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THE Coleshill & Castle Brom POST



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December 2024 Issue 129



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**THE Coleshill &
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The Post Newspaper Group is an independent hyper-local tabloid newspaper publisher distributing over 14,000 copies to homes and businesses in Coleshill and Castle Bromwich each month, free of charge.

Our main aim is to provide hyper-local news and information to the community where it would otherwise not be accessible. We also offer the most effective platform for local businesses to promote themselves to their target audience. This benefits the entire community and improves social-cohesion.



Any views, articles and columns expressed in this publication are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the Publisher, nor indeed their responsibility.

Advertising in our publications

In order to deliver The Post free to our readers we rely on advertising revenue from local companies.

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Getting in touch

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General inquires:
serena.postgroup@outlook.com

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People prefer to buy locally and they trust local print media above all else.

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THE Coleshill & Castle Brom POST

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CHRISTMAS OPENING TIMES

Wishing you all Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Mon 23rd December	Open as usual	Sat 28th December	Open as usual
Tues Christmas Eve	Open as usual	Sun 29th December	CLOSED
Wed Christmas Day	CLOSED	Mon 30th December	Open as usual
Thur Boxing Day	CLOSED	Tue New Year's Eve	Open till 8pm
Fri 27th December	Open as usual	Wed New Year's Day	CLOSED

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The Coleshill School Will Remember!

On Monday 11th November 2024, The Coleshill School held its annual Remembrance Service to commemorate former students of The Coleshill School who lost their lives in active service.

In front of a packed Hall of students and visitors, Sixth Form students proudly read out the names of 27 'old boys' from the first world war, 9 from the second world war and James Munday who was killed in Afghanistan in 2008. The last post was played followed by a two minute silence.

Mr Smith-Childs, ATLP Strategic Lead commented "I would like to thank all our students, staff and visitors including, Cllr Sue Wallace, Mayor of Coleshill, and Andrew Watkins, former teacher, for attending our Remembrance ceremony.

This is an important event for the school and I am so proud of the number of students who voluntarily attended the Remembrance Service and were so respectful today to commemorate our lost boys".

For Coleshill's Remembrance Sunday Parade and Service on Sunday The Coleshill School were asked to submit some artwork which was displayed in the Town Hall. Year 7 students were asked to produce poppies using their textile skills which were attached to a dress on display at the Town Hall. Mrs Pudge, Design Technology Technician commented "Our students have taken to this challenge with enthusiasm and respect for this important project, learning new skills and creating some beautiful artwork."



Remembrance Parade and Service 2024



The honour of organising the Remembrance Sunday parade and service is a joint effort between the Royal British Legion, Parish Church, Coleshill Town Band and Coleshill Town Council.

After last year's 'unofficial' return into church, due to inclement weather, the first 'official' indoor church service since 2019 was very well received, with the welcome addition of digital orders of service, extra seating and beautifully crafted poppies around the churchyard kindly organised by the WI.

The parade was led by The Sergeant at Arms, Simon Toon, Coleshill Town Band, the Royal British Legion, Mayor of Coleshill, Cllr. Sue Wallace and Deputy Lieutenant Mr Michael Fetherston-Dilke who were joined by representatives from Coleshill Town Council, Warwickshire County Council and North Warwickshire Borough Council; followed by uniformed organisations, groups, schools, and societies from in and around Coleshill.

As always, the team behind the remembrance service and parade work diligently to honour the fallen in all conflicts. It could not happen without the participation of volunteers and Coleshill as a Community and for that, we would like to thank the following:

Coleshill's Royal British Legion, their Chair Ray Richardson and the dedicated team of volunteers who organise the local Poppy Appeal – raising thousands of pounds in the process.

Rev. Sarah Tillet whose beautiful and poignant sermon focused on the resilience of the human spirit through immense hardships.

The volunteer's, congregation and staff of Coleshill Parish Church. The Church bells rang out magnificently courtesy of the bellringers, drawing the parade forward to be graciously welcomed into the Church by the volunteers, past beautiful displays of international remembrance flowers, drumhead altar and Coleshill's silent soldier courtesy of the church Flower Guild.

Special thanks to the exceptionally talented Coleshill Town Band who always play gloriously and take immense pride in leading the parade and Rosie Harding, Principal Cornet player, for sounding the "Last Post" and "Reveille" with great dignity.

Thanks also to:

The Sergeant at Arms, Simon Toon for leading the parade and wreath-laying in a respectful, effective and thoughtful manner.

The uniformed organisations, their standard-bearers, and leaders: Royal British Legion, 2504 (Fordbridge) Squadron Royal Air Force Air Cadets, Coleshill's Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, local police officers as well as firefighters and the fire truck from Coleshill Fire station helping to keep the parade safe. Coleshill in Bloom who ensured that the planters at the church and around Coleshill were spruced up and well-tended.

The volunteers that assist with the road closures to enable the Remembrance Parade to pass through Coleshill safely, it really could not happen without them manning the road closures or driving the vehicles to keep the parade protected.

Coleshill Primary School for allowing the use of their carpark, as well as student Imogen Palmer who confidently read the Exhortation with Ray Richardson, Chair of the RBL.

This year's poppy artwork and displays were donated to the Remembrance organisers for display, this included: Twin Rivers W.I display of knitted poppies around the church and post-box toppers, the Remember When knitting group from the Town Hall kindly donating a panel of crochet/knitted/cross stitched art which was proudly displayed at Coleshill Town Hall, and the Coleshill School whose Year 7's kindly created and displayed a dress of poppies at the Town Hall. Thanks also to Maureen and Barry Gascoigne for once again decorating the Lych-gate with poppies and all the shops who proudly dressed their windows up or displayed poppies.

And finally, appreciation is given to those who lined the streets of Coleshill, filled the Church and Church Hill and attended the refreshments at the Town Hall; your encouragement, acknowledgement and support helps to make Remembrance Sunday the magnificent event that it is.

One of the greatest pleasures in being involved in Coleshill's Remembrance Parade and Service is understanding how much the event means to the families of the fallen that are listed on the various War Memorials in and around Coleshill. With this in mind the Order of Service was specifically designed to incorporate photos of some of the casualties of the First World War, this is a tradition that the organisers of the parade wish to carry on, therefore if you have any photographs that you would like to share please email them to zoe@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk The order of service for 2024 can be found on the Coleshill Town Council & Parish Church websites.

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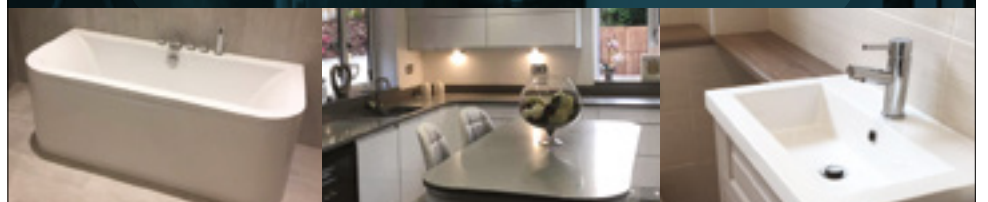
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Applications open for BBC Gardeners' World Live Beautiful Borders 2025

Would you like to share your garden design talent with tens of thousands of gardening enthusiasts? Applications for the BBC Gardeners' World Live Beautiful Borders competition are now open. BBC Gardeners' World Live returns to the NEC Birmingham from 12 - 15 June 2025 and marks the height of the summer gardening season.

The Beautiful Borders are compact, 9m² show gardens, bursting with creative design features and imaginative planting. These colourful mini masterpieces are always a popular highlight at BBC Gardeners' World events, providing visitors with endless inspiration and take-home ideas, particularly for small or challenging garden spaces.

Creating a Beautiful Border is a fantastic opportunity to gain show garden experience at a large-scale public event and to showcase your skills to a large, enthusiastic audience. Whether you're a design or landscaping professional, a first-time designer or student, or a gardening club, community group or charity, BBC Gardeners' World events' friendly and experienced horticultural team support entrants every step of the way, from application to final build. 25 bursaries worth £200 each are available to BBC Gardeners' World Live applicants for plants and props.

The creative theme for the 2025 Beautiful Borders competition is 'Cultivating Connections', inspired by the power of garden spaces, no matter how small, to foster meaningful connections of all kinds. Whether it's connecting cultures, species, generations or communities, or deepening our relationship with nature, education or mental wellbeing, the organisers are looking for small spaces with big impact.

Entries are assessed on site by esteemed professional assessors, with medals for all and awards presented for Best Beautiful Border, Best Interpretation of the Theme, and Best Subscriber Border for the best design by a BBC Gardeners' World Magazine subscriber. Event visitors have their say too, voting for their favourite Border in the Peoples' Choice award.

Lucy Tremlett, Event Director at Immediate Live, organisers of BBC Gardeners' World events, said: "We – and our visitors - never cease to be impressed at the creativity that goes into the Beautiful Borders. The designs are not only technically brilliant with an eye-catching aesthetic, but really come from the heart, often reflecting a designer's personal story, journey or experience. Gardens are wonderful spaces to bring human beings and nature together, so the Cultivating Connections theme should inspire some really strong entries. We can't wait to see them!"

Winner of the 'best in show' Beautiful Border, Best BBC Gardeners' World Magazine Subscriber Border and a Platinum award at BBC Gardeners' World Live 2024 was Leanne Wood from Bugbrooke, Northamptonshire. Leanne's Border, Following In My Footsteps, was a celebration of education through shared experiences and deep connections with nature. Inspired by following in her grandparents' gardening footsteps, Leanne's Border combined a children's play space with a relaxing haven.

Winners of Best Interpretation of the Theme and a Platinum award were Jemma Wylie and Rona Glynn of Goldfinch Garden Design in South Norwood for Fee Fi Fo Forage!, designed as a learning space to encourage children to fall in love with nature through feasting and foraging.

To enter a Beautiful Border for BBC Gardeners' World Live 2025, download the application form and find full details, including bursary information, at www.bbcgardenersworldlive.com. Applications close on 23 January 2025.

Tickets for BBC Gardeners' World Live 2025 are on sale now at www.bbcgardenersworldlive.com. Nick Bailey, the BBC Gardeners' World presenter, designer, plantsman and author will be designing this year's headline show garden, a sustainable garden that's packed with colour. Nick will be hosting live, daily sessions from his show garden, sharing tips and advice on how to garden more sustainably. Further highlights include impressive show

gardens by award-winning designers, the Beautiful Borders and the Association of Professional Landscapers' inspiring avenue of brilliant back gardens.

Brand new for 2025 is The Tasting Table, an alfresco cooking workshop space hosted by Adam Frost with chefs from the Good Food Show Summer. At the BBC Gardeners' World Magazine Stage, presenters Monty Don, Adam Frost, Nick Bailey, Frances Tophill and Rachel De Thame will join Nicki Chapman and the BBC Gardeners' World Magazine editors for summer gardening chat and questions from the crowd.

In the spectacular BBC Gardeners' World Live Floral Marquee, visitors can enjoy the International Orchid Show, stunning displays by leading specialist plant nurseries, and thousands of quality plants to browse and buy. The Hot Off the Potting Bench gallery features exciting new plant varieties, all competing for the Peter Seabrook Award for Best New Plant. There's expert horticultural advice to be had throughout the Floral Marquee, from the Let's Talk Plants Stage sponsored by Hillier, and Plant Experts' advice desk to the orchid societies and professional plant growers.


The Urban Garden space, returns for 2025 with its stylish showcase gardens, retail space and stage, all offering ready inspiration for town and city gardeners. Fans of indoor gardening will enjoy the Houseplant Market and stage for the best in eye-catching home greenery and top tips from leading house plant experts. With its extensive Plant Village featuring hundreds of garden retailers and exhibitors, guided Garden Walks and Plant Expert Tours, demonstrations and the Schools' Wheelbarrow Competition, there really is something for everyone at BBC Gardeners' World Live.

Tickets include entry to the Good Food Show Summer, a celebration of seasonal summer food, featuring delicious food and drink to taste, tiddle and take home, and demonstrations and foodie chat with acclaimed chefs and food personalities. Book tickets at www.bbcgardenersworldlive.com.





Sumner Road, Coleshill
 Opening Hours. Mon to Fri 10:00 to 13:00 - Tel. 01675 462517
www.coleshillhub.org.uk
coleshillcommunityhub@gmail.com



Next Town Council Meetings – 11th Dec & 22nd Jan 7pm at Old Court Room Town Hall





Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
From all the Hub Volunteers
 For the festive period we will close Friday 20th Dec 1pm and reopen Monday 6th January 2025

INFORMATION
 Help and support for any enquiries or issues such as:-
 Blue Badges, Driving Licence, Passport Applications, Online Benefit Forms (Including Pension Credit Checks) and much more

Signposting to many groups, partner services and agencies – see some examples in boxes below:-




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 Parkinson's Cafe
 Memory Cafes (Coleshill/ Water Orton)
 Young at Heart
 Stitch Club

GROUPS
 Walking Tours
 Keep Fit & Natter
 Walking Sports
 Art & Crafts
 U3A
 Toddler Group

SIGNPOSTING
 Carers Trust
 CAB (Citizens Advice Bureau)
 MIND
 Vision Support
 Wellbeing



WARM HUB



Community Centre (Tue only) and Town Hall Tue to Thu 10 to 1. Come in for a chat and activities if you wish. Free refreshments.

How it all started with Charlie & Co Pet Store



Charlotte who mainly runs the business has always had a love for dogs and has worked in different dog related roles from the age of 15. She has worked in boarding kennels, dog grooming and volunteered for a rescue called Paws2rescue.

Charlotte travelled to Romania with her

Dad, Steve and the rescue team, where we rescued 26 dogs from a kill shelter, from what you would describe as hell. Even to this day we can hear the dog's cry for help. That's how we ended up with 3 Romanian dogs.

Charlie, one of the rescue dogs, had an extremely sensitive stomach and that is why we got into raw feeding and

now all our dogs thrive on a natural nutritional diet.

Having a total of 7 dogs all raw fed within the family, we decided to open our own raw food and natural treat shop.

We started off selling 2 brands of raw food and building our knowledge up even more on the benefits of raw feeding, as the proof was there with our own dogs.

Now we are one of the biggest stockists of 13 brands of raw in the local area – variety is key!

We also stock a large selection of frozen bones, chunks, fish and lots more.

Natural treats including Salmon Skins, Pigs stomach's, Camel rolls, Rabbit Hairy Ears to name a few of our wide selection.

Charlotte runs the shop mainly with the help of her parents, Sue and Steve and part time assistant, Holly.

We have many customers come to us whose dogs have bad allergies and we are able to reduce a flare up by introducing an elimination diet i.e. single protein, rabbit. As the weeks go on, introduce a new flavour week by week to see which proteins may cause the irritation.

Brands of raw food that we stock – Durham Animal Feeds, Southcliffe, Dougies, The Dogs Butcher, Naked Dog, Drool, Paleo Ridge, Naturaw, Prime Animal Feeds, Bulmers, Nutriment and our own

brand, Charlies Own.

At Charlie's we stock brands to suit all budgets. Raw feeding on a budget, does not mean what you save in money, you lose in quality. You can still feed your dog a nutritional meal without breaking the bank. Raw feeding is as expensive as you make it.

The shop is going from strength to strength and with the help of our loyal customers and fantastic support we couldn't ask for more.

We hope to give all our customers a warm and friendly welcome and the best experience possible and to support anyone wanting to learn or know more about feeding their dogs raw food.

The shop is busier than ever and watching it grow means the world to us. We want nothing more than to provide knowledge and great quality for your dogs.

With the help of loyal customers and fantastic support we are thriving.

We hope to give all customers a warm, friendly welcome and the best experience when shopping with us.

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4pm

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We look forward to seeing you

Protect your Home

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

For most people, the answer to both of those questions will be a resounding yes. So with that said, why have so many people still not safeguarded their home the RIGHT way?

Imagine this...

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

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

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

Don't leave your home open to any risks.

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



For Couples

If you jointly own your home, we can protect your property with one of our powerful Protection Wills. These wills provide your partner/spouse with a right to continue to occupy the property and buy a replacement property if necessary. The capital share you have in the property will also be protected. The property is also safeguarded from local authority means testing.

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

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

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

Act now!

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

Do you have Savings?

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

Protect your Home and your Savings from unnecessary, avoidable losses. Accord can help ensure your loved ones benefit as much as possible from your estate.

Act today and protect those you love

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

Accord Legal Services Ltd will help you every step of the way.

For more information please contact....

Paul Palmer

0845 055 9415 or email;

paul.palmer@accordwills.co.uk

Charity Dinner with after dinner speaker Mr. David Tristram

Saturday 25th January 2025

Coleshill Town Mayor, Cllr. Sue Wallace warmly invites you to a Charity Dinner with after dinner speaker on Saturday January 25th 2025 in the Coleshill Town Hall.

The evening will commence at 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm dinner and will comprise a reception drink, four course meal (vegetarian meal available) and after dinner entertainment by David Tristram, one of the most popular and most performed comedy playwrights in the U.K. On average, at least one of his 30 comedies is being performed every single night, somewhere in the world. In 2022 he celebrated the milestone of 10,000 performances worldwide.

David's live illustrated presentation is everything you would expect from one of the U.K's most popular comedy playwrights – sharply satirical, surprisingly educational, always entertaining and often hilarious.

This will be a great night for anyone interested not just in theatre but comedy in general.

The evening, which has a Black Tie (or Lounge Suits)/Evening Dress dress code, is to be held

in support of the Mayor's chosen charity, Parkinson's U.K. Cllr. Wallace stated "My late father suffered with Parkinson's Disease and I became involved with research into the condition and with the welfare of those diagnosed. I have become more and more aware of many local people who are also living with Parkinson's and that prompted me to nominate the charity Parkinson's U.K. as the beneficiary of the evening's proceeds."

Tickets are priced at £45.00 per person and are available from Coleshill Library, Gascoignes of Coleshill and The Coleshill Hub. There will be a licensed bar (cash only please) and a raffle and car parking available opposite the Town Hall in Chantry House grounds.

This is truly an evening not to be missed. When booking/purchasing tickets, please indicate any dietary requirements and if you are attending with known others, next to whom you may wish to sit.

The Mayor's Charity Dinner will be a New Year's event eagerly anticipated and Cllr. Sue Wallace looks forward to welcoming you all.

Coleshill Town Mayor

The Town Mayor of Coleshill
Cllr Sue Wallace

Charity Dinner

In aid of Parkinson's UK

With after dinner speaker
Comedy Playwright
David Tristram

Saturday 25th January 2025

Reception: 7:00pm for 7:30pm Dinner

at

Coleshill Town Hall

Black Tie/Evening Wear Raffle Licensed Bar

Tickets £45 per person



Tickets available from Gascoignes of Coleshill, Coleshill Library and The Coleshill Hub



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It's a chance for parents to speak to an experienced professional and learn about support available in their area.

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Tuesday 3 June 2025 – 7pm-8pm

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Society Seeks Funds for Legal Fights in Defence of Open Spaces and Paths

The Open Spaces Society, Britain's oldest national conservation body, has launched a financial appeal to boost its legal-action fund. This fund pays for action in the courts to protect commons, town and village greens, open spaces, and public paths, and supports the society's members needing legal help.

The society is pleased that in the last year it has, alone and with allies, taken legal action which has won significant victories.

It has intervened to support the Dartmoor National Park Authority in confirming that there is a right to backpack camping on Dartmoor's commons—the case has been heard in the supreme court and the outcome is awaited.

With other organisations it has successfully challenged local authorities and the Planning Inspectorate on rights-of-way in Cornwall, the East Riding of Yorkshire, and North Yorkshire.

It has also backed its members' cases, in Bristol and Swansea for instance, and

stands ready to test further aspects of the law in the coming year.

Says Kate Ashbrook, general secretary of the Open Spaces Society: 'We launched our fund a year ago and, despite a magnificent response, we have spent or pledged all the money on worthwhile legal cases. Now we need to replenish it.'

'The society has a proud record of going to law, over the past 159 years, to defend our rights to commons, open spaces and paths.'

'In these times of financial austerity, those who are supposed to protect our commons, open spaces, and paths are failing to do so. This demands that we step in and use the courts to safeguard these vital places.'

'We frequently receive requests for legal action, and we must react quickly. Even when we lose, we often gain useful opinions and valuable insights into how to succeed another time.'

'So we are seeking donations to restore our fund and enable us to continue our legal work in defence of these precious, threatened spaces and paths.'



Part of Clyne Common, Swansea, which is threatened by housing development. The society is backing the Gower Society in opposing the exchange of this common for a grossly inferior site some distance away.

Photo: Michael Crafer.

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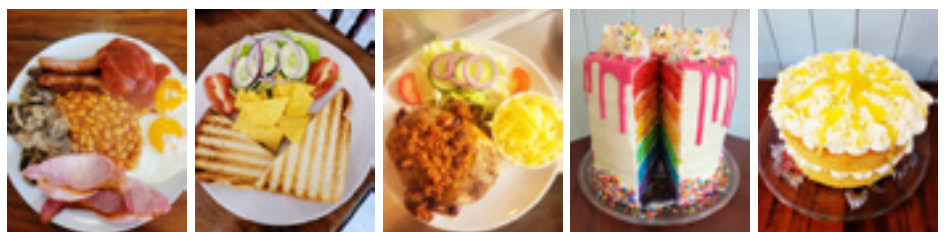
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Sue Wallace marks mayoral record with reception at historic Blyth Hall



Councillor Sue Wallace launched her record fifth term as Coleshill Town Mayor with a highly successful Cheese and Wine Reception at historic Blyth Hall near Coleshill. The Grade I-listed Hall, which was recently opened for the first time for events including community events, wedding receptions, house parties and conferences after four centuries as the private home of the Dugdale family proved a major attraction. VIPs, history enthusiasts and fellow-mayors explored the newly-refurbished mansion and enjoyed a lively presentation on Blyth and the Dugdales from renowned historian Dr Andrew Watkins. Cllr Wallace was delighted to welcome 140 people to the Reception which raised over £2000 for the Mayor's charity Father Hudson's Caritas which supports disadvantaged people across the Midlands.

Dr Watkins, an expert on the Medieval period in North Warwickshire, described the influence of the great historian Sir William Dugdale, who wrote the iconic 'Antiquities of Warwickshire' and became a central part of King Charles I's court. On the day Dugdale was born, September 12th, 1605 at the Old Rectory in Shustoke a swarm of bees gathered in the orchard, apparently foretelling the new baby's industry and future success. His father John, a steward of Maxstoke Priory tutored several members of the local gentry, and ensured that the young William was highly-educated. The boy encouraged by like-minded scholars developed a fascination with architecture and archaeology, his close observation and accurate illustrations of the buildings and antiquities he described, later laying the foundations for modern history writing.

Having bought Blyth Hall, then a glorified farmhouse, in 1625 for £1125, Sir William and later his son John each updated and extended the house, adding a wing and making it more comfortable and spacious.

Dr Watkins also explained how the both men introduced controversial changes in farming

to boost their growing estates' profits, allegedly driving off many local people and grubbing up hedges. They replaced labour-intensive crop farming with sheep and cattle-rearing, employing just a few herdsman, grazing their animals on the lush, marshy meadowland beyond the existing fishponds beside the house, known as the Stews. Many locals hated these innovations and Dr Watkins recounted how in 1629 Dugdale had some common land enclosed, and planted hedges around his estate, to the fury of his neighbour Fisher Dilke. While Dugdale was away for Christmas, the hedges were pulled up and thrown into the river.

"I'm thrilled that so many people came to Blyth for my mayoral reception," said Cllr Wallace and I'd like to thank all those who so generously supported me. "There's so much interest in this glorious house, and Andrew really brought its history alive with his atmospheric talk."

My next major event will be a 4-course charity dinner and drinks reception for Parkinson's UK on January 25th at Coleshill Town Hall, with the playwright David Tristram as our speaker. David's well-known for his comedies and we've performed several with Coleshill Drama Group, so this should be a really special evening."

Tickets, price £45, are available now, from helen@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk

For more information on Blyth Hall: www.blyth-hall.co.uk



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Pavillian Restaurant Food Review

By Nigel Smith

The Pavillian Restaurant is located on Blackgroves Lane in Lea Marston, and there is plenty of car parking just outside the restaurant. Upon arrival it really does feel like a hidden Gem that is very remote surrounded by beautiful idyllic countryside - like having a curry in the country.

The restaurant is a Family run Business and has been open on this site for over 15 years offering fine Bangladeshi & Indian Cuisine.

You can feel the drive and passion from Lutfer (the Owner) who thrives in offering fresh quality food every time.

We booked a table ahead although not necessary and when we arrived, we were welcomed by the staff and was pleasantly surprised to see that the restaurant has recently undergone a complete refurbishment, transforming it into a modern, stylish place that Oozes comfort, in relaxing surroundings with views of the country side as you look out of the windows.

The restaurant has a fully licenced bar with a large selection of drinks on offer.

After studying the menu, we thought we would try three main dishes with the usual

Pilau rice and Garlic & Coriander nan bread.

We waited around 20/25 minutes for our food, which is about right if your food is being cooked Fresh, and it didn't disappoint, the nan bread came out piping Hot and tasted awesome, freshly baked straight from the oven.

Mains

Chicken Jalfrezi - Fresh ingredients, everything you would expect from chicken Jalfrezi. A traditional Indian method of cooking is applied. The curry comprises of strips of chicken with crispy onions, pepper and chillies in spiced sauce.

a medium curry stated on the menu, but I would say it is medium/Hot

Butter Chicken - Delicate Chicken - Very tender chicken pieces in a lovely traditional butter sauce. Everything you would expect from a mild curry and more.

Veg option - Bombay Potato, spiced potatoes - cooked just perfect. We cannot recommend this dish enough - "A MUST TRY"

Overall a great dining experience with great tasting food -If you haven't dined here yet, we fully recommend you do soon, you will not be disappointed.

A takeaway service is available, and they also offer a delivery service which is free within a 3-mile radius by telephoning - 01675 475225

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The History of Castle Bromwich Parish Church (pt16)

By David L. Adams

In the first article of this series, in Autumn 2023, I told of my “discovery” of our church after riding up Chester Road hill on my old bike. I wasn’t even a teenager when I saw the amazing building for the first time – knowing nothing of its fascinating history.

Somehow I seem to have been fated to be associated with it as, by a quirk of Diocesan admin, my future wife couldn’t be married in her parish church, so, years later, we were wed here in 1961.

Returning to the actual church history, when in 1762 the Bridgeman family inherited the Weston Park estate as their country seat, their influence on Castle Bromwich church matters became less immediate and the use as a Family Chapel obviously lessened and alterations minimal.

In 1815, the year the family became Earls of Bradford (of the 2nd Creation), a choir gallery was added above the font at the west end and later in the nineteenth century an organ was fitted. At the encasement all windows were clear glazed. Mid-century this was replaced with geometrically coloured glass. One window remains, at the base of the tower, in the sacristy.

In 1827 we had been separated from Aston, becoming a stand-alone parish and in 1878 the church achieved Parish Church status and acquired a Rector to oversee spiritual wellbeing.

At about the same time gas lighting was installed – the same pew-end standards are now electrified.

As mentioned in an earlier article, in 1893, Charles Edward Bateman, a local architect involved in a general restoration – possibly including insertion of the Bradford family memorial windows in the Chancel and central heating – “rediscovered” the medieval

timber structure totally encased in the centre of the church. This sparked the, still continuing, debate over the true inspiration for the encasement work.

In 1902 the two tablets of stone bearing the text of the Ten Commandments, originally filling the upper panel of the Reredos above the altar, were moved to the North and South walls of the chancel – one to each side. They were replaced by the present representation of the Ascension in alabaster.

My own connection with Castle Bromwich resumed when the freeholders of our first house bought the Hall and, after 1970 I came here to pay the ground rent each year.

In doing this I found that, three years earlier, the needs of modern life had caught up with the church – the first major change that had been made since 1731.

The Foden Room, named after a long-serving verger, was built to provide vesting and meeting room space with a toilet. It connected to the former, main, south door with a corridor providing a weather-proof link.

Although designed by a respected Birmingham architect, a member of the congregation, it was a depressing little cube of a building but reflected the scarcity of finance. How useful it was though over the years and what a legacy it left!

My next connection with our area was when I was called upon to design a housing layout on former Bradford Estate land directly opposite the church.

Permission was granted by Meriden Rural District Council, the then Planning Authority and my wife and I with our two daughters and baby son moved into the first house later in 1974.

This month’s illustration shows “Eldon House” which formerly stood on the site of our house, and was there when the Beighton Prospect was drawn in 1726.



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Still No Laughing Matter

By Steve Graham

I want to bring up the subject of Nitrous Oxide capsules and bottles. When I am doing my litter picks mostly down Packington Lane in Coleshill, I nearly always, amongst other rubbish, find nitrous oxide bottles and a few balloons along with them. Now this gas, its proper name is N₂O, and it is also known as Hippie Crack has been used by youngsters and older people to get a quick high. I would say that the majority of people who inhale this gas have no idea about its side effects and what it does to your body! Long term use can lead to Vitamin B12 deficiency and degeneration of the spinal cord, all for a couple of seconds of "pleasure". In 2024, I am still doing my litter picks, and I am still finding nitrous oxide bottles, it just tends to be the big bottles now!

were to know the risks involved in inhaling N₂O then maybe they would think twice about doing it? Young people are still taking nitrous oxide it seems, but now in bigger amounts! People are getting seriously injured and in some cases dying. So maybe, and schools may do this already, videos and pictures should be shown to them highlighting the dangers of this gas, and just how stupid and ill informed users are to want to inhale it in the first place!



I know that the local police are aware of the use and dangers of N₂O. But the problem is that these bottles and capsules can be bought perfectly legally online! The local schools are aware of it and hopefully discuss the problem too! If young people



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Castle Bromwich
Hall Gardens

Winter in the Gardens

Apart from the odd really, really wet weather days, this Winter in the Gardens has been exceptionally beautiful. Autumn colours of leaves seems to have gone on for much longer than usual.

Thankfully, gardeners have generally kicked the habit of burning their leaf piles. In days gone by, no doubt the gardeners here at the Hall would have raked the leaves and set them on fire in the name of 'neatness'.

These days we understand a bit more about how much fallen leaves contribute to the health of the earth. They are an important part of the natural cycle, providing nutrition as well as habitat for woodland creatures. Resisting the urge to clear under hedges is really key, not only are the leaves good for the soil which feeds the hedge, but hedgehogs may be hibernating there. We are lucky in Castle Bromwich to have wonderful citizens who voluntarily help clear the more harmful human and plastic litter that get lodged under hedges.

Free compost... all it takes is patience.

Leaving a layer of leaves on our flower beds is easy, but we all feel the necessity of raking and clearing pathways of slippery leaves. Even swept up wet and blackspotted leaves can be really useful though. Why not have a go at making your own free leaf mulch and compost.

Patience is the key.



Throw the leaves into a bin bag or an old builders sack. Making sure they're damp, tie the bag up, pierce a couple of holes in the bag – to let air circulate - and wait.... At least a year! After a year the crackly leaves are great for top dressing, covering bare soil and even digging in before planting to improve drainage. If you have the patience to wait two or even three years the resulting brown crumbly mixture

can be mixed in with other compost to create your own potting compost.

Here at the Gardens, we have a bit more space and have a giant open pile of leaves in one of our compost bays. The chemical composition of leaves means they breakdown through the action of fungi, not bacteria, so they are kept separate from other compost. We try to keep twigs and branches separate too... While we cannot avoid buying some specialist potting compost from commercial sources, with such a large garden to look after it makes sense to make our own compost. But for the earth's sake, even if you have a tiny growing patch do make use of those free fallen leaves.

What's on at the Gardens this winter

Now the days are shorter, the Café and Gardens close at 3.30pm. Don't forget the Café is free to enter so don't miss out on the warming tea and hot chocolate. We've cracked open the homemade soup too, after a poor pumpkin harvest this year, our volunteer made soup is pumpkin and mixed veg. We're pleased to say too, that the Melon Ground is yet again transformed into a warm, covered and cosy space for December.



Santa, of course is visiting again ... and he's in singing mood. Some places remain for kiddies to singalong with Santa on 14th and 21st December (please pre book) Everyone is invited to our Carols in the Courtyard scratch choir on Sunday 22nd December, about 2 ish. All voices welcome, its just for fun. No need to book, café open... words supplied and music led by Vo Fletcher.

December and January opening hours

22nd December is our last day of opening 2024. We wish you a very Merry Christmas and Peaceful New Year.

Members and Annual Pass holders of the Gardens will have access to the Gardens from 13th January (information will be sent to Pass holders directly). The Gardens and Café will be open to the public at Weekends only from Saturday 25th January, 11am – 2.30pm.

Wassail...

Our annual wacky waking up of the orchard will take place late afternoon and early evening on Sunday 26th January ... make sure you get your tickets in advance.

Our traditional celebration to 'wake up' the apple trees with noise, fun and conviviality to make sure they give us all good harvest in 2025.

The Green Man of the Woods and the bizarre, noisy and marvellous Beorma Morris troupe will lead the way, we will sing and dress the trees with cider soaked toast and generally make a big noise...An event for all ages.

Check our website for tickets from January 1st.

Please note, due to safety measures, we cannot guarantee that tickets will be available on the gate, so please do prebook.

The many mature trees surrounding our ancient walls are now bare and sculptural against the sky. Even on the greyer days their mossy bark shines out. The Holly Walk is full of bright red berries cheering us all up.

Have you visited the Percy the Park Keeper trail yet? This second Percy trail follows the charming story of 'One Snowy Night' and how Percy and his animal friends help each other out to keep warm in winter. Yes, it's ideal for the very young exploring nature all around them, but hey, we won't tell if there are grown ups following the story and taking part in activities.

During December there are special bookable Christmas themed adventure experiences with Percy, but the trail itself will be available all the way to the end of February – at no extra cost (after the normal entry fee). See our website for booking information

Christmas opening and closing

The Gardens remain open until December 22nd this year, with the courtyard café open from Weds to Sunday (10.30 -3.30) with additional days on Monday 19th and Tuesday 20th.

We will close for most of January, so the staff and volunteers can get ready for a busy year.. but we don't want to deprive any of our Members or local friends of their walk - so keep a look out on the gate as you pass by - if we are in the office, we'll let you in the Gardens. Don't forget the Historic Parkland behind the Gardens..

Many will know Lady Brads and the Parkland. It's free to roam and as a Local Nature Reserve there's always plenty to see. Our conservation volunteers, working with others have been busy keeping paths clear and as litter free as possible and opening up old and valued natural habitats.

Local stories tell us that people used to toboggan down the slopes - if it snows this Winter do share your photos with us.

Wassail! Wake up the Trees with us in January

Join us in late afternoon and early evening on Sunday January 22nd when we will hold our traditional celebration to 'wake up' the apple trees with noise, fun and conviviality to make sure they give us all good harvest in 2023.



With our Green Man of the Woods and the bizarre, noisy and marvellous Beorma Morris troupe leading the way we will sing and dress the trees with cider soaked toast and generally make a big noise... An event for all ages.

Please check our website for tickets. Please note, due to safety measures, we cannot guarantee that tickets will be available on the gate, so please do prebook

For times and booking please check the events pages on our website castlebromwichhallgardens.org.uk/ or Facebook.

Weddings in the Gardens

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Reclaiming Wellbeing Partners with The Coleshill School for New Mental Health Initiative

Local mental health service Reclaiming Wellbeing is delighted to announce a new partnership with The Coleshill School to launch its Reclaiming Wellbeing Through Nature group this January. The programme, aimed at improving students' resilience and mental health, blends proven wellbeing techniques with creative, nature-inspired activities and community outreach.

The initiative has been made possible thanks to funds raised during Reclaiming Wellbeing's summer fundraiser, which have been used to subsidise costs and ensure the sessions are accessible to the students who need them most.

The programme will empower students to build emotional resilience, foster a sense of community, and give back to those in need. A key part of the group involves creating gift packages for local charities, including a women's shelter and a

veterans' charity, alongside activities such as mindfulness exercises, art with natural materials, and wildlife projects.

Matthew Potter and Abigale Lutwyche, founders of Reclaiming Wellbeing, said: "We're so excited to work with The Coleshill School on this project.

By combining mental health education with real-world, community-focused activities, we hope to give young people the tools to manage life's challenges while making a meaningful difference to those around them."

This innovative programme reflects a growing recognition of the importance of combining mental health support with community and environmental engagement. It's hoped that this partnership will inspire similar initiatives across the region.

For more information about Reclaiming Wellbeing and its workshops, visit www.reclaimingwellbeing.co.uk or email Matthew Potter at matt@reclaimingwellbeing.co.uk.






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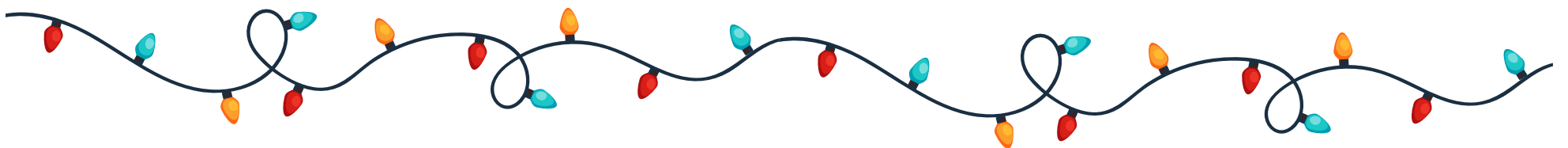
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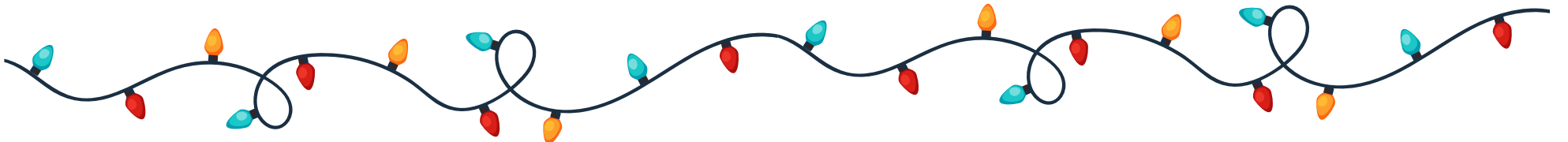
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Step into the Holidays: Prepare Your Feet for Christmas and the Colder Weather

As the festive season approaches and winter's chill sets in, it's essential to remember that our feet deserve a little extra attention and care. The cold weather, combined with the hustle and bustle of holiday preparations, can take a toll on our feet. Ignoring their well-being can lead to discomfort, pain, and even more serious issues. So, before you wear your favourite holiday shoes and step out to celebrate, take a moment to prepare your feet for the winter ahead.

Facts You Need to Know:

Proper Footwear is Key: Wearing appropriate footwear is crucial during the colder months. Invest in shoes or boots that are waterproof, insulated, and provide good traction to avoid slips and falls on icy surfaces. Good arch support is essential to prevent foot fatigue, especially when attending long holiday parties or shopping sprees.

Moisturize to Hydrate: Cold weather can cause the skin on your feet to become dry and cracked. Dry skin not only looks unappealing but can also be painful. Regularly moisturising your feet with a high urea percentage cream can prevent this issue and keep your skin soft, with our selection of Help4feet cream comes in 10% or 30% urea.



Warmth Matters: Cold feet are not just uncomfortable; they can also affect your overall body temperature. Wearing warm, insulated socks made of materials like bamboo can provide the necessary warmth and protection during chilly weather.

Trim and Care: Don't neglect your toenails, a common problem exacerbated by tight shoes and boots can be the cause of ingrowing toenails and hot and sweaty feet can cause fungal infections too.

Seek Professional Help: If you experience persistent foot pain, swelling, or other discomfort, or just need some help with your nails and feet, don't hesitate to consult us on 0121 749 6313, we can diagnose any underlying issues and provide expert advice tailored to your needs.

This holiday season let's make sure we put our best foot forward. By following these simple steps and paying attention to our feet, we can enjoy the festivities without any hindrance. After all, happy feet make for a joyful journey, whether you're strolling through a winter market, dancing at a holiday party, or simply relaxing at home with loved ones.

So, let's toast to healthy and happy feet this Christmas – because every step you take should be filled with comfort and cheer.



CURDWORTH WI

Well Christmas is nearly here and everywhere lots of celebrations are being enjoyed – we've had a wonderful Carol Service at Coleshill Church, organised by Coleshill WI and a great Party Evening at Curdworth Village Hall, with delicious food and wine, which always gets us into the spirit of Christmas! Now we look forward to a New Year and a new WI year, with lots of great speakers and events to look forward to. We always begin our WI year with our traditional New Year Lunch at Grounds Farm in Wishaw. We're happy to welcome visitors to WI events and meetings, so if you would like to come along to our New Year Lunch, you'll be very welcome. Just give Sandra a call on 01675 470079 to book your place.

New Year is a wonderful time, but sometimes, after all the festivities and fun of Xmas it can be a bit quiet and empty, perhaps the time to try something new! So if you've never taken a look at WI, just come along to one of our monthly get togethers at Curdworth Village Hall – the first Thursday of the month at 7.30pm – you'll find new friends, good company and entertainment and I can promise you, you'll say to yourself, why didn't I do this sooner!



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

December update

Welcome to December in Castle Bromwich and the run up to our Christmas season.

Castle Bromwich Library

Our library has celebrated its 65th anniversary of its opening in 1959.

On the 12th November we gathered for a cake cutting and to celebrate 65 years since the opening of Castle Bromwich Library in 1959, the event was well attended with a Castle Bromwich history display setting the scene and sparking many memories.

The building is a good example of the styling of the time with a rear extension being added in 1991.

Hedges and Parkland

Winter is the season for managing our local hedges before they sprout again in the spring.

SMBC have an ongoing programme for these, please do contact us if you have any that are a particular concern.

I will be walking our parks open spaces during the month to identify any issues

and concerns, please email me if you have any questions.

Paths and Gullies

The overhanging branches on the path between Wentworth Avenue and New street have been trimmed and the surface is scheduled to be cleansed within two weeks.

SMBC are following a schedule for Path and gully cleansing and leaf cleaning.

Drain cleaning

We Continue to pursue drain cleaning with SMBC/Severn Trent.

Regular Councillor Surgery at Castle Bromwich Library

The next monthly surgery is scheduled for Monday the 2nd of December 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

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And so Christmas has come around again

In the Anglican calendar Advent marks the beginning of our year, when we look forward to the birth of our Lord. This year it commences on the 1st December. The earliest date is the 27th November, when Christmas day falls on a Sunday. The latest would be the 3rd December when Christmas day falls on a Monday. This is because Advent starts on the 4th Sunday before Christmas day.



Christians believe that the birth and life of Jesus is prophesied many times in the Old Testament. Take the prophet Isaiah who wrote, "The Virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel". Immanuel means "God with us". Other books in the Old Testament prophesy that this boy would be God, participating in the divine nature. On a similar note, others prophesy that his incarnation would bring

the presence of God to humankind. Just before the birth of Jesus, Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. This meant people had to return to their hometown. Joseph's hometown was Bethlehem, which required a 90 mile journey with a now very pregnant Mary. It is likely that this journey would have taken them about four days. Whilst in Bethlehem, Jesus was born and Mary placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room for them to stay in. This took place to fulfil the words of the prophet Micah, 'But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, are only a small village among all the people of Judah. Yet a ruler of Israel, whose origins are in the distant past, will come from you on my behalf.'



It won't surprise you (speaking as a Christian) that I believe that Jesus is God

incarnate. I believe he entered our world with purpose out of a sense of love. Jesus means "God saves". Jesus entered our world to save us from death and give us life. Jesus acknowledges this in his own ministry, 'For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.'

The parish church of Water Orton will be celebrating the birth of Jesus.

Our services are as follows: -

- Tuesday 17th December 6:30pm – Carols in the churchyard with mulled wine
 - Wednesday 18th December 7:30pm – Carol Service with the North Warwickshire Community Choir
 - Sunday 22nd December 6:30pm – Carol Service
 - Christmas Eve. 3pm and 5pm – Christingle Service
 - Christmas Eve 11:30pm – First Communion of Christmas
 - Christmas day 10:00am – Holy Communion for all the family
- I hope you all have a blessed and peaceful Christmas.
- God Bless
Rev Paul Tullett

Contact details: 0121 730 2081 or paulofwaterorton@hotmail.co.uk



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Rachel Taylor MP, North Warwickshire and Bedworth



Why I voted in favour of assisted dying

I stood as an MP because I believe politics should be about giving people more choice and control over their lives, whether that's by putting more money in people's pockets or ensuring we all have access to vital public services like the NHS.

But I was not expecting so soon after being elected to be involved in a parliamentary vote quite as momentous as the vote to move Britain one step closer to allowing those with a terminal illness the choice of having an assisted death.

I know this is deeply sensitive and personal topic for many people, because so many of us have experienced the death of a loved one or had a friend or relative diagnosed with a terminal illness. Over the past few months, I have been deeply moved by the hundreds of constituents who have written to me to share their stories of pain and loss that have shaped their views on this issue.

Reading those stories was instrumental in my decision to vote in favour of the Bill, because it is clear to me that the status quo is unacceptable. It cannot be right that every year in Britain hundreds of people with terminal illnesses end their own lives alone, in pain, and forced to hide from their families for fear they will be prosecuted. It also cannot be right that those who can afford to go to Dignitas can do so, while those without the financial means do not have that choice.

I believe everyone who experiences the loss of control that comes with a terminal illness should be allowed control over the time, place, and manner of their death. That right to choose is a way we can give dying people and their families the peace and comfort they need.

I take the concerns people have raised about the potential for coercion extremely seriously, and I would not have voted for this Bill if I did not believe it contained the safeguards needed to protect the most vulnerable, such as the requirement to gain permission from two independent doctors and a High Court judge.

I also do not believe that investing in palliative care or the right to an assisted death are mutually exclusive. I will always campaign for quality end-of-life care, while recognising that it often cannot fully relieve the suffering of people with terminal illnesses.

Now the Bill has progressed to the next parliamentary stage, there will be several rounds of further scrutiny and the potential for amendments before it is put to MPs for a final vote that would change the law.

While the outcome of that vote is not guaranteed, I believe that last month's vote was an important step forward in changing the law so that those suffering terminal illnesses are given choice and control over their end of life. If you would like to share your own views about assisted dying with me, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

And one more thing... Thank you to everyone who came to my recent surgeries in Coleshill and Water Orton. I will be announcing further surgery dates on my website soon. I am also holding a public meeting at Coleshill Town Hall on Friday 10 January at 6pm. Please do come along to share your views on important local issues.

Last month, I launched my regular HS2 constituent newsletter, where I will be sharing updates of what I'm doing to tackle the unacceptable disruption experienced by residents. You can sign up to receive it by visiting www.rachel-taylor.co.uk/HS2/ And finally, 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.

Rachel Taylor MP welcomes pension increase for 1043 former mineworkers in North Warwickshire and Bedworth

- 1043 mineworkers and their families in North Warwickshire and Bedworth will today begin to receive their first uplifted payments, boosting their pensions by an average of 32%.
- Labour delivered longstanding campaign ask from ex-pit workers, alongside new review to also ensure mineworkers receive a fair pension for years to come.
- Labour MP for North Warwickshire and Bedworth pays tribute to mineworkers who fought for justice over many years.

1043 former mineworkers in North Warwickshire and Bedworth will today begin to receive an uplift in their weekly pension, overturning an historic injustice and ensuring fair payouts for years to come.

The payment follows the Labour Government's reversal of an historic injustice, leading to £1.5 billion being transferred to their pension scheme last month.

Former mineworkers will receive money in their pockets today, ensuring former pit workers who powered the country for decades finally get the just rewards from their work.

The uplift represents an average 32% rise to the annual pensions of 112,000 former mineworkers and their dependents across the UK – an average increase of £29 per week for each member.

Rachel Taylor MP, Labour MP for North Warwickshire and Bedworth, whose grandfather was a miner in the area, welcomed the announcement, saying:

"I am delighted that from today, 1043 former mineworkers in North Warwickshire and Bedworth will be receiving a significant uplift in their pensions.

"My granddad was a miner, and I watched how the closing of pits changed his world and the effect it had on our community. Our miners deserve their pensions and

I'm proud this government has decided to end the injustice and deliver what is rightfully owed back to mining families.

"It is a national scandal that former miners in our area have had to fight for so long for the pension settlement they deserve.

"Today marks a victory for the relentless campaigning of the trustees, members, and coalfield communities, and will make an immediate difference to people in North Warwickshire and Bedworth."

Former mineworkers and their families have fought for justice for many years. In a landmark decision, the fund – worth £1.5 billion – has been handed over to the pension scheme, ensuring former pit workers who powered the country for decades are finally getting the just rewards from their work.

Secretary of State for Energy Ed Miliband said:

"This Labour Government has kept our promise to return money rightfully owed to ex-miners and their families- and today thousands of people will receive the money they deserve in their pension as a result.

"Today marks an end to a decades-long injustice that has denied thousands across the country the decent pension that they so undeniably deserve.

"We have delivered on our promise to right this wrong and I hope members and their families are able to enjoy the victory that they have waited far too long for."

Chris Kitchen, General Secretary of the NUM said:

"The Labour Party recognised the injustice of the Mineworkers' Pension Scheme whilst in opposition. Now in Government they have made good on their manifesto commitment to return the Investment Reserve Fund so it can be used to increase pensions.

"This is the change we voted for."

Coleshill Ladies Probus

We held our meeting on Tuesday 26th November at the Coleshill Hotel

After lunch, our guest speakers were Steve and Lorraine from Meridian Travel.

Who have been providing coach holidays and day trips for over 27 years.

Many of you will recognise Steve and Lorraine and may have been on many day trips or holidays with Meridian Travel.

As Meridian Travel is a local Company, they offer a more personal service, they know most of their clients and have many

returning clients. They have also made many friends over the years through their business.

The coach holiday offers many advantages to name a few, a personal tour manager, value for money, safe comfortable relaxing coaches, stress free holidays, provide a taxi pick up service from home and is a more social way to holiday.

Steve explained about his role as driver and the qualifications that are required to be a coach driver.

Not only is Steve the driver of the coach,

but he plans the routes, itinerary, drafts the brochures before they go to the printers and responsible for the accounts.

Lorraine explained her role, as running the office, liaise with the hotels and clients' bookings, tour guide etc.

(Probably a lot much more involved than mentioned)

The good news, is that Meridian Travel have now merged with Hollywood Travel Holidays.

And we look forward to hearing about

exciting new holidays and day trips.

We would like to wish both Lorraine and Steve good luck with the merger.

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

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 28th January 2025 at the Coleshill Hotel.

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


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



Audrey Hepburn said: to plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow
“Little things still put off will end in never done, by and by is soon enough will ruin many a one” This quote "Don't put off until tomorrow what you can do today" is attributed to Benjamin Franklin. A proverb that encourages people to take advantage of opportunities and seize the day. So with that in mind and Christmas just around the corner when we celebrate the Birth of Jesus. The shortest day will be on the 21st December 2024. This year we are reminded that the days will get lighter and Spring is just around the corner. The seasons are there as a reminder of the ongoing circle of life and of God's love for us all.

St Clements has had a very busy few weeks. Our Harvest Quiz on 27th October and Service on Sunday 28th October fell during Black History Month. At the quiz we had a section of questions that tested our knowledge as to who and what we knew about those remarkable events and people.

On Remembrance Sunday, November 10th, a two-minute silence was observed to honour those who have given so much to our country in both world wars and in conflicts since. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who knitted and crocheted poppies—the display was truly wonderful. While our debt of gratitude can never fully be repaid, we remember and say THANK YOU for the freedoms we enjoy today. This moment of remembrance acknowledges the sacrifices of those who served and those who waited at home.

Advent, which begins on Sunday 1st December until Tuesday 24th December, in the Christian calendar means coming/arrival and is a time to anticipate and celebrate the birth of Jesus. The Advent Wreath will be placed close to the Altar and we will mark the four Sundays of Advent by lighting a different candle, each focused on a theme of hope, joy, peace and love or in some traditions faith. The wreath as a whole is meant to remind us of both the immortality of our souls and God's promise of everlasting life to us through Christ

As in previous years, instead of sending multiple Christmas Cards, we will be inviting those who wish to take part to write just one Card to hang on our Charity Christmas Tree. For those who wish, the money typically spent on cards can be donated by placing it in our "pink pig." This year, all contributions will support our chosen charity, Cancer Research.

They say, “it never rains but it pours,” and that certainly felt true this summer—both outside and in! Not only were we broken into, but both musical organs decided “enough was enough” and decided not to work. On the bright side, our Organ fund is gaining momentum, and it is hoped that in the New Year we will have enough to purchase a brand new Piano/Organ.

We decided after having a clear out of some of the items left behind from the Summer Fayre to have a table at Arden Hall (as they say every little helps!). So on Saturday 2nd November,

Annette, Gail, Sandra and Janet took up their places and managed to raise an impressive £80 towards a new piano/organ.

We also held a cake sale after the service on 17th November and the money raised will again go into the Fund. To all those that have given a big Thank You, we are slowly getting there !!

St Clements' Church Group visited Worcester Victorian Christmas Fayre on the 30th November with over 200 stalls to browse. Taking in a guided tour of the cathedral and then the 5.30pm Service. Not forgetting the all important coffee and a bite to eat before boarding the coach for the homeward journey. What a lovely way to start Christmas. Thank you to Janet Smith for arranging.

Please Note: Starting in January 2025, our Crafternoon Group which runs every Monday at present, will switch to every other Tuesday, beginning on January 7th, with extended hours from 2 to 4 pm. The Twenty21 Group will meet on alternate Tuesdays.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has supported us over the past three years. The £2 fee per session helps towards our heating costs.

****Christmas Services and Events:****

Saturday, December 7th at 2pm
Festive Tea (£6 per ticket) with Christmas Entertainment at 3:45 pm

Sunday, December 8th at 11am
Christingle with the 4th Castle Bromwich Brownies

Sunday, December 15th at 9:45am
Praise Service

Sunday, December 22nd at 11am
Carol and Crib Service

Sunday, December 22nd at 4pm
Musical "Born to Love" - FREE EVENT with St Mary and St Margaret's Church

Christmas Eve, December 24th at 7pm
Candlelit Carols and Communion

Christmas Day

Joint service with St Mary and St Margaret at 10:30 am

St. Clements' Mary Bridgeman Tea and Coffee Lounge, open on Mondays from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm, is operated by volunteers. The committee has announced that the last day of service before Christmas will be Monday, December 9th, 2024, with a reopening on Monday, January 8th, 2025. Additionally, our Forget Me Not Memory Café will have its final session before Christmas on Thursday, December 12th, and will resume on Thursday, January 11th, 2025.

To start the new year with a bang St Clements will be having a NEW YEAR BONANZA ON Saturday 11th January starting at 11am with refreshments.

***From all at St Clements Church
we wish you a VERY HAPPY
CHRISTMAS and a PEACEFUL
NEW YEAR***

**For more information please
get in touch in all the usual ways:
Phone: 0121 274 7120**

**Church Website:
www.stclementschurchcb.co.uk**

**Facebook:
www.facebook.com/
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office@stclementschurchcb.co.uk**

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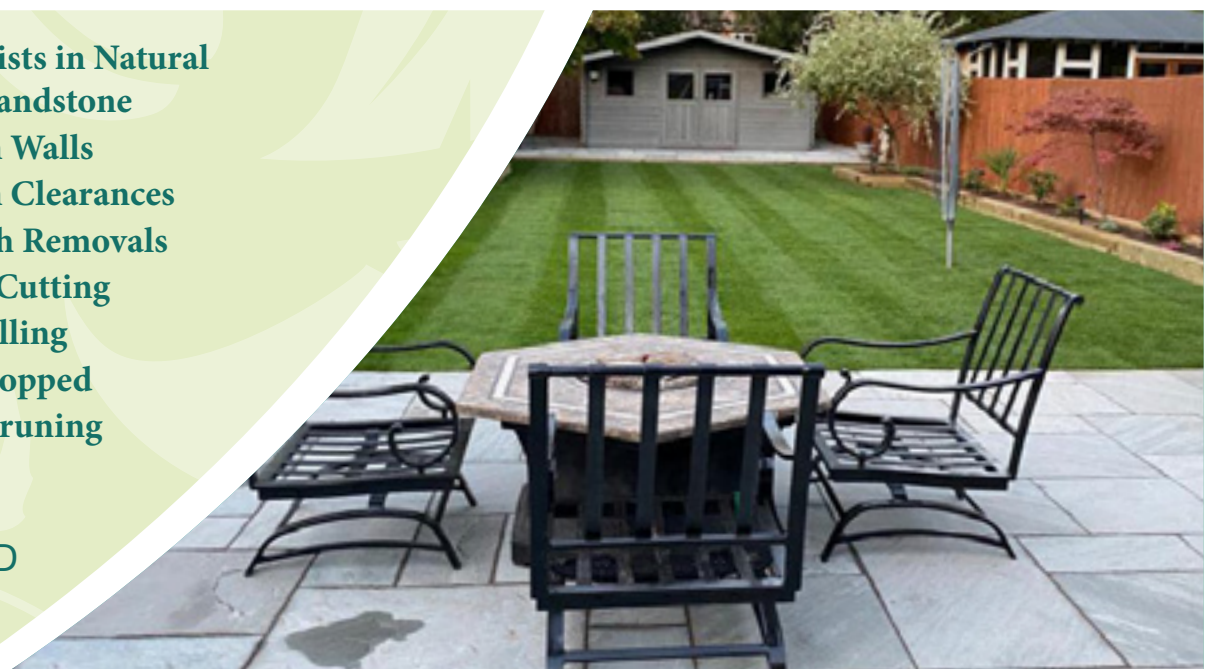
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Interiors & Decorating

Platinum December Update

Hello all, as professional decorators we often come across problems that with the right knowledge, tools and materials are easily fixed. We thought this month we'd look at some of the most common problems and how best to go about overcoming them.

Flaking / Peeling Paint:

This problem often doesn't become apparent until you start rolling the new paint onto the wall or ceiling. As you roll over the wall the old coat of paint starts peeling off as it gets wet. This is caused by incorrect prep prior to the previous coat of paint being applied, most commonly the new plaster not being correctly sealed with a mist coat before painting. It's frustrating but fairly straight forward to fix. First you have to scrape off all the loose paint until you reach a point where it stops coming off. If you're lucky it will just be a small area, if not then it will be the whole room. Once you've found a solid edge you can apply a product called Zinsser Peel Stop- this will bind down and seal the edges to prevent it peeling further. Once that's dry use filler to 'feather out' and smooth off the edges, sand if necessary then continue to paint.

Persistent Cracks:

Persistent cracks are a problem in many houses. They are the result of movement in the property the most common causes being expansion due to the weather / temperature and poorly fitted plaster

boards. In some cases it is impossible to completely cure the problem but there are various approaches that can work. The easiest is to rake out the crack making it wider then use a flexible filler prior to painting. In some instances this can be enough. If that doesn't work the next step would be to apply scrim tape to the crack then swim over with filler. It will probably take 2 or 3 coats of filler feathered out quite wide either side of the tape to effectively conceal it. If you're confident that a loose plasterboard is the cause then you can also find the joists and screw in more screws to try to secure it, making sure the screw heads are sunk in then filling over them. If you do this you must take steps to make sure you're not screwing into any pipe work or electrical wiring, if you're not certain then hire a professional.

Water Stains:

Anyone that's had a leak in an upstairs bathroom will be familiar with the resulting unsightly yellow water stain on the living room ceiling. Unfortunately it's not as simple as just painting over it with emulsion- the water stain will bleed through the paint. The traditional way of dealing with this was to use a coat of solvent based paint such as oil based undercoat prior to painting with emulsion. This is still very effective but you can't usually paint over it until the next day due to it taking so long to dry. These days there are several products that do the

same job but dry in less than an hour and can be painted over within 2 hours. Our favourite is Zinsser B-I-N, it's got a very strong smell so you need to make sure the room is well ventilated but it is very good at blocking out all sorts of stains including water, grease and nicotine and can be painted over very quickly.

Crazing:

This is the technical term for a web of small cracks in a coat of paint- it resembles a miniature version of a dried up riverbed. It's usually caused by one of two things. Either the wall was previously papered and the old paste hasn't been sufficiently washed off or sealed prior to painting, the paste then reacts with the paint causing the crazing. Or, matt emulsion paint has been applied onto a silk emulsion without the correct prep. To rectify the first example the paint needs to be sanded back so that it's smooth, use filler to help if necessary, then apply a coat of Zinsser Peel Stop over the affected area prior to re-painting. For the second example sand the paint back to smooth it out, again using filler if necessary, then apply a coat of Zinsser Gardz to seal the surface prior to re-painting.

White gloss or satin going yellow:

This is a problem specific to traditional solvent based paints- the stuff that smells very strong and takes ages to dry. In areas of low natural light it will yellow or discolour, it needs the UV in sunlight to stay white. That's why it's usually ok on

window sills but very bad behind furniture and inside cupboard doors. To avoid this happening you need to use a water based paint, sometimes called quick drying. Pure water based paint will maintain its colour (if looked after). Some are known as hybrids, so they're sort of a mix of the two- they can still go yellow over time but it takes a lot longer than solvent based paint.

Flashing:

This is the term used for when a coat of paint looks patchy or uneven despite having had several coats. It is most noticeable on smooth, flat ceilings with a source of light at one end such as a patio door. There are a few possible causes- sometimes it's the paint- on ceilings where it's a potential problem you need to use paint with no vinyl in it such as a contract matt. This isn't as durable as vinyl matt but this is less of an issue on a ceiling. It can also be down to how the paint is applied- you need to roll quite quickly, working away from the light source and always trying to maintain a 'wet edge'. That is making sure that the leading edge of the paint doesn't dry out, if it does then it will effectively be two coats where it's overlapped which can contribute to flashing or an uneven finish.

In an ideal world you won't come across any of these problems but if you do, hopefully some of these tips will be useful.

Thanks for reading, have a good Christmas!

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COLESHILL CIVIC SOCIETY

By John Hoyle

As we approach the end of the year instead of looking at the general buildings I thought I would indulge in mild nostalgia and have a little look at the shops which have left the High Street over the last 60 years. That seems to me to be near the life span of many of the Post readers.



The coop moved to the corner of Church Hill and Hill Street as soon as Dales closed, starting as a small branch, soon expanding to include a butchers unit shop as well as the general store. The photo shows the latest version of the store before it moved over the road to the old Mason's site, now the Coleshill Local Shopper.



In addition to the Grocery store there was also a dry cleaner, household and furniture shop plus a travel agent.



Back in the day anything could be bought from the Coop, I remember my family shortly after the war, buying a new car from them.



We had a Post Office until 2000 when it was put up for sale. In those days we also had three banks. Those four facilities have all now either vanished from Coleshill or become difficult to use.

Carter's who were our electric store for many years, have gone.



Of course I cannot leave without a photo of Tuckley's Hardware, this insignificant shop, from the outside sold most things, if they did not have an item they would sell the things needed to make them. They in fact supplied many of the local farms.



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 Home and Home on the High Street or email me johnhoyle707@gmail.com.

North Warwickshire strikes gold in support of its veterans

North Warwickshire Borough Council has successfully achieved a renewed five-year revalidation under the Ministry of Defence's Gold Employer Recognition Scheme.

The Council along with other local authorities across Coventry, Warwickshire and Solihull pledged its commitment to the Armed Forces community via the Coventry, Warwickshire, and Solihull Armed Forces Community Covenant in 2012.

The Gold Award, the highest honour within the scheme, recognises organisations that exceed expectations in delivering outstanding support to the Armed Forces Community.

The award revalidation, conducted on a rolling five-year basis, acknowledges organisations that have consistently maintained high levels of support while actively promoting and implementing initiatives that are friendly to military personnel within their workforce and local communities.

The Council is a 'Forces Friendly' employer and recognises and values the commitment made by members of the Armed Forces community. To support veterans and reservists, The Council introduced a Guaranteed Interview Scheme (GIS) for veterans and reservists, which also includes spouses or civil partners of current service personnel.

This commitment is to guarantee an interview to any veterans or reservists who meet the essential criteria set out in the job profile for roles that are advertised externally. The Council recognises that veterans and reservists can bring valuable transferable skills, qualities, and benefits.

Armed Forces Covenant Member Champion, Councillor David Humphreys, said:

"The Council is proud to retain the Armed Forces Covenant Gold Employer recognition award. This achievement reflects our ongoing and enhanced commitment to supporting armed forces personnel."

Blue Diamond Garden Centre Group



In June this year, the Blue Diamond Garden Centre Group launched a Community Garden Competition. Our aim was to support local groups create new community gardens or give a makeover to existing community gardens across the UK.

We offered a total of £10,000 worth of plants and garden care products to be split equally across five community gardens, along with six hours of expert help and advice to get the projects off to a flying start.

We were inundated with entrants but selected the following organisations and coupled them with their local Blue Diamond Garden Centre:

Newton Abbot Centre Association - Fermoy's Garden Centre

John Addy, Chair of Trustees, Newton Abbot Centre Association said;

"Newton Abbot Centre Association are delighted to have been selected as a winner of this competition for our new community garden at The Courtenay Centre. The support of an expert and the funding will enable us to complete our community garden works. The garden that we are creating is a space where people can enjoy much needed rest and relaxation. For those looking to learn or use their 'green fingered' skills, there is an opportunity to volunteer to support the maintenance of the garden. By connecting with the various youth activities at The Courtenay Centre, we hope to inspire the younger generation to get involved and develop a love of plants that lasts a lifetime. We look forward to working in partnership with Blue Diamond's Fermoy's Garden Centre, in the months ahead."



Pictured are (L-R) Steve Garlick; Newton Abbot Allotment Association, Linda Robson-Burrell; Newton Abbot Seed Library, Emily Farrell; Newton Abbot CIC, Kylie Dawe; Newton Abbot Centre Association, Emma Dawe; Newton Abbot CIC and Olivia Walker, Newton Abbot Centre Association.

Step Together Volunteering - Get Growing Project - Cadbury

Helen Kington Project Manager said;

"We are over the moon to receive this prize. Our allotment focusses on giving Young People the chance to experience nature, grow fruit/ vegetables and flowers and to learn new skills to build their confidence. This prize will help us to expand the variety of plants and fruit/ veg we have onsite, to not only allow the Young People to increase their knowledge and awareness, but also provide produce for educational/life skill purposes if they join our Get Growing and Get Cooking programmes. They will learn new techniques and the expert advice will benefit everyone on the site."



Kingshurst Community Garden - Melbicks

Councillor John Edwards said; -

"We are thrilled and honoured that the Kingshurst community garden has been selected as one of the five winners in the Blue Diamond Garden Centres competition. This recognition celebrates the hard work and dedication of our residents and volunteers in creating a sustainable and vibrant community space."



From L to R- Lee Baillie, Lee Browning, Bill Baillie, John Edwards and Marious

Friends of Holbrook Charity - Newbridge Garden Centre

Kristina Schraitel said;

"The thinking Garden is a renewal project of designated section of Holbrook grounds. It was initially set up 10 years ago in memory of a Holbrook student - Abigail, who sadly died of cancer. She loved horses and so the garden contains horse riding elements, which we will restore and preserve. Since funding was severely cut for primary

schools, the garden became abandoned and overgrown and closed off to children.

We are hoping to make it a place for everyone in Holbrook, connecting the past and the future with lush groundcover foliage and beautiful native plants, making it a practical and child-friendly place to reflect, explore and enjoy."



Pictured above - Kristina Schraitel who entered the competition on behalf of entered of Friends of Holbrook Charity.

Transition Town Wellington - Blackdown Garden Centre

The Community Gardening Group from Transition Town Wellington are looking forward to creating the next stage of the Forest Garden at Fox's Field with the help of the Blue Diamond grant and the advice from Blackdown Garden Centre. The aim is to plant up this 450 square meter space over the next 12 months with perennial plants and bushes, including soft fruit and other edibles, herbs and cut flowers which can provide a harvest for local residents and a home for wildlife.



The idea behind the competition was inspired by our 2024 RHS Chelsea Flower Show, Octavia Hill Garden. The garden was awarded a Silver-Gilt medal, and the Children & People's choice award.

The Octavia Hill Garden by Blue Diamond with the National Trust, celebrated pioneering social reformer Octavia Hill (1838-1912), a founder of the National Trust, who believed that 'the healthy gift of air and the joy of plants and flowers' were vital in everyone's life.

You can find out more about the garden here:

www.bluediamond.gg/rhs-chelsea-flower-show-2024

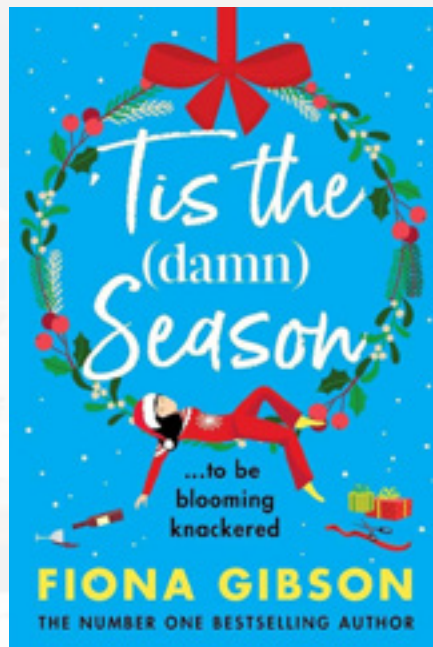
Castle Bromwich Library Book Club

'Tis The Damn Season by Fiona Gibson

Old friends Shelley, Lena and Pearl have reached their limit with the festive preparation that has always fallen to them, and five days before Christmas, they've booked a mini break without their families. Up until Christmas Eve, they'll be sipping prosecco in the Highlands while their kids wrap bacon around 100 chipolatas and their partners brave the supermarkets. It's exactly what they need - until they're snowed in. Facing the prospect of Christmas 500 miles from home, each woman is forced to confront her real reasons for needing to escape: the fiancé with the obnoxious family; the son's new girlfriend who is taking over their home; the family who take their mother for granted all year round. Will the friends make it home before Christmas day? And if they do, can they really go back to their old lives?

A very funny and very Christmassy book which will warm your heart and keep you turning the pages. Great characters and storyline. If you are looking for a book to cosy up and escape with, this is the one for you.

Review by Castle Bromwich Library member



In From the Cold by Sarah Bennett

On the day of his father's funeral, Ben's life changes forever when a woman he's never met shows up claiming to be his sister. Ben is shaken to discover that much of his life has been built on a carefully constructed foundation of his father's lies. Needing answers, he agrees to visit Juniper Meadows, the ancestral estate owned and run by his long-lost relatives, the Travers family. Arriving in the pretty Cotswold countryside, the first person Ben meets is Amelia Riley. They are immediately drawn to one another, but Amelia has her own complicated ties to the Travers family. Her only goal is to set the past to rights so she can move on with a clean conscience. As Ben starts to see the events of his childhood more clearly, he allows the warmth and fun he finds at Juniper Meadows to draw him in from the cold. But just as he's contemplating setting down roots, Amelia is making plans to leave.

This is a wonderful book with family, friendship and community at the heart of the story. Set in the beautiful Cotswolds it has great characters, a gorgeous story and fabulous writing. A highly recommended uplifting read.

Review by Castle Bromwich Library member



Run Away by Harlan Coben

You've lost your daughter. She's addicted to drugs and to an abusive boyfriend. And she's made it clear that she doesn't want to be found. Then, quite by chance, you see her busking in New York's Central Park. But she's not the girl you remember. This woman is wasted, frightened, and clearly in trouble. You don't stop to think. You approach her, beg her to come home. She runs. And you follow her into a dark and dangerous world you never knew existed. Where criminal gangs rule, where drugs are the main currency, and murder is commonplace. Now it's your life on the line. And nowhere and no one is safe.

Harlan Coben is known for his twisty plots and this him at his best.

This book has intrigue, danger, secrets, lies and action that begins right from page one. Definitely a must read for any thriller fans!

Review by Castle Bromwich Library member



One Minute Later by Susan Lewis

With a high-flying job, a beautiful apartment and friends whose lives are as happy as her own, Vivienne Shager is living the dream. Then, on the afternoon of Vivi's twenty-seventh birthday, one catastrophic minute changes everything. Forced to move back to the small seaside town where she grew up, Vivi remembers the reasons she left. The secrets, lies and questions that now must be answered before it's too late. But the answers lie in thirty years in the past. Shelley Raynor's family home, Deerwood Farm, has always been a special place until darkness strikes at its heart. When Vivi's and Shelley's worlds begin to entwine, it only takes a moment for the truth to unravel all of their lives.

This is such a powerful and emotional book about second chances, mistakes, taking a chance on love, loss and reaching out. This story is so well written I felt a part of it, and it will stay with me for a long time. A wonderful read.

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)

Bonfire Night

Officers from Atherstone and Coleshill Safer Neighbourhood Team attended Austery and Piccadilly Bonfires this month.

It was great to meet so many members of the community and even better to see young children enjoying learning about the police and our vehicles.



Working with the local MP

MP surgery in Atherstone

Local SNT have attended the MP surgery in Atherstone with MP Rachel Taylor and spoke to local residents about their concerns.



Further surgeries are being held across North Warwickshire in the upcoming months. A member of your local policing team will be in attendance so you can discuss police related matters or be signposted.

Officers from Coleshill SNT attended a Cuppa with a Copper event in Nether Whitacre.

MP Rachel Taylor, Parish councillors and North Warwickshire Neighbourhood Watch were also in attendance.

The event was well attended, and we would like to thank everyone that come along.

We will be actively working to resolve any issues the residents raised with us.



Arrests

Don't drink and drive!

A female was taken to custody after being arrested in Water Orton on 7th November at 20:15 hours after a collision.

The female was detained for driving whilst under the influence of alcohol.

The arrest was after a black Renault has collided with another vehicle.

Don't drink and drive.



Cuppa with a Copper

Cuppa with a Copper - Coleshill

Meet your local safer neighbourhood team who will be in Coleshill on Saturday 7th December Details:

**Location: Coleshill Library, Parkfield Road, Coleshill, B46 3LD
Time: 0930-1130**

Come along to discuss local issues, be signposted and have a cuppa!





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.

All the cats and volunteers at **Ward End Cat Rescue** would like to wish their supporters a wonderful Christmas and happy new year, we thank you all for your ongoing support, we couldn't do it without you.



We also have a limited number of our famous and fabulous hand made cat nip Super Mice left available to buy. They are a minimum donation of £2.50 each. They can be collected from Water Orton or posted (for postage charges apply).

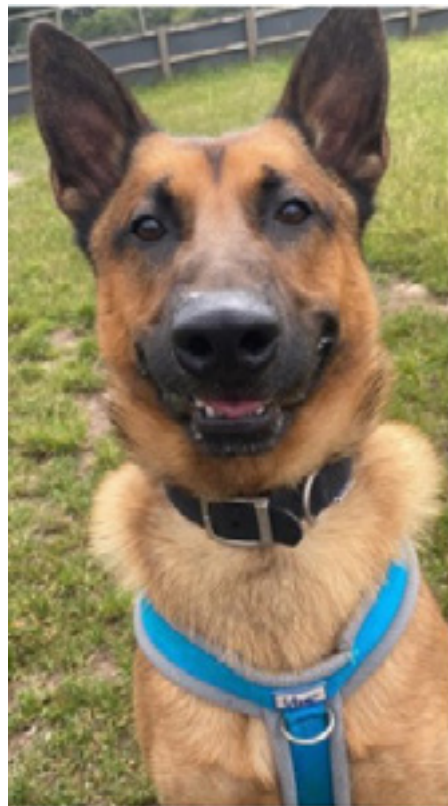


We have a few cats that are ready for rehoming, if you would like more details please email us at wardendcatrescueofficial@outlook.com with your contact number, address and who lives in your household. We can then tell you what individual cats are available at the current time suitable for you.

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.

Birmingham Dogs Home - Forever homes



learns to trust again.

He's super smart and eager to learn, and while he's not the fastest learner, he's definitely willing to put in the work! So if you're someone who's willing to commit to his training, then O'Malley will make a truly loyal and devoted companion.

It's essential that O'Malley is placed with someone who is active and experienced with dogs. Whilst also willing to give him the training and support he needs. O'Malley does thrive on routine, as he is a large dog with lots of energy and does need consistency in his day-to-day life. He can be known to startle quite easily on walks, so his future home will also need to be patient and understanding as he adjusts to a new environment and learns to trust new people. But he's such a sweet and intelligent dog, and we know he'll make a fantastic companion to the right person.

O'Malley

Breed: Malinois **Gender:** Male (N)

Meet O'Malley, our incredible Malinois who's looking for a loving and capable home! This handsome boy has had a bit of a tough start in life, but we're certain that he will make an amazing addition to the right home – he just needs someone who's willing to give him the time and understanding he needs.

O'Malley arrived into our care as a stray after being found tied up outside the centre, and despite his rocky start, he's still a very friendly and loving dog, who does enjoy fuss and cuddles once a bond has been established. He just needs an owner that can offer time and patience for O'Malley to come out of his shell. O'Malley is nervous and very under-socialised especially around new people in particular, so his future home will need to be patient and understanding as he adjusts to a new environment and

In our care, we have successfully Halti trained him for walks, but we do feel it's essential to continue his training in his new home. O'Malley has also received muzzle training which is used for both introductions to people as well as vet visits, as he can be fear reactive.

O'Malley has received lots of vet socialisation over a few months, in our care to build up his confidence, and has come a long way since his arrival. However he is still be a bit wary of new people, at least at first, because of this he does wear his muzzle during vet visits as a precaution.

****Any potential owners will be shown and given information regarding O'Malley's training.****

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



SHARE A STORY

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Cllr Steve Stuart, Water Orton North Warwickshire Borough Council

Dear Fellow Villagers

This column comes to you from the Council Officers in Atherstone. I try and spend some time up here every week where I am able to get down to some focussed work on behalf of Water Orton away from the distractions of home.

On my way here today, I was listening to the Parliamentary Debate on the Assisted dying bill. What struck me was the respectful nature of the debate. It made a very welcome change from the knockabout shows that are often seen in the Commons. And indeed, it is a welcome change from the party politicking that we are sadly now seemingly having to wade through at Council meetings in the chamber here.

Being a councillor is not only a significant responsibility, it is a massive privilege. It provides you with opportunities to make meaningful interventions in communities and impact positively (and negatively) on people's lives and on the environment in which we live.

There are some that think the colour of rosette or tie makes a massive difference. Personally, I don't think anyone has the monopoly on good ideas. And if the outcome of any decision is positive I don't care who suggested it. After all, we are there to represent our wards, not serve the interests of a political party or our own ambitions.

To this end I am pleased to note that I have been successful in bringing more funds into Water Orton. My focus is to see that the services provided can be accessed by everyone or that they serve the needs of residents that presently are without adequate provision.

So whilst the Spud Club (I've managed to secure funding that will enable this to continue through the winter) is largely used by older residents at lunchtime, there is access to those at school or returning from work in the evenings. Take out is quite popular on the way home from work. So please feel free to drop in at the Methodist Church between 12.30 & 6 every Monday. It's Spuddy Marvellous!!

In November alone I've been able to fund the new Parish Council Newsletter, underwrite the Chippy Tea Quiz and enable community event planning.

Further recent funding successes mean 2025 should also see the start of installation of items of exercise equipment that should enhance facilities for all but specifically the youth of the village.

The needs of the present and future villagers are not always met by the resources of the

past. The aim of creating a rejuvenated, energised community enjoying a pleasant, safe environment that respects its past whilst being hopeful for the future is one that I will continue working towards in 2025. And the support that you in this is truly appreciated.

Have a wonderful Christmas, and here's to a successful 2025.

Love, light and peace

Contact Steve by email at

stevestuart@northwarks.gov.uk on

Twitter / X @waterortonsteve at his

website at WaterOrtonSteve.co.uk

or on 07999777345 Steve holds

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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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Water Orton Primary School's new building opened in 2019 just prior to the Pandemic

However, construction and the development of the site has continued in the last few years to meet the ever changing needs of all our children in the post-lockdown world.

New rooms and pods have been created in school to allow for specialist small group work to be undertaken to meet the specific requirements of children to enable them to "be the best you can be" which is the motto of the school.

The external environment has received significant investment too. An outdoor "gym" consisting of recovered trees and other reclaimed items provides a fantastic leisure and learning resource appreciated by the pupils who attend from ages of 4 – 11.

Most of the children come from within the village but the school welcomes applications from further afield and significant numbers of children travel from nearby hamlets, towns and villages. The most recent developments have seen the creation of two music cabins. A larger one for whole class groups to receive weekly music tuition and a smaller one that facilitates small group or one to one instrumental lessons.

The musicality of students was well presented in the recent "Water Orton's Got Talent" show alongside drama, football and a whole range of dancing from modern, ballet and even on pogo sticks!

Pupils are looking forward to a whole range of activities around Christmas as well as a new wave of afterschool clubs and school trips in 2025.





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Bringing in a Brand New Year

By Indira Mahun

Here we are again. It's arrived – the end of 2024 when we say farewell to another year. Are you sad to say goodbye or are you glad to see the back of it?

Yes, another year that we can look back on and wonder if we could have done anything differently. As you sit and reflect, how will you look back on 2024? Are you ready to say goodbye? Are you adequately on board and mentally prepared to face the brand-new year? Perhaps you are looking forward to taking it easy and enjoying what life has to offer. Maybe you have reached that point in your life when you cannot wait to sit back and relax and make the most of that laid-back, carefree, nothing to worry about life that you have worked so hard to achieve. If that is you, then I am just a tiny bit envious. But you deserve it.

As we approach the end of 2024 and wake up to 2025, we can begin to look forward to starting afresh. It is just another day but it's also another year. Another chance to make good what we want to achieve and give our best shot to living up to our own expectations. And that's what matters. It is not important what others expect from you or what they think you should do. This is your time, and this is your life. What matters is you. There are times when you have to make it all about you and you shouldn't feel guilty about that. Not one tiny bit. It is ok to be a little selfish sometimes. Maybe we spend so much time making others happy and doing what everyone else wants that we forget that we also have a life. On the flip side, you might be one of those people who achieve fulfillment from helping others and seeing their joy. That's totally understandable. I love doing things to make sure that other people are happy and content and this, clearly, applies first and foremost to my children and grandchildren. I just think what's the point of my life if they are unhappy.

You know, when you get to a certain age you can't help wondering about how many more times you might be lucky enough to wake up to another January 1st. Life is short. Too short. But it is all we have and this is when you start to appreciate the little things and begin to understand that time cannot be stopped or halted. Tick tock. Always. Forever. Grab each second of that darned clock and put it to good use as often as possible. Wasting time is easy, requires little effort or brain power and it can be extremely enjoyable too. Not only that but it is perfectly acceptable – in moderation. We all need to sit and do nothing sometimes.

What I want more than anything is to be

able to do all the things that I plan to do in my old age. And the only way to make sure that happens is to get up off the sofa and put things into action. If you are lucky enough to have that time and are not tied to a job anymore then great. I am waiting in excited anticipation for that day. However, for now I am happy where I am. Work keeps me active and my old brain ticking.

For now, I can still look forward to another year full of new challenges and opportunities. Not that this year has been free from its fair share of woes and joys. It certainly lived up to much more than I ever expected in my wildest and saddest of dreams. Personally, this year is one year that I shall be glad to be rid of. 2024 – we will always remember you for the year that stole our beautiful mum from us. Despite this, it is time to start anew. Yes it's true that every year we do the same thing. We make resolutions that last a couple of weeks at the most and we make promises we never keep and imagine we are going to change the world with our aspirations and dreams. But isn't that what keeps us going and keeps the ticker ticking? Is it not our duty or maybe our responsibility to at least try and make changes to better ourselves? I would like to think so.

Each year comes and goes and often it flies by, and time passes by without us being aware of it. I sometimes look back at old photos and think 'oh my goodness, was that really that long ago'. Time really does fly. Like I said, each one of us will have our own thoughts about the year gone by. We will look back and reflect and ponder and wonder why, wow, or what if. We will have our regrets, our joys and our sadness and grief. We may have reasons to celebrate and feel thankful or we may look back in anger and resentment. It is ok. It is what life is. Twists and turns, ups and downs, and plenty of rollercoasters and roundabouts. We must allow ourselves to feel whatever emotions we need to feel. It is ok. Remember that.

Do you have a list of priorities for the New Year? Let me tell you what my first priority is. It has to be my health. Having been there and done that as they say, I know what poor health and pain feels like. So, looking after myself is surely a must. You do your best and that's good enough. If life has other plans, then that's just plain old tough luck and leaves very little that you can change.

So whatever you do, whatever you feel, and wherever you are I wish you the very best in 2025 and pray that it will be the year that brings you plenty of sunshine (we can hope!) and happiness. Take care and God Bless xx

Local Sports



Tough 2024 for Doyle

2024 Has certainly been a hard year for Paddy Doyle both mentally and physically, since February he has achieved 49 documented strength speed stamina challenges and World Records, which were a combination of kayaking, mountain biking, military cross country speed marches carrying various weighted backpacks, and beat Russian , Swiss and Asian dumbbell lifting World Records. Whatever the climate conditions Doyle and his support team braved all of the harsh weather downpours to reach the finish line well within the cut off times.

Paddy has also been magnanimous towards his arch rivals in victory, which has made him a cut above the rest. The 900th career sporting feat is getting closer and the GB Endurance Athlete will make another historical milestone spanning eleven different sporting disciplines. He has mentioned many times that he puts his mental strength down to serving in the Parachute Regiment and Army / RAF Reserves, including his amateur martial arts full contact contests and amateur boxing background.

"I am looking forward to reaching my career 900th sporting challenge it has definitely mentally tested me , injuries were a concern but I made sure I recieved sports remedial therapy, the support team members have also supported me 100% which contributed to my successes throughout 2024."



Water Orton & District Tennis Club

Wishing all of our Club Members, our supportive Club Sponsors and our friends and neighbours a very Happy Christmas & a Happy & Healthy New Year.

Please note we will be taking on new members from early in 2025, so if you are interested in joining our junior/youth coaching groups or our adult beginners/improvers then please contact Paul Messenger for further details at paul.messenger82@hotmail.co.uk and he will send you any information you require. We also have spaces for our ladies section, so if you haven't played for a while and would like to get going again then please contact us.

We have registered LTA Coaches at our club so they will help you soon get back into it.

Thank you, hopefully we may hear from you soon, with your interest in joining our community club, you wont be disappointed.

Have a great Festive Season.

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Coleshill Town F.C.

CTFC Match Reports

All Northern Premier League games unless stated:

Tuesday 29th October

Grantham Town 0 v 0 Coleshill Town

Grantham are struggling this year and are the type of teams that Coleshill should be beating but this was just three days after the Coleman had beaten Gloucester City in the FA Vase and they looked jaded, Grantham is a long way on a Tuesday night when you have been at work all day and had to be up early the next morning to earn a living. The game ended up a bore draw and the Home team will be more content with a point than Coleshill.

Saturday 2nd November

Worcester City 2 v 1 Coleshill Town

Coleshill travelled to Worcester who are one of the favourites for promotion. They have moved to a new ground, the home of Worcestershire F.A. a fabulous facility, BUT unbelievably, on a significant slope? The slope, unsurprisingly, made for a game of two halves. The home side, going down the slope, dominated the first half and were well worth their 1-0 lead at half time. Coleshill took charge in the second half and deservedly equalised through Matt Hughes, his first goal for Coleshill. The Coleman deserved a point and came close to all three but in the 92nd Worcester broke away and scored a winner. A disappointing end to an entertaining game that Coleshill didn't deserve to lose.

Saturday 9th November

AFC Rushden & Diamonds 3 v 1 Coleshill Town

Coleshill took an early lead through Harry Sweeney, scoring on his debut, but that is about as good as it got. Coleshill were just not at the races and let a poor Diamonds team dictate play and deservedly take all three points.

Monday 11th November

Coleshill Town 2 v 2 Coventry Sphinx

"A Game Of Two Halves" is definitely a theme this season. Sphinx are another team that the talented squad that Manager Grant Joshua has put together this season should be beating BUT a lackluster performance saw the Coleman down 2-0 by half time. Then up stepped the REAL Coleshill Town as they absolutely tore the Sphinx apart, should have won but managed to get a draw with a 92nd minute cracker from Jack Hallahan following a penalty converted by Ryan Nesbit.

Saturday 16th November

F.A. Trophy

Coleshill Town 4 v 5 Biggleswade Town

THE BIG ONE! The furthest Coleshill have ever gone in the FA Trophy, playing a team from the League Above, good crowd, and 3-0 up by half time. Coleshill were dominant, goals by Alex McSkeane,

Nathan Kabeya and Bassit Mandey put the team in dream land! Who are we going to get in the next round? What are we going to do with the Prize Money? BUT WAIT! No one told Biggleswade the game was over! They scored three goals in SIX minutes to equalise, then took the lead with 15 minutes to play! Coleshill levelled the score through a second goal for Bassit Mandey but the away side won the tie in the 91st minute! Five goals in 45 minutes! Devastating! And that's the end of Coleshill FA Trophy story for another year!

Monday 18th November

Coleshill Town 4 v 0 Corby Town

Back to the bread and butter of the League, playing another team tipped for promotion this season. How do Coleshill pick themselves up from that confidence shattering game in the FA Trophy. Well, how about the BEST PERFORMANCE OF THE SEASON! Coleshill were terrific and at it for the whole game. The played Corby off the park! Isaac Idegoke scored the opener but then it was the Alex McSkeane show as he went on the score a hat trick. Coleshill strated the season with Eleven players making their debut! It's took a while but this was a team performance! Lets hope this is the start and the Coleman go on a good run of form!

Saturday 23rd November

Anstey Nomads v Coleshill Town - Postponed due to the weather.

FIXTURES: Pitching in Northern Premier League Midland Division

3.00pm kick off unless stated.

Saturday 7th December

Away to Darlestone Town

Saturday 14th December

Home to Hinckley LR

Tuesday 17th December

Away to Hednesford Town.
Birmingham Senior Cup 7.45pm.

Saturday 21st December

Away to Loughborough Students.

Thursday 26th December (Boxing Day)

Home to Lye Town.

Wednesday 1st January (New Years Day)

Away to Sutton Coldfield Town.

Saturday 4th January

Home to Racing Club Warwick.

Saturday 11th January

Home to Grantham Town.

Saturday 18th January

Away to Wellingborough Town.

Saturday 25th January

Home to Rugby Town.

Saturday 1st February

Away to Sporting Khalsa.

DATE TO BE ARRANGED:

Coleshill Town v Rushall Olympic.
Quarter Final of Walsall Senior Cup.

Water Orton Cricket Club



To our members, supporters and our friends and neighbors, we would like to wish you all A Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year. Thank you all for your continued support at our regular social events, this is so much appreciated and helps our club through the year.

We are currently busy booking our forthcoming social nights, below is a list of events already confirmed. Hopefully we will see you at some of these in 2025.

Saturday 15th February 2025 QUIZ NIGHT Teams of 4/5 or 6 players.

Please arrive and register your team by 7.45pm

Saturday 22nd February 2025 The Gary Barlow Tribute

with all the hits of "Take That" Tickets on sale at the start of January £10-00 each

Friday 14th March 2025 GOLD CUP DAY

This was a big success earlier this year and we have had several requests to do it again. The races are on a big screen and food is available.

We are also about to book a Tamla Motown & Soul Night with all the great hits of this era. This is a quality night with a fantastic vocalist. It's great just to sit and listen or get up and dance. Details to be announced shortly. Details of all events are listed on the notice board just outside the driveway into the cricket club and are also on our main notice board inside the pavilion.

Watch out for our forthcoming events, they will all be listed in future editions of The Post.

Thanks again everyone and enjoy the Festive Season.

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Old Saltleians RFU



Club Chairman, Ian Wells

Coming out of a lengthy period of upheaval and uncertainty, OSRFC has moved location, had a change of personalities on the management committee and embarked on a new journey both on the playing field and in the clubhouse. The management committee has seen the addition of an estate manager to keep the new facility in tip top condition as well as an events coordinator and social secretary to keep the clubs' social calendar full and to manage the many events we host. Coupled with a change of Chairman, this really is a period of change for the club internally.

On the playing field the 1st XV have been promoted to level 6 and are not only holding their own, they have proven themselves to be a formidable squad and are rapidly becoming considered a "scalp" to be taken. The 2nd XV are now also playing competitive league rugby on a weekly basis and are fast finding their feet. The Women and Girls section has come on in leaps and bounds, with good numbers at training and a number of the squad playing full contact rugby regularly. A truly great accomplishment for a squad as young as ours. The Mini and Youth section has a new Chairman and has grown in numbers astronomically since relocating to our new home and continues to go from strength to strength. They have competed in and also hosted a number of age range competitions and coaches, managers and players are all enjoying their involvement at OSRFC.

In summary, tough times don't last, tough clubs do. Hope to see some of you readers at Old Salts, either playing, supporting or having a drink in our fantastic bar soon.



Mini and Youth Chairman, Ashley Bardsley - Mini and Youth Section



A huge well done to our under 8's! They played their first game on Sunday 13th October and absolutely smashed it. As you can see from the smile on their faces, they loved every minute of it. You should be very proud of yourselves because we are!

It's our first game within the entire Mini and Youth section since our move. A lot of people have worked hard to achieve this, and the only way is up for us here at Salts! A special thank you to their coach, James, for supporting them weekly and going along with our other volunteer Tony to make this happen for the kids. Also, to the parents for sticking with the Mini and Youth section and helping make this possible not just on Sunday but for every training session! We appreciate you!

Director of Rugby, Alex Willis - Mens Section

Having been residents in Water Orton since 1954, we are well grounded here and enjoy a very close bond with our neighbours, many of whom are players, administrators and social members.

A tumultuous few seasons since HS2 'came to town', which damaged our mini and youth section, and almost saw off the seniors, demoted to level 8 but fighting back to level 7 and battling with a small squad to remain there in our first season home in 2022/23.

However, the relocation is done and, following a squad build process, we have enjoyed a stunning run of form since our first game 'back home' in County League. The last season, 2023/24, with some of our former players returning and re-established in the squad, we gained promotion to level 6 and became a Regional League club. The second XV being entered into the County Leagues at Level 9, only one league below our 2021/22 first XV's status.

Season 2024/25 is a tough ask for us with a still developing men's squad and playing town teams such as Lichfield, Matlock, Walsall and Tamworth. The games have been a steep learning curve and match results have been mixed with 3 wins, 5 losses and 1 draw. This is now almost halfway into the season of 22 games, and we have gained 19 valuable points in our survival season which is 10 points clear of the relegation places. New recruits have been welcomed into the squad and although injuries have been tough to take, it's been the same for other squads so to be expected if not wanted, it'll be good to get them back fit again.



The run up to Christmas is our big challenge, with home against Matlock Saturday 30th November. Following that we have two away games, Paviers 7th December and Tamworth 14th December, then the final game 2024 is home to Melbourne, 21st December.

Pressing hard to better our league position 8th of 12, we are confident that 2025 will find us strong and climb the table to the end of season.

'Come on Salts'!

Beth Harris, Womens Captain - Womens Section

The Old Saltleians Women's Rugby Team has had an extraordinary journey since its formation in 2023. Beginning with a group of women and girls, most of whom were entirely new to rugby, they've grown in strength, skills, and camaraderie over the past year. This September marked a major milestone as the team played their first-ever contact matches—and what a start it's been!

In two thrilling games, one in September and one in October, Old Saltleians Women's Team joined with Five Ways Old Edwardians RFC and Leamington RFC. Not only did they hold their own, but they also secured back-to-back victories, an incredible achievement for such a newly-formed team. These matches were a testament to their dedication and teamwork, with every player giving their all on the field. The energy and enthusiasm were palpable, leaving both teammates and spectators brimming with pride.

Behind their success lies the unwavering support of the Old Saltleians Rugby Club. From the management committee to individual members, the entire club has rallied around the women's section. Generous donations have enabled the team to purchase much-needed kit, ensuring they step onto the pitch looking as professional as they play. This spirit of encouragement and inclusivity has been key to their rapid growth.



If you've ever wanted to give rugby a try, now is the perfect time to join the Old Saltleians Women's Rugby Team. Training sessions are held every Wednesday from 7:00 to 8:30 PM at Old Saltleians RFC. Whether you're an experienced player or a complete beginner, everyone is welcome. Plus, new members can enjoy two free sessions to see if rugby is the sport for them.

Come and be part of this incredible team and discover the excitement, fitness, and friendships that rugby offers. Reach out to Old Saltleians Women's Team today—we can't wait to welcome you!

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