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THE Coleshill & Castle Brom POST



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July 2025 Issue 135



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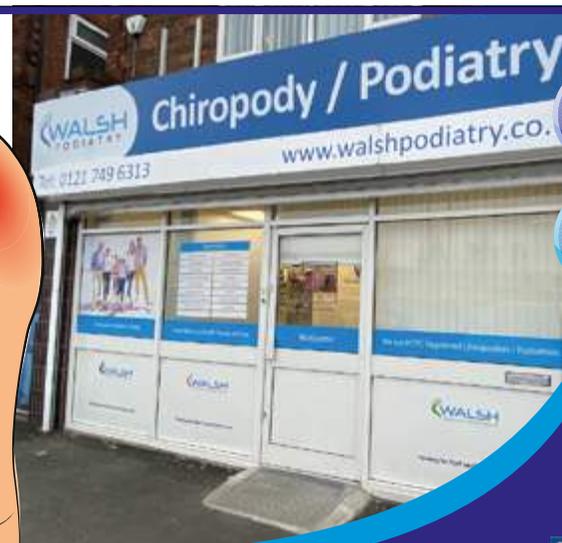
Students from local primary schools, including St Edwards RC Catholic School, Water Orton Primary School, Coleshill CofE Primary School and High Meadow Primary School have been enjoying transition days at The Coleshill School preparing them for when they start in Year 7.

See Page 12 for full story



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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.

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

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Curdworth
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Marston

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Minworth
Castle Bromwich
Marston Green
Smiths Wood

Chelmsley Wood
Kingshurst
The Whitacres

Also available online on our website and facebook pages.





**Rachel Taylor MP,
North Warwickshire and Bedworth**

Thousands of children in North Warwickshire to get free school meals after major government announcement

- **New entitlement to free school meals for all children in North Warwickshire where a parent is on Universal Credit**
- **Delivers on Plan for Change to break down barriers to opportunity by driving better behaviour, attainment, and wellbeing in schools.**
- **Puts nearly £500 a year in parents' pockets, making it easier for families who are struggling to make ends meet.**
- **Labour's historic move will lift 100,000 children out of poverty and support parents in decisive action to improve lives ahead of the forthcoming Child Poverty Strategy.**
- **Comes alongside more than £13 million to ensure food that might have been left in fields instead ends up on the plates of those who need it, including school children.**

The Labour MP for North Warwickshire and Bedworth, Rachel Taylor MP, has welcomed the Labour government's plans to deliver a free nutritious meal every school day for over half a million more children, as Labour put £500 back into parents' pockets every year by expanding eligibility for free school meals.

From the start of the 2026 school year, every pupil in North Warwickshire whose household is on Universal Credit will have a new entitlement to free school meals. This will make life easier and more affordable for parents who struggle the most, delivering on Labour's commitment to break down barriers to opportunity and give all children the best start in life.

The unprecedented expansion will lift 100,000 children across England completely out of poverty. Giving children the access to a nutritious meal during the school day also leads to higher attainment, improved behaviour, and better outcomes – meaning they get the best possible education and chance to succeed in work and life.

Since 2018, children have only been eligible for free school meals if their household income is less than £7,400 per year, meaning hundreds of thousands of children living in poverty have been unable to access free school meals.

The expansion of eligibility now means that 4070 children are eligible to receive free school meals in Rachel Taylor's North Warwickshire and Bedworth constituency. That figure was 5280 children in Nuneaton (Jodie Gosling MP) and 4340 children in Rugby constituency (John Slinger MP).

Prime Minister Keir Starmer said:

"Working parents across the country are working tirelessly to provide for their families but are being held back by cost-of-living pressures.

"My government is taking action to ease those pressures. Feeding more children every day, for free, is one of the biggest interventions we can make to put more money in parents' pockets, tackle the stain of poverty, and set children up to learn.

"This expansion is a truly historic moment for our country, helping families who need it most and delivering our Plan for Change to give every child, no matter their background, the same chance to succeed."

Labour is also offering more than £13 million in funding to 12 food charities across England to redistribute thousands of tonnes of fresh produce directly from farms to fight food poverty in communities.

The Tackling Food Surplus at the Farm Gate scheme is helping farms and organisations to work collaboratively to ensure edible food that might have been left rotting in the fields instead ends up on the plates of those who need it, including schoolchildren. This comes as part of Labour's wider Food Strategy, helping to drive change and support a healthier, more sustainable, and resilient food system.

Rachel Taylor MP said:

"North Warwickshire has much higher levels of deprivation than the south of the county, and I know how much many families in my constituency are struggling with the cost-of-living. It's not acceptable to hear that some parents on Universal Credit, many of whom are in work, have been skipping meals to ensure their kids are able to eat.

That's why I am delighted that the government is expanding free school meal provision, to ensure every child can get a healthy nutritious meal during the school day. That's really welcome action to ensure we lift children out of poverty, put money back in parents' pockets, and give every child the best start in life."

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Campaign victory by Rachel Taylor MP leads to tougher hate crime laws

The Labour MP for North Warwickshire and Bedworth, Rachel Taylor MP, has expressed her delight that her campaign for tougher laws on hate crimes has been successful in convincing the government of the need for change.

Last week, Rachel tabled an amendment that would have introduced tougher sentences for hate crimes committed against LGBT and disabled people. She said it was long overdue that such crimes were treated with the same level of seriousness in law as hate crimes committed on the grounds of race and religion.

Rachel's campaign was backed by 104 cross-party MPs, who added their name to the amendment ahead of a debate on the Crime and Policing Bill. During the debate, Rachel said: "We must have hate crime laws that show that whether it is your race or your religion, your sexual orientation, your gender identity, or indeed your disability, that Britain is a country that will not tolerate it. That all hatred is equal. And that all those who commit vile acts of hatred will face the same grave consequences."

In response, the government said they had heard

the message loud and clear that a legal change was needed, and that they would be making the change as part of the Crime and Policing Bill in the next few weeks.

The new law will make serious crimes motivated by prejudice against anyone because of their disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity "aggravated" offences – as is currently the case for hate crimes motivated by race or religion. Aggravated offences carry tougher sentences for perpetrators.

Rachel Taylor MP, the MP for North Warwickshire and Bedworth, said:

"Between March 2023 - 2024, over 40,000 hate crimes against people in Britain because of their sexual orientation, transgender identity, or disability were recorded by the police.

Victims deserve to have these crimes treated every bit as seriously in law as crimes based on race and religion."

"I am absolutely delighted that the government has listened to me and the cross-party MPs who supported this vital change in the law, and will be making this change in the coming weeks. Equality has taken a great stride forward today."

NETHER WHITACRE



OPEN GARDENS 2025

**SATURDAY & SUNDAY
30TH & 31ST AUGUST**

**11 Gardens open from 1.00pm to 5.00pm
Tickets £6.00 per person (Children free)**

Available from Methodist Church, Station Road B46 2EH

Or any Open Garden

Refreshments Available

Car Parking at Village Hall & St Giles

Proceeds to Nether Whitacre Methodist Church

NO DOGS PLEASE

Coleshill "Walk With Us" (VAWG Walk)

Sunday 20th July 2025

Meet at Coleshill Town Hall from **1.45 pm**

Guided walk around the local area (Women Only)

Commences promptly at 2.00pm

Walk will be maximum of 1hour

Please wear suitable clothing and footwear and a drink too!

These walks are a VAWAG (Violence Against Women and Girls) initiative to talk about personal safety and where women and girls may feel unsafe walking. This walk is only for women and girls. There are female officers only on the walk, some from SNT and sometimes we have DA officers attending to give advice.

The walk will be informative, enjoyable and productive, bringing women and girls together in this community.

Coleshill Community Café



**Wednesday 16th
July 2025**

18:00 - 20:00

**Coleshill Cricket
Club, Parkfield
Road, B46 3LA**

PC Breeze and PCSO Smith from Warwickshire Police will be hosting a community café along with our local councillors. Please stop by to say hello and chat to our officers and councillors and hear our new force priorities. Refreshments are included.



Walk with us

Come and chat to our friendly officers about personal safety as we walk around different areas of the county

Walks are open to all women and girls over living and working in Warwickshire. Please note under 14s must be accompanied by a parent/guardian.

Join us and let us know any issue or concerns you have so we can work to improve the safety of our spaces.



You can also scan the QR code or visit our website for:

- guidance
- advice
- information
- reporting incidents

<https://itripurl.com/VAWG/WalkWithUs>



FREE Local Services for Local People

FREE WIFI and use of laptops & tablets

All welcome, come and visit us for a chat and see how the Hub could help you.

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.



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



Next Town Council Meeting
30th Jul 7pm at Old Court
Room Town Hall

GROUPS

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

Signposting to many groups, partner services and agencies – see some examples in boxes.

SIGNPOSTING

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

GROUPS

Walking Tours
Keep Fit & Natter
Walking Sports
Art & Crafts
U3A
Parents & Toddlers

TWO WARM HUBS

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

MOVING WITH PARKINSON'S CLASSES

Fun creative movement sessions with inspiring music for people living with Parkinson's & their carers

EVERY THURSDAY at:

- * Holy Trinity Church, Nuneaton, 10am-midday
- * Coleshill Catholic Church Hall, 1.30pm-3.30pm

Everyone
welcome
No experience
needed



Our sessions are designed by professional dance artists specifically for people with Parkinson's & can be taken seated or standing

photos by Rachel Cherry for People Dancing

For more info or to book on contact:

Kath Kimber-McTiffen
0785 4143163
kath@sonrisaarts.co.uk

Sessions are £5 per week
including refreshments



"the highlight of our week"
participant



Live Well & Dance
with Parkinson's



People with Parkinson's - Not Alone in North Warwickshire

Welcome to two self-help events:

Coleshill PD Café

A regular social occasion for people with Parkinson's (and family) to look forward to. Plenty of tea, coffee, biscuits and the occasional home-made cake.

Open on the third Tuesday every month, 10.30 - 12.15 at
The Hudson Avenue Community Centre, B46 3LR.

Enquiries to: Margaret on 01675 464832, or email <m.rosew@ymail.com>

Moving with Parkinson's in Coleshill

Movement to music, designed by professional dance artists to be specifically beneficial for people living with Parkinson's. Classes can be taken sitting or standing. £5 a week refreshments included.

Sessions are every Thursday 1.30pm - 3.30pm at Coleshill RC Parish Centre, Coventry Road, B46 3EA.

For information on the classes, or to book, contact Kath Kimber-McTiffen on <kath@sonrisaarts.co.uk> or telephone 0785 4143163.

There is parking at both venues.

Parkinson's Disease is a degenerative, progressive, and currently incurable condition. It is the fastest growing neurological condition in the world, affecting around 145,000 people in the UK.



Cllr Martin McCarthy, Castle Bromwich Ward (Solihull MBC)

June update

Welcome to Castle Bromwich in July, it has been Hot making it a little harder to keep our gardens looking at their best, mulching and composting can help reduce the need for watering going forward and make any weeds easier to control. Commercial materials are available, but the best ones are often those that we make ourselves, compost where space allows or use of grass cuttings or shredded material.

The Castle Bromwich Society.

A second Meeting of the steering group was held locally on the 6th of June, and is summarised as follows: -

The core purpose of the Society is to Foster a culture of local ownership and belonging, to create a local ward plan that encourages an all-resident approach to maintaining the unique character and heritage of our area whilst enhancing our natural environment.

The plan is also intended to help us respond to local planning applications that affect our area.

A web site has been set up with a test version now available on <https://tcbs.org.uk>

Feel free to test it out.

We are kicking off some fund-raising initiatives such improving our local tree canopy by sponsoring new grass verge trees.

The annual Castle Bromwich Civic service at St Mary and St Margaret's church.

This is a Church service and is always a time of reflection for your local Parish and Borough Councillors; it is held in a spirit of dedication to helping those less fortunate than ourselves and service to our local community.

The Mayor of Solihull Councillor Annette Mackenzie was present with us.

St Mary and St Margaret's Graveyard

St Mary and St Margaret's graveyard has not received any grounds maintenance yet this year and is becoming difficult to visit safely, this is a closed Graveyard in legal terms and has been historically maintained by local volunteers with much needed support from SMBC.

The graveyard contains commonwealth war graves and very much deserves care and attention showing our respect.

We are working with the local volunteers to resolve this and should meet with SMBC officers again soon.

For residents that have perhaps mislaid their copy of this paper spare copies may be found at the library or and in other places around Castle Bromwich.

Regular Councillor Surgery at Castle Bromwich Library.

The next monthly surgery is scheduled for Monday the 7th of July 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 a lan.feeney@solihull.gov.uk and leslie.kaye@solihull.gov.uk

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PUBLIC NOTICE

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

Node Trading Ltd of, 15/16 Hayward industrial estate, orton way. is applying for a licence to use as an operating centre for 3 goods vehicles and 3 trailers.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre who believe that their use of enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Central Licensing Office Quarry House Quarry Hill Leeds LS2 7UE. Stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the addresss given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

Note: Objections that are frivolous or vexatious will not be considered.



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Closure of B4114 Birmingham Road, Coleshill

The work we will be completing

As part of the ongoing preparations for the HS2 railway construction, we will be carrying out essential construction works to construct segmental viaducts spanning the B4114 Birmingham Road. In order to complete this work safely, we will install a four-week closure of B4114 Birmingham Road from Monday 14 July to Monday 11 August 2025. A diversion route will be in place and access for pedestrians, residents and businesses will be maintained throughout the closure.



HS2 Helpdesk

If you would like to find out more about HS2, what it means for the local area and have your questions answered by HS2 and BBV team you can contact us on the below details:

08081 434 434

hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk

Community Projects

BBV and our supply chain partners can give back through volunteering time, providing resources and capacity, through the transfer of knowledge and skills.

If you have any projects, you think we could support with please contact:

communityinvestment@balfourbeattyvinci.com

Does the name Alfred Fifield ring a bell?

Probably not. Alfred died in 1940, a wholesale greengrocer who was one of the major benefactors in the town in the 20s.

He paid for uniforms for the Coleshill Town Band, kitted out the Coleshill United Football Club and was also a President of the Coleshill Cricket Club.

He also paid a substantial donation into the Town Hall building fund.

He gave the church two bells in memory of his parents, John William and Emma, and a large Bible.

Churchwarden's staves one inscribed with Alfred's name and another with that of his wife Minnie are in regular use today.

A mysterious note in the 31 August 1923 edition of the bellringers' national monthly *The Ringing World* announced that "the peal of six at Coleshill, Warwickshire, are shortly to be augmented to eight through the generosity of a gentleman, who, for the present, desires to remain anonymous." It was Alfred.

The *Ringing World* of 18 January 18 1924 said 5 January was a red-letter day in the history of ringing at Coleshill when upwards of 30 members of the Warwickshire Guild assembled at the invitation of the local society and in the words of the vicar, "to give the new trebles, in conjunction with the old six, a good shaking up."

The *Ringing World* recorded: "Shortly after, a disappointing incident occurred. The ringer of the second in some Kent Treble Bob unfortunately missed the sally, with the result the stay broke, and the accident caused some delay in the ringing."

The visitors took advantage of the new set up to ring methods in the afternoon but noticed the older bells needed rehangng, which was eventually done in 1933.

Mr. Fifield told the meeting he was pleased to do what he had done in giving the two trebles. He was an old ringer himself, and his son was now a ringer at the church, which was always first in his thoughts.

He was thankful God had prospered him, and he knew of no better way of showing his thankfulness than giving something back in the form of the bells, to call the parishioners to His worship.

You can ring his bells. Come up the tower any Tuesday for a trial lesson at 7.30pm, when the ringers practise on the now 10-bell ring.

And on Wednesday and Sunday mornings you can see the staves and the Bible, services permitting. A visit to see the bells can be arranged.

After the Wednesday morning service, the choir rehearses and the drop in cafe opens for coffee (or tea) and chat until noon. Refreshments are usually available after Sunday service, too.

Take away a copy of the full colour guide book while you're there. A donation is requested either in cash or by card via the card machine.



Shustoke Primary School



RESIDENTIAL VISIT

The children in Years 5 and 6 who attend Shustoke C of E Primary School had the opportunity to take part in a residential visit at the Pioneer Centre in Shropshire. The aim of the visit was to build teamwork, embrace challenge, promote confidence and self-belief and generally give the children the chance to 'let their light shine.' Over the three days they completed activities such as a raft building challenge, abseiling, climbing using high ropes, indoor caving and experienced archery, to name just a few. The personal skills that they developed during the visit were immeasurable, but above all else they had a great deal of fun and made memories for life. We were so proud of the way that they conducted themselves away from home, they really were a credit to our school.



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- Small Claims Court litigation.
- Employment Tribunal matters
- Tenancy disputes
- Will drafting
- Much more!

We were recently obtained a successful resolution to our client's employment tribunal matter for sexual harassment. At the time of our instruction, our client had already issued her claim and the matter was close to the final hearing. In breach of the

Tribunal's Order, she had not served her evidence, and the employer was confident the matter could be struck out for non-compliance.

We worked tirelessly with our client to collate and present her evidence. We effectively wrote to her employer highlighting the weaknesses in their case and proposing an offer to settle the matter. Due to our correspondence, the employer agreed to pay £9,000 to our client and the hearing was no longer required.

Currently, we are defending a solar panel installation company accused of causing a leak to the customer's roof. We are also instructed in a dispute with our client's motor insurer and we are acting for the Claimant in a further sexual harassment matter in the Employment Tribunal.

If your life is off track with a legal issue and you want efficient, effective and affordable legal advice, we've got your back!

Please contact us today on 07388 329 667 or adamjarvis@jplegalservices.co.uk for your free consultation.

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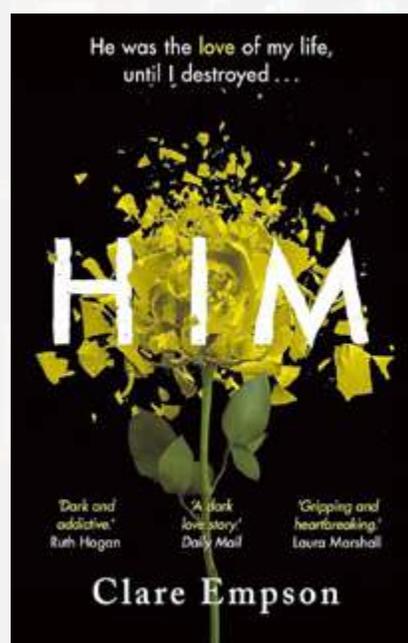
Him

By Clare Empson

It all started with him. Catherine has become mute. She has witnessed something so disturbing that she simply can't speak - not to her husband, her children, or her friends. The doctors say the only way forward is to look into her past. Catherine needs to start with him. Lucian. Catherine met the love of her life at university and was drawn into his elite circle of privileged, hedonistic friends. But one night it all falls apart and she leaves him, shattering his life forever. Still, 15 years later, Lucian haunts every one of Catherine's quiet moments, and when they are unexpectedly reunited, their love reignites with explosive force.

But they can't move on from what happened all those years ago. In fact, uncovering the truth will cause their lives to implode once again. This time, with disastrous consequences.

A dark tragic tale of obsession, manipulation, friendship, love, guilt and wasted time. The feelings in this book are so raw and real you will be reaching for the tissues. I thoroughly enjoyed reading it and would recommend it. Review by Castle Bromwich Library member



Protect your Home

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

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

Imagine this...

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

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

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

Don't leave your home open to any risks.

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



For Couples

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

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

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

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

Act now!

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

Do you have Savings?

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

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

Act today and protect those you love

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

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For more information please contact....

Paul Palmer

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PUBLIC NOTICE OF AN APPLICATION FOR A PREMISES LICENCE UNDER SECTION 17 OF THE LICENSING ACT 2003

Notice is hereby given that an application was made to SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL for an application of a premises licence under the above Act on the 20th June 2025

Applicant: Emma Ginever

Address of premises:

29a Manor Park Road, Castle Bromwich, Birmingham, B36 0DJ

Proposed licensable activities: Sale of Alcohol

Proposed days and times of licensable activities:

Day	Start	Finish
Monday	9am	5pm
Tuesday	9am	5pm
Wednesday	9am	8pm
Thursday	9am	8pm
Friday	10am	5pm
Saturday	8am	5pm
Sunday	NA	NA

The postal address where the register is kept and the application may be inspected is:

Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council, Licensing Team, The Core, Theatre Square, Homer Road, Solihull B91 3RG

Any person wishing to make representations on this matter shall give notice, in writing, stating the nature and grounds for making such representations to the Licensing Team at the above address or by email to licensing@solihull.gov.uk within 28 days of the date of this notice by the [28 days after the date of application] It is an offence, under Section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003, to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement on or in connection with an application and the maximum fine on summary conviction of such an offence is £5000.

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Getting Ready for Senior School!



Students from local primary schools, including St Edwards RC Catholic School, Water Orton Primary School, Coleshill CofE Primary School and High Meadow Primary School have been enjoying transition days at The Coleshill School preparing them for when they start in Year 7.

We had visits from David at Graffitiartist.com who worked with both our students and primary school children inspiring them to create some amazing artwork. All the students really engaged in the sessions and enjoyed creating their graffiti artwork.

Primary school students also attended STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) workshops where they enjoyed problem solving and taking part in science experiments.

Mr Bailey, Assistant Headteacher commented "It has been a pleasure to meet our upcoming Year 7s, they really have enjoyed the different activities at The Coleshill School and we look forward to welcoming them in September."



PCC describes Government's Comprehensive Spending Review as a 'missed opportunity' for policing

Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner Philip Secombe has described the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review as a "missed opportunity for policing", warning it will inevitably leave local taxpayers responsible for meeting the majority of police funding in Warwickshire.

He described yesterday's announcement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer of an average 2.3% increase in police funding as "misleading", given that it included funding increases already announced in the first two years of Parliament. The true figure over the remainder of Parliament is 1.7% on average, but the reality is local forces will receive even less central funding.

Mr Secombe said: "The Chancellor gave the impression that Government funding for policing is to increase year-on-year in real terms. This is misleading as the actual amount that we will receive in Warwickshire will be considerably less. This is because the figures announced yesterday included estimated funding from the police portion of Council Tax, known as the Police Precept. This presumably has been calculated by the Treasury at the highest rate to deliver a more positive headline. Add in the fact that central funding is also top-sliced to pay for counter-terrorism policing and you can quickly see the amount individual forces will receive is much less generous.

"What is supposedly central funding will in large part be raised locally, which makes a nonsense of the Chancellor's subsequent claims that Council Tax will not increase. At best, what funding there is may only cover annual inflationary pay increases for officers and staff. At worst, it will leave a widening funding shortfall which will hamper forces in equipping the front line to service the rising demand for policing.

"With the Police Precept already contributing almost half of the revenue funding for Warwickshire Police, the Chancellor's announcement will only result in that burden shifting ever more towards local taxpayers. All Police and Crime Commissioners will be effectively required to increase the Police Precept by the maximum amount to achieve what in return may not even be a standstill position.

"By 2030 this will mean taxpayers in Warwickshire will foot the majority of the bill for policing locally. This risks local people paying more to get less in return, which is fundamentally unfair, particularly when the Police Precept in some of our neighbouring forces will be considerably smaller.

"While any increase in government funding is clearly better than none, this CSR represents a missed opportunity and will not fundamentally change what is a challenging picture for policing. With more offenders now being managed in the community thanks to an overstretched criminal justice system, it is hard to see how this will move the dial forward in any significant way.

"I will continue to assess the impact of the CSR announcement and what it means locally as more details emerge. My commitment to work with the Chief Constable to deliver the improvements to Warwickshire Police that the public deserve remains undiminished, but I must be clear that this funding review does little to assist us in that task.

"Policing deserved a long-term national funding commitment which truly recognised the costs of delivering quality services to the public, while addressing the built-in funding inequalities rural forces like Warwickshire face. This CSR falls far short of that and I fear the challenges for policing will only grow as a result."

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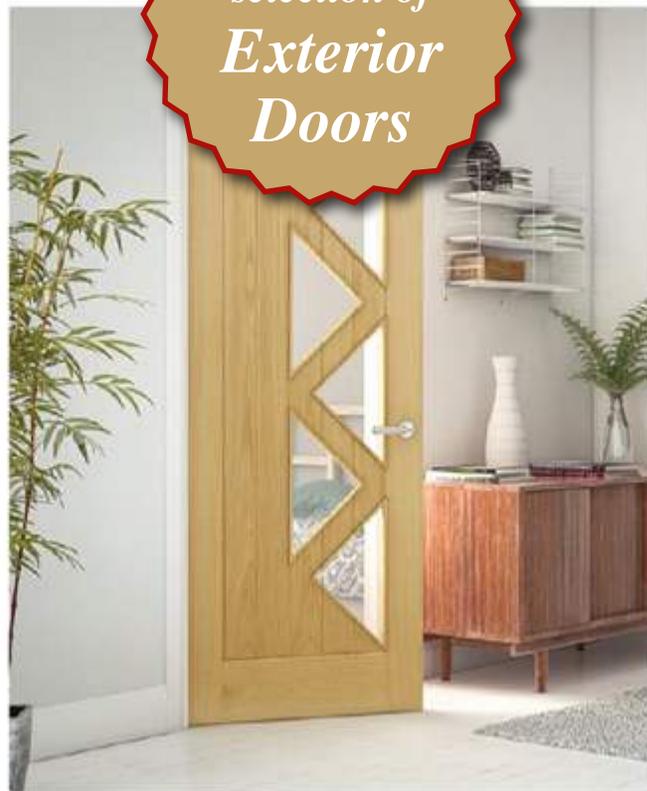


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Commissioner joins victims at national event calling for enhanced road safety provisions

Philip Seccombe, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Warwickshire, has joined families who have lost loved ones in road crashes involving young drivers to meet MPs and discuss how we can prevent future families from experiencing such loss.

The event provided an important moment to unite with families campaigning for change and identify evidence-led ways to reduce harm and save young lives on our roads. Among those in attendance were Families from Forget-Me-Not Families Uniting (FFU); road safety charity Brake, who are commissioned locally to support anyone bereaved or seriously injured in a road crash; national charity for road crash victims RoadPeace; and leading experts in young driver risk.

The PCC attended in his role as APCC Lead for Roads Policing and Transport, which he holds jointly alongside Durham PCC, Joy Allen. In this national role, the PCC is working with his co-lead and Chief Constable Jo Shiner, Roads Policing lead for the NPCC, to identify a progressive approach to obtaining a driving license, more commonly referred to as a Graduated Driving Licence (GDL). Whilst not currently in scope for the Government, the PCC is working to address concerns raised centrally, alongside families of road victims in support of such a scheme to bring about this approach for the UK.

Alongside this, the Commissioner also has a desire to further reduce the threat from those who drink or consume drugs while driving. This national work supports his Warwickshire focus, which aims to reduce deaths and serious injuries on our roads by half by 2030.

Speaking after the event, Police and Crime Commissioner for Warwickshire Philip Seccombe, said: "It is always powerful to speak with, and listen to, families who have lost loved ones on our roads. We must ensure that the voice of victims sits at the heart of all we do. I was honoured to be part of the conversation where national policy makers can hear first-hand from families about why a progressive approach to licenses is needed. My thanks go to Chris and Nicole Taylor, who have brought about this event and united families, experts, charities and politicians to bring about the change that is needed.

"It takes great strength for the likes of Robbin and Patsy Suffield from Warwickshire – who have been campaigning for over 35 years on road safety, and others involved in Forget-Me-Not Families Uniting, to share their stories collectively and work together to ensure other families don't experience what they have gone through.

"I hope this event brings about a real shift in the conversation around road safety at a national level, which I am committed to being a part of in my APCC role. We cannot be complacent about people dying on our roads. There is much that can be done to prevent such harms from taking place.

"This includes a national road safety strategy, which I am calling on the Department for Transport to produce and publish. I am whole-heartedly committed to working with partners in Warwickshire to achieve our local aim and make our roads safer. However, there must be a clear plan in place nationally as well to prevent further harm and further loss on our roads across the UK."



PCC with Robbin and Patsy Suffield



Uniting to make our roads safer



PCCs for Warwickshire Durham and Cumbria



Victims Charities and Experts Unite

Investigation underway after fire damages brand new equipment in Abbey Green Park

Police are investigating a fire at a playground in Polesworth, where play equipment was damaged by fire. The incident was reported to have taken place on Tuesday morning (3rd June) at Abbey Green Park, Grendon Road.

Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service were called to the scene and extinguished the fire. Vandals are believed to have set fire to a traffic cone, which resulted in the fire spreading to the mulch and burning part of the half pipe. The popular community skate park was recently refurbished and opened to the public in August 2024.

North Warwickshire Borough Council has filed a police report, and the Council is in the process of liaising with Polesworth Parish Council to obtain CCTV footage.

The area of Abbey Green Park is currently closed to the public. The Council advises all residents to avoid the site and refrain from using the equipment until it has been replaced and deemed safe for public use.

We urge residents who may have witnessed the incident or have any information to report directly to Warwickshire Police. You can submit your information through <https://www.warwickshire.police.uk/ro/report/>.

Councillor Margaret Bell, Chair of Community and Environment Board, said:

“It is incredibly frustrating and disheartening to see this kind of destruction, especially since the equipment has not long been installed. This park has been a positive space for many young people, and to see it so thoroughly damaged is upsetting. We will work to replace the destroyed equipment as quickly as possible.”



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Sun shines on Summer Fayre



We were blessed with sunshine for our Summer Fayre, even if the wind tried to carry away a couple of our gazebos!

Fusion of Dance kicked us off with dance performances on the field near our St Catherine's Bungalows. Jayde, who runs Fusion of Dance, a real dance superstar, who helped Coleshill Day Services put their Christmas Nutcracker performance together and comes in on a Wednesday for a dance session with their clients.

St Joseph's Care Home was a hive of activity with entertainment from Merlin the magician, Roger the singer and an

energetic performance from Nouveau Theatre School. Merlin brought in a rabbit and tortoise for residents which proved very popular. The garden was the perfect setting for residents to catch up with their family and friends, while enjoying food from Dejan and Erica, drinks and cakes. They also had the opportunity to try their luck on the tombola, win a teddy or sweets, with facepainting and glitter tattoos for children. Manager Shelley Perryman said, 'St Joseph's is a truly unique and special place and that's all thanks to its amazing residents, relatives and staff. Thank you to everyone involved

in making today such a special day for the residents.'

The dog show returned, with a range of dogs, young and old, big and small signing up to take part. Max, who won the 'Golden Oldie' category was crowned 'Best in Show'. He's a rescue dog, who captured the hearts of our judges with his friendly, calm nature.

Our staff and local groups all had stalls. Twin Rivers Women's Institute were one of the groups who joined us, and we were able to give them a tour of the sensory garden at Coleshill Day Services. They fundraised for the sensory garden by choosing us as their Charity of the Year, with their chosen charity for this year being Coleshill in Bloom. Twin Rivers contribute hugely to the Coleshill community and we were grateful they could join us and see the result of their fantastic fundraising efforts.

Little Book Fairy joined us to sell Usborne books, and on Sundays over the summer holidays you may be able to find her book tokens on Sundays at Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens. One of the sponsors is our fostering agency, New Routes Fostering, and we're delighted to be supporting local children to find a book and encourage a

love of reading.

Andy Penny, Manager of Domiciliary Care and Supported Living, faced penalty shootouts, Maria, PA to our CEO, ran hook-a-duck, with Martin, Diane, Parveen and Costacia coming across from Brushstrokes Community Project to bring delicious samosas and curries to the Fayre.

Our staff ran a range of stalls, from bric a brac, second hand books, clothes and toys to our recruitment stand and tombola. After Alan and Dave set up the event, Alan moved into being the manager of Alz bar. Karen and Helen's ice cream stand was so popular it ran out of ice-cream by the end of the day! We were also joined by Sweetie Box, Robin and Moon crafts and many others, including our former employee Rose who was fundraising in memory of her granddaughter Milly-Rose Stirrup. Thank you to everyone who supported us by having a stall, and everyone who came along on Saturday, we couldn't do it without you!





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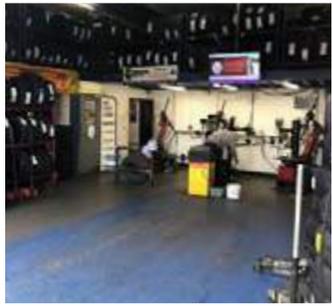
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Castle Bromwich
Hall Gardens

July in the Gardens



My it's a scorcher!

Whilst the hot weather certainly brings out the suntan lotion and Pimms, it's often a challenge for us. Dead-heading, weeding and watering are the order of the day for our gardeners in summer, who usually start an hour earlier than usual in such heat. This is to say nothing of the decimating box moth caterpillar, which has already stripped us of much of our signature box hedging, and continues its advance with merciless persistence. Sometimes kept in check by freezing temperatures this particularly invasive creature has thrived in the warmer winters we've been having. As we continue to experience changes to our climate, all the jobs of maintaining these heritage gardens become all the more challenging.

Nevertheless, July is a month to enjoy long days of sunshine on our Archery Lawn, or in the dappled shade of the Claire Voie. It is the season of swallows and swifts and, in the light of the fading sun, bats can often be seen flitting across the grass walkways. Join us across this month for a great number of events, and our continuing Golden Hour Late Openings on Fridays.



Mrs Barbara Nice

Back for an evening of jollity and japey on 19th July, Mrs Barbara Nice joins us once more for fundraising bingo, bringing her own unique brand of comedy for you to enjoy. Her legendary generosity means she's dropping by the Gardens during the ONLY gap in her sell-out nationwide tour to help our charity raise much-needed funds. We never quite know what Barbara will get up to, but we know you'll leave having had a proper good laugh – priceless!

So this is your chance to see the legend, win prizes and help the Gardens. It's Bingo, but not as you know it...

Troubadours and Thespians



'All the world's a stage', and the Gardens are a particularly special one. We know the Gardens, with its long Archery Lawn, and shaded Claire Voie, is the perfect place for touring troupes to tread the portable boards, so this summer will see theatre return.

On 29th July, we invite you to venture on a musical journey of plotting and scheming with folklore's most notorious villain – the Big Bad Wolf. Following the success of their 2024 production of 'The Secret Garden', The Plandits are back on the road with this brand-new outdoor rock and roll musical! Ideal for the whole family, following the scheming life of Fairytale Land's most notorious baddy...

Living in exile in the Deep Dark Wood, he parties and plays rock music every night with his cronies, far away from the goody-goody townspeople of Fairytalleville. But whatever happened to Little Red Riding Hood? Did the Three Little Pigs go on to have a successful music career? And is the Wolf really as bad as he seems?

Here's hoping for sunny weather, but our large stretch tent will be available for cover if the Heavens threaten. Some chairs and blankets will be available, but do bring your own if possible.

Summer Story Quest

Encouraging reading, especially in a heritage site such as Castle Bromwich Historic Gardens is always something we want to support. If you are looking for a summer adventure, where books are the treasure, then Sundays across the Summer Holidays are the days for you.

Join us for the Summer Story Quest where we will be giving away FREE books to those who are lucky enough to find hidden tokens around the Gardens. Keep a weather eye on our website for further details. We're not the only ones to think that early reading experiences are a positive thing: all the books that are given away this summer have been sponsored by local businesses. We are super grateful to their support.



Join the Summer Story Quest at Castle Bromwich Historic Gardens!

Families are invited to enjoy magical Sundays at Castle Bromwich Gardens with the Summer Story Quest—a fun-filled adventure for young readers and nature lovers alike!

- Hunt for a hidden token
- Claim a FREE children's book
- Wander the stunning historic gardens

Dates: Sundays – 20th & 27th July, 3rd, 17th, 24th & 31st August

(Closed 10th August)

Location: Castle Bromwich Historic Gardens

Standard garden entry fees apply – no booking required.

Organised by The Little Book Fairy and Bookish Reads for Kids, and proudly sponsored by local businesses including Coleshill Cricket Club, Shampooch Dog Grooming, Fusion of Dance, MS Dance, Bouncing Bunnies Stay and Play, Garden Therapy Services, EweMove Estate Agents Castle Bromwich, Moo Music, New Routes Fostering and Forever Violet – Welded Jewellery.

Bring your family and find a book in the garden this summer!

Music for the Soul

Soul Sessions Brum returns to the Gardens for the third year in a row. Experience an evening of live music featuring performances from some of the best kept secrets across the West Midlands music scene.

Special guests this year are Jack Mac's Funk Pack, a New Orleans inspired big band funk collective, other guests include Kezia Soul, Priscilla Cameron and Collective Sleep. It is a wonderful opportunity to experience an evening of upcoming and different music, inspired by the greats of soul and R'n'B. The Gardens are pleased to be able to host these young musicians - not many can say they've performed in an Eighteenth-century formal gardens surrounded by flitting bats and under cover of tulip tree and holm oak!

We really are keeping busy!



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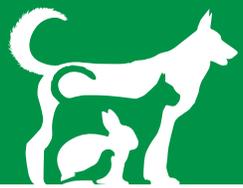
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Pet Page

Small Acts. Big Impact. The Magic of Volunteering

From quiet kennel mornings to community events and life-changing adoptions, volunteering creates ripples of kindness that go far beyond the moment. Here's why it matters—and how you can get involved in helping dog charities.

This month, I was lucky enough to receive two volunteering awards—one for over 15 years of personal volunteering, and one recognising Insight Hounds as a supporting business. And it's given me the perfect excuse to shine a light on something close to my heart: the power of volunteering, especially within greyhound rehoming.

Over the years, I've helped out in all sorts of ways—walking greyhounds, fostering, fundraising, supporting at events, admin, even serving on committees. It's shaped the way I work now at Insight Hounds, and it's been incredibly rewarding. Volunteering has brought lifelong

friendships, created magic moments, and even helped save lives.

Money raised has paid for operations, kept dogs safe, and helped them find loving homes. People I've chatted to at events have gone on to adopt dogs. Seeing a nervous kennel dog thriving in a home—and knowing you played a small part in that journey—is something really special.

When you volunteer—especially with dog charities—you're not just giving your time. You're changing a dog's world.

Daybreaks Trust, a brilliant greyhound rehoming charity, is currently looking for volunteers. If you've ever wanted to get involved, here are just a few of the ways you could help:

Kennel Helpers/Dog Walkers – Help feed, walk, and care for the greyhounds.

A wonderful way to build bonds and give the dogs the one-to-one attention they thrive on.

Admin Support – Chat to adopters and help keep them connected. If you're happy on the phone or with basic spreadsheets, this is a great role.

Events Volunteers – Join fun days out like the Great Global Greyhound Walk or local shows. Meet new people, chat about greyhounds, and help raise vital funds.

Fundraisers – If you've got the gift of the gab, help place collection tins in local businesses or chat to people about supporting the dogs.

Van Drivers – Collect supplies, deliver items locally, or help with vet trips.

Tradespeople – If you're handy (plumber, electrician, general DIY), your skills could make a big impact—even once a month.

Corporate Volunteers – Many workplaces now offer charity days. You could help at an event, paint a fence, or support the team at the kennels—all while getting to meet the dogs.

There are so many ways to help and make

a difference. Whether it's a few hours a month or a regular role, your time really does matter.

If you'd like to get involved with Daybreaks, get in touch:

info@daybreakstrust.co.uk

07960 369820 or 07501 339 394

And if Daybreaks isn't right for you, there are plenty of other rehoming and rescue charities across the Midlands looking for support. Whether you help weekly, monthly, or just now and then—it all makes a difference.

Clare

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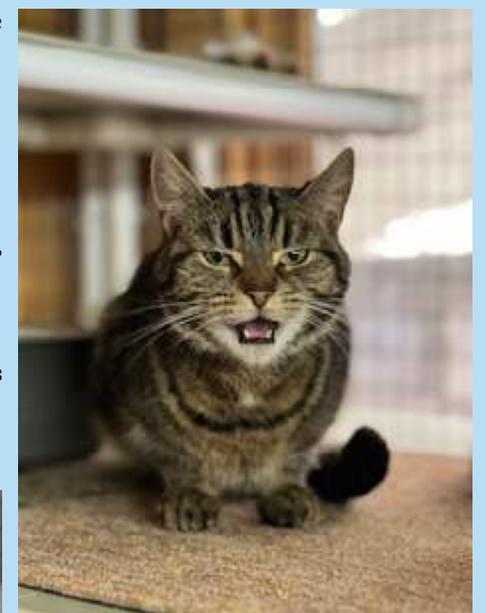
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Pretty Penny says 'hello'..

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



Dry Skin and Calluses

During these summer months it's common to notice dryness on the heels or soles of your feet, sometimes accompanied by hardened skin. This is typically referred to as dry skin or a callus. These changes often result from a lack of moisture or increased pressure in specific areas, often due to footwear or heightened physical activity.

To help soften your feet, regular moisturising is essential. We particularly recommend using creams that contain urea, as these are better absorbed and work more effectively beneath the surface of the skin. Popular choices include our Help4feet cream or Help4feet extra strength heel balm.

If you're experiencing dry or cracked skin, it might be beneficial to see one of our podiatrists. They can carefully remove the hardened areas, allowing moisturisers to work more effectively on skin.



Strive Sandals

We're pleased to offer Strive Sandals within clinic which offer a perfect blend of comfort, style, and foot health. Strive Sandals are designed to support the natural alignment of your feet. This can relieve pressure on the heels, arches, and ankles, making them ideal option for anyone suffering from foot pain.



Not only are they foot friendly, but they also come in a variety of stylish designs meaning you don't have to choose between comfort and appearance. Strive Sandals can be a great option for those warmer months or for indoor wear when you want supportive footwear without sacrificing breathability.

Blisters and Corns

Poorly fitting shoes or increased activity can often lead to added pressure or friction, resulting in blisters or corns. Blisters are typically caused by repetitive rubbing—commonly from footwear. The best approach is to leave the blister intact if possible. However, if it does burst, protect the area with a clean plaster to reduce the risk of infection.

Corns, on the other hand, develop due to consistent pressure and can feel like a small stone in your shoe. Unlike calluses, corns can be more painful and are best treated by a Podiatrist. They can remove the thickened skin safely and apply padding to relieve pressure. We advise avoiding corn plasters with acid, as these can overly soften the skin and make treatment more difficult.

If you're experiencing any of these foot concerns and would like to see one of our HCPC-registered podiatrists, please don't hesitate to contact us at **0121 749 6313**.



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Chamber News Reactions



Chamber reaction to Government infrastructure strategy

Responding to the recently launched 10-year infrastructure strategy of the Government, Emily Stubbs, head of policy at Greater Birmingham Chambers of Commerce, said: "This 10-year infrastructure strategy will give businesses and supply chains much needed clarity and certainty to plan.

"Crucially, it will create a landscape for crowding in investment and help to bolster business confidence, with renewed commitment to long-term projects playing a vital role in driving economic growth across the West Midlands, including HS2 and the Midlands Rail Hub.

"The Chambers across the region wrote to the Chief Secretary to the Treasury to encourage the Chancellor to reaffirm the Government's commitment to the Midlands Rail Hub earlier this year, and it is encouraging to see that the voice of the local business community has been heard.

"Successful delivery will also be dependent on the detail and having the skilled workforce in place. So, it's vital this strategy is underpinned by a robust skills strategy and an efficient and effective planning system.

"To drive growth, we now need to see strategy become reality, with change implemented at pace."

Chamber reaction to inflation easing

Responding to the news of inflation easing, Emily Stubbs, head of policy at Greater Birmingham Chambers of Commerce, said:

"As firms continue to face mounting cost pressures, UK inflation unsurprisingly remains well above the bank of England's 2 per cent target, and higher than elsewhere in Europe.

"Looking ahead, many - including the bank of England - will also be concerned about the potential impact of conflict in the Middle East on supply chains and energy prices.

"With this uncertainty in mind, the Bank may likely decide to hold interest rates at 4.25 per cent tomorrow, meaning borrowing costs for business will remain high.

"To boost confidence and unlock investment, businesses need government to produce a plan for easing their tax burdens and further reducing global trade frictions."

Chamber reaction to latest HS2 delay

Responding to reports that the Government will announce another delay to the HS2 project, Raj Kandola, acting deputy CEO at Greater Birmingham Chambers of Commerce, said: "This latest setback is hugely frustrating but not surprising given the ongoing reports about the overall cost of delivering HS2.

"Here in Greater Birmingham, we have already seen the impact HS2 has had in driving investor confidence across the region, as well as the thousands of jobs and apprenticeships that have been created.

"Businesses want to see Government take control of the situation and deliver a clear and cost-effective plan to get the project back on track.

"They must not lose sight of the wider socio-economic benefits and the transformational impact HS2 will bring if delivered properly."



Monday

Castle Brom The Baptist Church, 5.30 & 7.00pm Claire 07917867577
Yardley St Edburghas Church Hall, 7.30 & 9.00am Jacqui 07814 675180

Tuesday

Shard End Aylesford Hall, 9.00 & 10.30am Claire 07917867577
Kingshurst Seeds Of Hope, St Barnabas CH, 5.00 & 6.30pm Diane 07432 123206
Tile Cross Mackadown Sports & Social Club, 4.00 & 5.30pm Nataley 07939 949136
Coleshill The Catholic Church (sacred Heart & St Teresa) 3.30pm, 5.00pm & 6.30pm Jacqui 07814 675180

Wednesday

Castle Brom Arden Hall, 9.00 & 10.30am Diane 07432 123206
Castle Brom St Clements Church, 3.00, 4.30 & 6.00pm Nataley 07939 949136
Marston Green The Parish Hall, 4.00 & 5.30pm Donna 07516 726534
Water Orton The Link, 3.30, 5.30 & 7.00pm Jayne 07453 348184

Thursday

Smiths Wood SJB Centre, 9.00am, 5.00 & 6.30pm Nataley 07939 949136
Castle Vale St Cuthberts Church, 5.30pm Diane 07432 123206
Chelmsley Wood The Fordbridge Centre (by Asda), 5.30pm Jacqui 07957133435

Friday

Sheldon St Thomas More Church, 9.00am Claire 07917867577
Chelmsley Wood The Family Tree, 9.00am Jayne 07453 348184

Saturday

Chelmsley Wood Three Trees Community Centre, 7.30 & 9.00am Michael 07957 510533
Chelmsley Wood The Family Tree, 8.30 & 10.00am Jayne 07453 348184
Castle Brom The Baptist Church, 8.00 & 9.30am Donna 07516726534

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



"The greatest gift we can give our children are the roots of responsibility and the wings of independence." Maria Montessori.

Maria Montessori lectured extensively, wrote numerous articles and books, and developed a teacher training programme for the Montessori Method. Her work, along with that of her followers, led to the global adoption of Montessori education.

Children begin to learn from the very first week of their lives, and even potentially before birth, by using their senses to take in the world, learning to recognize familiar voices, faces, and the feeling of touch, associating them with comfort, nourishment, and care.

Jesus said to love one another as I have loved you. In a world that is forever changing, being a parent is perhaps one of the hardest roles you will ever undertake. As children grow, how do you decide how much freedom, responsibility to give them and the importance of treating others with kindness, compassion, forgiveness and understanding.

Volunteers play a vital role in supporting children and 4th Castle Bromwich Brownies is one such organisation that does just that, meeting at St Clements Church for many years, possibly as many as 50 years. Over recent months a Guide Unit has also been established. A dedicated band of volunteers make this possible and those same volunteers also have to undergo training from first aid, to understanding safeguarding, to undertake risk assessments and to be able to take the girls away, a Pack Holiday Licence.

As an organisation just for girls, Girlguiding helps girls develop their full potential through various activities and experiences. Girls learn to work together, take responsibility, and become confident leaders. They also learn to respect each other, make friends, it provides a space for girls to explore their interests, try new things, and make a difference in their communities and the world.

St Clements values the work that their volunteers do, as they give up their free time to this outstanding organisation for girls, long may they continue.

Our annual Quiz on the 17th May with a fish and chip supper was well attended, first having to decide on a team name and then, you guessed it, answer those questions, from who painted that picture on the screen to the shortest book in the Bible. Good fun was had by all and our thanks go once again to Cola's Fish and Chip Saloon who did us proud THANK YOU.

Due to unforeseen circumstances we have had to change the date of our Garden Party which will now take place on Saturday 26th July at 2pm. Cost will be £7 each and tickets will be on sale shortly.

St Clements Church has always ventured forth and this year with a coach booked will be boarding at 9am for a journey to Weston Super Mare on the 12th July (I wonder if the sea will be in??) Or donkeys on the beach - anyone going to give it a go? Having visited Lichfield and Worcester last year it was felt something a little further afield was the next step. Cream teas or fish and chips and a visit to the Grand Pier seems a must. The Pier opened in 1904 and has been Listed Grade II since 1983, it is 366 metres (1,201 ft) long. The pier's

pavilion has been destroyed by fire on two occasions, in 1930 and 2008.

There are two piers in Weston with the other being Birnbeck Pier which is closed and stands derelict. Jill Dando who was a BBC journalist was born in Weston and Victoria Park, most likely known as Grove Park with a bandstand, is well worth a visit. So good foot-wear seems like a good idea and even maybe a coat, yes I know it will be July but the weather in the UK is so unpredictable. Whatever the weather I am sure all will make many memories and have stories to tell and photos to show.

How resilient is nature and the Memory Garden at the front of the Church shows us that whatever the weather throws at us, nature in all its glory keeps surprising us. The rose in the garden at the front of the Church in memory of Dorothy Cotterill has been a joy to behold, bursting forth with so many beautiful flowers which lift the spirit even on the most gloomy of days!

Perhaps one of the most powerful messages is: Jesus encourages resilience in his disciples ahead of his death: 'in this world, you will have trouble, but take heart, I have overcome the world'. Jesus is saying the world may push you down and scatter you, but I have conquered that, and nothing can keep you down.

After the service on the 1st June, the congregation of St Clements were able to congratulate Clara Titre who had been accepted on the Readers course: So what does that mean for Clara going forward

.....
The Readers Course in the Church of England is a two-year training programme for lay people, preparing them to share in public representative ministry alongside

ordained clergy. It involves theological study, practical experience in local churches, and placements to deepen their engagement with the Christian tradition.

Gosh how quickly time goes, we are already half way through the year with children doing their GCSE or A levels, taking time to choose their options; every step can feel like a huge hurdle and this quote from Martin Luther King "You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step." simply says it all.

Every child is different, there is a quote that says "Every child is a different kind of flower, and all together make this world a beautiful garden." It certainly does. St Clements really looks forward to having the children and their teachers from the local schools into our Church to hear their chatter and try very hard to answer their questions. What joy they bring.

We will be celebrating VJ day, Victory over Japan Day on Friday 15th August which marks the 80th Anniversary and the surrender of Japan forces. We know that some in our congregation have members of their families who were in the far east and the display in the foyer of St Clements Church will remain as a reminder of how much we owe them for our freedoms today.

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/stclementschurchcastlebromwich

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Puzzle Page

ACROSS

- 1 Canal name
- 5 Creed
- 10 Lick
- 13 Hairstyle
- 14 Loafer
- 15 Sixth month of the year
- 16 One who gets things done
- 17 Quake
- 18 Land mass
- 19 Promissory note
- 21 Game played with a bat, ball and two teams
- 23 Droop
- 26 North American country
- 28 Prods
- 29 Below thousands
- 32 Soft cheese from Greece
- 33 Decorative needle case
- 34 Netherlands' capital
- 36 Medicine amount
- 37 Domain
- 38 Former wound
- 42 City of pilgrimages
- 43 Tortoise and the ____
- 44 June holiday ____ Day
- 46 Loved
- 49 Relating to the sun
- 51 Eat
- 52 Old-fashioned Dads
- 53 Souvenirs

- 57 Slumber
- 59 Standing
- 60 Indelicate
- 62 What children talk with
- 66 Lawyer (abbr.)
- 67 Employer
- 68 A wager (2 wds.)
- 69 Affirmation
- 70 Golf tournaments
- 71 Young Men's Christian Association

DOWN

- 1 Melancholy
- 2 Unidentified flying object
- 3 Before, poetically
- 4 Flat sandal with thong between toes
- 5 Lack of use
- 6 Lyric poem
- 7 Fluent
- 8 Tableland
- 9 Limbs
- 10 National capital
- 11 Senile
- 12 Rings, like bells
- 15 Ruffle down the front
- 20 Possessive pronoun
- 22 Fencing sword
- 23 Thrown off
- 24 Motor vehicle

- 25 African antelope
- 27 Special case only (2 wds.)
- 30 Demise
- 31 Food covering
- 32 Something that gives pleasure or enjoyment
- 35 Green plant that often covers lawns
- 37 Solicit
- 38 Her
- 39 Outdoor area where tents are set up to sleep in
- 40 Domain
- 41 Cincinnati baseball team
- 42 Stigma
- 44 Fire making stones
- 45 Lean
- 47 Radios
- 48 Government agency
- 49 Wander
- 50 Speak in public
- 54 Resound
- 55 Short journey from one point to another
- 56 Positive
- 58 Activity intended for amusement
- 61 Fox hole
- 63 Large computer co.
- 64 Part of a minute.
- 65 School group

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	
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53					54	55	56		57		58			
59					60			61			62	63	64	65
66					67						68			
69					70						71			

By Jimmy and Evelyn Johnson - www.qets.com

Word Search

T	H	I	S	C	O	U	N	O	I	T	A	C	A	V	N
T	R	Y	W	I	L	L	N	O	T	L	E	V	A	R	T
B	E	M	O	U	N	T	A	I	N	A	G	O	O	D	P
L	A	C	F	A	M	I	L	Y	E	F	O	R	A	N	Y
B	O	F	U	S	S	W	I	M	M	I	N	G	G	N	T
A	O	L	I	G	N	I	N	E	D	R	A	G	N	O	R
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E	O	S	O	W	E	I	E	F	M	A	K	E	K	T	M
B	E	U	I	I	C	F	A	L	T	A	E	C	I	A	M
A	G	O	T	N	T	T	L	Y	G	N	O	R	H	R	U
L	D	C	I	D	H	A	A	A	I	A	P	E	L	B	S
L	A	C	A	E	O	D	U	H	G	C	E	A	E	E	F
O	R	A	R	M	I	O	S	D	W	L	L	T	O	L	F
U	S	S	T	L	P	N	R	O	A	O	L	I	E	V	
E	I	N	O	F	U	B	R	S	V	R	T	O	T	C	M
M	N	H	G	S	Q	G	G	W	H	M	G	N	H	L	T

Find the words in the grid. When you are done, the unused letters in the grid will spell out a hidden message. Pick them out from left to right, top line to bottom line. Words can go horizontally, vertically and diagonally in all eight directions.

- | | | |
|-------------|------------|------------|
| Baseball | Gardening | Picnic |
| Camp | Graduation | Recreation |
| Celebration | Grow | Summer |
| Eagle | Hiking | Sunshine |
| Family | Holiday | Swimming |
| Fathers | Mountain | Travel |
| Flag | Outdoors | Vacation |

Interiors & Decorating



Platinum July Update

Global Influence: How International Styles Have Shaped British Interior Design and Decorating

British interior design has long been celebrated for its elegance, tradition, and eclectic charm. Yet, far from being insular, it is a living tapestry woven with threads of global influence. From the clean lines of Scandinavian minimalism to the vibrant patterns of Moroccan décor, the British home has absorbed and adapted international styles to create something uniquely its own. This cross-cultural infusion has enriched British painting and decorating traditions, resulting in interiors that are as diverse as they are distinctive.

A Legacy of Global Exchange

Britain's colonial history, international trade, and increasing global connectivity have all contributed to the multicultural layers visible in British interiors today. The 18th and 19th centuries saw the influx of goods and aesthetics from India, China, and the Middle East. These styles were often filtered through the lens of British tastes, resulting in a fascinating hybridisation of forms, colours, and motifs.

In the modern era, the influence continues – driven not only by historical ties but also by travel, migration, and the global exchange of design trends via media and the internet. Let's explore some of the most notable international influences on British interior design and decorating.

The Scandinavian Touch: Simplicity and Function

Scandinavian design has had a profound impact on British interiors, especially from the mid-20th century onwards. Its emphasis on clean lines, natural materials, and functional living aligns well with modern British sensibilities. The neutral palette typical of Scandi design – white walls, pale woods, and muted textiles – has become a staple in many British homes seeking tranquillity and space.

Painting and decorating trends in the UK have mirrored this simplicity. Soft greys,

eggshell whites, and pastel tones dominate many paint brands' "Scandinavian" ranges, aimed at consumers desiring a calm, clutter-free environment. British furniture retailers like Heal's and John Lewis have incorporated Nordic-inspired ranges that balance form and function while retaining a hint of warmth.

Mediterranean Influence: Earthy Warmth and Rustic Charm

Southern European styles – particularly from Italy, Greece, and Spain – have also found a welcome place in British homes. Terracotta tiles, exposed wooden beams, and stucco walls recall the rustic charm of Tuscan villas or Greek island homes. These elements have inspired many British countryside interiors, especially in areas like the Cotswolds or Devon.

In terms of painting and decorating, the Mediterranean influence brings earthy tones – burnt orange, olive green, and sandy beige – often paired with textured finishes such as lime wash or chalk paint. These techniques lend a sense of age and authenticity, perfect for homeowners aiming for a rustic or "lived-in" aesthetic.

The Moroccan Aesthetic: Colour, Pattern, and Exoticism

The British have long been enchanted by the rich, ornate designs of North Africa. Moroccan influence is evident in the growing popularity of bold tilework, intricate lanterns, and vibrant colour schemes. Particularly popular in bathrooms, conservatories, and garden spaces, Moroccan design adds a sense of exotic opulence to otherwise neutral settings.

Moroccan-inspired painting and decorating techniques include the use of stencils for geometric motifs, deep jewel-toned paints like cobalt blue and saffron yellow, and decorative plastering styles such as tadelakt. These styles are often incorporated as feature elements within more subdued British interiors, adding a touch of drama without overwhelming the space.

Japanese Minimalism: Zen and the Art of Restraint

Japanese design principles – particularly wabi-sabi and minimalism – have

resonated with many British homeowners who value simplicity, craftsmanship, and a connection to nature. Japanese interiors emphasise natural light, clean lines, and minimal ornamentation, focusing instead on texture and form.

In Britain, this influence is visible in the rise of minimalist interiors that still feel warm and human. Timber cladding, Shoji-style screens, and tatami-inspired mats are incorporated in subtle ways, often blending seamlessly with modern or traditional British elements. Neutral paint palettes – off-whites, taupes, and earthy greys – are favoured, with decorative painting kept to a minimum to preserve a sense of calm.

Indian Grandeur: Rich Textures and Intricate Detailing

India's contribution to British interior aesthetics dates back to the days of the British Raj, and the appeal has endured. Indian design is known for its vibrant colours, carved wood furniture, and luxurious textiles like silk and cotton. Many British homes incorporate these elements through accent pieces – hand-carved sideboards, embroidered cushions, or bold wall hangings.

From a decorating perspective, Indian influence often encourages the use of bright colours – saffron, emerald, ruby red – and detailed wall stencilling or murals. Feature walls painted with deep, saturated hues inspired by Indian palaces can provide a stunning focal point in an otherwise restrained British room.

French Elegance: Romance and Refinement

French interiors – whether rustic Provençal or the more opulent Parisian style – have long been admired by British decorators. Shabby chic, a trend that gained popularity in Britain in the early 2000s, has its roots in French country style, with distressed furniture, pastel colours, and floral motifs.

In urban British homes, Parisian influence often translates into high ceilings, ornate cornicing, and luxurious fabrics such as velvet and silk. French-inspired painting styles include the use of soft washes, aged patinas, and painted furniture with chalk or milk paints to achieve an antique effect. This romantic aesthetic continues

to appeal to British homeowners seeking timeless elegance.

African Inspiration: Texture, Rhythm, and Natural Forms

Designs from sub-Saharan Africa – especially from countries like Ghana, Nigeria, and South Africa – have become more visible in British interiors in recent years. Textured materials such as woven baskets, mud cloths, and carved wooden items have made their way into British living rooms, often adding a tactile richness.

Painting and decorating have followed suit, with bold tribal patterns, ochre and clay tones, and feature walls showcasing African-inspired artwork or murals. The trend is especially prominent in eclectic homes that aim to tell a story through collected and curated items.

A Contemporary Mosaic

What makes British interior design so compelling is its ability to weave together these disparate influences into a coherent whole. British homes are often a mixture of old and new, east and west, minimalist and maximalist. This cultural plurality is not only a reflection of Britain's global connections but also of a design philosophy that values character, individuality, and storytelling.

From painted Moroccan zellige tiles in a Victorian terrace kitchen to a Scandinavian-inspired nursery in a London flat, the global influence on British decorating is both pervasive and deeply personal. As the world continues to get smaller through travel and digital media, this international exchange is only set to deepen.

British interior design has never been static. Instead, it evolves continually, enriched by the colours, textures, and philosophies of other cultures. Whether it's through a hand-painted mural inspired by Indian miniatures or a muted Nordic colour scheme, international influences offer British decorators an expansive palette from which to draw.

By embracing this global melting pot of ideas, British interiors remain vibrant, relevant, and wonderfully unpredictable – an ever-evolving canvas that tells stories far beyond its walls.

Community Growing

Laura took on her first allotment plot in April 2021, and now has a large double plot in Coleshill, Warwickshire, where she grows a variety of vegetables and flowers. In 2024, Laura won the “Biodiversity” award at the North Warwickshire Allotment Federation awards for the work she has done on encouraging wildlife on her allotment and awarded “Best Allotment” by Coleshill Town Council in 2023. You can follow Laura’s allotment diary on Instagram, @lottieonthehill.



Gardener's world Live

I don't know if I will ever find the words to fully describe the incredible experience of Gardener's world Live. From the four days (and 2 hours) to build the Beautiful Border, 'Judgement Day', and the four days of showing it to the public, I have had the most fun, and most exhausting experience of my life so far!

I built my border, Nourishing the Soul, with my beautiful mum, Marie, in mind. She passed away at the Marie Curie Hospice in Solihull in June 2014 and I wanted to create a garden that I would like to imagine sitting in with her, having a cup of tea and taking in the beauty of the flowers. I also wanted to do it as a thank you to the wonderful gardening volunteers at the hospice, because I took so much comfort from the gardens there when she passed away, and that feeling of calmness and connection with nature has always stayed with me. I selected some personal decorative items which told a story for me, such as the teapot and cups because she LOVED a cup of tea, which could help bring another dimension to the story of the garden.

You get just 4 full days to build your Beautiful Border garden, so having a team you can trust to bring your vision to life is vital. And I had the best team! Annette, who travelled from Norfolk and stayed all week to help; Shelley who came from Wales to help over the weekend; Abi, who created the much loved prayer bowl and lots of laugh out loud moments; and the triple-award winning Leanne, who sagely (savagely?!) told me "just because you have it, doesn't mean you need to use it" about all of my props! It was an absolute dream team, and we genuinely

laughed so much during those build days.

When I arrived on site, the sleepers were already laid out, but I had to wait for them to be filled with top soil and compost. This gave Annette and I time to pop to Planters garden centre (who kindly provided most of my plants, the bistro set, and the bird bath) to give the final sign off on the plant selection, while Abi and Shelley got on with building the beautiful Midnight arch from Zest. By the time I returned, the border was ready for me to measure out and get on with the hard landscaping.

The arch went in like a dream, and was easily secured with us compacting the top soil around the base. The initial path layout had a... mishap. Which had everyone laughing and established us as the 'naughty corner' on site! But after sleeping on it, and having a look at the Bradstone website images, I was able to turn the path from trashy to classy! And the team borrowed some tools to help make it more even, while Leanne tidied up my initial layout with her fabulous eye for detail, leading it to be affectionately known as the 'informal' path. Adrian from Planters delivered the plants, bistro set and bird table on day 2 of the build, so we were able to start laying the pots out and get an idea of spacing once the hard landscaping was finished.

In between building and planning, we found time to have a look at the other builds, and made great friends with our neighbours, including the fabulous Nick Bailey, who won't forget Abi in a hurry! 'Nourishing the Soul' was located up on what is known as Picnic Hill, and I had the BEST neighbours. David Blythe, Jade Dinwiddy, Rachael Deterville, and the wonderful team from Trinity Catholic School, to name a few. I'd like to give a special mention to Zoe-Joy, one of the students from Trinity, who was

such a lovely, polite and calm young lady. She explained their garden (a memorial for the Holocaust) to literally hundreds of people over the course of the show - a great achievement for someone so young!

On 'Judgement Day' I was blown away by the positive feedback I received from the judges, including comments that they felt I have a real eye for colour, that they liked how I had planted by height up to the arch, and that they were impressed that this was my first ever time designing and building a garden! They also ended by saying that my mum would be very proud, which was the icing on the cake, because of building the garden with her in mind. I admit to shedding a little tear, and was grateful that Kerry (lottie_thyme) was with me at the time for moral support and a hug.

After judging had ended, we had the opportunity to show our gardens off to our sponsors, guests, press and influencers. This was the first time anyone outside our show team 'bubbles' had seen the gardens! I invited Planters and four of the volunteer gardeners from Marie Curie Hospice to the event, and it meant a great deal to share this with them. One of the representatives from Planters had lost her husband just 2 weeks previously, and there were several coincidences that led to her saying "I was meant to be here" - it was an emotional and incredibly special moment.



The following day, the show opened to the public, which was exciting, nerve-racking and tiring, all rolled into one! I spoke to hundreds of people, explaining the meaning behind my Beautiful Border, talking about the plants, the 'nick knacks' I had added and why I had chosen them, and holding out handfuls of Shell on Earth to endless people, telling them that not only is it great for sung control, but it also sounds and smells like childhood holidays! People especially loved my ornamental frog(used because my mum's nickname for me when I was little was 'frog') and the gorgeous gifted copper bee drinkers from Paul at Copper and Green. Paul not only kindly personally delivered the bee drinkers to me, he also loaned me a hat, because he was concerned about me getting sunstroke in the intense heat-being a redhead with freckles in the middle of a heatwave can be tricky! It brought me such joy to see the reactions of people as they approached my garden. The smiles and comments of 'so beautiful made me beam with pride. I definitely felt like my mum was with me during the show open days.

As I told countless people, I created a garden that I would have liked to sit and have a cuppa with my mum. It was a mix of plants that had been in our garden growing up, ones which I have in my garden now, and ones which have symbolic meaning for healing, protection, love, and bravery. It was wonderful to show the lovely Talia around the garden, especially as we share the same grief and loss after losing our mums. In tow was GFM's own Ben! And their absolute joy of a daughter, Autumn. Ben and Talia have been so supportive since I told them/ was going to be doing BBC Gardener's world Live, so it was really lovely to have them there to see it in real life.

The takedown of 'Nourishing the Soul' was emotional for me. Saying goodbye to new friends, and friends I had met in person for the first time after chatting online for years. It was so sad to see everyone's gardens slowly disappear and become empty plots of soil again. However, I take comfort and pride in knowing that the majority of my border has gone to the Marie Curie Hospice in Solihull! 4 car loads of plants, including one of the rowan trees, and

the Bradstone red brick path from the border have gone to this incredible hospice in memory of my mum, Marie. The other rowan tree is planned to be donated to my town council in Coleshill, and the rest has come home with me as a memento of the most amazing 9 days!

Ben said to me that the show medal(I got a Silver Merit, by the way!) would be nothing compared to seeing the public reaction to my garden, and he was 100% right. I lost track of how many times I was asked if I was a professional garden designer! It was also surreal and wonderful to meet people who said they follow me on social media, or read my column in the local paper or my articles in Garden Folk Magazine! But the best experience? It was having my partner, my step dad, my big sister, and my 5 month old great nephew come to the show, and being able show them what I had created for my mum, and as a thank you to Marie Curie Hospice.

BBC Gardener's world live will be an experience I never forget.



WEDDINGS

In a previous edition I wrote about one of the occasional offices, baptisms. In this edition I am pleased to write about weddings, should you desire to get married in your parish church. One of the advantages is that the process will be handled by the vicar, giving the couple less to worry about.

The obvious questions being :-

- who can get married in a church,
- how much does it cost,
- and why get married in church.

Who can get married in a parish church?

To find out your parish church there is a useful website called A Church Near You. Once you find the website it will ask you for your postcode and then point you to your parish church.



To get married in your parish church you need to demonstrate a connection. The most obvious examples being that you either attend that church or live in the parish. More detail if interested below.

Others are :-

- has at any time lived in the parish for a period of at least 6 months, or
- was baptised (christened) in the parish concerned, or
- is confirmed and your confirmation was entered in the register of confirmations for a church or chapel in the parish (this will usually be the case if you were prepared for confirmation in the parish), or
- has at any time regularly gone to normal church services in the parish church for a period of at least 6 months

or

That one of your parents, at any time after you were born:

• has lived in the parish for a period of at least 6 months, or

• has regularly gone to normal church services in the parish church for a period of at least 6 months

or

That one of your parents or grandparents:

• was married in the parish

If you want to get married in a church other than your parish church (i.e. the parish in which you live) the most straightforward way is to create a connection by attending for at least 6 months on a regular basis. A regular attendee is someone who goes at least monthly.

Water Orton Parish Church



How much does it cost?

There will be variations from one parish to the next. However, the cost is likely to be less than £1,000 in 2026 for a church wedding. This includes the registration of the wedding and all costs of running the service. A church will typically provide a choir, organist and verger within this cost. Couples will often want flowers in church and printed orders of service, which would be an additional cost.

This is an interesting article on the cost of getting married in a church.

<https://bridebook.com/uk/article/how-much-does-a-church-wedding-cost>

I am currently reviewing our cost structure at Water Orton with a view to making a church wedding more accessible.

Why get married in church?

I believe that marriage is God's creation and that He delights in blessing marriages.



Martin and Becky on their wedding day

These words from common worship the church of england

"Marriage is intended by God to be a creative relationship, as his blessing enables husband and wife to love and support each other in good times and in bad, and to share in the care and upbringing of children. For Christians, marriage is also an invitation to share life together in the spirit of Jesus Christ. It is based upon a solemn, public and life-long covenant between a man and a woman, declared and celebrated in the presence of God and before witnesses."



I remember one couple getting married in the parish church about ten years ago. This led them to join our church and become active in its life. And now one of them is going to be ordained and so, in a few years will herself be a vicar.

1 Corinthians (13: 4 – 7) has got to be the most used bible reading for a wedding service, certainly the most popular choice at Water Orton.

It reads,

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."

Of course love, as defined here is integral to a strong marriage. And God loves the wedding couple.

We have just been celebrating Easter where we remember the visible demonstration of God's love, Jesus Christ. That Jesus Christ would choose the way of the cross for you and I is quite remarkable. In the gospel of John, Jesus is recorded as saying, 'Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.' We are blessed if we know such a God.

Please don't hesitate to contact me for further details.

God Bless

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Whats On

The Coffee Pot Bereavement Group
Monday 14th July 1.30 - 3pm
Community Hall

Everyone is welcome for refreshments and conversation, at this welcoming support group that provides help and companionship for anyone experiencing difficult times.

Wednesday Drop In
9th & 23rd July 10.00 - 11.30am
Community Hall

Join us for a cuppa and a chat - everyone is welcome!

Soup & a Roll Lunch
Wednesday 9th July
12.00 - 1.30pm
Community Hall

Join us for our monthly Soup & a Roll Lunch for a £1 donation, on every 2nd Wednesday of the month following our Family Service and Wednesday Drop In

Mothers Union Friendship Afternoon
Wednesday 16th July - 1.30- 3pm
Community Hall

Join us for an afternoon of fellowship & fun with a cuppa, a piece of cake & a chat! All are welcome to join us - we would love to see you!

Morning Prayer
Thursday 3rd, 10th, 24th & 31st July
9.30 - 10.15am Community Hall

Join Revd Fiona for reflection & prayer



Wednesday 2nd, & 9th July
END OF TERM SPECIAL 16th July
HOLIDAY SPECIAL 23rd & 30th July



Upcoming Services

Sunday 6th July

11am All Age Communion & Holy Baptism
 Connect Youth Worship (Community Hall)

Wednesday 9th July

9.30am Family Communion (Last until September)

Sunday 13th July

9.30am Parish Communion & Messy Worship for families

Sunday 20th July

11am Eucharist (Church) (No Cafe Worship in July)

Wednesday 23rd July

9.30am Reflective communion & bible discussion (Hall)

Sunday 27th July

9.30am Parish Communion



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North Warwickshire
Borough Council

Councillors given an update on fly-tipping reduction across the Borough

At the Community and Environment Board meeting on Wednesday, 4th June 2025, Councillors were given details about the proposal to enter into a long-term lease with two local sports clubs.

Atherstone Rangers will be responsible for the management and maintenance of the pitches and pavilion at Mancetter Recreation Ground. The Council are also proposing to enter into a long-term lease with Haunchwood Junior Sports Club, who will be responsible for the management and maintenance of the pitches at Old Arley Recreation Ground. The lease proposals will be taken

to Resources Board in July 2025 to determine whether or not the long-term leases will be granted.

Councillor Margaret Bell, Chair of Community and Environment Board, said:

"I'm proud to announce the latest updates on the long-term lease agreements with Atherstone Rangers and Haunchwood Junior Sports Club. These partnerships represent a fantastic opportunity to strengthen community engagement and enhance sporting facilities for residents across Mancetter, Arley, and the surrounding local areas."

Councillors provided with a positive report regarding progress within Green Space areas in North Warwickshire

At the Community and Environment Board meeting on Wednesday, 4th June 2025, Councillors were provided with a report that updated them on the progress of the Green Space Strategy and the Playing Pitch Strategy.

The Green Space Strategy recognises the vital role of open space in helping children and young people to develop skills through play and social interaction, and it commits the Authority to supporting the development of a strategic network of play facilities across the Borough.

The report highlights the progress made in recent years, such as Play Area Sites being

developed/refurbished from 2021 through the Play Area Development Programme.

Furthermore, the report highlighted positive activity such as new K Barriers being installed at various locations, and tree management work being instructed on 56 different sites on 141 trees across the Borough.

Councillor Margaret Bell, Chair of Community and Environment Board, said:

"I'm particularly proud of the significant progress we've already made across the Borough, especially when it comes to the refurbishment of our play areas - it's a real step forward for families and young people in our communities."

Councillors given an update on fly-tipping reduction across the Borough

At the Community and Environment Board meeting on Wednesday, 4th June 2025, Councillors received an update on the collaborative efforts of the Environmental Crime Officer, Environmental Health, Streetscape, Communications Team, and Legal colleagues to reduce fly-tipping within the Borough.

In 2024 / 2025, the Streetscape team cleared 1059 fly-tipping incidents, and Environmental Health received 106 cases with potential evidence, and issued 26 enforcement actions, which include fixed penalty notices and Community Protection Warnings.

Since 1st January 2025, the Environmental Health team have received 22 complaints with potential evidence and has issued 17 enforcement actions, which include fixed penalty notices and Community Protection Warnings.

The Environmental Health team are utilising social media with weekly posts called

'Fly Tipping Friday's' which shares good practice, successful enforcement actions and also appeals for witnesses.

To assist with fly-tipping investigations, the Council now have a brand-new state-of-the-art drone. The cost of the Drone was funded by Defra following a successful bid to their fly-tipping intervention

grant scheme. The drone has also been insured and licensed under Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) regulations. This marks a key step in expanding our ability to deliver efficient, modern services across the community.

Councillor Margaret Bell, Chair of Community and Environment Board, said:

"Tackling fly-tipping will make positive contributions towards improving the environment and sustainability. The fly tips create adverse impacts on the local environment and use significant resources in removing them and carrying out investigations. By reducing fly tipping, the quality of life in local communities will be improved."

Fly-tipping is an offence under the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

There is also a Duty of Care specified in this Act which requires producers of waste, including householders, to take all reasonable measures to ensure that their waste is disposed of correctly, legally and where applicable, is only transferred to someone authorised to transport or dispose of it.

The Council is required to submit fly-tipping data every three months to the Environmental Agency. To view the latest Power BI Performance data, please visit the North Warwickshire Borough Council website and click on the Community & Environment Board button, followed by the Fly-tipping button.



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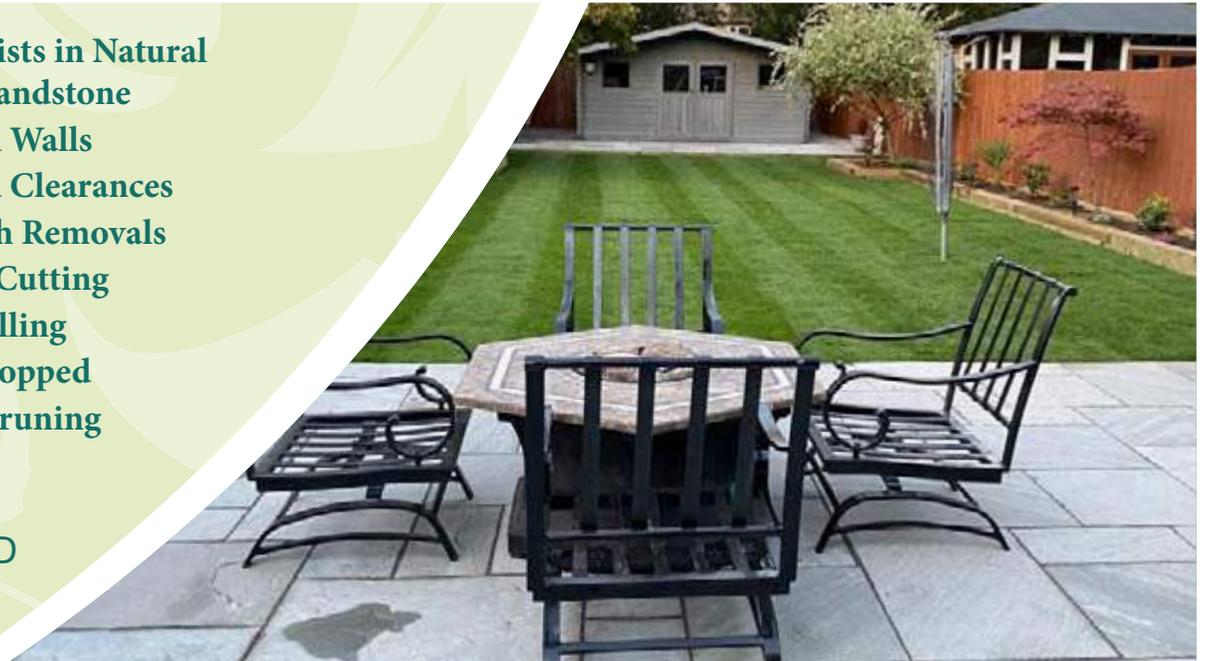
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Hidden message:

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Local Sports

Doyle Sets Another Historical Global Milestone

Claverdon Village South Warwickshire cross country footpaths and hills was the venue again for Paddy Doyle, completing his career 950th physical fitness challenge and World Record, the former Paratrooper and Army / RAF reservist finished a tough 13.5 km speed march carrying 43 lb backpack in warm conditions in a final time of 2 hrs. 14 min. 31 sec. Supported by his loyal team Doyle made all of the checkpoints well within the cut off times. Kevin Brown President of Official Record Breakers, former 2 times Commonwealth Games discus finalist and four times World Champion said the following. "As the President of Official Record Breakers I am super

proud of Paddy Doyle's tremendous achievements over the years, this man is a perfect role model to all generations and we should get all behind him when he smashes the milestone of 1000 fitness endurance challenges and World Records, he will be the first in history to of achieved this historic achievement and we should be all proud that he is our own, plus a former regular and reserve soldier, so let's get behind him to achieve 1000 multi sporting feats for GB." Four days later Paddy Doyle went onto set ten mountain bike course endurance challenges carrying 30 lb expedition backpack kit at Pooley Park mountain bike routes Polesworth North Warwickshire, the results

were. **5.5km** 15 min. 51 sec, **6.5km** 19 min. 45 sec, **8.5km** 27 min. 25 sec, **9.5km** 32 min. 57 sec, **10km** 37 min. 19 sec, **12 km** 43 min. 54 sec, **12.5 km** 46 min. 41 sec, **14km** 53 min. 02 sec, **14.5km** 56 min. 35 sec, **15km** 59 min. 39 sec.

"It has been mentally tough again to cram in an extra ten mountain bike challenge records within a short space of time but I have been keeping on top of training daily in my personal training gym, to get to the 950th career title and increase it to 960 spurs me onto the main number I want, a big thank you to my sponsors and support team who are backing me all the way."



Pic credits David Hastings (Rugby Warwickshire)

Water Orton & District Tennis Club



With our 2025 tennis season now well underway we are looking to bring in some more new members to fill a few remaining gaps. We could do with a few more lady members to boost our numbers. So ladies, if you have played tennis before and would like to get it going again, now is your chance. Our current lady members are very welcoming and you should settle in very well. We have LTA Coaches at the club who would be there to help you so if you come along as an individual or with friends we can get you set up in a group together.

We have beginners groups, improver groups or if you feel ready, you would be welcome immediately moving into our current ladies night on a Thursday.

We also have a few spaces in our Saturday junior coaching groups which our junior members thoroughly enjoy. Or if you want to play singles as a pair or book and play as a family you may well consider that. All our members get a link to book a court on our booking system and once you join you get a key to get into the courts.

If you would like more information about joining our friendly community club then text me on 07538 601246 and I will answer any questions you may have.

Think about this as you would be very welcome to join us.

Paul Messenger Club Chairman

Water Orton Bowls Club Celebrates Major Upgrades

On Thursday 29th May, Water Orton Bowls Club hosted a double celebration with guests from HS2, the Parish Council, Local Councillors representative and club members. The event marked the official opening of a new, fully accessible toilet facility, funded by HS2, the Parish Council and the club itself.

Founded in 1939 the club continues to honour its history while looking to the future.

The celebration also acknowledged the efforts of club volunteers who have transformed the clubhouse interior over the winter (Oct 2024 - March 25), turning a dated 1970's space into a bright, welcoming venue.

These developments aim to boost community engagement and participation in social bowling.



Built between October 2023 and March 2024, the new facility replaces the outdated and inadequate previous one.

The improvements have elevated the club's standing, earning it the opportunity to host County matches at the club. Guests viewed "before and after" photos and even tried their hand at bowling with help from club members - an experience enjoyed by all.

The club also showcased its ongoing memorial garden project at the entrance, which honours VE day and commemorates former members.

Invited guest to the opening ceremony included Tremaine Herbert (HS2 Senior engagement manager) and Tom Crosby (HS2 engagement), Gabrielle Evans (HS2 Public affairs Manager), Rachel Scully and Chris Chown (Water Orton Parish Council), Tony Short (Constituency support manager for Rachel Taylor MP), Kevin Hackett (Water Orton BC Chairman), Phil Robinson (Former chair of WO parish Council) alongside club members.



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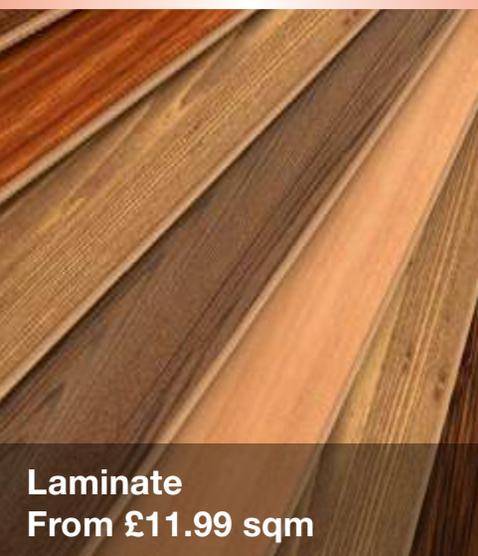
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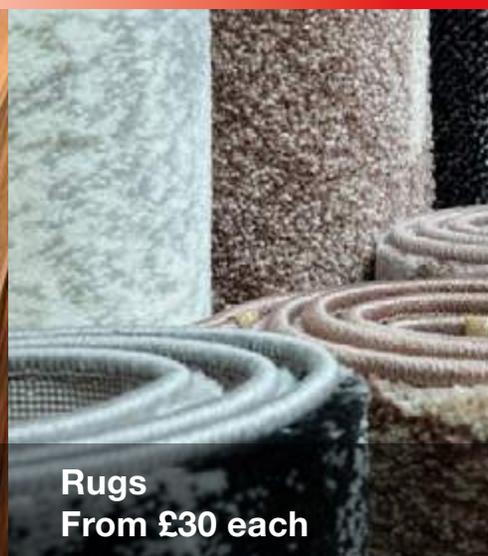
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