

THE Coleshill & Castle Brom POST



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August 2025 Issue 136



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Shustoke Primary School



Shustoke Church of England Primary School SIAMS Inspection

Staff, governors and pupils at Shustoke Church of England Primary School are delighted to share the outcomes of their recent SIAMS Inspection (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools), which has praised the school for living out its Christian vision with authenticity, and offering an inclusive, aspirational and nurturing environment.

The inspector praised the school curriculum as "aspirational and exciting", recognising the school's efforts to enthuse pupils to explore their unique talents and interests. It was noted that the school is committed to

breaking down barriers to learning, resulting in "a truly inclusive provision that has a transformational impact on learners."

Much work has been done in order to shape the clearly articulated and deeply embedded vision. "At Shustoke, all are encouraged to flourish and let their light shine before others."

Pupils and staff live out the values and vision in every aspect of school life, and consequently, the school environment is warm and welcoming. The values of compassion, respect and kindness underpin every aspect of school life. "As a result, the school is a caring and nurturing place where

together, pupils and adults thrive."

The report highlighted the school's distinctive Christian ethos, noting the strong connection between school, the church and the village community. Pupils are supported to grow as "compassionate, respectful, forgiving and confident individuals" who are equipped to face life's challenges and contribute positively to the world around them.

Shustoke Primary School currently has spaces available for children starting Reception Class in September. There are also a limited number of places available in other classes across the school. Please telephone the school office for information: (01675) 481319.



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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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THE Coleshill & Castle Brom POST

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Curdworth
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Chelmsley Wood
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The Whitacres

Also available online on our website and facebook pages.



Take Me Unites the UK with National App Launch & Raises £550 for Charity at Community Day in Solihull

A celebration of innovation and community spirit took centre stage in Solihull this week, as Take Me officially launched its new national ride-booking app with a lively Community Day, raising **£550 for local charities**.



Hosted at **Take Me Solihull** (formerly TC Cars), the event welcomed residents, drivers, and local care home guests for a fun-filled day featuring live entertainment, great food, and community giveaways. The occasion marked a significant step forward for the fast-growing transport operator, now offering customers a seamless way to book a ride from anywhere across the UK through one centralised app. Held at Take Me Solihull (formerly TC Cars), the event wasn't just about music, raffles, and great food it was a showcase of how community and technology can come together. The day also saw the official launch of the Take Me national app, now connecting customers to over 10,000 drivers across 30+ UK towns and cities, making it easier than ever to book a trusted ride from Brighton to Birmingham and beyond. "We've always believed in combining the power of technology with the strength of local relationships," said David Hunter, CEO of Take Me. "Launching our national app in the heart of Birmingham – our central hub – feels like the perfect way to celebrate the communities that have helped us grow."

More Than Just a Party

The Community Day wasn't just about celebrations. The team raised **£550 in donations**, which will go towards supporting **local care homes** and wellbeing initiatives across the region.

"It's days like this that remind us why we do what we do," said Steve Gwilliam, site lead at Take Me Solihull. "*Giving back, getting people together, and having a laugh – that's the heartbeat of Take Me.*" Take Me is more than an algorithm

Guests enjoyed music, freshly prepared food, prize raffles, and a warm atmosphere that reflected the company's commitment to social connection and community values.



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Solihull SEND Support Group - You Matter Awards

Many young people miss out on milestones events like **prom or certificate ceremonies for various reasons, such as mental health challenges,**

learning from home, or being in alternative education or part time schooling.

To make sure no one missed out, Solihull SEND Support Group host

You Matter Awards. This celebration recognises every young person for who they are and how far they've come, and for the unique light they bring to the world.



Health & Wellness



Walk Your Way to Wellness – The Health Benefits of Exploring Coleshill on Foot



In our beautiful village of Coleshill, we're lucky to be surrounded by rolling hills, quiet lanes, and historic charm. But did you know that simply walking these familiar paths could be one of the best things you can do for your health?

Why Walking Works

Walking is a low-impact, easy-to-start form of exercise that suits nearly everyone, no matter your age or fitness level. Just 30 minutes a day can:

- Boost your heart health
- Improve mood and reduce stress
- Help maintain a healthy weight
- Strengthen muscles and bones
- Improve balance and coordination

In fact, studies show that regular walkers lower their risk of chronic conditions like heart disease, type 2 diabetes, and even certain cancers.

Make the Most of Coleshill

Coleshill offers some perfect walking routes — from the High Street's historic buildings to the green open spaces around Coleshill Park and Cole End Nature Reserve. Why not try:

- **The Coleshill Circular:** A loop that takes you through scenic views of farmland and gentle hills.
- **Early morning lane walks:** Beat the traffic and enjoy birdsong as you get your steps in.

- **Walking to the shops:** Ditch the car and get some light activity on the way to grab your paper or groceries.

Tips for Getting Started

- Start small — even 10 minutes a day helps.
- Invest in comfortable shoes.
- Invite a friend or neighbour — walking is great for social wellbeing, too.
- Mix it up — vary your route or walk at different times of day.

Walk for Your Mind, Too

Walking isn't just good for your body — it's brilliant for your brain. Getting out in the fresh air reduces stress, lifts your mood, and gives you time to think. If you're feeling overwhelmed or stuck in your head, a quick walk might be the reset you need.

The First Step

You don't need to run marathons to get fit — just open your door. Coleshill has everything you need to get moving: fresh air, friendly faces, and paths that lead somewhere peaceful. Lace up, head out, and walk your way to wellness.

NETHER WHITACRE



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WARM HUB

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INFORMATION

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

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

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



Next Town Council Meeting : 17th Sept
7pm Venue Coleshill Town Hall

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

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GROUPS

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

Rachel Taylor MP, North Warwickshire and Bedworth



Review of the year

When I was elected as your MP just over a year ago, I promised to be a strong voice for Coleshill and Water Orton — standing up to HS2, addressing the issues that matter to constituents, and fighting for you in Westminster. It's been an intense and rewarding first year, and while it hasn't always been easy, I'm proud of the difference I and the government are already making locally.

HS2 disruption and poor engagement is by far the biggest issue people raise with me. I have been relentless in holding HS2 to account: instituting monthly meetings, ending their use of non-disclosure agreements in compensation cases, attending site visits and residents' meetings, and pushing for reforms to HS2's complaints process.

Recently, I've campaigned against unfair rent increases and the neglect of maintenance in HS2-owned rental properties and was pleased to have my campaign featured on BBC News. Thanks to this pressure, tenants are now being listened to, but there's more work to be done. My HS2 newsletter keeps residents updated — please do sign up on my website if you haven't already. I am determined to secure a better deal for constituents for as long as the disruption continues.

One of the best parts of being your MP is fixing the thorny issues that weigh on people's lives. Since being elected, I've helped install new barriers to stop pavement parking blocking Coleshill resident Caroline's mobility scooter. I've worked with local residents to find a resolution to the problems of antisocial behaviour around the Bell Pub. And I've had road surfaces repaired, double yellow lines painted, unfair parking fines overturned, and motorised doors installed in Coleshill — all to help residents get on with their daily lives. It's great to hear from people that I've made a difference, with the improvements at Coleshill Post Office being one of things that is brought up most. When I was first elected, poor service and sporadic opening hours were causing real frustration. I held a packed Town Hall meeting to secure commitments from the Post Office and One Stop and get the problems fixed. Since then, regular opening hours

have been introduced and the post box reinstated, which has made a big difference — especially for elderly and vulnerable residents who rely on these services.

In Parliament, I've championed national issues that are important to our community. I launched a nationwide campaign to tackle organised freight crime, which heavily impacts the 20% of workers in our area employed in this vital industry. I successfully secured a legal change to make sure all hate crimes are treated equally, with tougher sentences for perpetrators. And I'm delighted to hear residents say they're beginning to see the green shoots of recovery in our NHS, with waiting lists down and GP surgeries like the Hazelwood practice in Coleshill getting vital upgrades.

Through it all, what keeps me going is meeting all of you at community events, coffee mornings, and my surgeries. As I mark my first year as your MP, I want to thank you for the trust you have placed in me, your ideas, and your passion for our area. I'll keep listening, keep learning, and keep fighting for a better deal for Coleshill and Water Orton.

And a few more things ... I was shocked to discover that Warwickshire County Council have failed to claim more than £7 million in road improvement funding made available to them by HS2. With just eighteen months to go until this money is lost, I'm pushing for the council to identify projects and get spades in the ground. If you know work that needs doing, there's a short form on my website you can fill in. Just go to www.rachel-taylor.co.uk and click on 'get involved'.

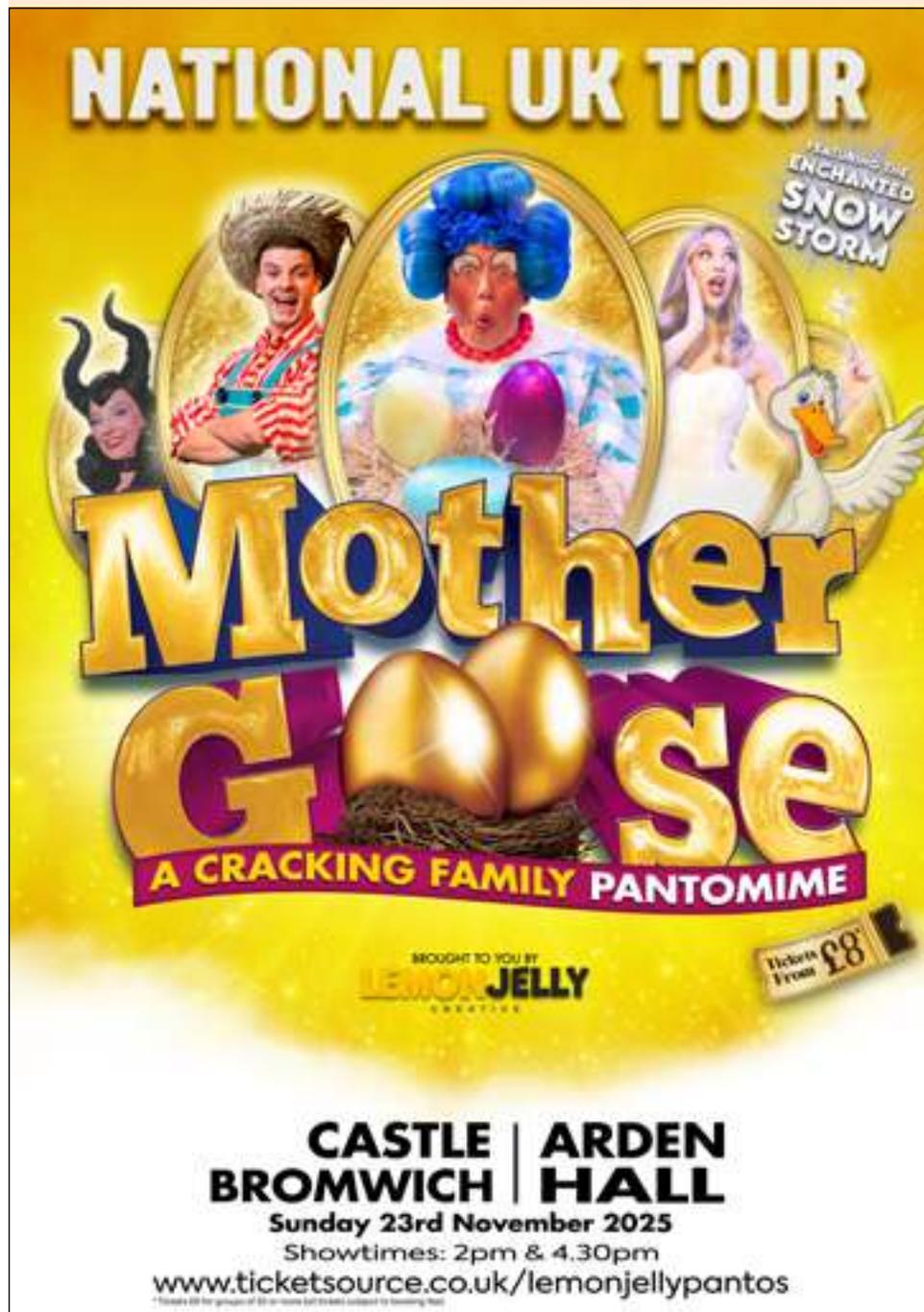
HS2 will hold another drop-in event with me on 11 September in Coleshill (time and venue TBC). Representatives from HS2 and BBV will be on hand to discuss ongoing concerns. Please keep an eye on my social media for updates — I hope to see some of you there.

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.

Lemon Jelly Pantos returns to Castle Bromwich

This fabulous, festive production by Lemon Jelly Pantos returns to Castle Bromwich Arden Hall on Sunday 23rd November 2025 at 2pm & 4.30pm & features a tale of golden eggs, quests for beauty, fairy magic & so much more in a spellbinding egg-stravaganza!

With a multi-talented cast this one hour, laughter packed performance features colourful characters, hilarious comedy, fantastic music, lavish costumes & stunning sets. Mother Goose promises to be Lemon Jelly's funniest and most spectacular pantomime ever! Will fame, fortune and beauty change Mother Goose? Book your tickets now to find out! Book now: www.ticketsource.co.uk/lemonjellypantos



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Coleshill Drama Group NEW MEMBERS' NIGHT

Coleshill Drama Group's new season 2025/2026 will commence in September with the Group's A.G.M. on Tuesday 2nd September at 7.30pm, immediately followed at 8.30pm by an evening of fun for anyone interested in amateur theatre and would like to "give it a go" in The Old Courtroom at Coleshill Town Hall.

"Theatre has been a passion of mine since I was 9 years old and that enthusiasm has never waned", says Sue Wallace, current chairman of the group. "It matters not whether I am learning lines to perform onstage, helping to construct the set for a play (and dismantle it), assisting backstage, front of house or running the bar during our productions, I am part of a great group of people who all help each other with one goal in mind - to put on the best production we can on Coleshill Town Hall stage, three times a year."

Sue continued "the result of the combined efforts of Group members gives such a feeling of achievement, especially

when audiences have been left wanting more, our members are on a "high" for weeks afterwards. Where else can an activity have such an effect, both on the entertainers and the entertained? That is the magic of theatre."

If you would like to know more, would like to meet the group members, have a go yourself, then you will be warmly welcomed on 2nd September. There are many aspects to theatre - in addition to what is mentioned above, there are all technical elements of sound and lighting, set and costume design and creation, properties (items used during a play by the players), continuity of performance, stage management, publicity and promotions.

Coleshill Drama Group needs you!

Please come along to an evening of fun and get to know the Group members on 2nd September. It is quite free to "give it a go"!

If you have any questions before then, please telephone Sue Wallace on 01675 462674. Coleshill Drama Group looks forward to welcoming you.

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Royal visit surprise for Coleshill church

Coleshill parish church's ten bells rang out last month for a royal surprise visit.

The church hosted a group of ringing friends from all over the country who meet up for a week of tower grabbing each year.

What they rang - a 50 minute quarter peal of Xartica Surprise Royal - was, in the words of a dog walker passing by, "lovely". The ringers' verdict: "We very much enjoyed ringing your bells. Thankyou very much."

The method is new to Coleshill ringers. Tuesday night practises centre on less arduous work. For fun, Coleshill ringers can ring like this: <https://coleshillparishchurch.squarespace.com/digging-deeper/ringing-you-a-scintillating-christmass>

Purists argue that that's not what ringing is about, but it's a fine way to improve bell handling - in this case at Christmas. Interested in learning? See you any Tuesday from 7.30pm.



The pictures show the bells, and a board recording the last peal on the then eight bells before re-casting. It commemorated the silver jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth in 1977. The team made 5,040 changes of Grandsire Triples, rung in two hours, 47 minutes.

Above it in the ringing room is the board recording the first peal on the then new ring of ten bells you see in the picture. Other boards dating from the '50s tell the history of ringing in the town, and are worth a visit to see. See them when you visit on the the next tower open day.

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Junior PCSO



Over the past 6 weeks, PCSO Payne has been completing the second scheme of Junior PCSOs at Outwoods Primary School.

Today they had their presentation assembly, where we had Inspector Gibbons join us and helped give the children their certificates.

We had 9 Junior PCSOs that took part in the scheme. We have these schemes running all the way through til spring term next year.

If your school is interested in running this scheme please contact nwe.snt@warwickshire.police.uk and a member of the team will get back to you.

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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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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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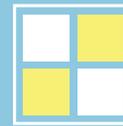
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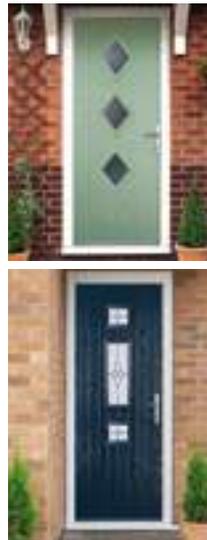
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SO MUCH INCLUDED...

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- ✓ **2 for 1 bar** (6pm-9pm) on selected drinks (Shanklin Beach Hotel only)
- ✓ Entertainment on some evenings (every evening at the Shanklin Beach Hotel)
- ✓ Excursion to Newport

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Arriving in Style at the Year 11 Prom!

Year 11s from The Coleshill School celebrated their Prom at Heart of England Conference Centre on Friday 4th July 2025.

Proud parents came at the start of the evening to watch the students arrive in all types of transport and an array of fantastic vehicles including a tractor, limousines, classic cars and various luxury cars.

Year 11s were unrecognisable, they certainly 'dressed to impress' and looked stunning in their fantastic dresses and suits.

Both staff and students danced the night away and a great time was had by all.

Mrs Cardwell, Deputy Headteacher, said: "This has been a fantastic evening.

We are so proud of our Year 11s and the hard work and dedication they have put in over the past few months. It has been a pleasure teaching them and watching them develop into amazing young adults with their futures ahead of them.

We wish them all good luck for the future and will see many of them in our Sixth Form in September".



AWARDS EVENING CELEBRATIONS

The Coleshill School held its annual student Awards Evenings during the last week of term in July 2025. Students and their families were invited to attend this special event to celebrate the achievements of students throughout the academic year.

Two students from each year group in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 were awarded in each subject.

There were also Head of Year awards for each year group.

Mr Bailey, Assistant Headteacher commented "We are so proud of these students who have worked so hard and gone the extra mile to achieve these awards. We have such talented and dedicated students at The Coleshill School. Their parents and carers must be really proud of them."



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Celebration of the local Policing Awards



Last Friday marked the end of Neighbourhood Policing Week, and an awards ceremony was held to celebrate those working within the department. Several awards were presented, and the North Warwickshire team were certainly commended.

PC2300 Louis Thompson received the Problem-Solving Award, as a result of the fantastic work he has completed around the night time economy in Coleshill.

PC1372 Mark Breeze was recognised for his problem solving approach to reduce freight crime at Corley Services.

PC2267 Steve Taylor received an award in relation to his work in reducing shoplifting within Atherstone Town Centre.

PCSO Gav Scott received an award for his dedication to reducing ASB within Atherstone.

PCSO Mo Yaqub was awarded for his commitment to road safety within North Warwickshire.

PCSO Pete Beale was recognised for being the Force's longest serving PCSO.

Lastly, Atherstone Town Centre Team received the team award from Superintendent Jo Bunting. This followed a review of teams across the county. The team were commended for their work in reducing serious violence by 68% and anti-social behaviour by 54% within the town centre. A testament to their hard work and commitment in making Atherstone a safe place.



County Lines Week



County Lines Intensification Week saw our officers shut down three major drug lines coming into the county.

In Warwickshire, we carried out seven warrants, arrested 14 people and seized more than £10,000 in cash, 158 wraps of class A drugs, and 424 cannabis plants.

And for good measure we seized eight weapons and four stolen motorbikes.

This wasn't just about seizing drugs and weapons, county lines drug criminals ruthlessly exploit some of the most vulnerable people in our communities and much of our focus remains on protecting these people.

Our Safer Neighbourhood Teams visited schools and engaged with other members of the community, raising awareness of the signs of exploitation and helping to prevent others falling victim.

They also visited vulnerable people, checking on their welfare and making sure they weren't being subjected to exploitation.

Detective Inspector Pete Sherwood, from the force's Serious and Organised Crime

team, said: "It was a bad week for drug dealers in Warwickshire and across the country. However, we know this is an ongoing battle and for as long as drug criminals are exploiting vulnerable people, we will continue to do everything in our power to make life as difficult as possible for them.

"Everyone has a role to play in tackling this type of crime and protecting vulnerable people. It's vital people are aware of the signs of exploitation and report their concerns."

Signs of exploitation include:

- displaying aggressive/violent behaviours
- often going missing from home or school and being found away from their normal area
- unexplained money, clothes, designer wear, jewellery, gadgets or mobile phones
- having multiple mobile phones
- getting lots of phone calls or texts
- use and/or possession of drugs and/or alcohol
- possession of hotel key cards/keys
- committing theft/shoplifting
- relationships with older people
- unexplained injuries
- carrying weapons
- abandoning friends and their social circle
- school performance getting worse
- self-harm
- changes in well-being
- significant emotional changes (like becoming angry or sad), or becoming fearful, withdrawn or isolated
- using different language/terminology
- new peer groups and/or relationships with unknown associates

County Lines is a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks that export illegal drugs into other areas across the UK, using dedicated mobile phone 'deal lines'. County Lines Intensification Week is a national week of action to tackle the problem.



'The time to act is now': PCC joins calls for stronger licensing to save young lives

Warwickshire's Police and Crime Commissioner Philip Seccombe is among a powerful coalition of experts, emergency service leaders and bereaved families calling on the Government to introduce a stronger licensing system to better protect young and novice drivers - and to stop avoidable tragedies that devastate families across the country.

Leading voices from policing, medicine, academia, driver education and bereaved families came together online in a special webinar in a united call for a smarter, safer approach to young driver licensing. The Safeguarding Young Drivers' event was organised by Project EDWARD (Every Day Without A Road Death) and co-hosted by Mr Seccombe and Durham Police and Crime Commissioner Joy Allen, in their capacity as national roads policing leads for the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners.

During the webinar the key figures expressed their support for Graduated Driving Licensing (GDL) - a step-by-step system in place in countries across the world that helps young, inexperienced drivers build confidence and skills gradually, and safeguards them during their most vulnerable months on the road. Used in countries including Australia, New Zealand, Canada and across the United States, GDL is an umbrella term for a wide range of targeted measures designed to reduce risk while allowing young drivers to build experience gradually and safely.

These measures often include:

- No late-night driving
- Limits on carrying same-age passengers
- A minimum learning period before taking the practical test

In Britain, drivers aged 17 to 24 are involved in 24% of all fatal or serious injury collisions and one in five young drivers crashes within the first year of passing their test.

Among those speaking at the event and expressing their support for such measures were Chief Constable Jo Shiner KPM, the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) lead for roads policing; Dr Ian Greenwood, whose 12-year-old daughter, Alice, was killed in a crash caused by a young driver; Elizabeth Box, Research Director, at the RAC Foundation; Edmund King, President of the AA and Ruth Purdie OBE, Chief Executive of the Road Safety Trust.

The event also featured speakers from Young Drivers of Canada, who shared powerful evidence of the system's success in Ontario, where fatal crashes among 16-year-olds fell by 73% in its first year.

Philip Seccombe, Police and Crime Commissioner for Warwickshire said: "The event heard from a wide range of experts who are clearly making the case that a change to the law is required and that greater protection is needed to safeguard young people on our roads. The Government has said it does not want to introduce graduated driver licensing, however the evidence from around the world is that it can save lives and make a real difference in reducing the tragedy that every road death and serious injury brings.

"I'm working hard to change their view on this and I believe the public support for such measures is growing fast. The time for change really is now, so let's move away from the language of restriction and focus on the public benefit - fewer NHS admissions, more lives saved.

"If not stronger licensing, then what? We need to hear real alternatives from Government."

The call coincides with the recent launch of a new campaign website 'Protect Young Drivers' which sets out the case for the introduction of progressive licensing measures for new drivers.

Designed as a trusted resource for policymakers, media, professionals and families, it brings together personal stories, expert analysis and international comparisons to make the case for urgent change. Backed by Mr Seccombe, the site can be viewed at www.protectyoungdrivers.com.

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Meet the team



Our Safer Neighbour Team are extremely proud of what we do everyday to keep our local community safe and building a positive relationship with our communities.

Some of our local PC's and PCSO's have wanted to share what they feel about our local towns that we work on.

PC Thompson from Coleshill SNT shared "I am proud to work in a historic market town within North Warwickshire and serve the community which stems back generations. We all take responsibility to uphold the towns values working collaboratively alongside the towns

council and local residents to tackle issues that arise within the community giving the local people a town they can be proud to live in"

PCSO Smith from Coleshill SNT shared " I love how tranquil our local villages and towns are and its a delight patrolling around these areas"

PCSO Rygielski from Atherstone SNT shared "I am proud of our local community that surrounds me when I come to work everyday. It makes coming to work a true joy"

PCSO Beale from Coleshill SNT shared " I am most proud of working with younger people within all our schools by doing police visits and events".

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Cllr Martin McCarthy, Castle Bromwich Ward (Solihull MBC)

August update

Welcome to August in Castle Bromwich and the school holiday season, hopefully it will be a little cooler than it was in July.

Castle Bromwich Party in the park at Arden Hall Saturday 19th July

One should be careful what one wishes for as I was cooled by four hours by rain on Saturday morning helping to set up this event, (it was the first day of the school holidays after all!) fortunately, it dried up a little in the afternoon to enable many of you to enjoy the event, it was also an opportunity to talk to our local Police about some of your concerns and meet local groups catering for people Young and older.

Change in Castle Bromwich Councillor representation

At the time of writing of this article myself and Councillor Leslie Kaye remain members of the Conservative group and Cllr Alan Feeney has become an independent.

We all continue to work representing Castle Bromwich locally and to deliver a stable Solihull administration delivering fair council tax and effective services going forward.

Road Safety

We want to make sure our roads are as safe as possible for all users, That's why West Midlands police have Operation Snap and need your help.

If you see anyone committing driving offences on our roads and capture it on your dashcam, CCTV or passenger held mobile phone please send it in to them.

Examples might include

Dangerous driving, using a mobile phone whilst driving, not wearing a seat belt or failing to stop at a red traffic light and many others too numerous to mention.

These will be reviewed by specially trained staff and if an offence is identified, the driver can be prosecuted or told to take a driver improvement course.

Full details of the process can be found by searching online for West Midlands Police Operation Snap.

New Pedestrian crossing on Parkfield drive

Parkfield drive is to have a new pedestrian crossing between Beechcroft Road and Flecknoe Close, on-site work should now have started. With the new crossing making it easier and safer to cross this busy road to access the shops, medical centre, and bus stops.

Cuppa with a Copper

The next Cuppa with a Copper meeting is Wednesday 29 October 13:00 until 14:30 at the courtyard cafe at Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens. This is an informal opportunity to talk on a one-to-one basis with our local officers over a cup of Tea.

The Castle Bromwich Society moves forward

We have held a further meeting on the 18th July.

There are many details in the minutes of this meeting and a copy of the Constitution, these are to be loaded onto the members area of the Castle Bromwich Society Website shortly.

55L of Green enamel paint has been obtained from Virgin media for improving the appearance of some of their media cabinets that are so often defaced by graffiti, please get in touch if a Virgin media cabinet near you needs of some TLC.

Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens Green Flag Award

Congratulations to Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens on achieving their Green Flag award for the 30 Acre historic parkland that it manages alongside the Historic gardens.

Regular Councillor Surgery at Castle Bromwich Library

The next monthly surgery is scheduled for Monday the 4th of August 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

Christmas wishes helped run Malawi clinics

By Mike Walpole

It's been raining hard in Coleshill, Station Road is flooded, and my repeat medication is due.

No problem - the bus is still able to run, pick me up across the road and drop me off near the pharmacy.

In Northern Malawi, it's the rainy season. The Dwangwa River is impassible when it is flooded, and dirt roads become seas of mud. That means the Coleshill church-sponsored mobile clinic team visits to remote Chamalala and Mfula villages can't happen until the rivers go down.

Coleshill church has raised thousands of pounds for the clinics over the years. Major sources of donations are from the popular sales and open days, and the signing of a congregational Christmas card, where signatories make a donation and also save on sending individual cards to church friends.

It all helps pay for the treatment of patients suffering from respiratory infections, malari, and gastrointestinal complaints. Scabies, which is probably a rarity in Malawi, is not an uncommon Former Rector of St Mary and St Margaret in Castle Bromwich, and eventually Bishop of Northern Malawi Christopher Boyle, who is still associated with the clinics, said: "These figures leave me in doubt as to the importance of this good work.

"Together we are able to support these

remote rural villages and help raise the whole quality of their lives. Above all they know they are not forgotten: indeed, cherished and cared for."

You can meet him when he visits Coleshill to preach on 17 August.

He was raised in Birmingham, studied at King's College London and ordained a deacon in the Church of England in 1976.

He was ordained priest a year later, one year into serving his four-year title as assistant curate at Emmanuel, Wylde Green. In 1980, he became Chaplain to Hugh Montefiore, the then Bishop of Birmingham until 1983, when he became Rector at St Mary and St Margaret, Castle Bromwich.

While in Castle Bromwich, he also served as Area Dean of Coleshill (1992-1999), Priest-in-charge at All Saints, Shard End (1996-1997) and Honorary Canon of St Philip's Cathedral, Birmingham (from 1996), until his emigration in 2001.

In 2001, he became an Anglican bishop when he was consecrated Bishop of Northern Malawi, following his election to the post. He served in Africa for eight years before resigning to return to Britain - his successor as diocesan bishop was the first African bishop to serve in that role.

He became Assistant Bishop of Leicester, and the first full-time stipendiary assistant bishop, acting as if a suffragan bishop, in the Diocese of Leicester, upon his installation on 6 September 2009. He retired at the end of May 2017.



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Castle Bromwich
Hall Gardens

August in the Gardens

Jeff Lynne Celebration

Our immensely popular tribute to the local legend Jeff Lynne, returns this August! What a wonderful event our first one was, a perfect summer evening, artists who gave their all and an audience that was seriously up for it. We're delighted that Thomas Walsh from Dublin is joining us again to lead the latter part of the evening.

Famous Brummie Roger Spencer the drummer in Idle Race when Jeff was a member will hold it all together again for us in his own unique style, ably assisted by Bonnie Spencer.

Also joining us will be Dave and Mandy Scott-Morgan, Dave played with ELO for a few years and we're hoping to persuade him to play some of the songs that he wrote and recorded with Jeff's brilliant arranger Richard Tandy. That guitarist for all seasons Vo Fletcher will be helping it all along and no doubt there'll be a few surprises for us all on the night. All this set to a backdrop of the Lower Claire Voie, where grand and luscious trees create an arboreal amphitheatre and simply fantastic performance space.

Please book in advance as there will be very few tickets on the door.



The Batty Langley Cocktail



Well, necessity is the mother of invention. August can always be a funny time of year. It can be full of patches of grey, rain-filled clouds, but equally, the right conditions often grant us a lengthy sun-filled summer. And it is on those long evenings of stunning light that the idea of sipping our new cocktail really appeals. Named the 'Batty Langley' after the chap who designed our Kitchen Garden, it is a newly-crafted addition to our menu with strong suggestions of white rum, apple juice, mint and hints of elderflower and lemon juice. But don't worry, if you fancy the refreshing effects, but not the alcohol, there is a mocktail version too!

Family Activities

Summer holidays! There is plenty of opportunity to get involved in the variety of Unplug and Play sessions we are fielding. Get building with our summer family bushcraft workshop. Join us for a family-friendly introduction to bushcraft, including: shelter building, fire lighting, and much more. Test yourself against the elements and learn bushcraft skills this summer.

Get creative with our Clay and Play Workshops by letting your imagination run wild and creating some awesome clay creations, creepy crawlies, hedgehogs or maybe even something like a dragon! All using Mother Nature's original play dough... clay. We will also finish the session off with a nature based game to burn some energy!

August is a great time for insects, especially in and around our ponds. There will be the chance to explore ponds and find minibeasts. Try your hand at pond dipping,

hunting for minibeasts, frog-leaping and game-playing. Here's hoping you'll see the impressive Emperor Dragonfly!



Follow the Yellow Brick Road... to the Gardens



Another wandering troupe to entertain the crowds passes through our gates! Strap into your ruby slippers for a saunter down the yellow brick road with Paperback Theatre's new adaptation of the classic tale of the Wizard of Oz. This new interpretation brings the classic well-loved story bang-up-to-date. Whether it's brains, heart or courage you want, this action-packed adventure has got you covered.

Ideal for families with children over five, it will prove a great way to spend the afternoon. This is an outdoor performance with some chairs and blankets provided, but you are welcome to bring your own.

Ideally we will be bathed in glorious, but not oppressive, sunshine. There is a large stretch tent for shelter should rain or sun prove too much. Please come dressed appropriately.

Summer Book Quest at the Gardens

The joy of reading a book is something that comes naturally to many of us.

We see more and more people in the Gardens visiting for their lunchbreak or after work, just coming to sit somewhere in the open air, book in hand.

What better than combining the chirping of the birds and the smell of grass with an entertaining of engrossing book.

As with the wonderful team at Castle Bromwich library we're keen to pass on that pleasure to the younger generation too.

This summer holidays we have teamed up with local businesses to make every Sunday a treat for budding readers.

We will be giving away hundreds of FREE books at the Gardens over the summer!

Ideally for 3 to 8 year olds, kiddies can hunt for tokens around the Gardens and exchange them for a free book!

all day on Sundays: 20th and 27th July and 3rd, 17th, 24th & 31st August, just drop in! Normal entry fees to the Gardens apply.

*Please note: NO event on Sunday 10th August.

As well as the Quest, there will often be other story and reading activities in the Gardens on these particular days – all free with Normal Gardens Entry fees

(NB 1 book per child limit per week)

All books have been sponsored by local businesses, and the event has been organised by Independent Usborne Partners; The Little Book Fairy (Grace) and Bookish Reads for Kids (Claire).

Turn over a new leaf under our leaves this summer

How Can You Help?

Well one of the great ways to assist us in our safeguarding of these historic gardens is to volunteer. We are always looking for committed people who can help across the week and at events in our Front of House Team. Please follow the link through the 'Helping Out' page on our website or else come and speak to someone on duty Wednesday-Sunday 10:30-16:00.

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.



Bringing a Show Garden Home

The warm buzz of my BBC Gardener's World Live experience still lingers on! My 'Nourishing the Soul' beautiful border was never just a display - it was a living response to grief and a tribute to resilience and the need to have somewhere beautiful and calm to root ourselves.

Now, back in my own garden, I have been finding ways to bring elements of the border to life at home. Whilst the majority of the border is now at the Marie Curie Hospice in Solihull, I did keep a few pieces for myself to recreate in my garden.

Firstly, I have the wonderful Midnight arch, which Zest very kindly gifted to me. The arch is such a beautiful entrance to my garden now, and brings with it the lovely memories of building it with my friends and members of my amazing build team, Shelley, Annette and Abi, during the first day of the show. I have a Peter Beale City of York rose growing up it now, which was bought for me as a birthday gift by my friends, Talia and Ben, at the show, which brings me extra joy!

I was also lucky enough to get extras of the Bradstone rustic red carpet stones, which made up the path of my border. The actual path from the show itself was donated to Marie Curie Hospice, but I had enough of them left over to bring some home as well. So I have used these to lay over the dull grey slabs in the garden, and have fixed them in place, then topped them with horticultural pea gravel. Again, the path brings back so many memories - particularly of Leanne from my build team, who I helped with her border build in 2024, and how it cemented our reputation as the “naughty ones”! But one judge referred to it as an informal path, which we were delighted with!

The difference that the arch and brick effect path has made to the garden already has been tremendous! I was also able to keep the bistro set, and I have enjoyed many lovely cups of tea sat there in between working on the garden make-over and remembering the enjoyment of the show and thinking how much my mum would have loved it all. There are a few plants scattered around the garden from the show - including a couple of hostas, Salvia, one of the jasmine which were entwined around the arch

at the show, and one of the creeping clematis plants too. And, of course, the favourites of many - my garden ornaments! All of which, except for the wonderful copper bee drinkers from Copper and Green, were from my own garden and allotment already.

The garden makeover is still a work in progress, with the latest job being to get five new fence panels installed. Once they are in, I would like to get a small kitchen garden space reintroduced. Since taking on my allotment, I no longer grow any food at home, and I know that my partner misses going out to the garden to pick smaller things for dinner. So it would be great to get a veg tug or similar type of planter out there to grow things in for him to pick again. I'll also be getting some more pots for flowers, as our garden isn't the best for growing directly into the ground. It seems to be largely rubble under the pebbles, and only our plum tree and rosemary have thrived in the ground so far!

I'll share more on the garden revamp as it continues, as I also have a messy car port/bin area and 'nook' to do, as well as plans for the front garden!

The following day, the show opened to the public, which was exciting, nerve-wracking 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 sun 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 to 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.





Pet Page

Hot Weather Tips for Dogs

As I'm writing this, we're in the middle of another hot spell. What the weather will be doing when you're reading this... well, it's British weather – so who knows! That said, I always believe it's worth having a few hot weather tips ready for now or the next warm stretch.

Some dogs cope better than others. Brachycephalic breeds like Frenchies and Pugs often find the heat a real challenge, and some of the sighthounds I work with – like greyhounds, whippets, and lurchers – can be quite sensitive to it too.

I'm often asked for ideas during warm spells, so I thought I'd share some go-to tips with you.

Safety First – Always

- Never walk your dog in the heat – early mornings or late evenings are best, and only if it's genuinely cool enough
- Test pavements with the back of your hand – if it's too hot for you, it's too hot for them
- Artificial grass can get dangerously hot – always check it before letting your dog walk or lie on it

Enrichment That Cools and Calms

Enrichment is a go-to of mine – it taps into your dog's natural behaviours and can be done without needing much movement.

Many tools like Licki mats, West Paw Toppls and Qwizls, Kongs can be frozen, making them ideal for hot days.

- Always check ingredients are dog-safe.
- Supervise all enrichment and swap

anything out if your dog tries to eat something they shouldn't.

- Top tip: Licking is naturally calming. I always have a few prepped Licki Mats in the freezer, especially for Freddie, our excitable rescue whippet!

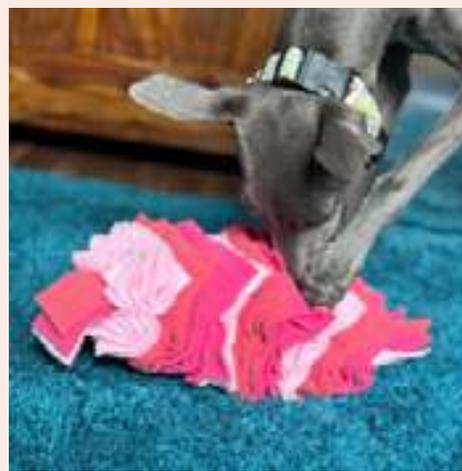


Here are some of our favourites:

- Licki mats – with pumpkin purée, yoghurt, bone broth, or dog-safe peanut butter
- Stuffed Kongs/West Paw Toppls or Qwizls – layered and frozen for longer fun. Izzy's our ex racing greyhound loves her frozen Qwizl stuffed with pumpkin purée
- Treat boxes – start simple with a treat in a open toilet roll tube, then build up to closed folded over ends. Cardboard boxes are great places to pop treats. We reuse Amazon boxes, and as they get more skilled, we even leave in the scrunched paper for them to rummage through!
- Snuffle mats, balls or cubes – great for encouraging scent work; pick a style that

suits your dog's breed and personality, there are lots out there to choose from. Freddie loves the cube.

- Cup game – hide a treat under one of three paper cups and let your dog sniff to choose



Calm Indoor Training

- Hand touch – builds confidence in human touch, especially with rescues; can be done seated or lying down
- "Find it" – scatter treats under a towel or around the room and cue your dog to sniff them out
- Settle on a mat – reward moments of stillness and stages of relaxation; brilliant practice for cafés.
- Check-in games – say your dog's name, mark with a "Nice" and reward. This helps build value in their name, which is especially helpful for newly adopted dogs

Out & About (Only If It's Safe)

- Walk only in the early morning or evening if it's genuinely cool

- Choose shady, short routes – think grassy tracks, woodland paths, tree-lined streets
- Allow garden time – gentle mooching and sniffing in the shade is still valuable
- Focus on quality over distance – a short, sniffy walk can be more enriching than a long, hot one

Their sense of smell is their superpower – sniffing is a workout for the brain, not just the body.

Hot weather safety isn't just about cutting walks – it's about rethinking how we support our dogs when the usual routine doesn't fit. Ten minutes of calm games, enrichment, or simply sitting together can build trust, connection, and contentment.

We all know those dogs who love their routine. Izzy is one of them! She gives you that full "I'm ready for a walk!" stare – right into your eyes, with that heart-melting look that's hard to resist.

If you've got one of those dogs too, stay strong. In the heat, skipping the walk really is the kindest choice.

Stay cool, stay safe – rest is part of training too.

Clare

Insight Hounds – Training for Sighthounds



Birmingham Dogs Home - Forever homes



Cola

Breed: Cane Corso **Gender:** Male (N)

Meet Shadow our big boisterous softie. Shadow is believed to be a Cane Corso x Rottweiler with a whole lot of love to give. He arrived at our centre as a stray so sadly we don't know much about his past, but it was clear he hadn't had the care he deserved. He came into us in a poor state with sore skin live flea's overgrown nails and very little muscle tone. Since then, he's been on the mend and is beginning to show us the happy playful dog he truly

is. This gentle giant is friendly with people and absolutely loves to play. He's got a real thing for toys especially if you're up for a game of fetch. Shadow will also show of his sit and give paw for treats which he takes ever so gently. He's also responding well to his lead walking and enjoys his outings with the team. Shadow does have some needs his future home must be prepared for. He's shown food aggression in the past and while he's made progress through training, we advise giving him space while he eats and continuing positive food-based work in the home. He is also

reactive to dogs and has been muzzle trained to help manage this. He must be the only pet in the home and due to his size and boisterous nature we're looking for an adult only home with no children. At over 45kg Shadow is a big strong boy and still has a lot to learn about boundaries and manners. He'll need an experienced owner who understands large strong breeds and can offer him time patience and consistency he needs to continue building his confidence.

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



Get Your Feet Summer-Ready with Walsh Podiatry

As the weather warms up and summer footwear makes its long-awaited return, our feet finally get a chance to breathe — but they also take centre stage. After months of being tucked away in socks and closed shoes, many people start to notice dry, cracked heels. At Walsh Podiatry, we're here to help you.

This condition occurs when the skin around the heel becomes excessively dry and thickened, which causes it to lose elasticity. As pressure is applied during walking or standing, the rigid skin can crack — often leading to discomfort, pain, and in some cases, even infection if left untreated.

Cracked heels can be more than just a cosmetic issue; they can lead to deeper fissures that may bleed or become inflamed, especially in individuals with underlying conditions such as diabetes.

What Causes Cracked Heels?

There are several reasons why the skin on our heels becomes vulnerable, including:

- Dry weather – Heat and low humidity can dehydrate the skin
- Excessive bathing or hot showers – Prolonged water exposure can strip the skin of natural oils
- Wearing open-back footwear – Sandals and flip-flops allow the skin to expand and crack under pressure
- Lack of routine foot care – Built-up callus and lack of moisturising can accelerate dryness

How to Treat and Prevent Cracked Heels:

- Use a specialist foot cream like our own Help4Feet cream, which is available for purchase at Walsh Podiatry. For an added boost, wear moisturising heel socks overnight to lock in hydration and

speed up skin repair.

- Regular visits to your Podiatrist will ensure that any dry or callused skin is professionally reduced, preventing further cracking and keeping your feet smooth and healthy.
- If you notice deeper splits, apply a sterile dressing such as Melolin to protect the area and prevent infection while the skin heals. Always ensure the area is clean and dry before dressing.
- Choose summer shoes that offer support and cushioning for the heels. Avoid thin soles and open backs if your feet are prone to cracking.



Don't let dry, cracked heels stop you from enjoying sandal season! Book your appointment today at Walsh Podiatry and let our friendly team help you achieve soft, summer-ready feet.

Call us or pop into the clinic for product recommendations and to schedule your next visit.

Call us: 0121 749 6313 or visit the website www.walshpodiatry.co.uk and book online.



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Why Race for Life and Slimming World Are a Perfect Partnership in the Journey Toward Health and Hope



Every summer, thousands of people across the UK pull on their trainers, pin heartfelt messages to their backs, and take part in Race for Life—a powerful show of solidarity in the fight against cancer. The atmosphere is electric: a sea of pink, laughter through tears, and a collective determination to make a difference. But behind many of those brave faces are personal journeys of transformation—stories not just of surviving or honouring loved ones, but of reclaiming health, strength, and confidence.

That's where Slimming World enters the picture.

More than just a weight loss group, Slimming World has become a catalyst for personal change. It helps people build healthier relationships with food, rediscover physical activity, and develop a stronger sense of self-worth. For many members, taking part in Race for Life is the culmination of that journey—a milestone that goes far beyond numbers on a scale.

At first glance, the pairing might seem unlikely: one is a charity run, the other a weight management programme. But look closer and the connection is clear. Both are rooted in community, empowerment, and the belief that change—real, lasting change—starts with small steps. Whether it's walking a few more minutes each day, swapping takeaways for home-cooked meals, or signing up for your first 5K, the journey begins the same way:

with the decision to try.

Many Slimming World groups form teams for Race for Life, training together, fundraising together, and crossing the finish line side by side. For members who once felt intimidated by exercise or overwhelmed by illness or weight gain, Race for Life is more than just an event—it's a declaration of strength. It's proof that they are capable of more than they imagined.

What's even more inspiring is that this partnership supports both personal and national health goals. The funds raised by Race for Life go directly to Cancer Research UK, supporting ground breaking studies and treatments. Meanwhile, Slimming World continues to support the NHS by reducing obesity-related health risks, from diabetes to heart disease—and yes, certain cancers too.

Together, these two forces represent a powerful narrative: one of prevention, action, and hope. In a world where so many feel powerless in the face of illness or weight struggles, Slimming World and Race for Life offer a different message—you can do something. You can fight back. You can reclaim your health. You can run for your life, and for the lives of others.

So if you see a group of smiling, sweaty people in pink vests this summer, know this: you're not just looking at runners. You're looking at survivors, fighters, fundraisers—and everyday heroes.




Slimming World feel *real* good

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 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

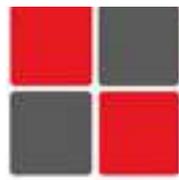
Castle Brom The Baptist Church, 8.00 & 9.30am Donna 07516726534

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



“Summer afternoon, summer afternoon; to me those have always been the two most beautiful words in the English language.”

– Henry James

It's hard to believe that we are halfway through the year, especially as Wimbledon has come and gone. Is it time to reflect on and look back on the year so far, or to look forward to what is to come? Although St Clements has seen some sad times this year, we have also enjoyed being together and welcoming the community to our events. Laughter is the best medicine and certainly can lift a mood and give a sense of well-being. We certainly had plenty of laughter during our last quiz, and it's something we can look forward to at our Harvest Quiz at the end of September.

During August, the Mary Bridgeman Tea and Coffee Lounge will be closed for decoration, re-opening on Monday, 8th September at 9.30 am. Also, our Memory Café will be closed, re-opening on Thursday, 11th September. As all of our groups, café, and events are run by our amazing group of volunteers, it is so important that they take time to enjoy, relax and have time with family and friends, then come back refreshed and ready for the last few months of the year.

During August, Crafternoon and Twenty21 groups will join forces and open for 2 sessions on 5th and 19th August, from 2 pm to 4 pm on each day.

I am also reliably informed by Gail, who runs the Crafternoon Group every other Tuesday in the month, that they will be starting a new project: knitting/crochet for the Neonatal Unit at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham, which provides care for babies from 27 weeks. Also, as part of the project, the group will be knitting hats and even fingerless gloves for the

homeless. So needles at the ready from September for this wonderful project. Let's get knitting!

Although our groups are mostly closed during August, St Clements is very much open for our Sunday Services:

- 1st and 3rd Sunday – Praise Services, starting at 9.45 am
- 2nd and 4th Sunday – Holy Communion, starting at 11 am
- As there is a 5th Sunday in August (31st), there will be Holy Communion, starting at 11 am.

A long summer break seems a bit daunting, so maybe a visit to Arden Hall – and at the rear is Arden Park – or Castle Bromwich Gardens is also worth a visit. St Clements is very blessed to have, at the front of the church, a beautiful space with our gardener making sure the lawn is in tip-top condition. But we would respectfully ask that, should you come and enjoy this space (no ball games), you take your litter home.

On Saturday, 5th July, St Clements joined St Mary and St Margaret's at their Summer Fun Day. We had a table with lots to browse and a small raffle. The weather was kind and, although slightly overcast, yes, the sun came out to tease us, but it stayed dry and was a really lovely day.

We are joining St Barnabas and All Saints on 15th November at their fayre, which will be held in the church of St Barnabas. Once again, we will have a table with lots to buy. Then, on Sunday, 16th November, after the service at St Clements, we will be holding a raffle and cake stall. Our fundraising continues, and every little helps to keep a church roof over our heads!

On Sunday, 6th July, St Clements were pleased to be able to welcome the CMM Choir (Christian Music Ministries), who performed a new musical by Roger Jones and conducted by Annie Routley, giving the story

of Zacchaeus (Zac) – Luke 19:1–10. What an inspiring afternoon! Amazing singers, and the music was so moving it was almost like a “warm hug.”



As all schools promote the love of reading (which St Clements also supports), the annual Summer Reading Challenge for 2025 – delivered in partnership with public libraries across the UK – is well worth exploring. Even better, it's free for children to take part! The theme for the 2025 Summer Reading Challenge is: Story Garden – Adventures in Nature and the Great Outdoors. Pop into your local library or go online to learn more.

Want to know more about St Clements?

Phone: 0121 274 7120

A Church Near You:

www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7248/

Church Website: www.stclementschurchcb.co.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/stclementschurchcastlebromwich

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Puzzle Page

ACROSS

- 1 Raps lightly
- 5 Clean thoroughly
- 10 Compass point
- 13 Junk
- 15 "Remember the ___"
- 16 Standard or average
- 17 Stadium
- 18 Grassy plain
- 19 Possessive pronoun
- 20 Representative
- 21 Destroy
- 23 Cake
- 25 Ground
- 26 Teased playfully
- 28 Part of "Colorado"
- 31 Flying machine
- 32 Entertain
- 33 Called
- 34 Before (prefix)
- 37 Financial obligation
- 38 Neutral color
- 40 Churn
- 41 Whichever
- 42 Group of people with musical instruments playing together
- 43 Slips
- 44 Legion
- 45 Chicken sound
- 46 Missions
- 49 Be angry

- 50 Book holder
- 51 Asian dress
- 52 IBM Competitor
- 55 Cap
- 56 Raging
- 59 Blood sucker
- 61 Vane direction
- 62 Crow-like bird
- 63 Rumormonger
- 64 Conger
- 65 Water retention
- 66 Blow

DOWN

- 1 Despot
- 2 Land unit
- 3 Secondary
- 4 __ Francisco
- 5 Agreeable to the mind
- 6 Tribe
- 7 Cram
- 8 Referee
- 9 Using a boat for pleasure
- 10 Frolic
- 11 Fry lightly
- 12 Goofed
- 14 Public procession of people
- 22 Spanish "one"
- 24 Lode yield
- 25 Final
- 26 Piece of cloth used as the symbol of a country

- 27 Path
- 28 Pater
- 29 Sign
- 30 July birthstone
- 31 Inherent feeling of dignity and worth
- 34 U.S. President
- 35 Brook
- 36 Otherwise
- 38 Shakespeare's occupation
- 39 Tails
- 40 Competition of speed
- 42 Large outdoor fire
- 43 Group consisting of parents and their children
- 44 Movie 2001's talking computer
- 45 Mongrel dog
- 46 Sugar-free brand
- 47 River
- 48 Disgust
- 49 Passes at the bull
- 51 Plant trunk
- 52 List of meals
- 53 Deeds
- 54 Make small talk
- 57 Radiation dose
- 58 Street abbr.
- 60 Electroencephalograph (abbr.)

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								66		

By Jimmy and Evelyn Johnson - www.qets.com

Word Search

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

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.

- | | | |
|--------------|-----------|------------|
| Abolitionism | Euphoria | Parade |
| Anthum | Family | Picnic |
| Band | Fireworks | Recreation |
| Boating | Fourth | Ruby |
| Camping | Hiking | Seashore |
| Conjoint | Holiday | Suffrage |
| Emblem | Liberty | Swimming |

Interiors & Decorating



PLATINUM
 INTERIOR DECORATING

Platinum August Update

Interior Design and Decorating in Warwickshire: Honouring the Past, Shaping the Present

Warwickshire, a county steeped in history, is home to some of England's most iconic architecture. From the medieval majesty of Warwick Castle to the timbered charm of Stratford-upon-Avon, the area's rich heritage provides a distinctive backdrop for interior design and painting and decorating. Yet Warwickshire is also a living, evolving place – with modern homes, bustling towns, public buildings and family houses that reflect both tradition and contemporary taste.

Interior design and decorating in this unique context requires not only aesthetic sensitivity but also a deep understanding of materials, preservation, and the interplay between old and new. Whether working on a grand Georgian manor or a 1930s semi-detached house, designers and decorators in Warwickshire must navigate a landscape shaped by centuries of architectural development and social history.

Warwickshire's Architectural Heritage

Warwickshire's built environment tells a vivid story. The county boasts everything from Tudor timber-framed homes to Victorian red-brick schools and Edwardian civic buildings, not to mention grand country estates, churches, and former coaching inns converted into hotels and pubs. Stratford-upon-Avon, the birthplace of Shakespeare, is perhaps the most well-known example of a town where the architectural heritage is preserved and celebrated.

In places like Kenilworth, Leamington Spa, and Warwick, historical architecture sets the tone for interior design that respects original features while adapting them for modern life. High ceilings, sash windows, ornate cornicing, exposed beams and flagstone floors are common features, all of which require thoughtful approaches when decorating.

Painting and Decorating Historical Buildings

Decorating historic interiors demands a combination of conservation ethics and creative skill. In listed buildings, especially Grade II and above, there are often strict regulations around the types of paint, finishes, and alterations permitted. Professionals working in these environments need to understand:

- Breathable paints: Limewash or clay-based paints are often used on older, lime-plastered walls, which need to 'breathe' to avoid trapping moisture.
- Colour palettes: Period-appropriate colours—such as muted greens, ochres,

heritage blues, and off-whites—are chosen to maintain historical accuracy, often referencing original paintwork or local traditions.

- Surface preparation: Old plaster, timber and stone require different methods of preparation and finishing than modern materials.

Companies and craftspeople specialising in traditional decorating techniques, including gilding, stencilling, and decorative graining, are frequently called upon in prestigious or conservation-sensitive projects. For example, restoring a Regency townhouse in Leamington Spa may involve replicating historical wallpaper patterns or repainting original wooden shutters in heritage tones.

Influence on Contemporary Homes

The charm and character of Warwickshire's historic buildings inevitably influence newer homes in the region. Many property owners aim to capture some of that timeless elegance in more modern settings. Interior designers often bridge the gap by:

- Introducing traditional elements such as panelled walls, cast iron radiators, or Edwardian-inspired tiling.
- Using heritage paint colours from ranges such as Farrow & Ball, Little Greene or Edward Bulmer.
- Incorporating locally sourced or reclaimed materials, such as Cotswold stone, reclaimed oak beams, or brick slips that mimic Victorian masonry.

Even new builds in Warwickshire are frequently designed to blend with their surroundings, drawing on cues from historical architecture. Developers in areas such as Shipston-on-Stour, Southam, or Rugby may use brick detailing, slate roofs, and traditional window styles to reflect regional identity.¹

Public Buildings and Community Spaces

Warwickshire's public buildings—from village halls and libraries to schools and council offices—also reflect the county's blend of past and present. Many of these buildings were constructed during the Victorian or Edwardian periods, and refurbishing them involves preserving original details while improving functionality and energy efficiency.

Interior design in these contexts balances durability and practicality with sensitivity to heritage. For example:

- Schools may retain original parquet flooring or stone window sills, complemented by modern, colourful paint schemes to energise learning environments.

- Libraries and museums, such as those in Stratford or Warwick, often use calming, neutral tones to highlight exhibits while preserving plaster cornices or ceiling roses.
- Village halls and community centres—often the heart of rural Warwickshire villages—are being modernised with updated lighting and heating, while respecting period details and supporting local heritage.

In many cases, funding for such work comes from heritage grants or local councils, requiring that materials and techniques align with conservation guidelines.

Sustainable and Local Approaches

Sustainability is increasingly important in interior design and decorating throughout Warwickshire. This aligns well with traditional materials and methods, many of which are inherently low-impact.

- Lime plaster and limewash, for example, are made from natural materials and provide excellent thermal and moisture regulation in older properties.
- Locally made furniture, hand-crafted joinery, and artisan tiling reduce transport emissions and support local makers.
- Recycled or vintage furnishings are commonly used to complement historical interiors or provide contrast in modern settings.

The use of environmentally friendly paints—free from VOCs (volatile organic compounds)—is becoming standard, particularly in homes with children or allergies.

Decorating Modest Homes with Historic Influence

Not every home in Warwickshire is a manor house, but even more modest properties—such as Victorian terraces, inter-war semis, or 1960s builds—can benefit from the area's design ethos. Many homeowners incorporate traditional touches to lend warmth and character to functional spaces:

- Picture rails and dado rails reintroduced in modern renovations.
- Wallpaper designs inspired by William Morris or Arts & Crafts movements.
- Timber accents or painted wooden panelling in hallways and bathrooms.
- Simple neutral palettes with one or two bold, period-inspired colour accents.

The key is restraint—borrowing from the past without overwhelming the space, and always adapting to suit the room's proportions, light and function.

In Warwickshire, interior design and decorating are more than surface treatments—they're a dialogue with history. Whether revitalising a Grade II listed farmhouse or updating a 1980s detached home, the county's deep architectural roots provide inspiration and guidance.

Working within this region requires a mix of craftsmanship, historical knowledge, and modern design acumen. Designers and decorators here don't just follow trends—they respond to a unique local context shaped by heritage, community, and a strong sense of place.

As Warwickshire continues to grow and evolve, the blending of old and new in interior design offers a compelling vision: one that celebrates tradition while embracing innovation, all within the timeless beauty of the English Midlands.



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Castle Bromwich Parish Council News



Table Top

On Saturday 6th September 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.

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!

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

Heritage Open Day at Arden Hall

We are throwing open the archives at Arden Hall as well as working with those interested in local history. Come down and join us to learn more about the history of Castle Bromwich on Sunday 14th September 2025 12pm-3pm.

MacMillan Coffee Morning

We will be hosting this annual charity event on Saturday 20th September 2025 10am – 1pm. We would love you to join us for a cake & cuppa for a great cause. Any donations of baked goods on the day would be greatly appreciated.

Remembrance Parade 2025

This year's parade will be held on Sunday 9th November,

please put the date in your diary and join us from around 10am for the parade and service. Vehicle access around The Green will be restricted.

Tribute Acts

Elvis 13th Sept, Northern Soul 11th Oct, Phil Collins 6th Dec, George Michael 13th Dec, NYE 31st Dec Bee Gees

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

North Warwickshire and Bedworth MP throws her weight behind Polesworth Donkey Sanctuary fundraiser

The Labour MP for North Warwickshire and Bedworth, Rachel Taylor MP, has voiced her support for a campaign to raise funds for the Polesworth Donkey Sanctuary.

Rachel Taylor MP recently visited the sanctuary, where she saw firsthand the great work they were doing providing a home to rescued animals and supporting the local community, including people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

Rachel Taylor MP said:

"It was wonderful to visit the Polesworth Donkey Sanctuary last month and see all the animals looking happy after they have been rescued. I'm delighted to be supporting their fundraiser to ensure the sanctuary can stay open.

There is a fantastic community behind the sanctuary, with great work being done by

volunteers and the positive impact it has on people with SEND. I would really encourage people to donate and visit the sanctuary for a great family day out!"

Jeff Williams, owner of the Polesworth Donkey Sanctuary, said:

"We have already been bowled over by the support we've received from the local community for our fundraiser, so it's great to also have our local MP throw her weight behind the campaign.

The small team at Polesworth Donkey Sanctuary work 7 days a week to rescue and rehabilitate animals and give donkeys, goats, ponies, chickens, alpacas and more a second chance at life. Now we want to secure the sanctuary's land and build dedicated classrooms so we can create more safe, inclusive spaces for children and adults to enjoy, learn, and feel truly welcome. All donations, no matter how big or small, will be hugely appreciated."

Figures uncovered by Rachel Taylor MP show Warwickshire Council failed to claim more than £7 million of "free money" for HS2 road repairs

The Labour MP for North Warwickshire and Bedworth has reacted with disbelief after uncovering figures that show that Warwickshire County Council has failed to claim more than £7 million in road maintenance funding from HS2.

Rachel Taylor MP said it was shocking that the council had squandered the opportunity to claim "free money" available from HS2 to fix damaged roads and carry out road safety improvements in Warwickshire.

Her findings show that while £8 million in funding

for road improvements was made available exclusively to Warwickshire County Council from 2016 to the end of 2026, the council had so far claimed just £820,000 of it, or 10%.

With eighteen months to go until the funding expires, the North Warwickshire and Bedworth MP said it was highly likely the vast majority of the money would therefore go unclaimed.

In a letter to the Reform-controlled County Council, Ms Taylor said:

"The shocking state of our roads continues to be a source of anger and frustration in North

Warwickshire and Bedworth. Around the HS2 works in Water Orton and Coleshill, the impact of heavy vehicles has taken a huge toll on our roads.

I'm sure you will therefore share in my shock that millions of pounds in road improvement funding has gone unclaimed by Warwickshire County Council.

I would urge your new administration to look into this as a matter of urgency, and rapidly identify projects that could make good use of this funding before it expires. The roads around the HS2 works at Water Orton and Coleshill are in desperate need of this money."

Former newspaper editor becomes Royal Sutton Coldfield Chamber president



A former newspaper editor and award-winning journalist has taken the reins as president of the Royal Sutton Coldfield Chamber of Commerce.



From left – Shaun Cremins, Gary Phelps, Kate Curry and Naeem Arif

Gary Phelps, who grew up in the town and went on to become the editor of the Royal Sutton Coldfield Observer, was named as the Chamber’s new president at the AGM at Moor Hall Hotel & Spa on Monday.

A new vice-president was also appointed at the AGM, with customer experience expert Shaun Cremins of insight6 joining fellow vice-president, CUDOS Creative agency founder Kate Curry.

Gary Phelps has worked in the media for more than 30 years and has edited nine newspapers - including the Tamworth Herald, Royal Sutton Coldfield Observer, Lichfield Mercury and Nuneaton News.

He runs Gary Phelps Communications, a media consultancy specialising in education, charity, industry and public affairs.

Gary ran comms on former West Midlands mayor Andy Street's election campaigns and is also editor-in-chief of ASHES Magazine, a bi-annual transglobal publication serving the worldwide ashes sector.

A member of the Chartered Institute of Public Relations, Gary is the founder and publisher of www.ukschoolnews.com and www.suttonschoolife.co.uk, and is also the author of horror novel 13 Doors.

Gary, who succeeds outgoing president Naeem Arif, said: “Sutton Coldfield is a special place – you could even call it unique.

“Why? Because there are two Sutton Coldfields – the up-market suburb of the UK’s Second City, and the ancient Tudor town which retains a bit of a stubborn independent streak.

“It’s home to a thriving and proudly local business economy, while at the same time many of the people and entrepreneurs who occupy the boardrooms of Brum live here too.

“It’s proudly independent yet benefits from being just a few minutes away from the metropolitan buzz of Birmingham.

“Add to that its reputation as a desirable place to live, married with its truly unusual status as a ‘Royal Town’ and it’s clear that Sutton has a USP that other places might envy, along with serious business pedigree.

“But, while Sutton is a great place to do business, firms here are facing the same challenges found elsewhere – from rising costs and skills gaps to the impact of online

commerce. No business is immune to these challenges.

“That’s why the Royal Sutton Coldfield Chamber of Commerce is so valuable to the business community.

“I want to thank outgoing president Naeem Arif for an inspirational two years in office, which has seen the Chamber go from strength to strength.

“As I follow Naeem, my ambition is to raise the profile of the Chamber even higher, to attract more members – and ensure local businesses work together to take advantage of the opportunities ahead.”

Naeem Arif, who becomes honorary chair following his two-year term as president, said: “As I complete my two-year term as president, I do so with a mix of pride and gratitude. These have been testing times for many in business.

“Yet those of us still here continue to demonstrate resilience, creativity, and determination. That alone is worth celebrating.

“As I step into the honorary chair role, I’m delighted to pass the baton to Gary Phelps, a passionate advocate for our town.

“Alongside the new committee, he will steer us forward with exciting plans.”

Meanwhile, the Royal Sutton Coldfield Chamber also welcomed two new committee members, Charlotte Edwards from Edwards & Gray Estate Agents and Gurmeet Singla from Ficode Technologies.

Dan Sinton from BPG Gracechurch and Anita Ellis, founder of copywriting agency Lexicomm, were thanked at the AGM after completing their terms on the committee.

Rachel Taylor MP responds to Laura Kuenssberg questioning Nigel Farage on Warwickshire Reform's plan to splurge £190k on political staffers

"It's about time someone took Reform to task for what they do, and not just what they say. Reform in Warwickshire need Tory backing to vote in their teenage council leader, and we're now seeing the price for that support - tens of thousands of pounds for political staff, paid for with taxpayers money. Reform said they'd save Warwickshire taxpayers money on the council. Instead it's being spent on a big fat bribe."

Rachel Taylor MP comment on confirmation of a 19-year-old as Warwickshire County Council leader

"I am deeply concerned by Reform UK's decision to railroad through the election of a 19-year-old with no previous experience to lead Warwickshire County Council. The fact that even the Conservatives refused to back Cllr Finch demonstrates the level of disquiet about this inappropriate appointment.

I have met Cllr Finch and know him to be

a charismatic and ambitious young man, but my constituents need someone with a proven track record to fix our potholed roads, special education services, and social care system. I wish Cllr Finch well as Leader, but I remain deeply sceptical that he has the experience needed to deliver change for my constituents."

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Warwickshire Police Cadets Take on the 'Heritage Cadet Challenge' with Historic England and the Heritage Youth Partnership



As part of their ongoing commitment to community engagement and learning, Warwickshire Police Cadets proudly partnered with Historic England and the Heritage Youth Partnership to participate in the 'Heritage Cadet Challenge' — a unique opportunity to explore local heritage while contributing to the National Heritage List for England (NHLE) through the inspiring Missing Pieces Project.

The Missing Pieces Project invites people across the country to share their own stories and photographs of listed places—those nationally protected buildings, parks, battlefields, shipwrecks, and more that shape England's rich historic landscape.

With over 400,000 listed sites and 99% of people living within a mile of one, the project aims to complete the picture of England's heritage by adding personal perspectives that bring these places to life.

This initiative also aligns with the goals of the Heritage Youth Partnership, which connects uniformed youth organisations with heritage organisations to strengthen young people's sense of belonging and well-being through local heritage. The partnership supports uniformed youth groups to deliver parts of their programme through heritage, develops resources and leader training, and enables local youth-led heritage social action projects.

Mark Harrison, Head of Heritage Crime for Historic England, who coordinates the challenge, said: "This collaboration not only enriched the cadets' understanding of the places around them but also empowered them to play an active role in shaping how these places are remembered and valued. Every story they added became a missing piece—a vital contribution to the bigger picture of England's shared heritage."

Flora Ward, Project Manager, Heritage Youth Partnership, said: "The Heritage Cadet Challenge is a fantastic example of how heritage can be a powerful tool for youth development. By connecting with local history, cadets not only gain valuable skills but

also a stronger connection to their community.

"We are proud to support initiatives like this, which bring heritage to life for young people and foster meaningful, sustainable partnerships between organisations that are passionate about enabling young people to thrive."

Philip Seccombe Police and Crime Commissioner for Warwickshire praised the initiative and said: "I'm proud that our Warwickshire Cadets are leading the way in helping to document the hidden heritage of England. They were able to visit historic sites, capture photographs and share their own reflections of important parts of our community heritage. Their voices are now part of a national archive that celebrates the diversity and depth of England's past which will be seen for many years to come.

"I'm sure as these first recipients wear their commemorative badges on their uniforms they will inspire their colleagues to take up the challenge. I've asked them to spread the message and with extra cadets arriving in the autumn to boost Warwickshire's numbers to around 180 cadets, I'm sure more will be earning their badges soon. I also hope their example will encourage cadets in other police force areas to take join the 'Missing Pieces Project' and help Historic England document other important historic sites all over the country."

Warwickshire Police Cadet Leader PC Darren Lund added: "By taking part in this challenge the cadets have discovered the stories behind local landmarks and contributed to a national effort to preserve and protect heritage. They have developed research, photographic, and storytelling skills and strengthened their connection to their communities and local history."

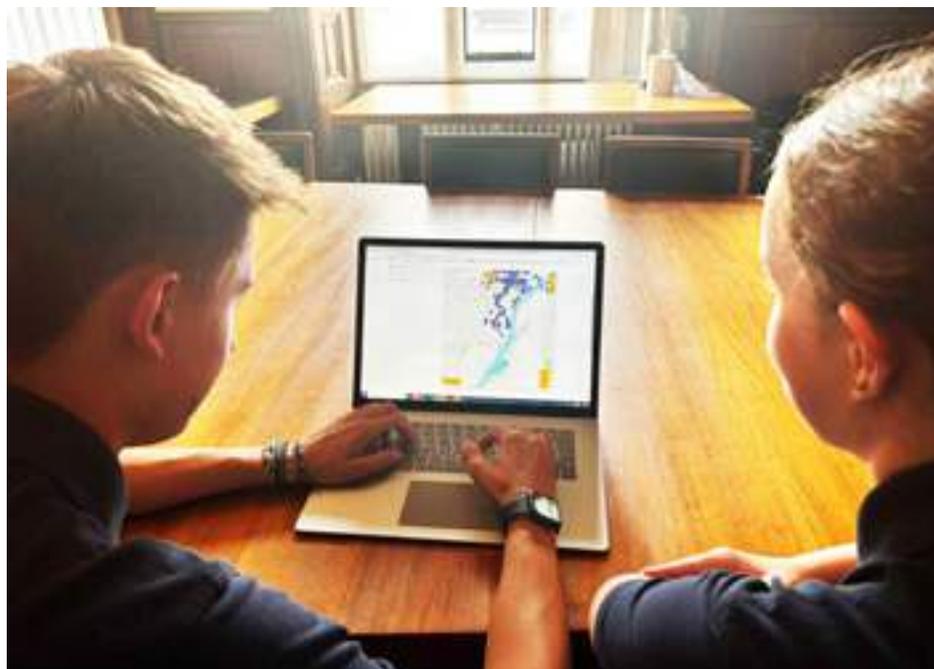
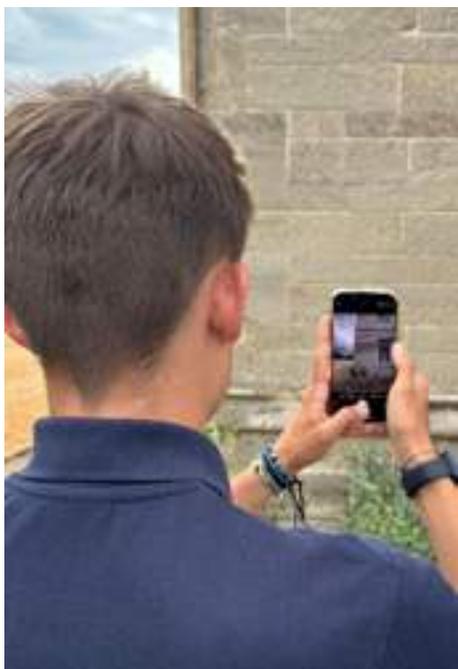
The cadets themselves have also found the scheme rewarding. Among the buildings they helped document was Warwickshire Police's historic Woodcote House, which has recently been renovated as the centrepiece of the force's headquarters.

"Working with Historic England has really opened my eyes to the history all around me and how close some of it is without even realising", says Cadet Gibson, while Cadet Norton added: "I find history very interesting and being a Heritage Cadet slowed me to learn about more local and less mainstream history, it also gave me the opportunity to document pieces of history that might have otherwise not been recorded."

Nationally, the participation of Warwickshire Police's cadets has been praised by the National Police Chiefs' Council Lead for Heritage and Cultural Property Crime and Police Support Volunteers, Deputy Chief Constable Rachel Nolan. She says: "The Heritage Cadet Challenge is a powerful example of how we engage communities and policing with heritage protection. It's brilliant to see this initiative empowering young volunteers to become active custodians of our shared history.

"Through their participation, cadets are not only learning about the significance of heritage sites but also playing a vital role in safeguarding them for future generations. It's a model of how we can inspire civic pride, develop life skills, and strengthen the bond between policing and the communities we serve."

You can find out more about the Missing Pieces Project on the Historic England website at <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/missing-pieces>.





St Mary and St Margaret Church

Castle Bromwich

Faith.Youth.Eco.Heritage.Community



The National Heritage Open Days Festival runs from 12th-21st September 2025 and once again St Mary and St Margaret’s Church will be opening its doors. The theme for this year’s festival is “Celebrating Architecture” and the church is a fine example of Georgian architecture at its best.

The building may look like a Georgian church but the “Church within a Church” hides a secret. (Maybe the clue is in the name...) Come and find out more about the history of this beautiful old building and the people who built it.

The events are open to everyone and are free of charge. Refreshments will be available on all days. Opening hours:

- Saturday 13th September 12-4pm
- Sunday 14th September 12-4pm
- Saturday 20th September 12-4pm – Heritage Fayre
- Sunday 21st September 12-4pm



There will also be a service 11am - 12pm on Sunday 21st September to celebrate our heritage. All are welcome. Further details are available on the Church website or by visiting www.heritageopendays.org.uk

Starting 7th September
Youth Connect 6.30-8pm Community Hall
 A free space for teens & pre-teens to chat, have fun and enjoy games & activities
 1st Sunday of the Month (Term Time)

Upcoming Services & Groups

Sunday 3rd August

11am All Age Communion & Holy Baptism

Sunday 10th August

9.30am Parish Communion

Monday 11th August

1.30-3pm Bereavement Group (Community Hall)

Wednesday 13th August

12-1.30pm Soup & a Roll £1 donation (Community Hall)

Sunday 17th August

11am Sung Eucharist (Church)
 Cafe Worship (Community Hall)

Sunday 24th August

9.30am Parish Communion

Wednesday 27th August

10-11am Coffee Morning (Community Hall)

Sunday 31st August

9.30am All Age 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



North Warwickshire
Borough Council

Press Release

North Warwickshire Borough Council Successfully Enforces High Hedge Legislation in Court

North Warwickshire Borough Council has been successful in Court last week in securing a guilty conviction against someone who had not complied with a Notice to reduce the height of hedge in his garden.

The case had been brought after officers had found that the hedge was too high, and the Council served a Notice on him directing him to reduce its height and keep it as such. The hedge owner was given fair opportunity to take voluntary action to comply with the requirements of the notice.

Following complaints from neighbours about an overgrown hedge, North Warwickshire Borough Council took decisive action, demonstrating its strong commitment to responding to residents' concerns.

Responding to residents' concerns promptly is a top priority for North Warwickshire Borough Council,

reflecting their commitment to maintaining a safe, respectful, and well-managed community.

The Council strives to ensure that issues raised by the public are addressed efficiently and effectively. Despite multiple requests for compliance and no engagement from the property owner, the Council was left with no choice but to pursue prosecution to enforce the High Hedge Remedial Notice.

The Council commenced these Court proceedings and on the 2nd of July they were convicted and ordered to comply with the notice by the end of October (after bird nesting season) and ordered to pay costs of £5362 to cover council costs and legal fees.

High Hedge legislation ensures that unmaintained hedges which can affect a neighbour's enjoyment of their home and/or its garden can be protected. This is covered by the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 legislation. Therefore, if a hedge is considered too high and causing issues with your

property you can complain to the Council.

You must however try to remedy the situation with your neighbour first, only when this has been exhausted you can submit a complaint to the Council, providing evidence of the discussions you have had.

There is a cost involved of £350 (subject to review) and the Council will assess whether the hedge is causing an adverse problem. If a remedial notice is served you must comply with this, or you will face prosecution.

Councillor Mark Simpson, the Chairman of the Council's Planning and Development Board said, "This is a warning to all owners who allow their boundary hedgerows to grow too high, such that they effect neighbouring residential amenity. The Council will follow these cases through to the Courts, if there is continued resistance to not complying with the Council's Notices to have them reduced in height"

Atherstone to host stage four of the Lloyds Tour of Britain Men's Cycle Race

Britain's biggest professional cycle race and the UK's largest free-to-spectate live sporting event will return to North Warwickshire this September. Stage four will take place on Friday 5th September and the race will commence from Atherstone's Market Square.

Stage four will take in all five boroughs and districts of Warwickshire (North Warwickshire Borough; Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough; Rugby Borough; Warwick District; and Stratford-on-Avon District), as the county hosts the Lloyds Tour of Britain Men for the first time since 2019, with a stage heading from Atherstone to the ever-popular hilltop finish at Burton Dassett Hills

Country Park.

Warwickshire children will also have the chance to be involved once again, with Warwickshire County Council launching a competition for under-11s to design the flag that will start the race in Atherstone, and the trophy that will be presented to the stage winner at Burton Dassett.

**Councillor David Wright,
Leader of the Council said:**

"We are thrilled that the town will be hosting the UK's biggest cycle event and are all excited for what promises to be another memorable edition of the Men's Tour.

We are already aware, from the Women's Tour, that our

towns and villages will enthusiastically come together to support the riders. We hope to see a huge turnout of spectators once again to cheer them on during the event.

The race generates significant excitement within the borough, inspiring others to embrace the benefits of cycling while simultaneously providing a substantial boost to our visitor economy.

Over the coming weeks we look forward to sharing more exciting details about this year's race with fans and building up to what will be another incredible edition of the Lloyds Tour of Britain."

Residents looking to find out more information should visit Lloyds Tour of Britain

Great result for the Council's Waste Collection Service



North Warwickshire Borough Council is the second most improved Council in England when it comes to

waste service collection, according to the recent Local Authority collected waste management annual results for 2023-2024.

The Council currently provides collection services for 29,803 properties within the borough, which includes dry recycling collections (red bin), domestic waste collections (black bin) and green waste collections (green bin).

North Warwickshire Borough Council also operates a trade waste collection service to businesses and commercial premises within the borough.

In September 2023, the Council started to deliver the bulk of its recycling materials to Sherbourne Recycling Facility.

Sherbourne is the most advanced state-of-the-art Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) of its kind in the UK.

The plant utilises specialist AI technology to process dry mixed residential kerbside recycling in the most sustainable and efficient way possible.

Councillor Margaret Bell, Chair of Community & Environment Board, said: "This is a very good improvement in performance and shows both the residents

and the Council's commitment to driving further participation and improvements in its waste collection services. I would like to thank residents who have been instrumental in driving improved recycling levels across the borough."

The link to the main DEFRA release and pages is

www.gov.uk/government/statistics/local-authority-collected-waste-management-annual-results/local-authority-collected-waste-management-provisional-annual-results-202324

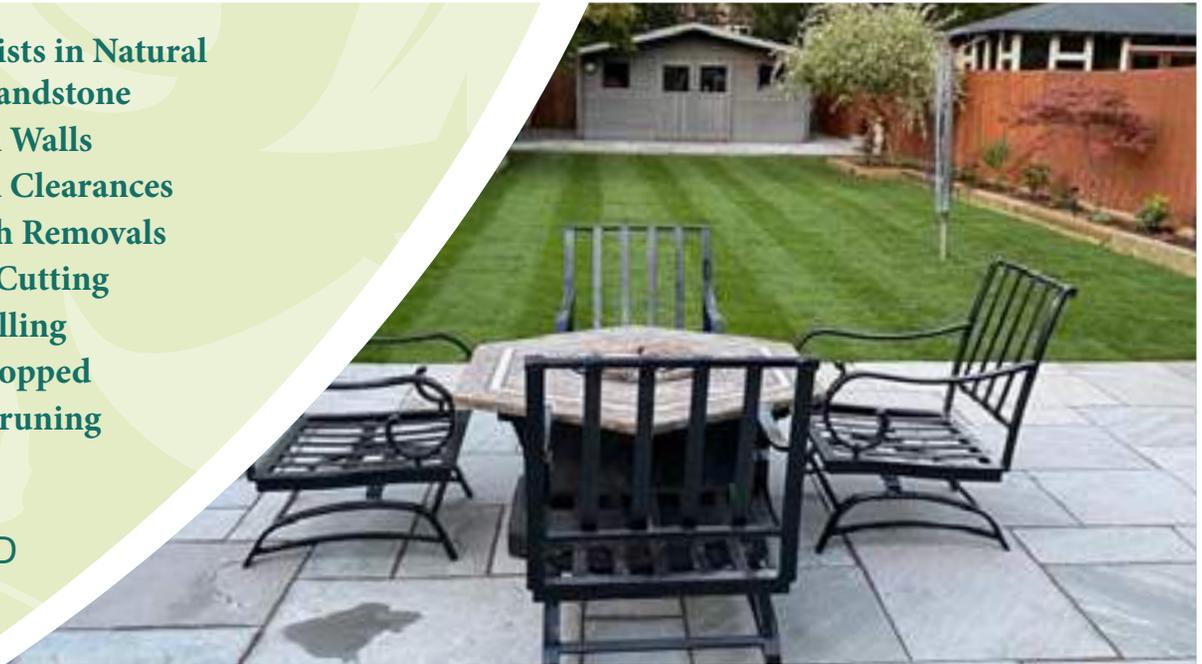
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1	T	A	P	S		5	S	C	R	U	B		10	S	S	E	
13	S	C	R	A	P	14		15	A	L	A	M	O	16	P	A	R
17	A	R	E	N	A		18	P	A	M	P	A		19	O	U	R
20	R	E	P		21	R	U	I	N		23	T	O	R	T	E	
				25	L	A	N	D		26	F	L	I	R	T	E	D
28	D	O	R	A	D	O		31	P	L	A	N	E				
32	A	M	U	S	E			33	R	A	N	G		34	P	R	E
37	D	E	B	T		38	B	E	I	G	E		40	R	O	I	L
41	A	N	Y		42	B	A	N	D		43	F	A	L	L	S	
				44	H	O	R	D	E		45	C	A	C	K	L	E
46	E	R	R	A	N	D	S		49	F	U	M	E				
50	S	H	E	L	F			51	S	A	R	I		52	M	A	C
55	T	O	P		56	I	R	A	T	E		59	L	E	E	C	H
61	E	N	E		62	R	A	V	E	N		63	Y	E	N	T	A
64	E	E	L		65	E	D	E	M	A		66	G	U	S	T	

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J	M	H	M	E	D	A	R	A	P	V	G	M	N	M			

Hidden message:

FOR WHAT AVAIL THE PLOUGH
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By Ralph Waldo Emerson



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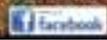
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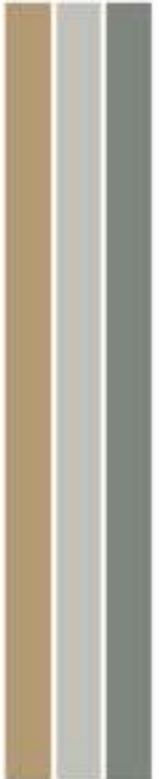
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Coleshill Town F.C.

Coleshill Towns Fixtures

The fixtures are in, and Coleshill Town is set to kick off the season with a thrilling cup tie at home.

Boots cleaned, new kit hung up, and Pack Meadow prepped for another season, it's that time again. The first batch of fixtures has dropped, and the action begins with a proper cup dust-up.

On Saturday, August 2nd, Coleshill Town welcomes Nuneaton Town for an FA Cup clash that promises to be a spicy encounter. It's the first game back, and it's knockout football – what more could you want? Expect a lively crowd and no shortage of early-season grit.

Following the cup tie, Coleshill Town travels to Bourne Town on Saturday, August 9th. Bourne Town is a tricky place to visit early in the campaign, having secured a 3rd successive promotion last season.

Back on home soil, Coleshill Town hosts Racing Club Warwick on Monday, August 11th. This is a competitive fixture that will set the tone for what's to come in the league.

New for this season, ticket presale has been set up, and tickets are already on sale for the home games, starting with the Nuneaton FA Cup match. If you're heading down to Pack Meadow, don't miss out – snap yours up now via our website Coleshilltownfc.com.

Early support means everything for Coleshill Town.

Doyle Smashes American Olympians Weight Carrying Record



The one mile course was over Yarningale Common Warwickshire which meant the distance was walked over cross country terrain.

"It was the hardest one mile weight carrying farmers walk I have ever done, the weight restricted my breathing and my shoulders felt as though they were going to pop out, I also picked up muscle strain shoulder injuries as well, but reaching my career 961 physical fitness challenges and World Records is a great relief, a big thank you to my support team who are always backing me."

It was one of the toughest miles Paddy Doyle had to finish whilst carrying 123 lb backpacks in each hand, the previous record was held by former American Olympian Ryan Hall who made USA history setting running records in the half and full marathon. In 2021 Hall set the one mile farmers weight carrying challenge carrying 195 lbs in a time of 25 min. 42 sec. But GB endurance Athlete and multi Guinness World Record Holder Doyle beat it carrying a heavier weight completing in a time of 24 min. 18.39 sec.



COLESHILL TOWN F.C.		25/26 FIXTURES		PITCHING IN	
AUGUST	02 NUNEATON T (FAC) 09 Bourne Town 11 RACING CLUB 16 TSC/A 19 Coventry Sphinx 23 ST NEOTS TOWN 30 Boldmere St Michaels	SEPTEMBER	06 HOME (FAT) 13 Anstey Nomads 20 SHEPshed DYNAMO 27 Rugby Borough	OCTOBER	04 MICKLEOVER 07 Rugby Town 11 BELPER TOWN 13 BEDWORTH UNITED 18 Wellingborough Town 25 Long Eaton United
NOVEMBER	01 SUTTON COLDFIELD T 08 Carlton Town 15 BASFORD UNITED 22 Corby Town 29 RUSHDEN DIAMONDS	DECEMBER	06 ANSTEY NOMADS 13 Shepshed Dynamo 20 BOURNE TOWN 26 Lichfield City	JANUARY	01 BOLDMERE ST M 10 Loughborough St 17 Mickleover 24 RUGBY BOROUGH 31 Belper Town
FEBRUARY	07 RUGBY TOWN 14 Bedworth United 21 WELLINGBOROUGH T 28 Basford United	MARCH	07 LONG EATON UNITED 14 Sutton Coldfield Town 21 CARLTON TOWN 28 COVENTRY SPHINX	APRIL	04 St Neots Town 06 LICHFIELD CITY 11 Racing Club Warwick 18 CORBY TOWN 25 Rushden & Diamonds

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