matter. Our client felt harassed, had been unfairly treated and inappropriately messaged by her manager. JP Legal were instructed late in the claim and, as our client had been self representing, she had not complied with the Tribunal's directions. We set to work urgently preparing the matter for the upcoming hearing in around 2 months time. We travelled from Birmingham to London to meet with our client and take her detailed

evidence. Following that, we wrote a convincing offer of settlement to her employer which was accepted. Our client went from a failure to comply with directions to walking away with £9,000. The second case JP Legal has recently been instructed on relates to a Sexual Offences Prevention Order. We are in the process of obtaining the supporting evidence to show the order is no longer necessary for the protection of the public and feel confident we can get the order discharged. We hope this shows that, whilst we are not a firm of solicitors, we can help you in a range of legal matters. Contact us today for excellent legal advice at an affordable cost.

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Businesses compete for ABCC honours as shortlist announced



Pictured: ABCC Award Winners 2023

Thirty businesses will be competing for Asian Business glory across eight categories on Saturday, 30 November at the ICC.

The awards ceremony, which also has an afterparty at the Malmaison, will recognise and celebrate businesses and charities with all winners from each category being nominated for the overall business of the year award, sponsored by Practice Plus Group Birmingham Hospital.

Asian Business Chamber of Commerce (ABCC) president Omar Rashid will also hand over a special award to a business that has gone above and beyond in championing Asian business during the dinner.

The headline sponsors this year is Doug Wright (T/A McDonalds).

The judge panel was chaired by Raj Kandola, director of external affairs at the Greater Birmingham Chambers of Commerce (GBCC).

Other panellists include Professor Martin Levermore, CEO of Medical Devices Technology International Ltd (MDTi), Dee Kundi, CEO and founder of Find Me A Solicitor, general manager of Malmaison Birmingham Emma Morgan, CCO and founder of Word360 Kavita Parmar, and Amer Awan, CEO of Awan Real Estate Ltd and Awan International.

Speaking about the judging process, Raj Kandola said: "The judging panel was impressed by the exceptional calibre of applicants for this year's ABCC awards.

"The depth of talent, innovation, and dedication showcased made the task of selecting the shortlist incredibly challenging, as each business brought something unique and valuable to the table.

"Congratulations to all the shortlisted applicants, not only for excelling in their individual roles but also for their commitment to elevating our business community.

"Their efforts are instrumental in making our region a thriving, dynamic hub for entrepreneurship, growth, and opportunity."

The shortlist for this year's award categories are:

Outstanding Charity of the Year – Sponsored by Our Training Department

Birmingham Hospice

Feedo Needo

Focus Birmingham

Our Community Foundation

Outstanding Contribution to Diversity & Inclusion - Sponsored by South and City College Birmingham

Birmingham Hospice

Birmingham Impact FC

Connected Places Catapult

Enterprise Loans East Midlands

Outstanding Female Entrepreneur of the Year

Amna Akhtar - GirlDreamer

Kuljeet Bains - Clean Hearing

Saira Butt - Midlands Living CIC

Sumreen Saleem - Tuition 4 Success

Outstanding Male Entrepreneur of the Year

Farhad Tailor - V12 Sports & Classics

Hassan Kapadia - Kapadia Rose

Tahir Mahmood - Amsons

Outstanding Professional Services Business of the Year

Bonafide Marketing

Lawrence Kurt Solicitors

Mogul Empires

Primo Dialler

Outstanding Small Business of the Year

Amsons

Tuition 4 Success

Primo Dialler

Outstanding Start-Up Business of the Year – Sponsored by Shakespeare Martineau

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Kapadia Rose

Mogul Empires

Outstanding Young Achiever of the Year - Sponsored by Pathway Group

Amaan Dad - Our Community Foundation

Kavita Mehey - Lawrence Kurt Solicitors

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Our beautiful Nordman nonshed Christmas trees will be here for the last week of November and freshly made Holly Wreaths.



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- Christmas Eve- Tuesday 24th December.

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To include cereal or orange juice, English or vegetarian breakfast (vegetarian MUST be chosen when booking), Croissants, Tea or coffee or orange/ apple juice.

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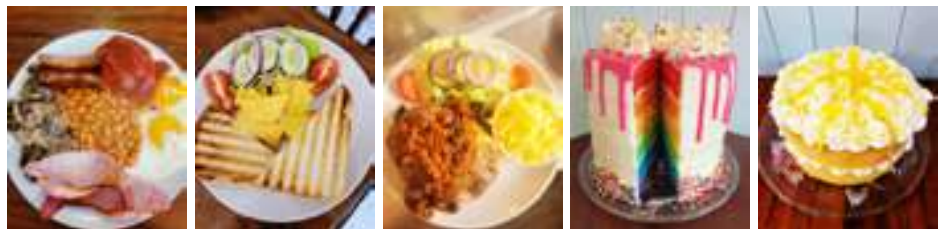
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Warwickshire
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 Philip Seccombe
 Police and Crime
 Commissioner
 for Warwickshire

Commissioner invites community projects and initiatives to bid for grant funding



The Commissioner has launched his annual Grants Scheme for 2025/26. Warwickshire organisations with projects and initiatives that help to prevent or deter crime, anti-social behaviour or contribute to road safety, are being invited to bid for funding.

The Scheme seeks to support projects and initiatives which support his overall aims of reducing crime, supporting victims and making communities safer.

For the 2025/26 grants awards, organisations across the county are being invited to apply for funding of up to £15,000. There are four categories that organisations can apply to:

- Crime prevention
- Reducing reoffending
- Children and young people
- Road safety

Last year the Commissioner received 57 applications, and awarded a total of over £270,000 to 32 organisations.

Opening the application process, Mr Seccombe said:

“My grants fund is a vital way of supporting initiatives which help to support my ambition to reduce crime, support victims and make communities safer.

I hope to see applications from a wide range of community groups, charities and other organisations with innovative projects that

can make a real difference to communities and victims of crime, as well as those that prevent offences from happening in the first place.

I know how important it is to proactively engage with our youth, providing them with new skills and a safe space away from negative influences and criminal activity. With this in mind, I am keen to see applications from projects that work with children and young people.

I also want to see applications being put forward that can make a real difference in making our roads safer, helping to reduce death and serious injuries.

I'm urging anyone who thinks they have a suitable project that can benefit from funding up to £15,000 to go online and apply before the November 29 deadline.”

Projects funded by the PCC's office under the grants scheme must be delivered within the 2025/26 financial year. Organisations will be able to submit an unlimited number of grant applications. However, the maximum total award is £30,000. There will be a cap on individual project applications of £15,000.

The closing date for applications is midnight on November 29, 2024.

Successful candidates will be announced by the end of January 2025.

For full details about the Commissioner's Grants Scheme and how to apply, visit: <https://bit.ly/4eYIoih>



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Are you struggling with foot pain from plantar fasciitis, tendonitis, arthritis, or a sports-related injury? At Walsh Podiatry, we understand how debilitating these conditions can be, and we're proud to offer an advanced, non-invasive solution: MLS laser therapy. This cutting-edge treatment is designed to accelerate healing and reduce pain, giving you the relief you deserve without relying on medication or surgery.

What is MLS Laser Therapy?

MLS (Multiwave Locked System) laser therapy uses a combination of low-level and high-level laser wavelengths to target pain and inflammation. The laser works by penetrating deeply into damaged tissues, stimulating cellular activity, improving circulation, and promoting natural tissue repair. This boosts the body's own healing process, helping to reduce inflammation and relieve pain more quickly.

The therapy is particularly effective for soft tissue injuries, such as those associated with plantar fasciitis, Achilles tendinitis, and post-surgical recovery. It can also be beneficial for individuals suffering from chronic pain conditions like arthritis. Unlike traditional treatments that may require downtime, MLS laser therapy is non-invasive, drug-free, and pain-free.

What to Expect During Treatment

Each MLS laser session typically lasts around 10-15 minutes, depending on the area being treated. Most patients find the therapy soothing and relaxing, as it involves no heat or discomfort. While the number of treatments varies based on the condition and severity, many patients begin to experience noticeable relief after just a few sessions. Typically, a series of treatments over multiple weeks yields the best long-term results.

Special November Offer – 50% Off!

To mark 3 years of laser at Walsh Podiatry, we are offering an incredible 50% off MLS laser therapy throughout the month of November. This is the perfect opportunity to try this innovative treatment at a reduced rate and take the first step toward lasting pain relief. Whether you've been dealing with chronic foot pain or recovering from a recent injury, MLS laser therapy could be the solution you've been searching for.

Don't wait to get back on your feet! Call us today at 0121 749 6313 to schedule your consultation and take advantage of this limited-time offer. With MLS laser therapy, pain relief is just a step away!



Coleshill Community Centre New Play Area



Coleshill Town Mayor, Cllr Sue Wallace and her dog Archie were delighted, along with Deputy Mayor Cllr Ian Tomkinson, to

join the Coleshill Cubs group for their evening meeting to officially open the new play area at Coleshill Community Centre, Temple Way.

The Cubs took great pleasure in testing out, not only the new play equipment, but also The Mayor's knowledge of life as a Mayor, Councils and in particular trees in Coleshill!

With thanks to the Cubs, KOMPAN the company that created and installed the wonderful new play area and provided goodie bags for The Cubs and Sweetie Box UK, Chamberlain Walk, Coleshill for providing extra sweets!



Coleshill Ladies Probus

We held our meeting on Tuesday 24th September at the Coleshill Hotel. After lunch, our guest speaker was Chris, who is the current Chef at the Coleshill Hotel.

Chris, who was born and lives locally, gave a very interesting talk about his 30 years as a chef, in the Black Watch Army.

He particularly enjoyed catering for large groups, the largest being 3500.

He has travelled and lived in numerous countries within his working life, usually six-month periods.

The ladies thoroughly enjoyed the talk and asked Chris a lot of questions about his career and the countries that he had visited.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 29th October at the Coleshill Hotel, which will be our AGM followed by afternoon tea.

If you would like to join us, we meet on the last Tuesday of every month, and you would be very welcome.

If you would like to know more about Coleshill ladies Probud, please contact Sue on 01675 238037 or Verenda on 01675 463806



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“Killers on the Croft” - The Sequel

Coleshill Drama Group’s latest production is not to be missed!

Not only is it a sequel to last November’s “Killers on the Croft”, which was a resounding success for the Group, but also there is a Special Guest appearance by Birmingham’s Michelin starred chef, Glynn Purnell.

Written by the Group’s own Jon Pegg, the new play is entitled “The Homicidal Highwayman”, a Coleshill Mystery, the action of which all takes place in locations in the town. Expect some twists, turns and confusion in the Cafe and Coleshill Hotel as a new police officer and the former librarian grapple with information to solve the mystery.

The Group is delighted to welcome for the first time in an acting role on Coleshill Town Hall stage, the renowned local chef, Glynn Purnell. Mr Purnell has been a Patron of Coleshill Drama Group for some years and has been eager to become more involved. He willingly accepted this opportunity to be part of this play and the Group is grateful to him for his valued Patronage and his guest appearance.

“The Homicidal Highwayman” will be performed at Coleshill Town Hall on THURSDAY 7th, FRIDAY 8th and SATURDAY 9th November at 7.30pm, with an additional performance, due to demand, at 2.00pm on SATURDAY 9th November. As usual car parking space is open at Chantry House, opposite the Town Hall and a licensed bar and refreshments available.

All tickets are now priced at £12 each (£10 for those under 16 years of age only) and are available at Coleshill Library, Gascoignes of Coleshill, online at:

<https://bit.ly/4f57p6>



COLESHILL DRAMA GROUP PRESENTS...

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THE HOMICIDAL
HIGHWAYMAN**

BY JON PEGG

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Coleshill
CHRISTMAS
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 **Coleshill
Town Council**

North Warwickshire Borough Council agrees to help residents losing Winter Fuel Payment

North Warwickshire Borough Council has committed to helping elderly residents in the Borough who will miss out on Winter Fuel payments following the Government’s decision to reduce the number of people who are now eligible.

Councillor David Wright proposed a motion at the Council meeting on the 17th of October setting out the Council’s opposition to the Government’s decision and proposing a measure of compensation for those who just miss out on the new criteria due to not being in receipt of the qualifying benefits. The Council will therefore make a one-off payment of £100 to those over 66 who no longer receive the Winter Fuel Payment and are in receipt of Council Tax support. No application process will be needed as the Council can make the payments direct to those residents.

Speaking after the Council meeting, Councillor Wright said:

“I am appalled at the decision that the

Government has made on Winter Fuel payments which will leave very many people concerned about heating costs this winter. Our particular concern is that group of residents who always seem to just miss out on help due to not being in receipt of particular types of benefits. We do not have the resources to fully rectify this very harmful decision by the Government but by targeting £55,000 we can reinstate around half of the average Winter Fuel payment to that particular group.”

Councillor Wright’s proposal also saw a further £35,000 added to the Council’s Hardship Fund to help residents facing financial pressures and is in addition to the significantly increased staff resources the Council must help people facing financial challenges. North Warwickshire Borough Council’s Financial Inclusion team works hard with residents to maximise incomes, find ways back into work and offers practical help with everyday cost of living pressures. The team are currently working with those residents who may be eligible for Pension Credit but are not currently claiming this.



Shustoke C.E. Primary
School

*Is your child due to start school
in September 2025?*



*We welcome you to join us for a fun-
packed session of activities at our Stay
and Play sessions on Friday 29th
November and Wednesday 8th January
9:15 – 10:30am.*

Please telephone the school office (01675) 481319 or email
admin3207@welearn365.com to confirm your visit.
We look forward to meeting you.



Harvest Festival

To celebrate Harvest, the children at Shustoke C of E Primary School performed songs and poems for their parents, carers and the wider community. It was wonderful to welcome so many parents into school, and the children, Staff and audience thoroughly enjoyed the occasion. The school received generous donations of produce and food items which have been distributed to some of our more senior members of the local community.



World Mental Health Awareness Day at Shustoke School

Thursday October 10th was World Mental Health Awareness Day. To mark this event, Shustoke C of E Primary School's Health and Happiness Champions designed a sticker for every child in school to wear to remind them that they are not alone and that adults in school will listen if they are feeling down or overwhelmed. In addition, staff members wore items of yellow clothing to help to raise awareness. Thanks to the members of the team – they are certainly demonstrating kindness and compassion (one of the school's values) and showing that they wish to make a difference to the children at school.



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Castle Bromwich
Hall Gardens

News from Castle Bromwich Historic Gardens

"Oh that old Chestnut..."

Unlike the idiom, we rather like all the 'repeated' chestnut trees around the Gardens, Hall and Parkland. There still remains the vestiges of at least two avenues of horse chestnut trees: the West and the South Avenue[1], as well as a number of single, probably self-seeded, horse chestnuts across the whole area, including surrounding the Church

There comes a time, however, when we must say a very sad goodbye to these old giants. This week our trusted tree surgeon contractor, Chris, spent three days suspended high in the air on a crane platform slowly, bit by bit chopping the Melon Ground Chestnut tree down to a height just above the level of the walls.

Those of you who have sat and captured the sunshine in the Melon Ground or relaxed on a summer's evening listening to live music during the Melon Ground Sessions, will have benefitted and marvelled at the magnificent horse chestnut leaning in over the walls.

By its girth, we think the tree is about 100 years old. We don't know, but we think it is unlikely that it was planted there deliberately. As many visitors over the years will

have seen, as it grew bigger and bigger it leant and pressed into the walls of the Melon Ground. Two circular braces were attached to the walls in an attempt to secure them and the tree kept growing and creating cracks in the wall.

The relationship, or perhaps the 'competition', between the tree and the wall epitomises the dilemma that our Trust constantly faces. We are obliged by our constitution to look after and conserve the historic fabric of this special garden design. At the same time we have to balance the long term needs of heritage with the environmental imperatives of nature and the planet.

Thankfully the Gardens are in a very large Conservation Area, so we are always able to consult with the relevant authorities about managing the trees as well as the historic walls.

About four years ago it was evident the tree was not well. Chris trimmed the tree to prevent any of the really large branches falling. The tree seemed to revive a bit... but this year on closer inspection it was found to be diseased pretty badly.

The lower trunk of the tree has now been left, for nature to take its course and for any bats, insects and birds that can benefit. We will be keeping an eye on the wall, to spot any movement.

What about the wood?

As always, we try to find use for 'recycled' wood. Some of the very heavy logs will be used in our Forest School, story circle area, some by local woodturners (and will be sold in the shop), the sawdust will be used in our compost toilet and other chippings as part of our mulching and composting.

Long term care of the trees

This year has seen an increase in costly major tree care work the Trust has had to undertake. A large pine on the Old Birmingham Road border, weakened by at least two vandal burnings has had to be cut down, a mature walnut, fallen during one of the storms also needed making safe... amongst many other smaller projects.

A mixture of climate change, unpredictable seasonal variations and the age of our many trees all suggest that the Trust's budget setting for at least the next decade will have to include a much bigger figure for professional tree care...we reckon it will add another 3% to our 'standstill' costs of £1,000 per day.

As always, the Gardens and Parkland depend on member and visitor income as well as project grants to fund these costs. Thank you for your continued support.



Green all year round..

It might not be peak growing season this month but Castle Bromwich Historic Gardens is celebrating becoming the first 'Growing Partner' of the national charity for organic growing, 'Garden Organic' based at Ryton Organic Gardens, Coventry. Although primarily a historic visitor attraction the Castle Bromwich Gardens work hard at sharing their expertise with visitors and users of all ages, promoting planet friendly techniques and helping to preserve heritage varieties of vegetables and fruit.

Garden Organic Members can also now enjoy 2-4-1 entry at Castle Bromwich Historic Gardens. www.gardenorganic.org.uk/

Winter wildlife experiences

Tickets for the Gardens Singing Santa visits are now on sale at the Gardens and the Gardens' other popular winter experience is also filling up. Owls by Candlelight is a charming outdoor experience led by Dan Mercer of Mercer Falconry. Seeing the gardens at night, with flickering candlelight and feeling close up to these beautiful nocturnal creatures has been a popular pre Christmas treat. Bookings online - numbers limited - for the birds sake - but plenty of warming hot chocolate and mead for humans :) Dates Saturday 23rd Nov, 7th and 14th December www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1009434264057?aff=oddttdtcreator





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Sat 7th Dec 12 Noon to 4pm
All welcome, meet Santa,
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in boxes below

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Stitch Club

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CAB (Citizens
Advice Bureau)
MIND
Vision Support
Wellbeing

GROUPS

Walking Tours
Keep Fit & Natter
Walking Sports
Art & Crafts
U3A
Parent & Toddler

The Coleshill School Careers Fair



On Thursday 24th October local employers and further education providers were invited to a Careers Fair at The Coleshill School to meet with students in all year groups.

Experts in industry and education gave students an insight into the workplace, giving first-hand advice and information about jobs and apprenticeships, college and university guidance, as well as training opportunities.

A variety of companies and training organisations and providers attended the event including: Bmet/Mathew Bolton, UCB, Royal Navy, University of Birmingham, Solihull College, Coventry University, George Elliott at the NHS, North Warwickshire College

& South Leicestershire College, Reliable Contractors, McGinley, Balfour Beatty Vinci, Birmingham Newman University, British Electrical Training, Football Education Academy, HCT, Father Hudson Charity and the Army. The event was attended by the whole school cohort who engaged exceptionally well with our visitors.

Mrs Eileen Bishop, Careers Lead commented "This has been a fantastic opportunity for all of our students to meet with employers and training organisations and providers. They gave our students the opportunity to engage in a meaningful conversation, ask questions and be inquisitive about their career choices and aspirations for their future. Our whole school is very grateful to everyone for giving their time to support our students."



What a busy half term at TCS!

There has been so much to celebrate this half term at The Coleshill School.

During October we held a primary cross-country event for local primary schools, organised by our amazing Sixth Form Leadership Team. The whole event was led by the students with Sports Leaders from Years 7 to Year 13 taking part. Student Leaders ran alongside the primary pupils giving them encouragement and support. It was a great event and everyone enjoyed the afternoon.

Sixth Form Leaders also organized a Macmillan Cake Sale and raised over £500 for Macmillan Cancer Support. Students brought cakes at breaktime and staff held a Bake Off cake competition with some fantastic entries. Sixth Form Leaders took the leftover cakes to Father Hudsons in Coleshill where they shared the cakes out and even joined in with some singing with the residents. Libby in Year 13 commented "Everyone

enjoyed themselves, not only the residents but the Sixth Form Leaders had a great time too!"

The school ran an Inter-House Photography Competition with an Autumn theme. Students were encouraged showcase their creativity by sending in photos they had taken. There were so many fantastic entries it was hard to choose winners out of the 150 entries, but Orla, Ethan and Logan were the lucky winners and their prizes included a House badge, VIP pass to lunch queue and entry into a Drayton Manor prize draw!

Miss Blunt, Associate Assistant Headteacher commented: "We are so proud of all of our school community who have contributed to these events and our 305 Student Leaders and Sixth Form students that are leading all our student leadership this year."



Sixth Form Leaders at Father Hudsons with their cakes!



Orla, Ethan and Logan – winners of the Autumn photography competition

UK Shared Prosperity Fund Celebration Event

On Friday 18th October North Warwickshire Borough Council's Communities Team hosted a special celebration event to showcase the achievements made possible by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) has provided North Warwickshire with a significant boost of £1.965 million over the past three years. This funding, allocated by the central government, has been distributed to councils throughout the country, and its success is a collaboration of local authorities, businesses, community organisations, and residents.

The event held at Lea Marston Hotel recognised the diverse projects that have received support. These initiatives include enhancements to play areas, assistance for local sports clubs, building improvements to support local organisations, grants for events celebrating the King's coronation, improving accessibility in our green spaces, and support for employment opportunities.

Individuals and groups in receipt of UKSPF funding were invited to attend this event which included a showcase of some of the projects. Presentations demonstrating how UKSPF (funding has made a difference were given by five of the Project leads; Sally Roberts (NWBC) and Jason Bains (We Care UK), Heidi Goody (Baxterley in Bloom), Paul Blakeman (Hercules Construction), Joe and Scarlett Barrett (The Teenage Market), Junaid Hussain (The Disability Forum) and Donna Billson, Billy Sumner and Caroline Symonds (The Coleshill Partnership).

Leader of the Council, Councillor David Wright said, "This success would not have been achievable without the dedicated efforts and collaboration of numerous individuals. I'd like to give a special thank you to the Members, Officers, and partners who formed the Panel, their commitment has been instrumental in driving this positive change".



The Story of Castle Bromwich Parish Church (pt15)

By David L Adams

Whilst in earlier years, change to the fabric of the Parish Church was entirely in the hands of the Lord of the Manor, we are now in the times of "congregational democracy."

Suggested changes are debated by the Parochial Church Council – made up of representatives of the worshippers – and then voted on – theoretically!

In truth it really depends on the "dynamism" of the Rector of the Parish of the time, in the more recent years we have had two particularly significant Rectors.

Three years after coming to Castle Bromwich - in 1986, the Rev'd Christopher Boyle initiated a major project to stabilize the effects of the encasement of 1726-31. To permit the installation of a flat ceiling at that time, the wind braces were removed from the truss structures.

The unrestrained weight of the clay tiling had, over the intervening 250 years, caused the rafter feet to spread. This needed to be arrested by fixing steel tie-rods across the church. This was a large structural exercise and needed an appeal to raise funds which were matched by grants from various bodies.

In 1997 Christopher Boyle asked one of the then Church Wardens, Les Jones, and myself to investigate possible replacement of the thirty year old Foden Room with a larger meeting room with modern amenities and more suitable for wider community usage.

The church is part of the village Conservation Area with the old Hall and the Garden Trust established in 1985 for public benefit as a separate Charitable Body.

Because of this grouping, our first move was to examine the possibility of cooperation to produce a building which could serve all three bodies. Sadly we concluded that the needs were so diverse – and times of primary demand clashed so badly – that there would be no way this could be done.

We therefore consulted all the interests within the congregation to find their primary requirements and produced an outline scheme which we introduced to the Diocesan authorities.

At this stage virtually every Historical interest body registered an objection! I won't detail the tortuous negotiations that followed, but I drew up schemes with the building in every conceivable location in the churchyard – even one which would have given the church a crypt!

This process took so long that Christopher Boyle moved on to become Bishop of Northern Malawi. His replacement was basically overwhelmed by the effort involved and the project stalled.

Fortunately, in 2008 he was followed by a most dynamic priest, the Rev'd Gavin Douglas who had

been a Lieutenant Colonel in the Argyle & Southerland Highlanders. With assistance from David Greaves, who had considerable financial expertise, and a local architectural practice, a Community Hall was finally built. This amenity has totally enlivened the parish.

This building is available for hire by organisations whether affiliated to the church or not and is heavily booked.

Its existence has brought about the "rediscovery" of the southern part of the churchyard – previously an area of "no-man's land."

A significant aspect of the scheme not resolved, was the linkage between the church and hall – important on wet and windy days on our exposed hilltop location.

The Community Hall up and running well and Rev'd Gavin retired, we formed a new committee to address this problem and improve the visitor experience generally.

This of course was "scuppered" by the Pandemic but we are now "back on the case" and this month's illustration shows what we are seeking to produce.



THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!



To all the super supportive Coleshillians who came to join in the Coleshill Community Hub's annual Macmillan Coffee morning on Friday 20th September. This was another great success that raised over £1000 again for this hard-working, much needed cancer charity.

So many lives and people we know and love are now battling with this disease, all monies raised and conversations had to support one another, are really needed. Every family seems to be affected in some way big or small, so events like these are really good at bringing people together to share time, have a laugh, eat cake and raise money for the benefit of others.

Our lovely Hub volunteer Joan, leads this event every year and puts lots of time and effort in to putting on a great spread of cakes, many donated by local residents and families, and stalls for the guests to peruse and buy treats.

We are delighted to advise all that due to the past success of this event, we asked the Mary Ann Evans cancer charity to also come along and join in, and have a stall and raffle of their own. Coleshill town is a big supporter of the Mary Ann Evans charity and Hospice which is in Nuneaton, so we were very grateful to Rebecca, Jackie, Chrissy & Sue/Diane and all the volunteers and staff who work so hard in the local charity shops here in town.

The atmosphere is always upbeat and jovial, even though the subject matter is challenging, everyone appeared to enjoy themselves and join in to achieve this great success. THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU ALL AGAIN!!

Without our caring Coleshill community around us these events wouldn't succeed. Coleshill you are amazing!

Thank you to the Town Mayor, Councillor Sue Wallace for attending, supporting this event and joining in with this occasion.



To add to our total and join together in raising funds the lovely Ryan and all the staff at Liliann held their Macmillan Coffee on Saturday the day after us in their gorgeous shop (www.liliann.co.uk) and then kindly gave us over £100 to add to our fund-raising pot for these worthwhile cancer charities. There is nothing better than working together and making greater successes.

As we at the Coleshill Hub, especially for the Macmillan Coffee Morning, often ask local shops, businesses, retailers and locals for raffle prizes to boost the success of this charity event, it is these generous local contributors who are often overlooked and NOT fully thanks. We would like to take this opportunity, IN PRINT to make a huge thank you to everyone who supported this event – Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens, Palm Tree Travel, Nice Thoughts, Heads of Coleshill, Glitzy Bits, Upper Crust, Coleshill Pet Supplies, Sweetie Box Shop, Hair By Jo

For more information about Macmillan and the amazing work they do see <https://www.macmillan.org.uk/>



Somebody's Hero

By Indira Mahun

Mum passed away last month. Until that day, I did not know what grief was. I never fully understood it; the heartache, sorrow and sadness, and the sinking feeling in the pit of the stomach that won't go away. Losing her, even though I know that she lived a full life, broke me. She left a gaping hole in our lives that can never be filled by anyone else. It was almost like she was here one minute and gone the next. She finally lost her battle to the dreaded cancer that took her away from us. From the day we were told that it had come back – raging – to the day she went to sleep was just a matter of days. The woman who always said, 'nothing can happen to me, I am made of iron' had no choice but to surrender her life to that horrible disease.

Mum - my shining star, my rock, and my hero. She came to live in England as a young woman of about 25 years of age with two children in tow, me and my sister. Subservient and not allowed to have a voice, she toiled and laboured in a strange country that showed her no mercy. It could have; this strange country could have been the freedom she longed for. Alas, it wasn't meant to be. She didn't choose the life she led. It was through no fault of the country she came to live in, and neither was it through any fault of her own. She was, and remained, a victim of circumstances.

Mum – the epitome of acceptance and obedience; she gave her all to those she loved and cared about. In this she didn't hold back. However, the boundaries and shackles of the culture within which she lived her daily life limited, and indeed controlled, her free will, and her innermost wishes and desires. Culture and tradition – what is it all about anyway? We are all guilty in some way or another. We follow it when it suits us but disregard the bits we don't like. If we look hard enough, we would discover that we are all hypocrites. For mum this so-called adherence to culture and tradition was everything that could make her life as unbearable as possible. I am not saying she was always unhappy. She wasn't but she lived her life for others, not for herself.

Working where she wanted was out of the question. So, she worked in a clothes making factory run by Asians. As if Asians could be trusted and had any more credibility than anyone else! Had dad forgotten where he had come from? The country that was and still is rife with corruption, crime and rape. Perhaps dad did realise after all because it wasn't long before an industrial sewing machine

found its way into our home. Mum sat at the helm. There she sat as her youngest child – another girl – lay on the sofa with a milk bottle stuck in her mouth. Mum drove the fabric through the machine day in and day out to produce wonderful creations for next to nothing. A man would come to the door and drop off bundles of fabric and then come to pick up the clothes she had created in return for a small brown envelope which somehow always found its way to our gran.

A husband who was stuck in his ways and refused to budge and adapt to change and a mother-in-law who was the mother of all mothers-in-law saw mum serving everyone's needs but her own. I mean, what needs did she have anyway? What needs could an Indian wife have; this was the view of all men and their mothers. Mum wasn't allowed to express her needs and desires. She had only one job; to bring up her children and look after the rest of the family.

Mum lived by the philosophy that all Asian girls had instilled in them before they entered their marital home. It is better to stay silent than open your mouth and speak words best left unsaid; or as she imparted to us, 'Ek chup, sau sukh'. She never strayed from this belief and perhaps that is why she survived a one-sided relationship for all these years. She was tolerance. She was a tower of strength, and she was my absolute rock.

Mum was eighty-six years young this year. She could not speak a word of English. This angers me. This angers all her children and it is sad. It is not possible to fully understand why she never spoke the language of the country in which she lived for sixty years except that perhaps no-one ever gave her the opportunity to learn. Dad could have but he didn't. Control and the fear of losing that control makes us do things we might regret later on in life. Don't rock the boat as they say. Though he never says it, I am sure Dad is full of regrets but if he is, he will never admit it. He is as stubborn as the day he was born.

Mum carried on – silent, unquestioning and as dutiful as day one. Until the day she physically and mentally couldn't, she cooked and cleaned and waited on her husband. However, mum could often be heard muttering something under her breath as if she would like to say it out loud but thought better of it. When we would ask her why she never said anything to dad, she would always reply, "There's only the tail end left now".

My dearest mum, we miss you so much. We miss your hugs and embraces, your never-ending smile, your running around after everyone, your home-cooked food, and your strength and perseverance. Wherever you are, somewhere over the rainbow, may you be free and happy. Forever in our hearts and in our minds.



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For more details see our website on: www.mclifechurch.com

TIME TO TALK

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 were no social groups at all in Curdworth.

So I thought why not start one up! After placing a notice in the Coleshill Post earlier this year the group has got off the ground.

This group now has a few members and has held regular meetings. The group has also met socially for lunch at a marina and garden centre and enjoyed a supper club evening. There are also a number of social events planned leading up to Christmas.

If you would like more information about the group

please contact Peter Wright on 01675 475213

or email peterwright606@gmail.com

Hope to see you soon. Thank you. Peter



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Platinum November Update



This month we're just going to stick with a few general tips across several different areas of decorating, hopefully you'll find some of the advice helpful.

New plaster: If you have newly plastered walls to paint they need to be sealed first. New plaster is very porous, a mist coat seals it to negate the porosity. If you don't seal the plaster then when you paint it the water will be sucked out of the emulsion leaving the vinyl sitting on top of the plaster. It might seem ok but at some point it will start peeling off, sometimes not until you come to redecorate and roll new paint onto it. As decorators this is a common problem that we come across. One thing you definitely shouldn't use is PVA or watered down PVA. We're not sure where this has come from but it seems that a lot of people are advised to use PVA prior to painting. This is bad advice, it can lead to problems with the paint not adhering properly. The correct method is to apply what's known as a 'mist coat'. This is a watered down coat of emulsion. You can use the paint that you'll be using as the finish coat but most decorators will use contract matt- that's emulsion with no vinyl in it. Check the back of the tin of whatever paint you're using, this will tell you how much water to add for fresh plaster.

Check data sheets and paper labels: Always check the data sheets for paint (either on line or on the back of the tin) prior to purchasing them. Not all paints are the same, some will recommend using a specific primer or undercoat, others will advise on restrictions to use such as temperature or humidity levels- this is particularly important for exterior work. If you follow the information provided by the data sheets you'll make your life easier and will complete a project to the best possible standard.

It's also advisable to read all the information provided on the label that comes with wallpaper. Especially if it recommends a certain type of paste. If a manufacturer recommends a particular type of paste and you don't use it then they won't honour any guarantee if there's a problem with the finish of the paper.

Different types of filler: Most people will have a tub of ready mixed filler and will use it for everything. As with paint and wallpaper, you should check the information provided before doing so. There will usually be a maximum depth for the filler- if you use it for any holes deeper than recommended then you may experience problems with it taking too long to dry and possibly having it sink, meaning you'll end up having to fill it again. There will also be advice on what surface it can be used on- it's likely that a filler for walls won't be suitable for woodwork and you'll need to get something recommended for wood. Likewise if you're filling prior to exterior painting you'll need a filler that is recommended for exterior use.

Sandpaper: Sandpaper comes in a variety of finishes known as 'grits'. The lower the number, the more course it is. So if you're sanding something that it is very bad condition you'll need a lower grit such as 60G. Once you've got through the big lumps and bumps you'll need to use a finer finish paper prior to painting such as 240G for a smooth finish.

Different types of paint finish: We covered this in detail before but just briefly, make sure you chose the right finish for the job. For walls you can chose matt, but if you want more of a sheen then you can use eggshell, soft sheen or, for a higher sheen, silk. Generally the higher the sheen, the more durable the finish. Although these days there are a lot of options for durable matt finishes. The same goes for woodwork- the most common finishes are eggshell, satin and gloss. Gloss being the highest sheen and the most durable. Another tip regarding sheen levels is the higher the sheen the more it will highlight imperfections. So a very flat, matt finish will go some way to disguising poorly prepared surfaces.

The most important advice is to make sure you carry out full and thorough prep prior to painting. This will ensure a better and longer lasting finish.

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Castle Bromwich Parish Council News



Autumn has arrived.

As this season begins and the nights draw in with the clocks going back on October 27th 2024, the Parish Council park gates will be closing at 4:00pm. Arden Hall has been busy hosting a variety of events over the past few months.

Heritage Open Days is England's largest festival of history and culture, involving thousands of local volunteers and organisations. Every year for 10 days in September it brings people together to celebrate their heritage, community and history. Stories are told, traditions explored, and histories brought to life. It offers the public a chance to see hidden places and try out new experiences – and it's all FREE.

Arden Hall hosted their day on Sunday 15th September which was well attended with many looking through photographs of Castle Bromwich and surrounding area. Local groups also showcased their history, Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens Trust, Castle Bromwich Graveyard Society and Soobie Whitfield, Our Green and Common Land - community project based in Castle Bromwich. A huge thank you to these groups who volunteered their time to showcase many photographs and documents.

Macmillan Coffee Morning was held on September 21st. This year the event invited many local clubs and associations to the hall to highlight clubs and societies for the community to join. Helen England from Starliners gave a fantastic show of line dancing with Phil England playing bass guitar with tunes from past to present. The total amount raised £600.25 which is our biggest total yet. A special thank you to Castle Bromwich Ladies Group and the Castle Bromwich Lions who gave £100 cheques.

The September Fashion Show on a wet and windy Sunday afternoon, brought many ladies in to try and buy some fantastic garments. A big thank you to our catwalk models Cllr. Pearce, Sarah (Manor Park Brides), Jean, Pauline & Lisa (residents).

SOS Charity provided the garments from well-known high street brands which are all new but excess stock which is sold on to SOS to raise money for charity. The audience gave great feedback for the afternoon.

LDN Wrestling came rolling into town on 29th September.

LDN Wrestling have recently celebrated their 20th birthday and have run over 1000 shows across the entire UK during this time making them the biggest touring promoter in the country today. LDN Wrestling was set up by Sanjay Bagga and has showcased his arena at Arden Hall over the past two years. Not only were the children shouting at the baddie, most of the adults were too. Selfies with the wrestlers were high on the agenda when the show ended. They will be back in 2025.

The Parish Council's Annual Remembrance Parade is on Sunday November 10th. The Chairman will lead the Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial on the Village Green. The parade will commence at around 10:30am. If you are travelling by car, please be aware of the local road closures and parking restrictions which are in place from 10:00am, particularly The Green and Old Croft Lane.

Should you like to lay a wreath at the War Memorial Service, we have arranged with the Royal British Legion to have a limited number of wreaths available from the Council Office. Please call the office on 0121 747 6503 to reserve. These then can be paid for and collected from this office between 9am and 1pm Monday to Friday. (Please make cheques payable to RBL Poppy Appeal). This year we have obtained lamppost poppies which can be sponsored for £10 and these will be displayed around the village green, please contact the below number if you wish to purchase a lamp post poppy.

Those who have served and are remembering a loved one with a military background, along with groups or associations who would like to join the marching parade on the day, please email leisure@castlebromwichpc.gov.uk

Poppy Cascade

Last June, the Community & Leisure Officer requested knitted or crocheted poppies. You did not disappoint! The last count on 16th October came to 4,359. All differing colours from red, black, white, and purple.

The staff at Arden Hall, local clubs and residents are currently in the process of attaching all the poppies to the netting provided by EH SMITH builders based in Castle Bromwich.

The display will cascade from the roof of Arden Hall and will be unveiled the first week of November (weather permitting) and remain up for a week or two.

This is our first project of this kind and has brought many people together across the area, with poppies coming from crafters in Tamworth, Coventry, and Weymouth who all have connections to Castle Bromwich. This has been a real community effort and we sincerely hope that everybody who comes along to see the poppy cascade feels that it is a fitting tribute to all that played their part for our country, especially to our local lads and lasses who are named on the War Memorial on the Village Green.

A HUGE thank you to all that took part in all aspects of this project.

Thursday Coffee Club is growing and absolutely free to come and have a natter. We open at 10:00am with one game of Bingo at 11:00am, where a full house call will give a prize of a £10 Shopping voucher. Coffee and Tea cost £2.00 with a hot chocolate at £2.50. Bingo is £1.

If you have any suggestions of events which you would like to see at Arden Hall, then please get in touch with the Community & Leisure Officer, Janine Rickus on 0121 747 6503 - email leisure@castlebromwichpc.gov.uk

For more information on events at Arden Hall, please check out our large event notice board next to the entrance to Arden Hall or visit our socials, web page and Facebook group.

**Contact us for events or hall hire on: Telephone: 0121 747 7150 Facebook: www.facebook.com/castlebromwichpc.gov.uk/
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Rachel Taylor MP, North Warwickshire and Bedworth

HS2 must do more to clamp down on the disruption being caused in Coleshill and Water Orton

It's been a busy month as your MP. I've had many conversations about our constituency's needs in the upcoming budget with the Chancellor and Treasury ministers, voted in favour of Labour's Plan to Make Work Pay, and supported local pensioners at my pensioner drop-in surgeries to access thousands of pounds worth of benefits they didn't know they were entitled to. In all cases, getting the best deal for the residents of North Warwickshire and Bedworth has been my highest priority.

I know from speaking to many of you that the impact of the construction of HS2 is really being felt in Coleshill and Water Orton. These problems are yet another example of how the last government allowed this project to spiral out of control, with tens of billions of pounds of taxpayers' money wasted and Conservative ministers washing their hands of responsibility for the private company they left in charge.

Under Labour, that laissez faire approach to public spending will change. I'm delighted the Transport Secretary has announced a review of HS2 this month, with ministerial oversight reinstated so the government can get a grip of the chaos and bring this runaway project back under control.

For my constituents, that means taking HS2 and the local contractor BBV to task over the disruption being caused to residents' lives. Coleshill and Water Orton will be particularly badly affected by the three weekends of motorway closures on the M42, so I will be making immediate representations to HS2 to see what can be done to minimise the disruption that will bring.

Last month, I called a community meeting in Water Orton, where I heard directly from more than sixty residents about the appalling impact the HS2 works are having. I've heard of care workers struggling to reach appointments on time, tradespeople having to cut back their hours, and seen footage of flooding on people's property. It was shocking to hear of the mental and physical toll this has taken on people.

Even worse, constituents have told me how efforts to raise complaints with HS2 are being fobbed off to the outsourced construction company BBV. HS2 is the ultimate controller of the project - it's unacceptable for them to try and pass the buck for the impact construction is having on residents.

Last week, I called for a debate in Parliament on the impact of HS2's construction, so that ministers can hear the stories shared by constituents, and feed those into the review they have launched.

I'm also establishing regular meetings with HS2, to end the stonewalling of complaints, ensure residents' voices are heard, and get the worst of the disruption tackled. I want to see better communication with residents, more accountability for contractors, and mitigations for disruption in place, and I have made it plain to HS2 that I won't rest until I get the results my constituents need.

And one last thing... Whether it's a policy question or a casework issue, I'm keen to hear from you – you can contact me at rachel.taylor.mp@parliament.uk.

I'm holding several surgeries in Coleshill and Water Orton in the coming weeks – please do come along if there is anything you think I can help you with. The first is a drop-in at Coleshill Town Hall on Friday 1 November, from 11am to 1pm with Citizen's Advice. I am also holding a drop-in with Citizens Advice at Water Orton Community Library, 11am – 1pm on Friday 22 November. No appointment necessary.

Finally, I am also holding a surgery in Coleshill on Saturday 7 December – you can book an appointment at www.rachel-taylor.co.uk/advice.

COLESHILL CIVIC SOCIETY

Missing Buildings and Spaces 17

By John Hoyle



I think I have dealt with some of Lichfield Road previously but I seems sensible to deal with it again as I move down the High Street. These photos are mainly pre 1960 after which date most of Coleshill became a building site with redevelopment taking place on the High Street, and the whole area which was once Cole End Farm. On the right just after walking over the bridge there is the Wheatsheaf Inn which has been on that site for many years. There used to be a group of cottages in the current car park, the cottages were demolished in the 60's I think.



On crossing the bridge on just passing Station Road there is a large imposing building which was a coaching inn it closed just before the 1st World War, I was told the name was changed from Kings Arms to Queens Arms depending on the sex of the monarch. After it closed the building was changed into flats., just beyond were 3 cottages which were below road level and thus flooded regularly after heavy rain.



On walking over the bridge, a building on the left would be clearly seen. The corn mill at Cole End. The first photo of the mill shows it at the end of the mill pond and the tunnels through which the water flowed to give power may be seen. The second photo is of the mill pond in flood, when this occurred the whole area was flooded and caused chaos. The mill was demolished in the 1930's.



About this time the route of the river was changed. Originally it ran down the side of the Lichfield Road but when the A446, which became known as Coleshill bypass was built and became a dual carriageway just before the 2nd World War the path of the River Cole was changed to it's current route.

In the final photo the sign for the A446 may be clearly seen on the left just after the cottages



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 to this 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 johnhoyle707@gmail.com.

New Honorary Freemen Deanna and Barry Baker

Coleshill Town Council has honoured both Deanna and Barry Baker with the title of Honorary Freeman, something last awarded to Gordon Sherratt in 2013.

Deanna Baker retired from caretaking duties at the Town Hall on 30 September, after 56 years in covering the role, having been employed by the church initially and before Coleshill Town Council was even created in the mid-70s. She has been Caretaker or Key Holder for all that time with two employers.

At the presentation evening, on 16 October, Mayor of Coleshill, Sue Wallace commented that Deanna had not just been a caretaker but was quite a significant and active member of the Women's Institute and the Country Markets groups and had provided catering services to many of the town's events.

Her husband, Barry Baker was awarded the honour for his time in the town, having moved from Lichfield when much younger. He had worked for the Post and Fire services and was also the key holder for Chantry House for many years, when its car park has been kindly made available for the bigger events in the town. Although Deanna has been the employed caretaker, Barry has helped her with openings and locking up of the Town Hall at all hours of the day and night.

The award of Honorary Freeman is one of the most prestigious awards which a council can bestow upon a valued member of the community, or upon a visiting celebrity or dignitary. It arises from the medieval practice of granting respected citizens their freedom from serfdom. Although the title of 'freeman' confers no special privileges, it is without a doubt an honour to receive such an award and is a great and lasting tribute to a person held in high regard. In Coleshill, Honorary Freeman are added to the Civic List and invited to all major civic occasions in the calendar, like the Civic Service, Remembrance Day and the Christmas events.

The Mayor of Coleshill is seen (pictures attached) presenting the certificates and Honorary Freeman ribbons and broaches to both Barry and Deanna. Other Councillors were present, as were Town Hall staff and friends and family of the couple, covering 3



generations. Daughter-in-law Jeanette Baker prepared the buffet and grandson Jake played the Town Hall piano in the background while many people milled around the Fifield Room to reminisce with the new Honorary Freeman.

After the Mayor had given a speech about Barry and then Deanna and their history in the town, Deanna responded with a speech of her own, thanking the various people from the church and council who had made their time in the neighbouring house to the Town Hall so enjoyable, for so many years.

COLESHILL & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Monday 18th November

**"A NIGHT OF MAKING WREATHS
& CHRISTMAS TABLE DECORATIONS"**

You can bring your own decorations and/or we can provide oasis, decorative lights, baubles etc at a very minimal cost.

It was VERY successful last year, we would love as many as possible to attend and get everyone in the mood for Christmas.

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Twin Rivers Coleshill WI

August/September 2024 Report

Just because we can, we had a break in August from our traditional monthly meetings and gatherings, but that didn't stop us from doing things during that month, and certainly nothing stopped us in early September (we were straight back onto the proverbial horse). And when you read what we got up to, you'll be jealous of the fun we enjoyed!

The Annual Twin Rivers WI Quiz

Alison (ably assisted by her husband Ash), delivered another blistering quiz on the evening of the 7 September.

The main room of the Town Hall was filled to the rafters with teams all intent on winning or at least not embarrassing themselves. Alison had pulled together an array of questions on all sort of themes and subject matters, so there was something for everyone - the music quiz helped if you had someone younger who knew the current tunes.

Trish and her cohort did a great job at the door, welcoming folk into the event and making sure they were seated and settled. They helped to ensure a smooth transition.

The raffle as usual was a great earner – all tickets sold out thanks in no small part to Jamie, Dawn and Lesley. A special shout out to Glitzy Bits, Emma, and the Café on the Hill for donations and to all individuals who also donated items.

What wasn't so much welcomed was the weather. For some reason these quiz night are always accompanied by bizarre weather patterns. Last time it was a scorcher, this time a downpour! Some people arrived wet through. Cue Ali collecting soaked umbrellas to avoid a health and safety nightmare – confiscated until the end of the night.

Congratulations to Wishaw Wizards representing Wishaw WI Warwickshire who, following an intense tie-breaker, were the winners who took home the spoils: wine.

Alison thanks everyone who attended and helped to make the evening a great success. We raised over £850 which will be used by Twin Rivers to support our community events and fund raising initiatives.

Firewalk and Social Event

A bunch of us attended the social evening on the 20 August at Blabers Vinyard. We had a great time cuddled up under blankets with a glass of wine in hand and a picnic tea. But that wasn't enough for Dawn and Julie; they also decided to take part in the sponsored firewalk in aid of Mary Anne Evans Hospice, and it was extremely hot.

Consider your own oven where food is cooked at an average heat of 180 degrees centigrade? Well, the lit coals those two brave women walked over were registered as being 1,200 degrees centigrade. That's hot enough to melt silver! Imagine that cooking your toes into sausages?

Julie and Dawn are grateful to everyone who sponsored them. Every penny went to a great cause.

Walk and Pub Meet-up

We decided we needed something else to do whilst the sun was still shining. What we hit upon was a sedate ramble, ending in a meal and something to wet our whistles.

A group of us met initially outside The Plough Inn and headed off immediately on a well-known, circular route through fields and along hedgerows, occasionally stopping to have an argument with Lorraine about whether some berries that were on a bush were sloes or not. They weren't, they were damsons and they were very bitter.

We wondered if there were any geocaches on the route we were following. For those who don't know, a geocache is something you can hunt for using an app. People hide treasures in places for walkers to find.

We checked our phones and sure enough, there was one. We decided to go after it!

The map took us to St Cuthbert's Church where we had to answer a number of quiz questions which, when answered correctly, supplied the map reference to the cache we were seeking. We were off again!

A trot across another field, through a couple of gates and along a row of bushes until we found a stone that looked out of place. Picking it up, we found it had a screw top, and inside was a rolled piece of paper Success! We added our names to it.

After that triumph we began our return journey to The Plough for a slap up binge. But "oh no!" A gate to climb over! All of us got over it easily except for Alison who wobbled. It took two attempts but eventually she did it with us all gently guiding (well, more like pushing) her over.

Finally we were back at The Plough and into the welcoming arms of Sue who was waiting for us with a lovely surprise. She had used her gift-of-the-gab to grab us the big pod outside so we could eat in comfort with a working sound system. Cheers to Sue!

Flower Boxes – Coleshill in Bloom

On the 3 August, Coleshill and District Garden Club put out a call for community groups to take on a planter and embed plants into them. And of course we volunteered.

Sue and Ali got busy with the one by the Green Man, which is perfectly positioned for us as the pub lets us use their snug for

our committee meetings completely free of charge. The next day another planter was offered situated by Aldi on Station Road, so Ali, Karen and Diane pulled on their gardening gloves and ploughed into the dirt!

So it's a big thanks to Ali, Sue, Karen and Diane for taking time out of their days. They are helping to make the High Street look blooming lovely! Now all that is left is to keep the weeds at bay. No dandelions allowed!

Poppy Plans and Progress

At our first meeting of the craft group following the August break, we concentrated solely on the poppy displays for Remembrance Day in November.

Before that, on the 4 August, we met on the Croft to remove the poppies from old cascade which was so admired last year. What resulted was three big bags full of blooms which were whisked away to be laundered. They were very smelly as the netting they were attached to was old and dusty. Not many casualties, the vast majority of the flowers survived the wash.

Now we have the massive task of reattaching those poppies to new lightweight netting. It's all hands to the deck as time is marching ever closer to Remembrance Day. You may see calls for assistance on social media, so keep your eyes open if you want to help at all. We definitely want more poppies knitted or crocheted if anyone can assist.

In addition, we are completing large poppies in the four commemoration colours:

- red for those who sacrificed their lives in World War One and following conflicts;
- black to commemorate the contributions of black, African and Caribbean community to the war effort;
- purple to remember the animal victims of war; and
- white to remember all people who died during conflict with a focus on an end to wars.

These larger poppies will be hung close hung close to the war memorial.

Thank you to everyone who has been knitting and crocheting like mad, we cannot express just how much we appreciate it. Even Coleshill Secondary School is getting involved!

Twin Rivers Coleshill WI meet every fourth Tuesday of the month at the Town Hall at 7.30pm. Free to members, £5.00 to non-members. All ladies welcome. If you would like to donate poppies or know more information, you can contact us at TRWEvents@gmail.com



WI Quiz - Wishaw Wizards - The winners



Firewalk & Social Event - Julie doing the walk



Walk & Pub Meet-up - At Church



Flower Boxes - Ali, Sue & Green Man Pub



Poppy Plans - Big Red Poppy

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



St Clements Church looks modern to the outside world, and being constructed in the 1960's that is very true, but as with many buildings of this age it certainly has its challenges. General Synod voted in February 2020 for the whole of the Church of England to achieve net zero carbon by 2030. The vote recognised that the global climate emergency is a crisis for God's creation and a fundamental injustice.

Can we achieve this? We are not sure. It would be good to be able to look into the future, but there is one thing for certain, within the next few years the Church will need to refurbish or replace the roof. We can, however, focus on the small steps we can take towards our goal.

Before the pandemic we started to encourage the bringing of our own cups, should anyone want tea or coffee after the service or in our groups and this is something we are starting once again to ask. There is plenty to do, but what do they say "where there's a will there is a way". Let's hope so and although this saying by George Herbert first appeared in 1640 in the work *Jacula Prudentum* and was slightly altered in the 1820's, it's perhaps more relevant today than ever before.

On Saturday 5th October once again St Clements held its annual coffee morning in support of Macmillan Cancer support. We signed up several years ago and it is in our Church diary as an annual event. Due to the generosity of those that came and gave cakes and supported us, we managed to raise £306 for this amazing charity. Thank you. Some have asked why we do this in October and not at the end of September - well simply because it fits well with everything else we do as a Church and more

importantly it is usually the only event taking place.

So what do the coming weeks and months ahead hold, well the Church is now dressed in autumnal colours with a big thank you to Janet Coleing who came in to make sure the flowers reflect the season and together with the Holy Dusters the Church is sparkling, they do use a lot of polish and disinfectant!

Janet will be on hand to make sure the Church is made ready for the Service of Remembrance, which this year is on Sunday 10th November and is a national opportunity to remember the service and sacrifice of all those that have defended our freedoms and protected our way of life. Thank You. Two small words but they say so much about us as a country and what we stand for today.

A visit to Bletchley Park gives an insight into the lives of those that worked there and was the home of the WW2 Codebreakers. It is now a heritage site in Milton Keynes and where Alan Turing and other agents decoded the enemy's secret messages. It is well worth a visit and really makes you realise how much we owe to this extraordinary generation, without whom we would not be able to enjoy the freedoms we have today.

Please Note: Our Service of Remembrance will start at 10.45 am on Sunday 10th November when we will be holding a 2 minute silence at 11am.

We decided that a celebration was in order for our Church Groups that have now been running for 3 years starting in October 2021. Many from the community come bringing their knitting or to loan a book or play dominoes or just chat. It's a place to catch up with friends or meet new people. We open throughout the year, even bank holidays and when it was said "that the afternoon went far too quickly" and how much they had enjoyed it, that really

made it all worthwhile. Jesus Welcomed all to his Table and in his name we are pleased to welcome all to our Church through our groups and Wednesday and Sunday Services. So you may have guessed it, after the Service on Sunday 20th October we decided a 'big' cake was in order to enjoy and to celebrate how far we have come. Here's to the next 3 years!

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 7th December:

2pm - Festive Tea and entertainment with carols

Sunday 22nd December:

4pm - Musical, Born to Love, the Story of the

First Christmas with St Mary and St Margaret's Church and will be performed at St Clements Church starting at 4pm.

In the December issue and throughout the Christmas season, we'll share information about all our services on our Facebook page and noticeboards. For now, join us for the Christingle and Toy Service on Sunday, December 8th, at 11 AM, featuring the 4th Castle Bromwich Brownies.

Want to know more? Just reach out - we'd love to hear from you!

Phone: 0121 274 7120

Church Website:

www.stclementschurchcb.co.uk

Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/stclementschurchcastlebromwich)

[stclementschurchcastlebromwich](https://www.facebook.com/stclementschurchcastlebromwich)

Email: office@stclementschurchcb.co.uk

Grand opening ceremony celebrates one year of Hartshill Health Centre and Community Hub



(from left to right): Dr Bal Sidhu, Cllr Bill Hancox, Professor Danielle Oum, Cllr Margaret Bell, Lord Lieutenant Tim Cox, and Cllr Colin Hayfield.

Hartshill Health Centre and Community Hub in Nuneaton was excited to host a grand opening ceremony on Thursday 24 October in celebration of its one-year anniversary. The event marked a significant milestone for the Hartshill Health Centre as it continues to grow and meet the evolving healthcare needs of the community.

On the day the Lord Lieutenant of Warwickshire, Tim Cox, was in attendance to officially open the Centre with the ceremonial cutting of a ribbon, followed by a special unveiling of a wall plaque.

The opening ceremony was followed by speeches about the importance of the centre and looking after the health of our local communities by the Lord Lieutenant; then Dr Bal Sidhu, Senior Partner at Hartshill Health Centre; Cllr Margaret Bell from Warwickshire County Council, and Professor Danielle Oum, Chair of the Integrated Care Board. Other special guests at the event included Cllr Colin Hayfield, the Mayor of North Warwickshire, and Cllr Bill Hancox, Mayor of Nuneaton, and Bedworth.

Attendees at the event were also able to enjoy a tour of the centre's diverse range of facilities, followed by an exhibition and the opportunity to meet and chat with the management team of the centre.

Since its opening one year ago, Hartshill Health Centre, a purpose-built, state-of-the-art facility has been delivering vital healthcare services to the local community. It currently provides essential GP, nursing, and midwifery care, and serves as a specialised outpatient clinic hub for Cardiology services (including the provision of echocardiograms and Atrial Fibrillation clinics), Dermatology, and Orthopaedics, extending its reach to a wider patient base across Warwickshire.

The health centre also acts as a base for the South Warwickshire University NHS Foundation Trust (SWFT) which provides specialist nursing services in the community, and the Rural Warwickshire Primary Care Network: comprising five GP surgeries which together coordinate care for up to 55000 patients in the region and are responsible for introducing the pioneering Frailty Clinic.

The centre is committed to expanding its services, with new additions on the horizon to better serve residents and the wider community. In the coming months, a Pain Clinic, Pharmacy, and Dental Services (to include minor oral surgery) will be integrated into the facility, further enhancing access to comprehensive healthcare under one roof.

Plans are underway to expand secondary care services at Hartshill Health Centre's primary care setting. With its proximity to three schools and the availability of clinicians experienced in Accident and Emergency, the health centre is ideally suited for a walk-in urgent care centre. There is also ample space to incorporate onsite X-ray facilities. By localising these services, we can significantly reduce travel and wait times, leading to better health outcomes. This initiative will ensure timely interventions, enhance patient satisfaction, and alleviate the burden on both patients and the healthcare system.

Dr Bal Sidhu, Senior Partner at Hartshill Health Centre, said:

"We are incredibly proud of the progress Hartshill Health Centre has made over the past year. The addition of more specialised services like the Pain Clinic, Pharmacy, and Dental Services will allow us to deliver an even higher standard of care and support to our community."

Cllr Margaret Bell, Warwickshire County Council Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health, said:

"Hartshill Health Centre makes a real difference in people's lives by providing high-quality and accessible healthcare services closer to home. The latest expansion of services here, from specialist clinics to future plans for a urgent care centre, demonstrates a clear commitment to improving the wellbeing of local communities, and ensuring that the health needs of our residents are met with compassion and efficiency."

The Lord Lieutenant of Warwickshire, Tim Cox, said:

"It is a great honour to officially open Hartshill Health Centre and Community Hub on the occasion of its first anniversary. This facility is an invaluable asset to local communities, offering essential healthcare services with dedication and innovation. I commend everyone involved for their commitment to enhancing local health and wellbeing, and I look forward to seeing the positive impact it will continue to have in years to come."

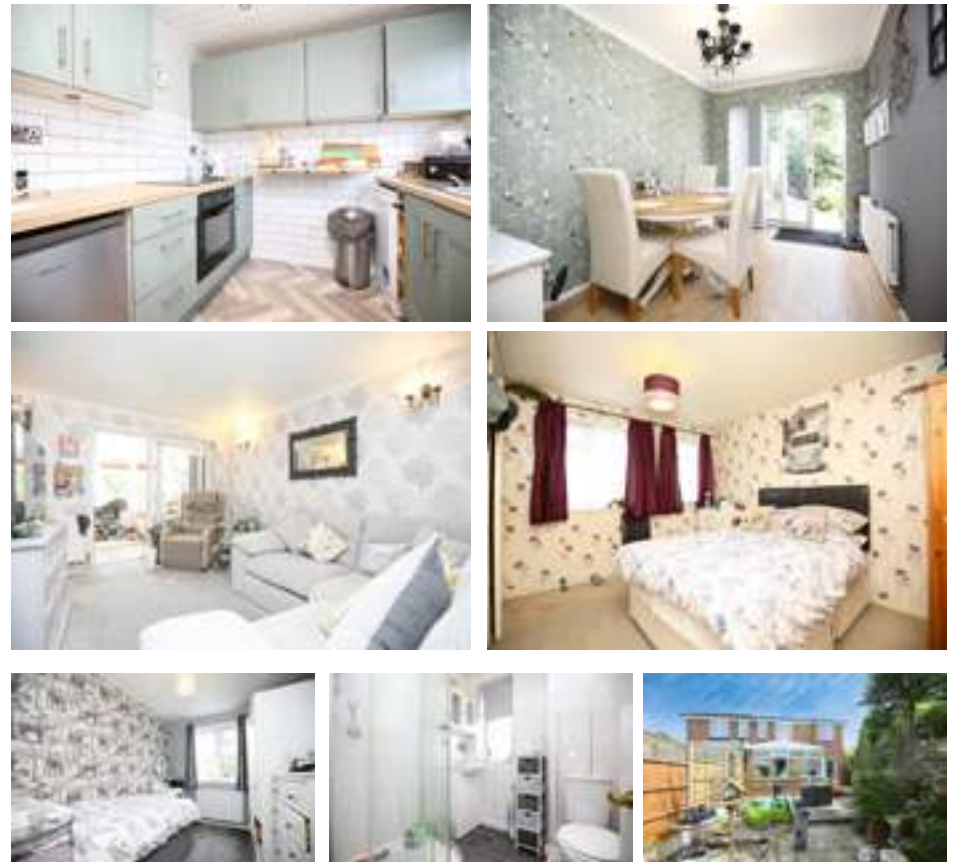
To find out more about Hartshill Health Centre, visit www.hartshillhealthcentre.co.uk





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Yardley Memorials are also based inside Widney Manor Cemetery for new memorials and flowers

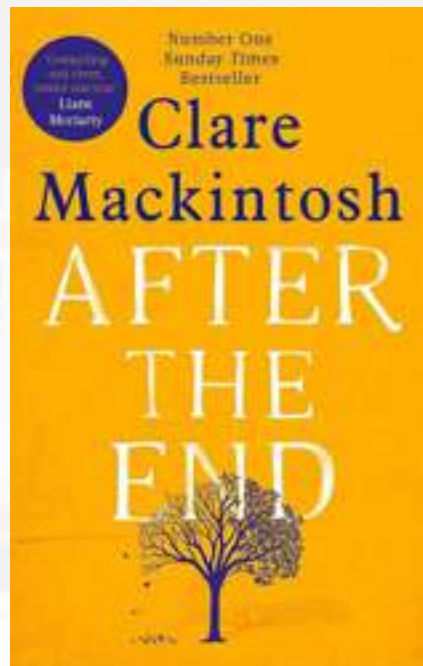
Castle Bromwich Library Book Club

After the end by Clare Mackintosh

Max and Pip are the strongest couple you know. Only now they're facing the most important decision of their lives - and they don't agree. As the consequences of an impossible choice threaten to devastate them both, nothing will ever be the same again. But anything can happen after the end.

This is such an emotional read - thought provoking and heart wrenching. It has hope and strength running all the way through it. A wonderful and moving book that that will stay with you for a long time.

Review by Castle Bromwich Library member

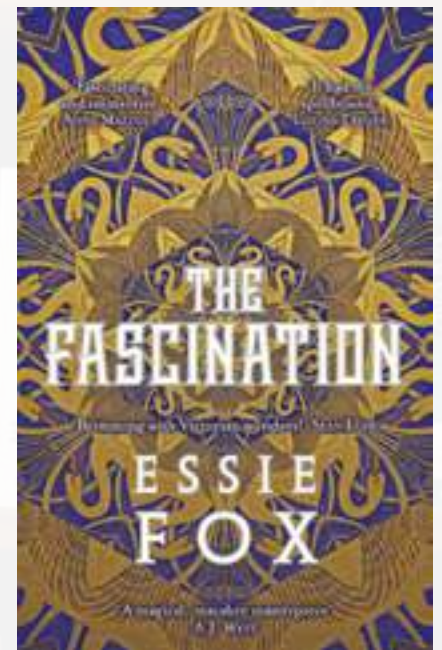


The fascination by Essie Fox

Victorian England. A world of rural fairgrounds and glamorous London theatres. Twin sisters Keziah and Tilly Lovell are identical in every way, except that Tilly hasn't grown a single inch since she was five. Coerced into promoting their father's quack elixir as they tour the country fairgrounds, at the age of fifteen the girls are sold to a mysterious Italian known as 'Captain'. Theo is an orphan, raised by his grandfather, Lord Seabrook, a man who has a dark interest in anatomical freaks and other curiosities - particularly the humankind. Resenting his grandson for his mother's death in childbirth, when Seabrook remarries and a new heir is produced, Theo is forced to leave home without a penny to his name. Theo finds employment in Dr Summerwell's Museum of Anatomy in London, and here he meets Captain and his theatrical 'family' of performers, freaks, and outcasts.

I was immediately drawn into this book. It is a dark, macabre and gothic mystery with an amazing cast of interesting, captivating and believable characters. This is a must read for anyone who likes historical fiction.

Review by Castle Bromwich Library member



The woman in the woods by J.A. Baker

I am safe here, in my cottage in the woods where no one knows me or my real name. All is peaceful and calm, and the real world can't hurt me - because I know how cruel it can be. But then I see her again. I see her pale, white face. Watching me. Taunting me. And then the notes begin to appear. I know who you really are... I know what you did. All of a sudden, the walls of my cottage feel like a prison, the peaceful woods around me a maze that will trap me forever. Who is this woman? What does she want? Does she know what happened during that boiling hot summer of 1976 when I made my terrible mistake. And if so, how? So many questions paralysing me with fear. One thing I do know. She must be stopped. Don't miss the brand-new thriller by J.A. Baker! Perfect for fans of Sue Watson, Valerie Keogh and K.L. Slater.

This is a fabulous psychological thriller which I would highly recommend. It's creepy, frightening and completely unpredictable which kept me turning the pages. I will definitely be reading more books by this author.

Review by Castle Bromwich Library member

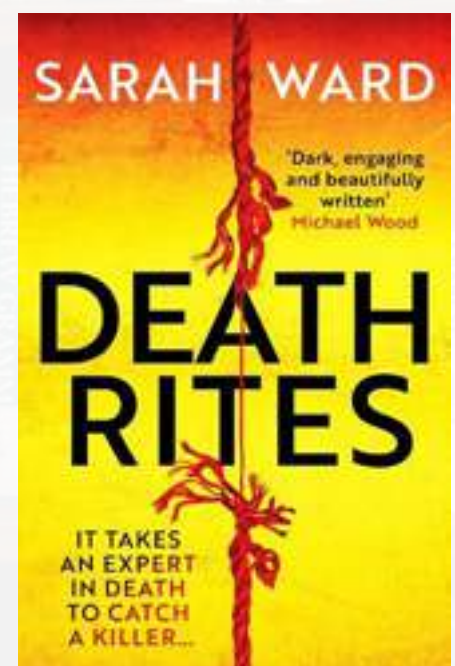


Death rites by Sarah Ward

Desperate for a change of scene following the death of her husband, Carla takes a job at Jericho, an elite New England college. On her first day, Carla is asked to represent the department at an unusual murder site. Although she initially believes there is nothing interesting about the debris that surrounds the body, there is more to the site than meets the eye. This victim is just the latest in a series of unsolved deaths in Jericho. Although the deaths appear unlinked, Carla is convinced: there is a methodical and calculated killer is operating under the cover of darkness. Can she uncover the truth before she becomes the next victim?

This is a great read which gripped me from the start. It is a creepy thriller/murder mystery with great characters. I thoroughly enjoyed this clever, well written story and would definitely recommend it.

Review by Castle Bromwich Library member



Police News



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

Vehicle Crime

PC 2300 Thompson & PC 1372 Breeze from Coleshill SNT have been out conducting high visibility foot patrols around Coleshill as part of our ongoing car key burglary operation.

There was sadly a high number of vehicles that were unlocked parked on the roads and many which were showing valuable items inside.

This allowed officers to engage with local residents and give crime prevention advice regarding vehicle crime.

This operation shall continue over the coming months as we look to help raise awareness to the local community and ensure that they are keeping their vehicles and valuables secure.



School Parking Banners

We all know that school parking is an issue, and we are working alongside Warwickshire County Council, North Borough Council and North Warwickshire Community Safety Partnerships to try to resolve the school parking issue. PCSO Yaqub from Coleshill obtained funding for school parking banners for the schools in North Warwickshire.

PCSO Yaqub stated “Our message is simple and clear think twice before parking your vehicle. Please ensure you are not causing an obstruction, not blocking driveways and pavements. Let’s work together and ensure we can take our children safely to school”. It doesn’t matter if you stop to drop off or collect your child from school as this is offence and danger to other children, parents and residents. I would like to take this opportunity in thanking both North Warwickshire Community Safety and North Warwickshire Neighbourhood Watch for assisting us with funding and delivering the banners.



Get Connected with Warwickshire Police

Atherstone and 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





Pet Page

Ward End Cat Rescue

We are a small but incredibly busy home based rescue, run solely by volunteers. We are continually overrun with cats needing our help. We have lots of cats in the rescue but many of them are not ready for their forever homes as yet for various reasons including needing veterinary treatment such as neutering, ongoing health issues or being semi feral. If you are interested in rehoming a cat or want more information please email us with a contact number, address and who lives in your household. We can then contact you and inform you of any cats that may be suitable.

Come and see us at our local fundraising event on the 16th November or if you have any items suitable for our raffle or tombola we would be most grateful, thank you. Please contact Suzy or Jen via our facebook page if you are interested in donating or helping at the event.

We will also be at the Coleshill Christmas light Switch on at the Christmas Market on Thursday 28th November 2-8pm with our fabulous tombola, please come and support us

Feral Cats If any of our supporters own land or a farm with suitable outbuildings for feral cats to live we would love to hear from you please.

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

The Colehill Hotel & Birmingham Dogs Home Appeal

The Coleshill Hotel, Coleshill are organising a Winter and Christmas appeal on behalf of Birmingham Dogs Home. Staff and the four-legged residents there would be delighted to receive your donations. Many of the Dogs are in there through no fault of their own and are sad and frightened.

Please help where you can and let's see these sad tales become happier tails.

You can drop directly into the Hotel

or Call Helen on 01675 46527 for larger collections.

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www.birminghamdogshome.org.uk

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 Ward End Cat Rescue Official



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Birmingham Dogs Home - Forever homes



Ginny

Breed: Doberman **Gender:** Female

Meet Ginny, a lively and spirited Doberman with a heart full of love and a playful personality. She arrived at our centre as a stray, so while we don't know much about her past, but its clear that she's a sweetheart with an enthusiastic, playful nature. Ginny arrived with some skin issues, so she's currently on a high-

quality diet along with skin supplements and a regular moisturising baths.

Ginny has a zest for life and is especially motivated by toys, which bring out her clever and playful side. She's already mastered several commands, she'll sit, lie down, and even give you her paw all while taking treats gently. Ginny is friendly and eager to connect with people, she loves to be the centre of attention but can be a little boisterous, sometimes jumping up in her excitement. Ginny also pulls forward on the lead, so she'd benefit from ongoing training to help her channel her energy in positive ways.

This smart girl would do best in a home with a secure garden, as she's quite athletic and may be able to clear a 6ft fence if something interesting catches her eye. Due to her lively nature and love of toys, she's looking for a home where she can be the only dog and would thrive with adults or families with older children.

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About Us

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The business currently in its 3rd and 4th generation of ownership, identified the need for a new modern independent funeral director to serve the Birmingham and Solihull areas.

Many of the long established funeral homes in the local area have been sold to much larger corporations over the past 15 years and have no family members left involved in the business. W.H. Painter, for example, are owned by Funeral Partners, a large nationwide corporate company.

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

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**Cllr Martin McCarthy,
Castle Bromwich Ward (Solihull MBC)**

November update

Welcome to our November update, we kick off with Guy Fawkes night, in the days of my youth this was a special night when the night sky was quite innocent of fireworks until after dark on the 5th itself, maybe nostalgia isn't what it used to be !

Wildlife ways

I have chased up last of the wildlife ways verge cutting in the Chestnut Drive and Hall road area, across Solihull this has taken longer to complete this year. This has not been helped by some of the unprecedented rain we have received. SMBC officers have responded that when wet the cuttings (Arisings) are left to dry before being collected. I have checked that these have been removed from Water Orton Road, sadly Autumn leaf litter has swiftly replaced this.

Autumn leaves

In addition to normal street cleansing operations Leaf collection is scheduled at 10 Locations in Castle Bromwich, we will be making a special focus on gully ways or linking footpaths such as the path from new street to Wentworth Avenue clearing leaves etc, I will inspect these going forward.

Flash Flooding

Due to unprecedented rain during October Flooding has occurred in low lying areas, the effect of this on nearby homes has been exacerbated by careless drivers driving too fast through standing water, we are following up some drainage system maintenance questions with SMBC and Severn Trent.

Water Orton Road and Green Lane Road safety works

I have inspected these during October with residents.

Several drain gullies are filled with sand, silt and organic matter from the road works, one new gully near Arden hall does not appear to be connected to the system, these have been reported for urgent attention.

The post and trip rail fence on the service road between the farthings and Park Hall school needs repair in several places.

It was good to see that the service road plastic bollard by the top end of Tomlinson Road has now been replaced, this issue was raised directly on the SMBC online 'Report it' system and quickly actioned.

The Hedging between Green lane and Marlborough Road needs attention, I will check that this is scheduled.

Regular Councillor Surgery at Castle Bromwich Library.

The next monthly surgery is scheduled for Monday the 4th of November and takes place at the Library at 14:00, no appointment is required, please email, or call me if anything urgent comes up in the meantime.

Our councillor emails are martin.mccarthy@solihull.gov.uk

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

Local Sports



World record broken & fitness endurance challenges set to reach 899



"I have training to beat the dumbbell lift record for over two years and it was worth building up to it gradually, the Indian endurance athlete Baskaran In set a tough target to aim for."

After a 15 minute short recovery break, seven more cross country speed march challenges were set carrying 60 lb backpack at Rowington Village footpaths and Heart of England footpath Warwickshire. The results were: 4 km - 33 min. 48 sec. 5 km - 40 min. 20 sec. 6 km - 48 min. 33 sec. 7 km - 57 min. 09 sec. 8 km - 1 hr. 04 min. 16 sec. 9 km - 1 hr. 13 min. 29 sec. 11 km - 1 hr. 29 min. 38 sec.

"heavy downpours of rain the previous day made some of the paths thick in mud including the waterlogged fields which slowed me down, however I managed to reach

the cut off times just by seconds which drained me, but worth the pain."

Sixteen days later at Lapworth Village Warwickshire the 899th career sporting feat was reached completing a mountain bike distance of 21 km carrying 34 lbs of mountain bike Instructor expedition kit finishing in 1 hr. 32 min. 13 sec. All footpaths were hard to negotiate, the wheels sunk in deep mud which made the challenge even more arduous.

"the last three months has physically tested me to reach this far, I have to push myself once again on 30 November to get to the 900th career sporting feat the effort and commitment is worth it all."

The latest strength speed stamina challenges and World Record to fall, was achieved yet again by Paddy Doyle who increased his career physical

fitness challenges and kumite martial arts / boxing feats to 899. Doyle beat the 1 minute weight lifting 5kg dumbbell record held by Baskaran In (India) who set the record of 114 dumbbell curl lifts in 1 minute, holding two 5kg weights in each hand. Doyle increased the World Record to 139 repetitions, beating the previous record by 25 lifts.



Water Orton Bowling Club

With the 2024 Crown Green Bowls season over for Water Orton, there's just time to wrap up for the year. In the Erdington Over 55's league our A Team qualified for the Final of the A cup but were narrowly beaten.

In the East Birmingham Over 60's the A team were Champions of Division 2, our B and C teams finished mid-table in Divisions 3 and 4 respectively, with the D Team gaining promotion from Division 6, it has to be said our overs 60's teams are going from strength to strength roll on next year. We had success in the Thursday Sutton Benevolent league, our B team were promoted from Division 4 with the A team finishing mid-table in Division 2. Our Saturday morning team in the Warwickshire Parks league gained promotion finishing 2nd, they are now looking forward to competing in Div 1 next year. Our afternoon team in the same league (although relegated to Div 2) had cup success, they played in the final of the consolation cup held at the Towers PH in Great Barr they beat Goldieslie B, 142 - 135 in a very exciting final, a photo below of captain Steve Preedy receiving the trophy from League Chairman Phil Ellett, here's to next year!

The Men's championship was held on Sunday 25th August, pictured below is John Smith the winner on the day seen here receiving his trophy from club chairman Kevin Hackett. On Thursday 29th August the club held its annual Over 60's Harry Sieckel Memorial trophy competition, a good turn out and excellent bowling on the day resulted in a win for club captain Paul Johnson beating Pete Costello in a close final, Paul is seen below receiving the trophy from Ted Wallace, Ted is one of our longest serving members, Ted is a life member and still a 'font' of knowledge, having played bowls for over 60 years representing our club on many occasions in the Warwick & Worcestershire County side.



During the season all leagues run Merit competitions for both single players or Pairs. The Warwick & Worcester Mixed-Pairs finals were held on 25th August at Hall Green BC. Our Club Captain Paul Johnson along with his bowls partner Jayne Bates (Boldmere St Michael's BC) managed to lift the trophy on the day, topping off a very successful season for him. They will both be playing in the National Mixed-Pairs finals on 5th October at Owley Wood BC in Cheshire.



The Bowling green has now closed for winter maintenance activities to commence, during the close season members will meet to undertake maintenance activities to the clubhouse and surrounding areas in readiness for next season.

We are always looking for new members, those who would like to play in a team or anyone that would like to take up social bowling so if you would like to try the game, we have equipment available for you to use during our free coaching sessions which are run on a Tuesday afternoon at 1:30 PM during the season from March to October.

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



Coleshill Town F.C.

CTFC Match Reports

All Northern Premier League games unless stated:

Tuesday 24th September

Bedworth United 0 v 4 Coleshill Town

A fine win Away from home against our nearest neighbours. Goals from Gio Dainty, a double for Alex McSkeane and the fourth by Isaac Adegoke.

Saturday 28th September

Coleshill Town 1 v 2 Wellingborough Town

The first time these two sides have met and a goal from new boy Harry Craven put Coleshill in charge but Wellingborough hit back with two late goals to take all the points.

Tuesday 1st October

Hinckley LR 0 v 0 Coleshill Town

With constant rain this game could have been called off but actually the pitch played well which cannot be said about the game. Neither side ever looked like scoring so a draw was the current outcome.

Saturday 5th October

F.A. Trophy

Ilkeston Town 2 v 3 Coleshill Town

Another Trophy game and another win against the odds. Ilkeston were flying in the League above so little old Coleshill were given no chance and that looked the case as the home side took a two goal lead by half time. Ben Usher-Shipway gave Coleshill hope early in the second half, Taylor Carter-Byrne equalised then in the 90 something minute Sam Tye popped up with the winner! WOW!

Monday 7th October

Coleshill Town 0 v 2 Sporting Khalsa

Sporting are title contenders this season and ex Coleshill player Simeon Cobourne popped up with a goal in the FIRST minute, and it became 2-0 shortly after. Coleshill fought on bravely but Khalsa were too good and saw out the game without conceding.

Saturday 12th October

Rugby Town 1 v 3 Coleshill Town

A much better performance from the Coleman. Goals from Josh Hesson, Ben Usher-Shipway and Sam Tye were enough to see off the home teams challenge.

Monday 14th October

Walsall Senior Cup

Coleshill Town 2 v 0 Walsall FC

In these competitions the professional club usually send their youth team to compete with a Non League side. A very young Walsall side came to pack Meadow and played some impressive football but Coleshill were stronger and two goals from Joe Palmer were enough to see off the youngsters. Joe Palmer became only the 10th CTFC player to score against a PRO side and the first ever to score Twice in a game against a PRO side.

Saturday 19th October

Coleshill Town 0 v 3 Quorn

Quorn are favourites to be top of the league come the end of the season and they were the best side to visit Pack Meadow this season so far. Coleshill competed well and held the visitors at bay but a mistake just before the break saw Quorn go into half time 1-0 up. Coleshill upped their game and did really well but the visitors broke away twice in the second half to give the scoreline a unfair look.

Tuesday 22nd October

Shepshed Dynamo 1 v 0 Coleshill Town

Coleshill travelled to bottom of the table Shepshed expecting a win and they threw the kitchen sink at the Home team but the ball just would not go in the net with Dynamo getting the only goal of the game from one of their very few chances.

Saturday 26th October

F.A. Trophy

Gloucester City 2 v 3 Coleshill Town

Another Trophy game, another fine win. Gloucester (population 134,000) are TOP of the league above Coleshill (population 7,000) and expected to brush aside the Coleman. Our lads had different ideas and put on the best 45 minutes of the season. Goals from Isaac Adegoke, Ben Usher-Shipway (pen) and Bassit Mandey put the lads 3-0 up by half time. The home side upped their game and pulled two goals back in the second half but Coleshill held on for a fantastic win.

F.A. TROPHY 2024/25

Do you remember when Coleshill Town made it to the Semi Final of the F.A. VASE in 2017 and just missed out on a visit to Wembley as they were beaten by Sough Shields over a two legged game. Since then Coleshill have been promoted and cannot compete in the Vase, instead it's in with the BIG BOYS of Non League in the F.A. Trophy. So Far Coleshill have played and beaten: Grantham Town 2-0, Carlton Town 3-2, Ilkeston Town 3-2 and Gloucester City 3-2, to reach the Second Round for only the second time in the clubs history. In the next round teams from the Vanarama National League join the competition and the draw will be made on Monday 28th October to see who Coleshill will be playing. Please watch out on Social Media for more details.

FIXTURES: Pitching in Northern Premier League Midland Division

3.00pm kick off unless stated.

Saturday 2nd November

Away to Worcester City.

Saturday 9th November

Away to AFAC Rushden & Diamonds.

Saturday 16th November

FA TROPHY 2nd Round

Coleshill Town v Biggleswade Town.

Saturday 23rd November

Away to Anstey Nomads.

Saturday 30th November

Home to Boldmere St Michaels.

Saturday 7th December

Away to Darlestone Town.

Saturday 14th December

Home to Hinckley LR

Saturday 21st December

Away to Loughborough Students.

Thursday 26th December (Boxing Day)

Home to Lye Town.

Wednesday 1st January 2025

Away to Sutton Coldfield Town.



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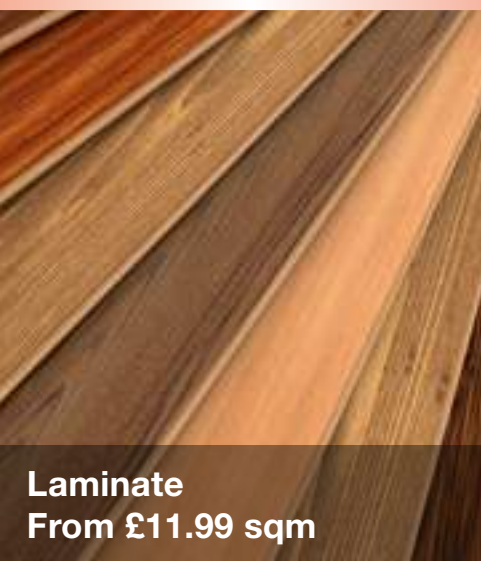
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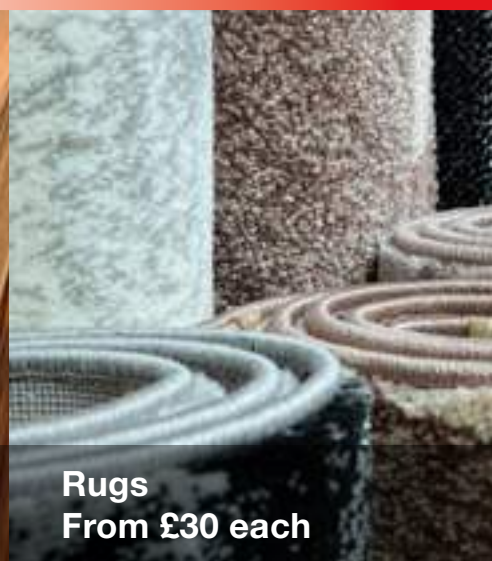
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