

THE Coleshill & Castle Brom POST



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June 2025 Issue 134



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See Page 8 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.

We work with you to create the most appropriate package for your business, after all it's in our interest to make each advert work and keep everybody happy.

We can design professional artwork if needed and offer sound advice based on years of knowledge.

By choosing to advertise with us you are also showing your support for the community and the customers you hope to serve.

Getting in touch

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General inquires:

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THE Coleshill & Castle Brom POST

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Bulk paper drops in Public places, including – Supermarkets, Schools, Garden Centres, Train Stations, Pubs and Local Convenience Stores.

Minworth
Castle Bromwich
Marston Green
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Chelmsley Wood
Kingshurst
The Whitacres

Also available online on our website and facebook pages.



U3a Castle Bromwich

Castle Bromwich u3a had a very interesting talk and demonstration that got to the heart of the matter-how to provide a fast response while awaiting medical assistance.

We even got to have hands on experience on giving CPR and using a defibrillator. Would you know where your nearest defibrillator is? And would you know what to do with it?

Thanks go to the Central Fast Response team who delivered the talk and workshop.

You never know what the u3a will do next. Come and find out on the last Wednesday of the month at Arden Hall B36 9PB at 1.30pm.



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email: editor.postgroup@outlook.com


**POST GROUP
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Popular public speaker brings classic comedy to Coleshill



Back in January, actress and public speaker, Jennifer Rigby, visited Coleshill U3A to deliver her most popular talk 'Shakespeare and Me'. The talk was a great success with members describing it as 'the best we've ever had' and 'hugely memorable'

'I was delighted by how well the talk was received' says Jen 'and in such a fabulously historic venue too!'

Inspired by her enthusiastic audience and the fantastic facilities at Coleshill Town Hall, Jen contacted the council to see if there was any possibility of her bringing a professional performance of an Oscar Wilde classic comedy to the town.

Jen runs Aunty Jen Productions, a unique good news story of the Covid 19 pandemic.

'When the theatres closed in March 2020, I had no work, no income and no creative output, so I joined Studley's local isolation support group as a phone contact for vulnerable members of the community. Having been trapping in my own home for 6 months in 2015 following a near fatal car crash, and knowing how difficult that was, I realised that there was something else I could do to help my local community'

And from that moment 'Aunty Jen' was born! Jen spent 107 days during the first lockdown delivering stories for children and comedy monologues for adults all recorded from her garden shed!

When the country came out of lockdown in the summer of 2020, Studley residents asked Aunty Jen if there was anything she could do to bring the community back together.

As far as they are aware, Aunty Jen Productions was the second company in the whole country to go back live on stage with their socially distanced production of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'

Since then, the company have produced 29 live events including pantomimes, family shows, Shakespeare for School's and Murder Mysteries and have managed to raise over £4000 for charity along the way.

'It's been an incredible journey' says Jen 'I couldn't have imagined when I first sat in my shed everything that we have achieved in the last five years! Everyone in Coleshill, at the Council and in the town has been so supportive, we simply cannot wait to entertain you all!'

And with plans for a pantomime performance at the hall in 2026, AJP are hoping to become a firm theatrical favourite with local residents.

Tickets for Lady Windermere's Fan on Sunday 1st June can be bought online at www.auntyjenproductions.co.uk

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VE Day at the HUB

In the Warm Room at Town Hall on Thursday 8th May Tony and Meg, along with help from Joan and Pauline arranged a celebration to remember VE 80th Day.

A fantastic occasion, with lovely food and even some Bucks Fizz. They were entertained by Ruby Ann singing many songs from the era, with lots of joining in with the songs and some dancing as well. A great morning had by all. Many thanks to Tony Battle who supported the event via his previous Town Mayor charity fund and also Partridges Café and Op Mobility who kindly provided some of the food.



Coleshill ringers celebrated VE Day

Coleshill ringers joined others around the world on 8 May when bells rang out in celebration of the end of the European war, and in memory of those never to return and their families.

Ringers' national body, The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers, had asked ringers to ring their bells at 6.30pm.

Coleshill ringers returned at 9pm to call the town to the croft to witness one of over 1000 beacons lit around the UK. The illuminated tower and spire provided a spectacular backdrop.

Ringling registers for 1938-48 show that the then ringers rang at 3.15pm on VE Day, 8.30pm the following day, rang a peal the next at 3pm, and rang for a victory service at 4pm on the 13th.

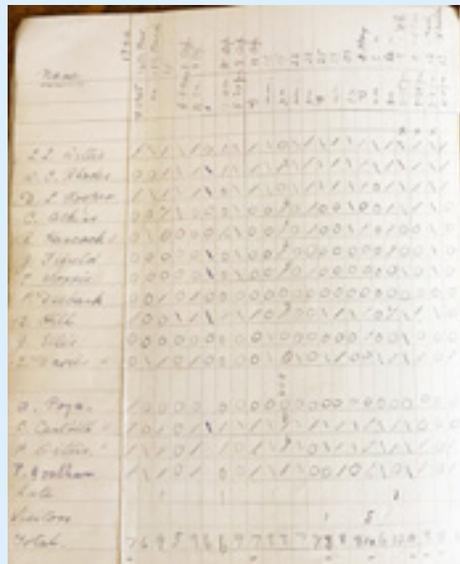
VJ Day was celebrated three times on 15 August - at 9.30am, 11am, and 7.30pm.

The Council is the representative body for all who ring bells in the English tradition with rope and wheel. Founded in 1891, it represents 65 affiliated societies, which cover all parts of the British Isles and centres of ringing in Australia, New Zealand, Canada, the USA, South Africa and Italy.

They comprise the members of the local companies of ringers in their areas.

You could be part of that tradition. The object of the Council is to advance the practice, heritage and appreciation of bell ringing as an enjoyable mental and physical exercise and unique performing art for the public benefit of both church and community.

Coleshill ringers practise from 7.30pm each Tuesday. For a try out, call in: there's no need to book.



WATER ORTON LADIES

How time flies - here we are almost half way through 2025, and summer and good weather are hopefully with us for a good while!

Our Club's Programme for the year is marching on too, we've already had some wonderful speakers; local man Martin Cross with a superb wildlife film, a team from the Solihull and Warwickshire Blood Bikes, complete with huge bike and a lovely lady from Zoe's Place Baby Hospice in Coventry! Next a visit from a JP and as one of our members is a retired JP, who is very much looking forward to see how things have changed, we anticipate this will be an interesting afternoon. Our end of March Fashion Show was a great success, our models, all Club ladies were so professional; they just seemed born for the job and really enjoyed their hour of fame, strutting their stuff on the catwalk and the Show raised much needed funds for the Club!

Now, we're looking forward to, on June 26th, our trip to Port Sunlight, the beautiful Arts & Crafts Village, built by Lord Lever-Hulme, the soap magnate for his factory workers. We do have a few spare seats, if you'd like to join us - the cost is just £30. Departing Water Orton at 9am, we arrive at Port Sunlight about 11am, tour the village by coach and then we'll have the rest of the day free to visit the Museum, Art Gallery or beautiful gardens and perhaps a spot of lunch. We leave Port Sunlight at 4.30pm and should be home by 6.30pm. Interested - just call Liz on 07811 147728.

And why not join us on the third Thursday of the month at the Pavilion in Openfield Croft in Water Orton, for a lovely afternoon, with tea and cake, an entertaining speaker and of course great company!

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.





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 – 25th Jun
7pm at Old Court Room Town Hall

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.

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

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

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

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

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



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PUBLIC NOTICE

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

**Paul Atherton of WW (UK) Ltd T/A TC Group,
1300 Aztec West, Park Avenue, Aztec west, Bristol,
BS32 4RX is applying to change an existing licence
as follows:**

**To add an operating centre to keep 20 vehicles and
0 trailers at Davies Turner, Station Road, Coleshill,
Birmingham, B46 1DT.**

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centres who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at 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 address given at the top of this notice.

A guide of making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.



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

June update

Welcome to glorious June in Castle Bromwich, we have had a rather dry spring leaving our gardens a little parched. Saving kitchen wastewater for these can be a big help for your favourite plants and keep our area looking beautiful.

Planning and building

At the end of April four Castle Bromwich house extension plans came before the SMBC Planning committee, three within, Hawthorne road, Farnworth Grove and Woodford avenue were rejected as Members considered that these failed to satisfy Policies within P15 of the Solihull Local Plan promoting quality of place. The main reason for this refusal was poor design detrimental to neighbours and the overall street scene.

The result is good for Castle Bromwich. Although developers can appeal.

The fourth in Tackford Close received conditional approval.

Work Continues on developing the Castle Bromwich local plan to help protect the Character and quality of our area.

How does planning work?

There are local and national laws governing planning, from small extensions right up to major developments and civil infrastructure like roads and airports. Planning officers use those rules to recommend whether a development should be allowed or not. The process is "quasi-judicial" meaning that it is rooted in law rather than opinion. Officers can make a decision based on delegated authority, but sometimes developments will need to go to the planning committee and be decided by councillors. This might be because of the scale or number of objections. Councillors will then decide whether to accept or refuse what officers recommend. If they do not accept, they must give a material reason why that will hold up at any appeal.

How do I make a comment or objection?

You can find any application simply by going online and searching "Solihull Council Planning". This should take you to the public access area. Input the address that you need and you can view drawings, plans and make comments. You will need to create an account to do this however.

Who makes the decision and how does it work?

Most applications are small and are determined by Planning officers using what is known as Delegated Authority. This could be anything from building garden walls to pruning trees or even putting up signs. However, larger applications such as big housing developments are required to go to the Planning Committee for elected councillors to decide. Any application that receives six or more objections must also go to Planning Committee. Every date the committee meets, as well as the agenda

and minutes of previous meetings are on the SMBC website. All meetings are live streamed for all to see and recorded.

There is a development that affects me. What can I do?

The most important thing is to make a comment on the application. If you know others are affected, encourage them to comment too. Comments DO make a difference!

You can register to speak by emailing pcspeaking@solihull.gov.uk. You can do this as a neighbour, resident or on behalf of a group. You will be limited on how long you can speak for. It's important to keep it relevant to planning laws to be effective.

You can also contact your local councillor to ask if they would be willing to speak. Planning Committee members cannot express any opinion that might indicate they have made up their mind in advance, so do check which councillors are on the committee.

Do what you can to ensure an application goes to Planning Committee, as it can then be decided by elected members.

I Don't Like an Application and I Objected. Why was it Allowed Anyway?

Unfortunately, there sometimes no material reasons in planning law to reject something. The most important thing is to prove a development will cause more harm than good. There are many ways to do this and your local councillor can give you advice on this. It's worth observing Planning Committee meetings as they give great detail on how decisions are made.

School parking issues

Parking in front of private drives blocks emergency access and causes considerable offence to property owners. It is frequently one vehicle after another.

Those parking there should consider whether they would be happy to have such parking blocking their own drives and park with care.

Tree replacement

There used to be 2 trees on the verge outside Castle Bromwich Infant School which have both been lost.

3 Trees will be planted there by SMBC Contractors from Nov 25, do you know of any missing trees in your area? let's see if we can get them on the list for this years winter planting season.

Regular Councillor Surgery at Castle Bromwich Library.

The next monthly surgery is scheduled for Monday the 2nd of June and takes place at the Library at 14:00, no appointment is required, please email, or call me if anything urgent comes up in the meantime.

Our councillor emails are martin.mccarthy@solihull.gov.uk alan.feeney@solihull.gov.uk and leslie.kaye@solihull.gov.uk



**Cllr Robert Aitkenhead,
Coleshill North & Water Orton**

Introduction

Following the recent County Council election, I am honoured to have been elected as County Councillor for Coleshill North and Water Orton. This electoral ward also includes Curdworth, Lea Marston, Marston and Wishaw, and you may be assured that all component parts of the electoral ward are of equal importance to me. I aim to represent all residents within those ward communities, and act as a bridge to the county council, communicating residents concerns, and hopefully resolving reported situations. If you didn't vote Reform at the recent election, or if you didn't vote at all, perhaps there may be some consolation in the fact that I do at least live firmly within the electoral ward, off Temple Way in Coleshill, so I know the ward geography (knowledge refreshed from recent leafletting exercise), and believe I have a good grasp of what is happening locally.

The chances are that I've experienced the same road closures, traffic delays, pollution and potholes as you have, and that I share the majority view on developments that have impacted and continue to impact the local landscape.

About Me

I'm 52 years old, married with two children, who are currently going through their respective educational stages, having both firstly attended High Meadow Community School. I live in an ordinary semi-detached house on an ordinary estate, and I've had some ordinary occupations - I'm not a career politician, nor am I a self-aggrandiser or point-scorer. I am genuinely interested in what happens within the community around me, to the extent that I've volunteered for a number of years with a local youth organisation, and a nearby swimming club. I also hosted a Ukrainian refugee, under the Homes For Ukraine scheme. I'm approachable, and always prepared to listen. I take a common sense approach to problem solving, and try to uphold the values instilled from my upbringing.

What has happened since the election?

On 5th and 6th May, I attended induction sessions at Shire Hall, Warwick, along with other North Warwickshire and Bedworth new Reform councillors, with whom I'm working as part of a team. The sessions introduced us to senior Council personnel, and we learned more about their individual portfolio responsibilities, and focused on governance/constitution/procedure etc. Follow-up training was carried out on 12th May.

The annual general Warwickshire County Council meeting took place on 16th May, where the composition of the council was determined, and individual committee responsibilities were agreed.

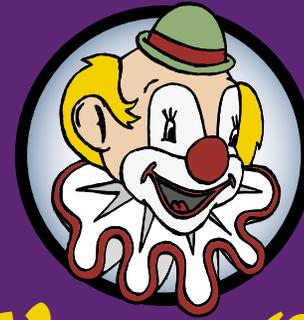
The following day, North Warks Reform councillors attended an internal party summit in London.

On 21st May I attended the Coleshill Town Council meeting, with a Parish Council meeting due to be attended on 29th May.

Going Forward

I am looking into arranging surgeries in each of the above localities, where residents can make their concerns known. It would be preferable to make the timings of these more widely accessible to working people, where possible to do so. Feedback on this would be most welcome, via email robertnealeaitkenhead@warwickshire.gov.uk. I will try to respond in a timely manner.

I aim to quickly acknowledge all new issues raised following my appointment, and will seek to log and progress these with the relevant council personnel without delay. Your patience will be appreciated as I establish myself in the role. Updates may be issued via various channels, as residents will doubtless have their own individual communication preferences!



Water Orton CARNIVAL

Saturday 21st June

Floats at the Village Green from around 10.45 am. The procession then makes its way around the village arriving at Carnival Field at around 12.45 pm.

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Programmes will be available from Water Orton Fish Bar, The Dog Inn, The Village Cantonese, The Link, the Library, Old Salts Rugby Club, Lavish Look, O'Connors, The Gardener's Rest & Orchard Nurseries.

Local Church Reader Leads Charitable Drive at Coleshill Company



Coleshill, May 8, 2025 — For the third consecutive year, Lisa Wilcox, a reader at St. Nicholas & St. Peter ad Vincula Church in Curdworth, has spearheaded a major charitable initiative at her workplace, Sampling Systems Ltd in Coleshill.

Lisa once again opened the company's annual food bank collection, encouraging staff to donate generously to support local families in need. In a continued

show of solidarity, Sampling Systems Ltd matched all employee contributions, doubling the impact of the food donations.

This year, Lisa also expanded the initiative by organising a clothing collection for the Mary Ann Evans Hospice, which supports patients and families across North Warwickshire. Staff rallied behind the cause, and the company again matched the volume of donations made.

"Every little bit makes a difference," Lisa said. "Whether it's a tin of soup or a warm coat, it's about caring for our neighbours."

Lisa's dedication to community service has earned widespread respect among colleagues and the wider community. Her ability to bring people together in support of vital local causes has made her a beacon of compassion and leadership.

With continued support from her workplace, Lisa's efforts are making a tangible difference to lives across the region.

Water Orton 'Christian Aid Week' Secret Army



Since 2019, the team of fund raisers for Christian Aid Week in Water Orton have been boosted by members of youth groups, their leaders and parents.

Young people never collect envelopes alone but, with the support of adults, knock on doors, collect donations and often talk about the needs that Christian Aid supports. These include the impact of natural disasters, the collateral human damage of wars and, this year particularly, the impact of climate change in countries most affected. They have learned about farmers in Guatemala, for example, who

watch their crops fail and say, 'If they die, we die'. Supporting any charity is a choice that the young people understand but, never the less, they have been encouraged by the positive response, have gained confidence and endorsements for community badge work. There is also a team of faithful individual volunteers who knock on doors, collect donation envelopes and enjoy the chance to meet villagers. Young Jonnie Whitehouse accompanied Mum, Michelle, and said that he felt great – he looks it, as do all our wonderful young people. Thank you Water Orton and the dedicated adults who make this possible.



Shustoke C.E. Primary School



Places are available for children starting Reception Class in September 2025.

If you are interested in placing a child in another year group, please get in touch.



We warmly welcome visits to our wonderful school, where every child is able to flourish and thrive.

Our Open Day will be held on

Wednesday 15th October, 2025

9:00 – 10:30am, 11:00 – 12:00, 2:00 – 3:00pm

Please telephone the school office (01675) 481319 or email admin3207@welearn365.com if you would like to

Discuss availability of places or book a visit.

We look forward to meeting you.



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- Tenancy disputes
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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!

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Castle Bromwich Parish Council

Council Office, Arden Hall, Water Orton Road,
Castle Bromwich, Solihull, B36 9PB
0121 747 6503

counciloffice@castlebromwichpc.gov.uk
www.castlebromwichpc.gov.uk



VACANCY: SUMMER RELIEF PARK WARDEN (EVENINGS AND WEEKENDS)

Castle Bromwich Parish Council is looking for a Summer Relief Park Warden. Duties include; being the friendly and approachable face of the Council, securing the facilities, emptying bins at all sites, maintenance jobs in the park and buildings, gardening and litter picking. This is an outdoor role including physical work.

Fixed-term variable-hour contract but we expect you will be required for between 15 – 40 hours per week during the summer period. Shifts will be according to rota including mainly evenings (from 4pm), weekends and bank holidays.

Mainly based at Arden Hall Playing Fields but also at other greenspace areas within the Parish.

Pay: SCP 2 £12.26 per hour.

Please contact Rachel for more information or an application pack on admin@castlebromwichpc.gov.uk or 0121 747 6503.

Closing Date for applications: noon Monday 2nd June 2025

Protect your Home

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

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

Imagine this...

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

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

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

Don't leave your home open to any risks.

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



For Couples

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

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

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

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

Act now!

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

Do you have Savings?

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

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

Act today and protect those you love

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

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

For more information please contact....

Paul Palmer

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paul.palmer@accordwills.co.uk

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Coleshill Schools to Receive Special Book Donation for VE Day

In commemoration of the 80th anniversary of VE Day, the Coleshill Royal British Legion, in partnership with local independent Usborne Partner, The Little Book Fairy, is donating copies of two powerful new Usborne books — *Shrapnel Boys* and *Under a Fire Red Sky*—to every primary and secondary school in Coleshill.

The initiative aims to help young people connect with the past and deepen their understanding of the sacrifices made during wartime. By sharing these moving stories, the Royal British Legion hopes to inspire historical learning and remembrance in the next generation.

Lest We Forget.



Coleshill Forget me not café

Coleshill Forget me not café were grateful to recently receive a very generous donation of £735 from the family of Noreen Ramsey, collected in lieu of flowers at her funeral last year and from the Gate Inn, Whitacre Heath who donated proceeds from a quiz in Noreen's memory. This generous donation will go towards

providing outings for guests of the Forget me not café.

Noreen – known affectionately to many people in Coleshill across several generations as Auntie Noreen, was a well loved character in Coleshill. She taught dancing to the Carnivalettes and played a big part for many years at St. Edwards school.

Noreen was a welcome guest in her later years at the Coleshill Forget me not café and enjoyed

many afternoons there.

The Forget me not Café is run by local volunteers and is held twice a month on the first and third Thursdays from Noon til 3.00 p.m at Coleshill Town Hall.

The café is aimed at people living with dementia, and their carers to come and enjoy a few hours in a very social, friendly and inclusive atmosphere. We also welcome local seniors who enjoy the company and fun.

Our guests enjoy games, activities, crafts and chair yoga or just a chat with newly made friends. We have a game of bingo and for the last hour we always have entertainment and sing and dance – greatly enjoyed by all.

Our regulars also enjoy an annual coach outing – last year we went to the National Arboretum and Christmas Lunch at a local hotel. Cost is £4 per person and includes drinks and a light lunch.



The Warm Room Poem

By Steven Graham

Coleshill Warm Room is the place to be.
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A wander through the door is all it takes.
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Treat Dad to our delicious Ploughman's Afternoon Tea, this Fathers Day. Available 14th and 15th June. Booking and deposit required

Come and enjoy our freshly cooked breakfast, Vegan and vegetarian options, hot and cold sandwiches, toasties, jackets, cream teas and of course homemade cakes - takeaway options available

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**Rachel Taylor MP,
North Warwickshire and Bedworth**
**VE Day across North
Warwickshire and Bedworth**

This month, I attended events to mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day across North Warwickshire and Bedworth. These were some of the most poignant and meaningful community events I have experienced since being elected last year as your MP.

From Bedworth's moving wreath-laying ceremony to the heartfelt community gatherings I attended in Fillongley, Coleshill and Water Orton, the spirit of remembrance from people of all ages who attended stands testament to the enduring power of memory and gratitude in our community.

VE Day stands as a vital reminder of the sacrifices made by those who fought for our freedom, many of whom paid the ultimate price. This year's 80th anniversary was especially significant, as there are sadly fewer and fewer veterans still with us from the war era. Their courage must never be forgotten, and we all have a responsibility to keep these stories alive — to remind ourselves not only of the immense sacrifices made, but the values that led people to make them. As we marked VE Day this year, I could not help but reflect on the echoes of history we are seeing in Ukraine's fight for freedom against Russian tyranny. I know I share the national pride felt by so many that the UK has stood firm in support of our Ukrainian allies. I have been proud of the generosity shown by the British public in hosting Ukrainian refugees, opening their homes and their hearts to those fleeing war.

Later this year I am looking forward to playing my own small part in supporting Ukraine in their hour of need, when I will be driving an ambulance full of humanitarian supplies to the Ukrainian border as part of a fundraising effort organised by local employer LKQ Euro Car Parts. As I do so, I will be thinking

of those World War II veterans from our community, and the immense mix of duty, fear, and honour they felt when fighting for our country, as those on the Ukrainian front lines must be feeling today.

As a constituency MP, I am privileged to see the very best of our community on an almost daily basis at community events like the ones I have attended this month — where community leaders work tirelessly to bring people together over jacket potatoes at Water Orton's legendary Spud Club, or fantastic fireworks in Fillongley, so we can remind each other of the values we all share.

In divided times, the voices of those who hurl abuse over social media can sometimes appear louder than the kind words we share at community events, at the school gates, or when we pass our neighbours in the street. As we approach a century since peace and freedom was secured in Europe, it is vital that we continue to reflect on the ties that bind us, so we can ensure that the spirit of VE Day lives on in our community.

And one more thing... I am really pleased that I haven't been receiving further complaints of sporadic opening hours and poor service at the One Stop Post Office counter on Coleshill High Street, after the public meeting I called where One Stop and the Post Office committed to improvements. I am also pleased that they have now installed a Post Box in the shop. I continue to monitor their performance, so please get in touch if you experience problems.

I am holding a coffee morning at the Coleshill Community Centre on 28 June between 10am and midday. Please do come along, and I look forward to seeing some of you there.

And finally, whether it's a policy question or a casework issue, or if you want to see me at one of my regular surgeries, I'm keen to hear from you. You can contact me at rachel.taylor.mp@parliament.uk.

Shustoke C of E Primary Celebrate 80th Anniversary of VE Day

The children and staff at Shustoke C of E Primary School marked the 80th Anniversary of VE day by studying historical sources from the time including video clips of famous speeches, photographs and artefacts. They talked about the mixed emotions that people must have felt 80 years ago.

The staff and children dressed in Red, White and Blue. In addition to the historical significance, throughout the day the children were engaged in learning 1940s dances, songs, and art work. Everyone observed the two minutes' silence at noon to think of those that gave their lives, and the generation of people

who were so brave during what was such a difficult and frightening time. During the afternoon the children had a street-party and played games from the era.

Some of the Shustoke families sent in memories of their own such as a war-time wedding photo, photographs of soldiers who served during World War II and even a box of bullets from a Spitfire aircraft.

It was a wonderful day of remembrance and celebration. The children and staff remembered that because of this great generation, we have the freedoms we enjoy today.



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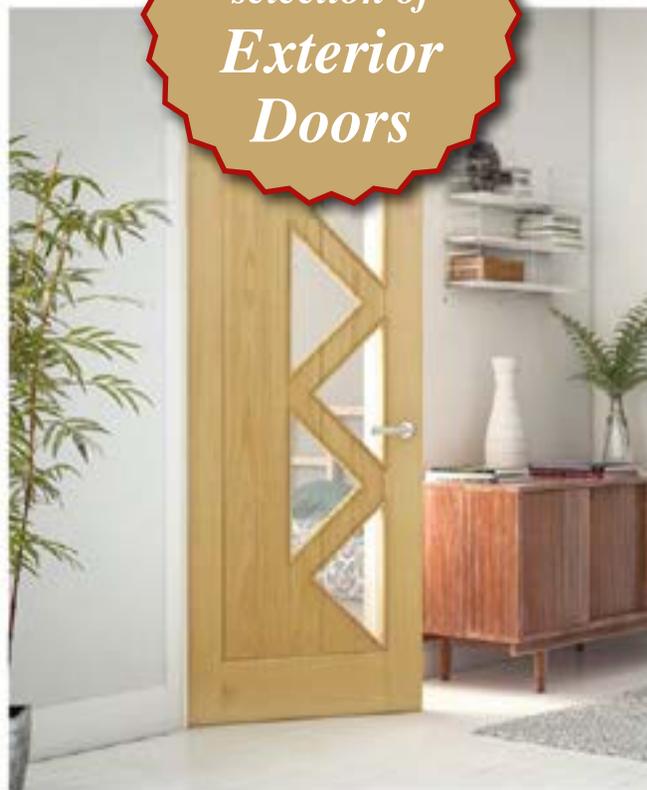


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290 miles! Help Richard from Water Orton raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support



Macmillan Cancer Support help those living with cancer and their families. In memory of his Dad John Warren, Richard has walked the Macmillan Way which is a 290 mile route starting in Boston Lincolnshire and finishing at Abbotsbury on the Dorset Coast.

He now needs your help in raising vital funds for the charity. Any donations would be hugely appreciated and go a long way in helping those living with cancer.

If you would like to donate, please scan the QR code above to go to the fundraising page.



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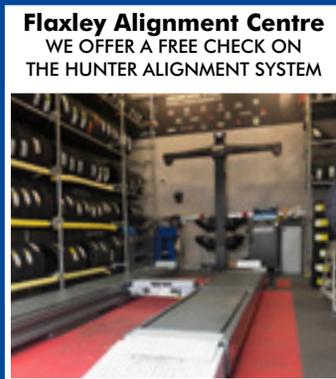
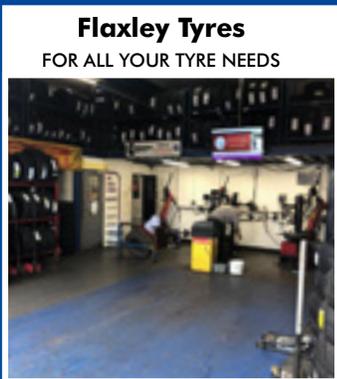


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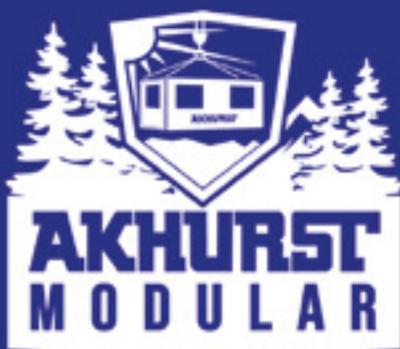
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Public Spaces Protection Order dedicated to tackling anti-social behaviour approved by North Warwickshire Borough Council

The Police in Atherstone have been given new powers to tackle drink and drug-fuelled anti-social behaviour, after an increase in incidents in the town. The work is supported by the North Warwickshire Community Safety Partnership in helping to make North Warwickshire a safer place to live.

Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO's), introduced in 2014, sit amongst a broad range of powers and tools to help tackle anti-social behaviour locally.

PSPO's are aimed at ensuring public spaces can be enjoyed free from anti-social behaviour. They are not about stopping the responsible use of the night-time economy; however, they do provide councils with another instrument to help deal with persistent issues that are damaging their communities.

North Warwickshire Borough Council approved a three-year Public Space Protection Order in Atherstone that gives both police and authorised council officers extra powers to quickly deal with people

behaving anti-socially.

The PSPO makes it a criminal offence to refuse to surrender alcohol or intoxicating substances such as nitrous oxide, or to refuse an instruction to leave the designated area for a set period. Offenders could face arrest or a fine of up to £1000.

The move has been welcomed by businesses in the town centre after complaints about adults drinking in various locations and causing ASB.

Signage went up over the weekend of the 26-27 April 2025, and the public response so far has been positive.

Councillor Ray Jarvis, Chair of the North Warwickshire Community Safety Partnership, said, "It's come as a request from the police. It's about reassuring the public and confirming ASB will not be tolerated in the town"

PCSO Gavin Scott said, "It is pleasing to see that this new order will enable our policing teams to direct people to leave if they are causing anti-social behaviour which is having a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the community."

North Warwickshire Borough Council

ALCOHOL & SUBSTANCE FREE ZONE



You could be fined up to £1000

By order of the Public Spaces Protection Order **Alcohol Consumption and Substance Misuse**

Made by North Warwickshire Borough Council under section 59 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014

Failure to comply may result in a Fixed Penalty Notice of £100
Or on conviction to pay a fine of up to a £1000

The Public Spaces Protection Order can be found on the North Warwickshire Borough Council Website, scan the QR Code to read more.



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Pet Page

The Cheesy Tablet Trick

Our Izzy, a seven-year-old ex-racing greyhound, hasn't been feeling too well lately. It's always hard when one of our dogs is under the weather — if you're going through it at the moment, my heart goes out to you.

Poorly dogs often need medication, and that can be a challenge in itself, especially if you're living with a tablet detective. This morning, as I was preparing Izzy's meds, I went back to a little trick we've used many times over the years — the Cheese Ball Trick.

Now don't get me wrong, there's always one who'll figure it out no matter what, but this has worked with many of our greyhounds over the years, and for lots of the families I work with too.

Here's how it goes:

Choose something soft and smelly — cheddar is my go-to.

If you're using cheddar, slice a bit off the block and pop it in the microwave for about 10 seconds. This softens the texture, changes how it smells (which really helps — dogs' noses are incredible), and makes it easier to shape into little treat-sized balls.

Then — it's a numbers game!

If your dog needs one tablet, prep three little balls of food.

If they need two tablets, prep five balls.

Hide the tablet in ball number two (or in balls two and four if there are two tablets).

Turn it into a quick little game — feed the balls one after the other with no time for suspicion.

Freddie, our three-year-old rescue whippet, is our first dog who would probably eat tablets straight from the packet — if you've got one like that, brilliant, much easier! But Izzy is much more of a detective. That said, with this method, she took her meds like a star this morning.

It's a small trick, but a handy one — and in moments like these, anything that helps keep things stress-free is worth sharing.

Clare

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Out on walks, Cola is generally well mannered on the lead. He may pull when he sees other dogs up close, but from a distance, he remains. Cola is currently working on desensitization to help him feel more comfortable around them.

Cola's ideal home would be one where he isn't left alone for long periods, as he has shown signs of separation anxiety in the past. He will need patient owners who can help build his confidence when home alone. He has also previously lived with a young child and was a little envious of their attention, so we feel he would do best suited to a home with children aged 8 and over.

When it comes to treats, Cola can be a little picky, he much prefers meaty treats! He also loves a good squeaky toy, which often leads to a case of the zoomies, showing off his playful and fun loving nature.

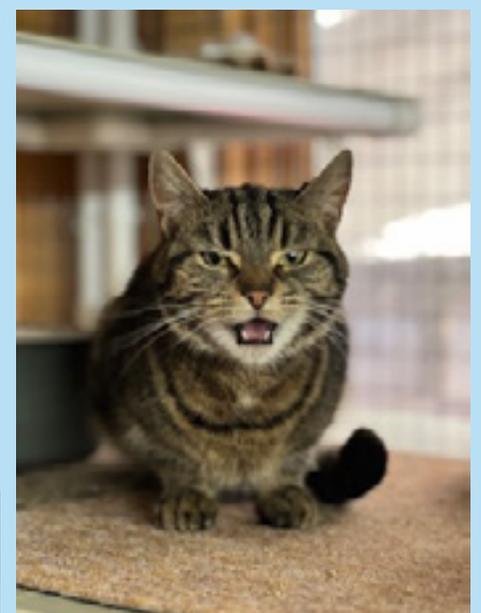
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Pretty Penny says 'hello'..

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.

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struggling alone with their weight, we are here for them and can help As someone who has lost weight herself, I know the challenges people can face, which is why, along with the group I will be their to support everyone of my members all the way to their chosen target weight"

If you would like to know more about becoming a consultant and starting your own business with a brand new or an already established group, in your area! Please contact me on 07482343018 x

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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 Jacquie 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)



Billy Graham encouraged people to view the Bible not as a burden or something to be avoided, but as a "delightful food that God has given us to strengthen our souls."

"I do believe something very magical can happen when you read a good book."

J.K. Rowling

Books can enhance our mood, change us, entertain us, offer temporary escape, distract us, refresh us, and give us glimpses of other lives and other worlds. Reading increases problem-solving skills and keeps our brains "ticking" over.

God Bless My Senior Moments – Your later years can be golden!

Bestselling author Karen O'Connor offers brief, daily prayers to highlight the joys of living, while gently poking fun at the humorous moments we all experience. Insights into prayers of gratitude, grace, and good humour will inspire you to take life in your stride and look for the positives. Just as music can invoke a memory, reading can also take you back to a place long since forgotten.

The Horrible Henry series is a surprisingly good read. In schools today, great efforts are being made to promote "A Love of Reading." Schools encourage children to borrow books, read at home, and let their imagination do the rest.

As an author, David Walliams famously wrote in Gangsta Granny:

"All you can do in this life is follow your dreams. Otherwise you're just wasting your time."

And how true this is!

Sharing is important in everyday life, and during our Twenty21 Group, we always have a selection of books available. These are mainly books that have already been read and returned, ready for others to take home, enjoy, relax with, and immerse themselves in another world – and then bring back to share.

For those interested in learning more about the Bible and Jesus' life, we have several Bibles in Church that members of the congregation – and those attending our groups – are welcome to borrow.

In Memory of Ian Wright

In April, we sadly lost one of our long-term members of the congregation, Ian Wright.

After retirement, Ian helped his wife Ann to run the Mums and Mites group and also supported our annual Beetle Drive – keeping us all in order. Ian liked ginger biscuits and proper coffee – no decaf for Ian!

A long-time supporter of Aston Villa and very much part of the fabric of Castle Bromwich and the Church, Ian was a Reader at St Clements for many years. He was actively involved in the Bible Study Group, often taking the lead.

As a valued member of the Church Choir, Ian was also part of the Heart of England Singers and a leader in the Boys' Brigade, participating in many outings and ventures the boys were able to enjoy. For many years, Ian also served as a Trustee of the Dame Mary Bridgeman Trust – always bringing wisdom and

understanding to any situation.

Whatever happens in life, you can't take memories away – they last forever. RIP Ian – we will miss you.

VE Day and VJ Day



VE Day (Victory in Europe) marks the day the Allies formally accepted Nazi Germany's unconditional surrender on Tuesday, 8 May 1945. This signified the end of all German military operations.

VJ Day (Victory over Japan) marked the official end of World War II and will be celebrated on Friday, 15th August. St Clements will once again honour and remember this significant event.

The "Greatest Generation", also known as the World War II Generation, are recognised for their bravery and sacrifice – whether at home or on the battlefield – and for their contribution to rebuilding a battered country.

The foyer of St Clements Church is the ideal location for a display to celebrate these two historic events: VE Day and VJ Day.

Looking Ahead

As mentioned in our May article, St Clements will not be holding a Summer Fayre this year.

But we are planning the following events:

- **Garden Party** – Saturday, 7th June at 2:00 PM (tickets available shortly)
- **Harvest Quiz** – Saturday, 27th September (time to be announced)
- **Harvest Festival Service** – Sunday, 28th September at 11:00 AM

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

Email: office@stclementschurchcb.co.uk



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

The Coleshill and District Ladies Probus Club

The Guest Speaker at the April meeting of The Coleshill Ladies Probus Club was Molly whose talk was entitled 'Weddings'. The ladies were given a very amusing and most entertaining talk about Molly's experience as a Silver Service waitress at weddings between the 1950's and the 1990's, during which time Molly attended, on average, around 30 weddings per year.

Wedding Receptions varied enormously depending upon the religion and the venues which ranged from hotels, a castle and a woodland location. The meals served ranged from multiple courses of hot and cold meals to simple 'Wedding Breakfast' type receptions.

The Probus Club said a sad farewell to one of its members, Sue Lappin, who is leaving the area to reside in the beautiful county of Yorkshire. Sue, a past Vice President and President of the club, was wished every happiness in her new home.

If you would like to join us, we meet on the last Tuesday of every month, you would be very welcome. Our next meeting is on Tuesday, 27 May at The Coleshill Hotel.

If you would like to know more about Coleshill Ladies Probus, please contact Celia on 0121 779 3707 or Verenda on 01675 463806.



SUMMER NAILS



There are many conditions that can affect your nails, conditions that people don't realise they have or that a Podiatrist can help. With the summer coming and this month being international nail day here are some of the ways our Podiatrists can help you achieve your summer nails.

Ingrowing toenails are the most common nail condition we see, they are normally caused by the uneven nail growth, trauma or sometimes the width of your nail. A Podiatrist can help and can cure the problem with a nail procedure using local anaesthetics to permanently remove the side of the nail stopping it from growing back.

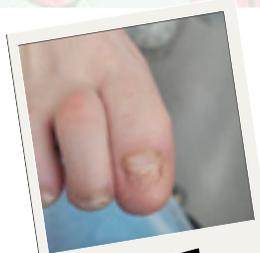


INGROWING TOENAIL

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BEFORE



AFTER

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Labour government delivering for UK business and workers across the West Midlands through UK-EU Summit

- **The Labour Government was elected with a clear mandate to strengthen our relationship with the EU as one of our closest trading partners and geographic allies.**
- **On the 19th May the Prime Minister will welcome Presidents Von Der Leyen and Costa to London for the first ever Summit between the UK and the EU, to agree a new 'strategic partnership' improving our collective action on safety, security and the economy.**
- **The Prime Minister is determined to reduce the regulatory burden faced by local businesses when they import and export goods to and from the EU.**

Rachel Taylor MP, Labour MP for North Warwickshire and Bedworth and Labour's Mission Champion for the West Midlands has today welcomed the summit 'for a safer, more secure, and more prosperous UK'.

In this summit, the Government is seeking to reduce trade barriers with the EU - the UK's biggest trading partner - something businesses have been crying out for. This will help businesses, grow the economy and boost living standards.

A recent study from the Centre for Economic Performance at the LSE estimated that by the end of 2022, EU exit and associated red tape caused around 16,000 firms (or 14% of EU exporters) to stop exporting to the EU. The UK's agri-food trade with the EU fell between 2018 to 2024, by 21% for exports and 7% for imports.

Most recently, 12 British retailers including M&S, Sainsburys and Morrisons signed a letter calling on the EU and UK to agree a deal to help smooth exports of plant and animal products across the channel.

Removing barriers to trade could boost the economy in the West Midlands, with businesses like Pepsico in Coventry, 2 Sisters Group in Birmingham and West Bromwich, and Muller Holding Group in Shropshire benefitting from easier importing and exporting to the continent.

MP Rachel Taylor says "I know from speaking to exporters across the West Midlands that the status quo is clearly not working - lorries are delayed at borders and businesses are facing an avalanche of red tape to import or export with our nearest neighbours.

"While larger businesses struggle on, the sad truth is that many smaller businesses have simply stopped trying. Things have got to change.

"The UK-EU strategic partnership will deliver for local businesses across the West Midlands, cutting the red tape, boosting growth, and putting money back in people's pockets.

"Labour is negotiating hard in the UK's national interest, and that will deliver for the West Midlands as part of our Plan for Change."

The Summit follows earlier negotiations between Minister for EU Relations, Nick Thomas-Symonds, his opposite number European Commissioner Maroš Šefčovič and between UK and EU officials.

The summit will also focus on two other key areas - safety and security. Negotiations are ongoing and the Government will only agree on a package that meets the needs of working people and business, without compromising on our red lines. This means no return to the customs union, no return to freedom of movement, and no re-joining the single market.



Mayor Debbie Bates (Left) and Deputy Mayor Davina Ridley (Right)

North Warwickshire welcomes a new Mayor

Councillor Debbie Bates was appointed Mayor at North Warwickshire Borough Council’s Annual Meeting on Wednesday 14th May.

The ceremonial robes and chains were handed over by outgoing Mayor Councillor Colin Hayfield, after what he described as “a fantastic year and a great honour.”

Mayor Debbie Bates will be supported by the newly appointed Deputy Mayor, Councillor Davina Ridley.

On appointment, Councillor Bates firstly thanked the previous Mayor Councillor Colin Hayfield for his amazing work during his time as Mayor.

She then went on to say “If you had told me a few years ago that I would have the privilege of serving local members of our community as a Borough Councillor and Parish Councillor for Kingsbury I would have thought you’d gone mad, yet here I am not only doing my best to represent the amazing community which I live in but also now having the privilege to represent North Warwickshire Borough Council as Mayor.”

Councillor Bates moved to Kingsbury in North Warwickshire 20 years ago from Birmingham and has lived here happily bringing up three children, all of whom have completed their school education at Kingsbury schools before moving on to college and university.

In 2023 she was elected as a Borough Councillor the Kingsbury ward. She is also a Kingsbury Parish Councillor, additionally taking on the role as Deputy Chair for Kingsbury Parish Council.

The Mayor has chosen to support and raise money for local community hubs and spaces during her mayoral year.

Striking a Caring Chord: Brad Kella Urges More People to Foster in New Film for Foster Care Fortnight



“The impact that fostering’s had on my life – I can’t even put it into words. If you’re out there thinking about fostering a child, don’t think about it – just do it. Because you’re not just making an impact for that child, you’re making a massive impact for the society around you.”

A powerful new video featuring The Piano 2024 winner Brad Kella has been released as part of a national campaign by the Fairer Fostering Partnership – a group of charitable and not-for-profit fostering organisations – to highlight the urgent need for more foster carers across the UK.

New Routes Fostering, a proud member of the Partnership, is sharing the film locally to encourage more people in the West Midlands to consider fostering and make a difference to the lives of children and young people.

Brad, a self-taught pianist from Liverpool, was placed in foster care at the age of seven. Now, through this film, he’s telling his story to help others understand just how life-changing foster care can be.

“If I didn’t have my foster parents in my life, it would have been so easy for me to go down the wrong path,” Brad said. “I would not be where I am today.”

The campaign launches during Foster Care Fortnight (12–25 May 2025), as the UK foster care system faces unprecedented pressure. There are now 104,358 children in care away from home, with 68,000 living with around 52,000 foster families – two-thirds of all children in care. But the number of carers is not keeping pace with growing need.

A child comes into care every 20 minutes – and without enough foster carers children are often placed far from school, friends and community.

Joanne Walthew, New Routes Manager, says “We urgently need more foster carers in the West Midlands area to ensure that children and young people stay connected to those people and places that are important and familiar to them.”

The video is a powerful reminder of the difference fostering can make – not just to one child, but to families, communities, and wider society.

Watch Brad’s inspiring story and find out how you can become a foster carer here:



Start your fostering journey today

Join our information event online:



Wednesday 11th June 2025



12pm

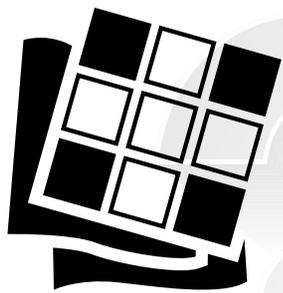
Register your interest:



newroutesfostering@fatherhudsons.org.uk



01675 434025



Puzzle Page

ACROSS

- 1 Herbage suitable for grazing animals
- 6 A wager (2 wds.)
- 10 Unfreeze
- 14 Scoundrel
- 15 Brand of coffee alternative
- 16 Small particle
- 17 Tight at the top, flaring at the bottom (2 wds.)
- 18 "Mister" (German)
- 19 Cut of beef
- 20 Not women's
- 21 Peanut butter brand
- 22 Spot on the ground where rain gathers
- 24 Tinted
- 26 Scorn
- 27 Recruit
- 30 Surrender
- 31 Cowboy John
- 32 Moses' brother
- 33 Compass point
- 36 Goofed
- 37 Chest bone
- 38 Young fish
- 40 Grain
- 41 Towel cloth
- 43 Book by Homer
- 44 Asian nation
- 45 Short

- 46 Money magazine
- 49 Quick
- 50 Female parent
- 51 Head motion
- 52 Talk about, with "over"
- 56 Pretentious
- 57 City in Yemen
- 59 Mexican holiday "____ de Mayo"
- 60 Prow
- 61 Want
- 62 Frame
- 63 Dry
- 64 Points
- 65 Snips

DOWN

- 1 Metric weight unit
- 2 Position
- 3 Against
- 4 Sun's light
- 5 Encounter
- 6 Plant louse
- 7 Steak
- 8 Make a mistake
- 9 Sub's weapon
- 10 Typographic character
- 11 Head coverings
- 12 Tipped
- 13 Decrease
- 21 Air commuter's

- transportation
- 23 Dinner tools
- 25 Was (3 wds.)
- 26 Horse race
- 27 Water pitcher
- 28 Not one
- 29 Harp
- 30 Hiker's trail marker
- 32 Tapestry
- 33 Little Mermaid's love
- 34 Douse
- 35 Swirl
- 39 Clothe maker
- 42 Birthstone that means love and success
- 45 Not good
- 46 Skill
- 47 Swimming mammal
- 48 Sounds alike
- 49 Types of letters
- 50 Volume
- 51 Place where birds lay their eggs
- 53 Negative (prefix)
- 54 Water film
- 55 Jumps
- 58 Twosome
- 59 Time zone

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15				16			
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50						51			52	53	54	55
56					57	58			59			
60					61				62			
63					64				65			

By Jimmy and Evelyn Johnson - www.qets.com

Word Search

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

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.

- | | | |
|-----------|----------|-------------|
| Birds | Hose | Seeds |
| Butterfly | Maypole | Soil |
| Emerald | Memorial | Spring |
| Flowers | Mother | Sprout |
| Garden | Nest | Sunshine |
| Grass | Plant | Taurus |
| Honeybee | Rain | Wheelbarrow |

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.



Nourishing the Soul



April and May brought about an emotional few weeks since my last update on my Gardener’s World Live Beautiful Border adventures! There have been a couple huge events for me personally, as well as a massive step forward for the border itself.

Firstly, I paid a very emotional visit to the Marie Curie Hospice in Solihull. As you’ll be aware by now, the gardens at the hospice were the inspiration for my design and where many of the plants will be donated after the show. The hospice is where my mum, Marie, passed away after battling cancer in June 2014, and I found so much solace in the gardens and the serenity of the space there has never left me. It has been important to me to visit the volunteer gardening team there to say thank you for the part they played in helping my family and I find some peace during our time there and in the moments after mum passed away.



I was shown around the gardens by the wonderful Do and introduced to another 3 of the 20 strong volunteer team. The gardens have changed and grown quite a bit in the years that have passed, but the sense of tranquillity and connection to nature is still just as strong. I was reminded of the joyous amount of garden ‘trinkets’ – ornamental frogs, ducks and

signs – dotted throughout the gardens. There is now also a children’s fairy garden, to support young children who are visiting parents and relatives at the hospice, and it is the most magical space. This element is something I have decided to add to my garden, and I am happy to be displaying some wonderful work of a couple of small businesses on my border to mirror these beautiful touches.

Another wonderful meeting was with the wonderful local, family-owned business Planters Garden Centre in Tamworth, who have agreed to sponsor the border and provide the plants! I have been buying from this garden centre for years, so this is very exciting for me, and I can’t wait to work with them on this project. It’s always lovely to work with small family-run businesses, especially local ones where possible, so I’m really honoured that this father/daughter team are going to help bring my vision to life. Beth and Adrian from Planters have helped to settle my pre event nerves, and I can’t wait to show off all of their beautiful plants on the border. It’s hard to believe that the build is only a couple of weeks away now!



One of the flowers that will be on the border from my ‘wish list’ is Salvia (ornamental sage). This is a plant I have in my garden at home, as well as at the allotment, and I love it, so it absolutely had to be on my list of plants for the border! When I delved in to the meaning and symbolism behind salvias, I found that they are symbolic of wisdom, healing and immortality. The blue flowers mean ‘thinking of you’ and red means ‘forever mine’. On a more practical level, salvias are a low maintenance plant which are easy to grow. These beautiful blooms enjoy well-drained beds in a sunny spot and are loved by bees and butterflies. You can also take cuttings to get extra plants, and believe me – you will want extra salvias!

BBC Gardener’s World Live takes place 12th to 15th June at Birmingham NEC – get your tickets here: <https://gardenersworldlive.seetickets.com/>



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- * Watches
- * Pocket Watches
- * Militaria
- * Lego
- * Glassware
- * Vintage
- * Coins
- * Vintage Toys/Antique Toys

Nothing above ??

Bring it in, we’ll take a look... there’s nothing to lose!!

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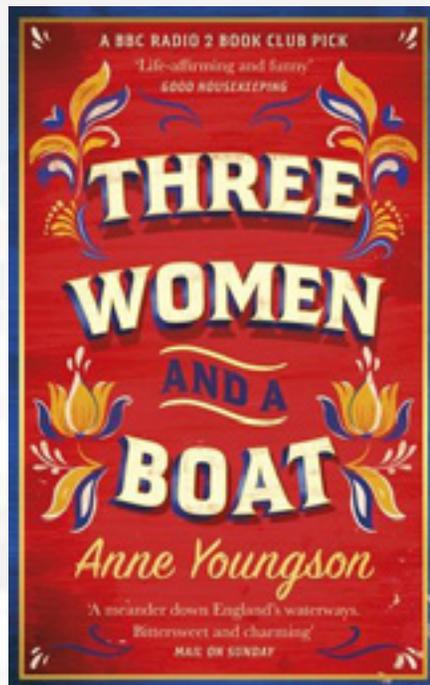
Castle Bromwich Library Book Club

Three women and a boat by Anne Youngson

Meet Eve, who has departed from her thirty-year career to become a Free Spirit; Sally, who has waved goodbye to her indifferent husband and two grown-up children; and Anastasia: defiantly independent narrowboat-dweller, suddenly vulnerable as she awaits a life-saving operation. Inexperienced and ill-equipped, Sally and Eve embark upon a journey through the canals of England, guided by the remote and unsympathetic Anastasia. As they glide gently - and not so gently - through the countryside, the eccentricities and challenges of canalboat life draw them inexorably together, and a tender and unforgettable story unfolds..

A beautifully paced, gentle read that needs to be savoured – don't rush through it. This is a story about second chances, self-discovery, friendship and unexpected alliances. It is a wonderful escape from the real world which will leave you smiling and feeling good.

Review by Castle Bromwich Library member



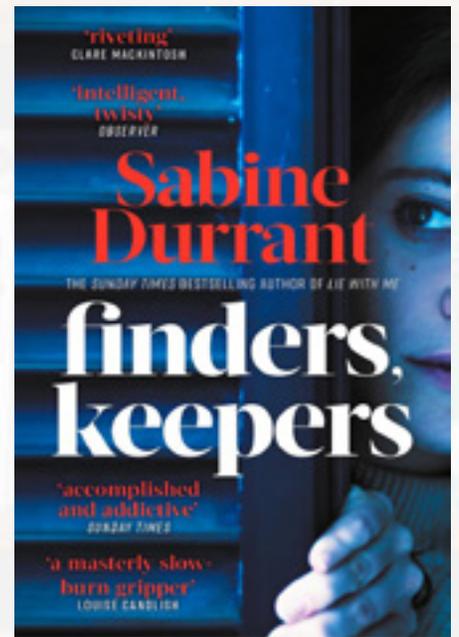
Finders, keepers by Sabine Durrant

Verity Baxter has lived - quietly, carefully - in Trinity Fields all her life. Then Ailsa and Tom Tilson move in next door and everything changes. Can Verity trust what she hears through the walls? And what about the Tilsons: should they pity their eccentric neighbour and her messy house? Or should they fear her? Either way, like the ivy that creeps through their shared garden fence, their lives are entwined now. And the knots can only get tighter.

A dark, creepy and disturbing book that made me feel edgy and uncomfortable but also had me completely fascinated and immersed. At times I was chilled to the bone and gasping in shock! This is definitely

a psychological thriller not to be missed.

Review by Castle Bromwich Library member

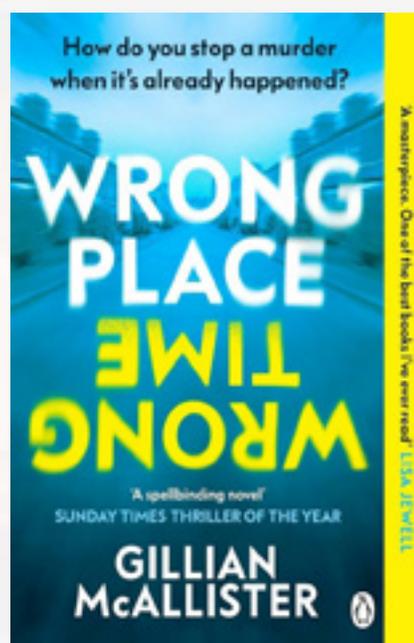


Wrong place, wrong time by Gillian McAllister

It's every parent's nightmare. Your happy, funny, innocent son commits a terrible crime: murdering a complete stranger. You don't know who. You don't know why. You only know your teenage boy is in custody and his future lost. That night you fall asleep in despair. Until you wake - and it is yesterday. Every morning you wake up a day earlier, another day before the murder. Another chance to stop it. Somewhere in the past lie the answers - and you don't have a choice but to find them.

This book is extremely well written, clever and fast paced. The mystery, suspense and intensity grabbed me from the first page and never let up. It is full of unexpected twists and turns that will keep you on the edge of your seat and shock you. A great read!

Review by Castle Bromwich Library member

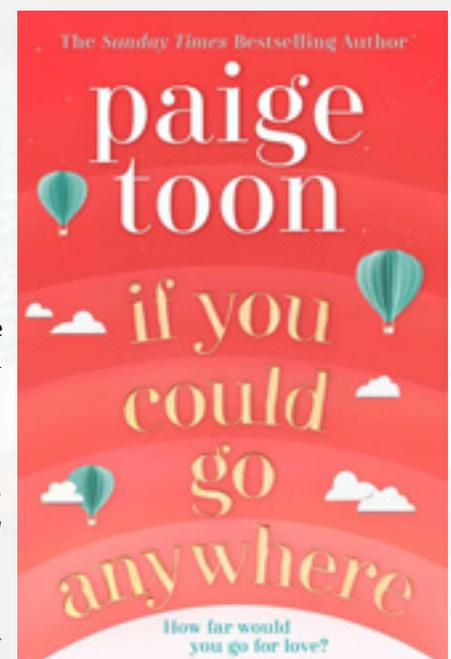


If you could go anywhere by Paige Toon

Angie has always wanted to travel. But at 27, she has still never left her small mining town in the Australian outback. When her grandmother passes away, Angie finally feels free to see the world - until she discovers a letter addressed to the father she never knew and is forced to question everything. As Angie sets off on her journey to find the truth - about her family, her past and who she really is - will enigmatic stranger Alessandro help guide the way?

This book tackles grief, love and how important it is to live free. It is filled with characters you will take into your heart and remember for a long time. Uplifting, inspiring and heart-wrenching. I loved this book - Paige Toon's writing is simply magical!

Review by Castle Bromwich Library member





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Whats On

The Coffee Pot Bereavement Group
Monday 9th June 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
11th & 25th June 10.00 - 11.30am
Community Hall

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

Soup & a Roll Lunch
Wednesday 11th June
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 18th June - 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 5th, 12th & 26th June
9.30 - 10.15am Community Hall
Join Revd Fiona for reflection & prayer

Warm Welcome!
FREE Every Wednesday
(Term Time Only)
3.30-5pm
St Mary & St Margaret's
Community Hall
Castle Bromwich
3.30-5PM
Come and enjoy a warm and friendly free space for families with children
Games, fun, chat and meet friends, table tennis, toast, jenga, arts & crafts, activities and lots more! Come along and meet the Team :)
Children need to be accompanied and supervised by their adult
More info; info@stmaryandstmargaret.co.uk Tel: 0121 7471270

PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY & ST MARGARET
ENTRY ADULTS £1 CHILDREN FREE
Garden Fete
12PM-3PM
SATURDAY 5TH JULY
BBQ
OUTDOOR GAMES
CHURCH TOURS
SECOND HAND BOOK SALE
CAKES & REFRESHMENTS
TOMBOLA
GRAND RAFFLE & MORE!
CHESTER ROAD, CASTLE BROMWICH B36 9DE

Upcoming Services

Sunday 1st June

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

Sunday 8th June

9.30am Parish Communion & Messy Worship for families
6.30pm Civic Service

Wednesday 11th June

9.30am Family Communion

Sunday 15th June

11am Eucharist (Church) and Cafe Worship (Hall)

Sunday 22nd June

9.30am Parish Communion & Messy Worship for families

Wednesday 25th June

9.30am Family Communion

Sunday 29th June

9.30am Parish Communion



Official Church FB Page

facebook.com/
stmaryandstmargarechurch

Church & Community Hall Group

facebook.com/groups/106452275854

Community Hall Page

facebook.com/stmaryandstmargaretcommunityhall



Or visit our website
www.stmaryandstmargaret.co.uk



Castle Bromwich Parish Council News

****Apologies for any confusion with dates as the wrong information was submitted to last month's edition****

Table Top

On Saturday 7th June 10:00am – 12:30pm – our doors will open for the public. Many bargains to be had and a space to enjoy a cuppa in the Spencer lounge. If you require a table, then please contact Arden Hall front office on 0121 747 7150. Payment guarantees a table. All packaging and unsold items to be taken home. (Tables are already booking fast for July 5th)

Coffee Morning with Bingo

Held each week on Thursdays in the Spencer Lounge at Arden Hall, an ever-growing group of friendly people meet to chat and play bingo. 10am-12pm Please come down and join us!

Youth Council

The next meeting of the Youth Council is on Tuesday 3rd June in the Spencer Lounge at Arden Hall 5pm. We are actively seeking young people who live or attend school in (or near) Castle Bromwich to join the Council and help the voice of young people in the community to be heard. The meetings are public and we'd also love anyone who thinks they can help our projects (of any age!) to come along. Our next exciting project is the launch of a Short-Film competition celebrating Castle Bromwich. Please contact counciloffice@castlebromwichpc.gov.uk if you'd like to know more.

Knitted Poppies

The Parish Council was overwhelmed with the support last year for the beautiful poppy display on Arden Hall's roof. We have washed and cared for all the poppies but we would still appreciate more so we can fill some gaps and make this year's display even better. Please contact counciloffice@castlebromwichpc.gov.uk if you can help. 0121 747 6503

Chairman's Charity Grants

Throughout the year, the Parish Council Chairman raises money by holding events like quizzes, selling plants and through the carol concert. This year a total of £1200 was given out to those working in the community. These funds have helped to further the charitable work of the Castle Bromwich Lions, Troopaid and Age UK Solihull. Local schools have also been supported with play equipment for St Mary and St Margaret's School, books for Castle Bromwich Junior School, setting up a gardening project for Castlewood School and funding for Park Hall Academy. Support has been given to setting up a new Girlguide Ranger Unit as well as supporting the Guides and Scouts in the local area with funding and equipment.

Chairman's Charity Quiz – 4th July

Tickets are now on sale £9.50 including a fish & chip supper. Teams of 6, doors open at 6:30pm with the quiz at 7:30. Contact ardenhall@castlebromwichpc.gov.uk 0121 747 7150 for tickets.

Party In the Park (PIP) – Volunteers Needed

We are preparing for this busy annual event which is on Saturday July 19th between 12pm – 5pm.

We really need volunteers to help the day run smoothly!

There are lots of things you can help with such as:

- Welcoming our community on this fabulous fun packed day
- Helping to hang banners and bunting
- Helping line up our stall holders to their pitches
- Cheering the infants with their egg and spoon/sack races

- Handing the winning medals out to children and adults

- Directing residents around the park

- Hours needed between 9:30am - 5pm

We'd really appreciate a few hours help. Please contact counciloffice@castlebromwichpc.gov.uk to express your interest.

Tribute Acts

Bon Jovi/Bryan Adams 7th June,
Elvis 13th Sept

All tickets must be booked through Tribute Night Promotions not Arden Hall.

Call 0121 270 5886. / Email: tickets@tributenightpromotions.co.uk / Visit website <https://tributenightpromotions.co.uk/>

Arden Hall Forecourt Slabs

This year we hope to complete works to the forecourt of Arden Hall by removing the paved slabs – the hexagon paving slabs will be offered free to anyone who can collect so please get in touch if you'd like to be considered. 0121 747 6503 counciloffice@castlebromwichpc.gov.uk

MAKE A CHANGE BECOME A COUNCILLOR

- Are you passionate about your community?
- Do you want to help make a long-lasting change?
- Do you have innovative ideas for the council?
- Do you have concerns about a specific issue and want to do something about it?

If this is you, then we need you at Castle Bromwich Parish Council. We need people from all backgrounds and experiences who reflect their community to put themselves forward for election. Make a change and become a councillor.

What do local councils and councillors do?

Parish councils and councillors make a massive difference to local people's quality of life. They are the first tier of governance and are the first point of contact for anyone concerned with a community issue. They are also passionate about their communities and seek to make a change to help improve their residents' lives.

Local councils run numerous services, depending on the size of the council. Many of them you will see day-to-day, but some are less known. These include setting up community groups, organising facilities for sports, recreation, and social events, making decisions on local planning applications, looking at traffic schemes to address congestion, parking, speeding, etc., establishing youth projects, and managing open spaces.

Councillors are elected to represent the local community, so you must either live or work in the council area. Becoming a councillor is a rewarding experience as you will be able to make a change in your community to help improve residents' lives. A councillor's role can include developing strategies and plans for the area, helping with problems and ideas, representing the community, working with other local community groups, decision making and reviewing decisions and talking to the community about their needs and what the council is doing.

How to become a councillor

A Parish Council can only be as helpful, connected and energetic as the people elected to run them, so we need councillors capable, enthusiastic and engaged to reflect their communities. You can find out more about becoming a councillor on The Electoral Commission and Local Government Association website. There are three ways that you can become a councillor; standing for election, filling a vacant seat after an election (co-opted) or filling a casual vacancy.

For more information, contact Castle Bromwich Parish Council 0121 747 6503 or counciloffice@castlebromwichpc.gov.uk or go onto YouTube to see the #makeachange video

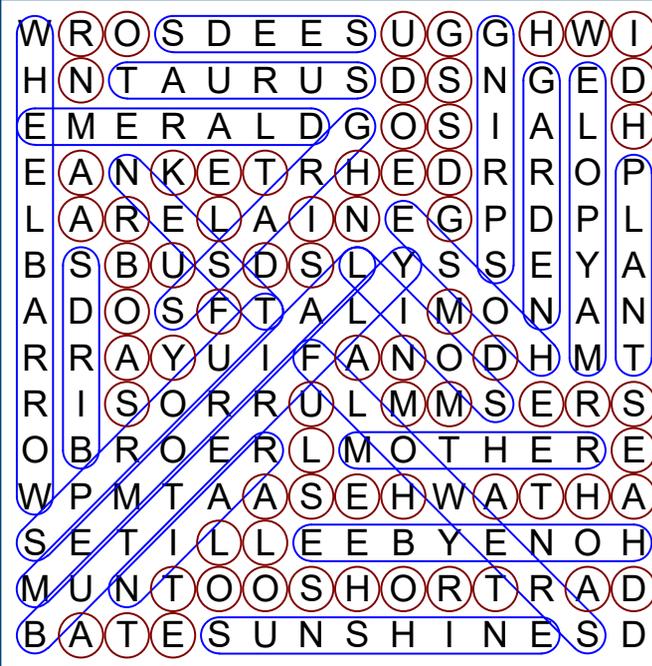


Puzzle Page Solutions



Solution:

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Hidden message:

ROUGH WINDS DO SHAKE THE
DARLING BUDS OF MAY AND
SUMMERS LEASE HATH ALL
TOO SHORT A DATE

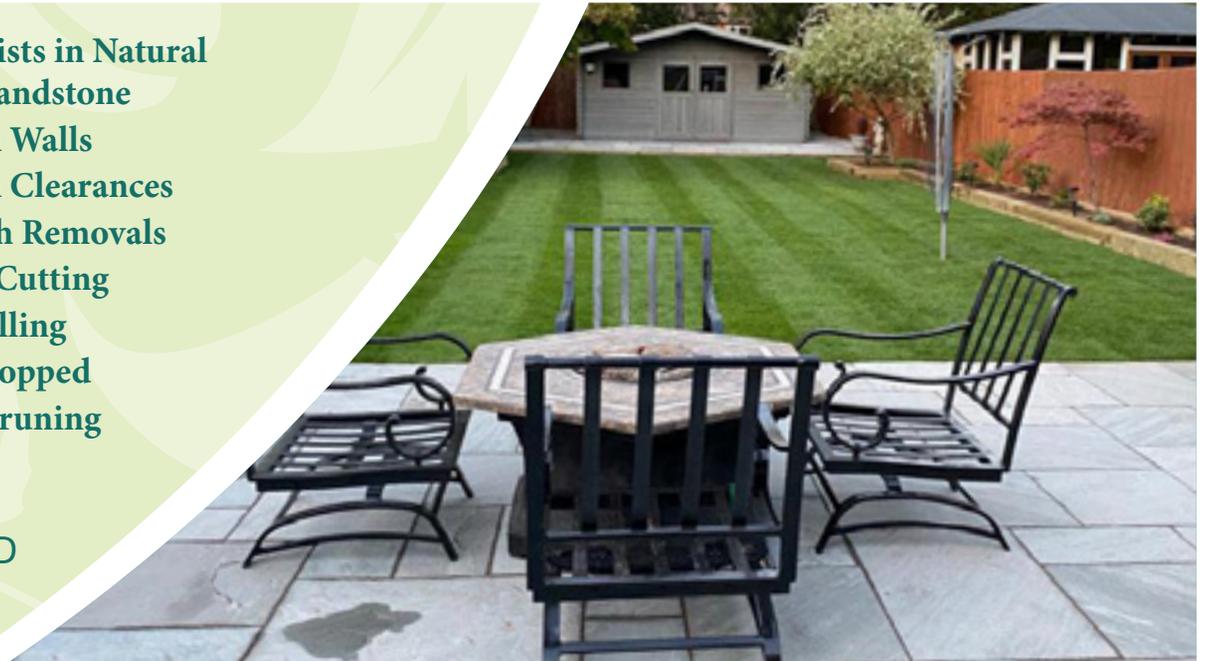
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North Warwickshire pupils participate in the Great British Spring Clean

Pupils from Birchwood Primary School, Dordon, and Outwoods Primary School, Atherstone have participated in the Great British Spring Clean, a campaign run by Keep Britain Tidy, using North Warwickshire Borough Council's free litter picking kits.

The Great British Spring Clean is an initiative which encourages members of

the public to keep their local area and public spaces tidy and free of litter, by participating in litter-picking activities. North Warwickshire Borough Council offer free litter-picking kits all year round to encourage residents and community groups to help keep their local area clean. Councillor Margaret Bell, Chair of the Community and Environment Board said: "We recognise the positive impact that litter-picking can have on children's views

of the environment. Introducing litter-picking and learning about looking after the planet will have a positive influence on the children as they grow older. We are very pleased that Birchwood and Outwoods schools have participated in the Great British Spring Clean, and we would like to say a big well done to the children for their help."

Birchwood Primary and Outwoods Primary conducted their litter picks

separately, but together they collected 13 bags of litter, exploring their school grounds and local areas to see what they could find.

North Warwickshire Borough Council would like to thank the children of Birchwood and Outwoods who showed their commitment to the task and helped keep their school and local area tidy!



Birchwood students conducting their litter pick



Litter collected from Outwoods Primary students

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Local Sports



Water Orton Cricket Club

Hi everyone, By the time you are reading this next edition our league fixtures will have started in what promises to be a good and enjoyable cricket season. You will be very welcome to come and watch the matches in the welcoming atmosphere at our community club. The clubroom has had a complete overhaul with a complete decorating facelift along with new carpets, tables and chairs. Social membership places are available if you would like to visit on a regular basis otherwise just pop in as a guest and see what you think.

Our regular social events are detailed below and we have top local bands, famous Tribute Shows, Quiz Nights and Football Nights with famous ex-professionals. We are booking events on a regular basis and all will unfold as the year moves forward. Watch our programme, as we advertise here in the Coleshill and Castle Bromwich Post.

Saturday 14th June

El Sheeran in Concert (A special Tribute act to Ed Sheeran)

Tickets are available now £10 each

Available from over the bar or from Pete Coles if you ring Pete on 07812 241046 we send will tickets to you.

Or they are available at the tennis club from Paul Messenger 07538 601246

Saturday 19th July

Britney Spears Tribute

One of the country's top tribute acts with the fabulous Holly Bills

Tickets are available now £10 each

Available over the bar or from Pete Coles or Paul Messenger.

Future social nights to be confirmed, A Quiz Night, a live band and a tribute night. Watch this space.

Doyle is all set to go for the 950th

The last five months has been worth it, pounding the Warwickshire hills, footpaths and rivers achieving forty nine documented strength speed stamina challenges. Paddy Doyle has only one more sporting endurance challenge to go, to reach a career 950 physical fitness feats covering twelve different categories.

"the support team members have been backing me 100% whatever the weather conditions they have turned up , making sure I followed all the rules and guidelines including collecting the evidence".

Doyle's preparation is making sure he is always focused and disciplined, resulting in reaching the finish lines well within the cut off times.



Pic credits David Hastings (Rugby Warwickshire)

Water Orton Cricket Club Open Day!

Come along and see our newly refurbished lounge courtesy of a grant we received from HS2 community and environmental fund for a total of £33,270!

Looking for somewhere to host your event? Why not enquire on the day where we can give you all the information you need!

**SUNDAY 8TH JUNE 2025
2PM - 5PM**

**SOME ENTERTAINMENT AND LIGHT REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE
BAR OPEN FROM 1:30PM**

Water Orton cricket club
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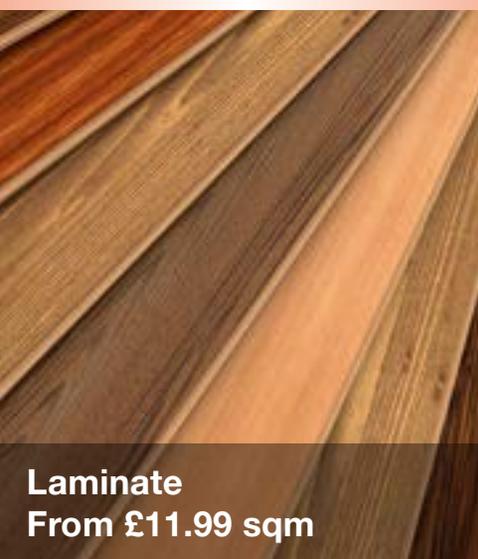
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