

THE Coleshill & Castle Brom POST



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September 2025 Issue 137



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

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



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

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

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THE Coleshill & Castle Brom POST

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Also available online on our website and facebook pages.



Still No Laughing Matter

By Steve Graham

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



In 2025, I am still doing my litter picks, and I am still finding nitrous oxide bottles, it just tends to be the big bottles now!

I know that the local police are aware of the use and dangers of N2O. But the problem is that these bottles and capsules can be bought perfectly legally online! The local schools are aware of it and hopefully discuss the problem too! If young people were to know the risks involved in inhaling N2O then maybe they would think twice about doing it?

Young people are still taking nitrous oxide it seems, but now in bigger amounts! People are getting seriously injured and in some cases dying. So maybe, and schools may do this already, videos and pictures should be shown to them highlighting the dangers of this gas, and just how stupid and ill informed users are to want to inhale it in the first place!

Like I said I am still finding lots of nitrous oxide bottles on my litter picks. They now vary between heavy, they are full and light, they are empty!

This is a BIG problem that is ongoing and it shows no sign of going away soon. If anything the problem is getting worse!

Chelmsley Wood: Creativity Blooms at Free Weekly Arts Club



Every Thursday morning, Chelmsley Wood Library buzzes with more than the sound of turning pages. Inside a bright meeting room, residents gather for Step On Chelmsley Wood, a free weekly arts-and-crafts club that is quietly becoming one of the community's most treasured traditions.

Run by Arts Therapies UK, the group offers adults of all abilities a chance to take part in relaxed creative sessions. Brushes, paints, fabric scraps, and coloured pencils scatter across the tables, and what begins as a quiet space soon fills with chatter, laughter, and the gentle scratch of pencils.

"It's not about being good at art," explained organiser Lisa Thompson. "It's about slowing down, letting your imagination wander, and feeling part of something."

For many participants, the club is more than a hobby—it's a lifeline. One regular, Janet, described how she looks forward to the sessions each week. "I come here just to pause, put paint on paper, and chat with people who get it. It feels like family now."

The workshops are open to all, free of charge, and supplies are provided. As Chelmsley Wood faces the same challenges as many communities—loneliness, cost-of-living pressures, and the need for connection—this small, creative haven has blossomed into something powerful: proof that community spirit often begins with a paintbrush and a warm welcome.

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Health & Wellness



Mind Matters – Simple Ways to Boost Mental Wellbeing in Everyday Life



In the fast pace of modern life, it's easy to forget to look after our mental health. But just like physical health, your mind needs care, attention, and rest. The good news? You don't need a therapist or expensive app to get started — there are simple, practical things you can do right here in Coleshill.

Start with Small Habits

Mental wellbeing isn't about big overhauls. It starts with small, daily habits:

- Sleep well: Aim for 7-9 hours and stick to a routine.
- Eat mindfully: Balanced meals help support a stable mood.
- Take breaks: Even 5 minutes away from your screen or task can help reset your mind.

Step Outside for a Boost

Nature is a powerful mood booster. A walk in Cole End Park or the surrounding countryside can:

- Reduce stress and anxiety
- Improve concentration
- Encourage mindfulness

Try the "5-4-3-2-1" technique on your walk: Name 5 things you can see, 4 you can hear, 3 you can feel, 2 you can smell, and 1 you can taste. It helps ground you in the present moment.

Stay Connected

Talking helps. Don't bottle things up — share with a friend, neighbour, or loved one. Join a local group or community event. Even a quick chat over the garden fence can make a big difference.

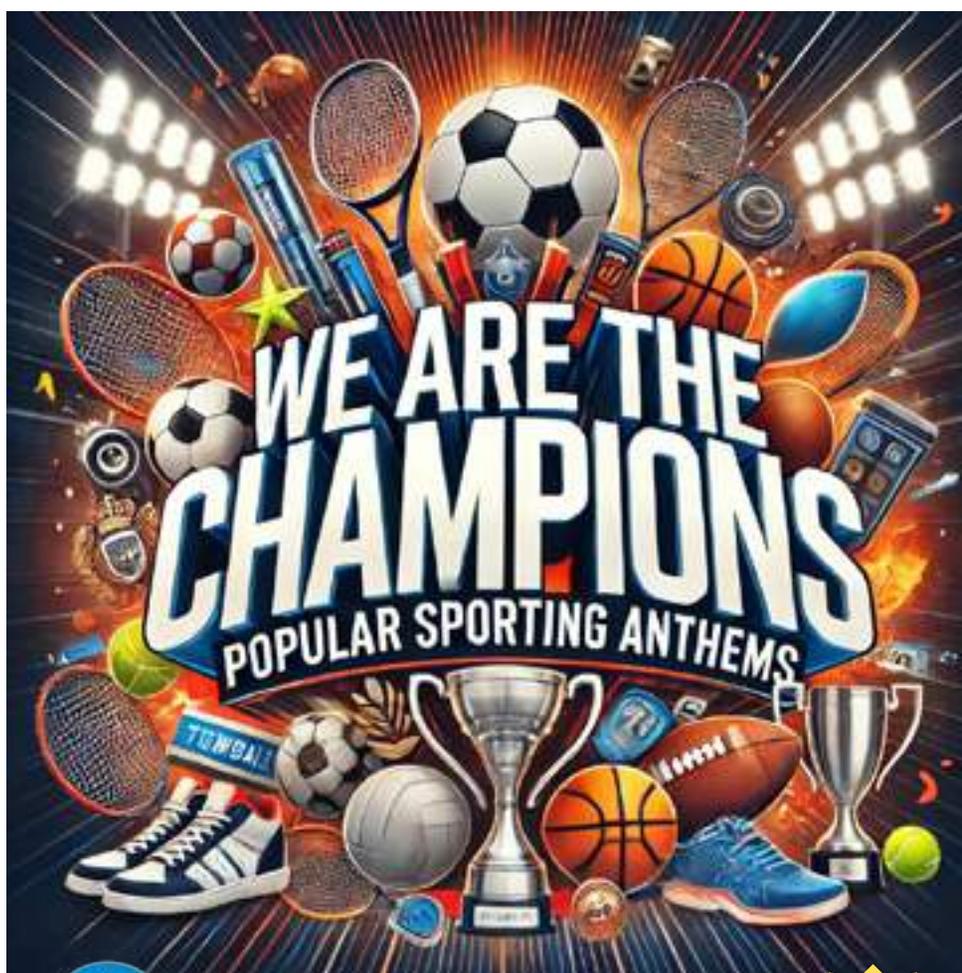
Do One Positive Thing Each Day

Whether it's journaling, walking the dog, gardening, or even tidying a room — achieving something gives a boost. Write down one thing each evening that went well.

Know When to Seek Help

Mental health challenges are nothing to be ashamed of. If you feel overwhelmed or low for more than a couple of weeks, talk to your GP or contact services like Mind or Samaritans.

You matter. Looking after your mental health is a daily act of self-respect — and here in Coleshill, you're never alone.



Mackadown Sports and Social Club
 Friday 17 October Doors 19:00

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Child £6



Curdworth Village Hall
 Friday 24 October Doors 19:00
 Saturday 25 October Doors 14:00



To book tickets call Greg on 07951 562907, Stella on 07973 676761 or book them online using the QR



Coleshill Hub:

Where Community Spirit Finds a Home

On any given day in Coleshill's Town Hall, you might find a wellbeing adviser listening over a cup of tea, a parent receiving practical support, or a local artist hanging their latest work. At the centre of it all is the Coleshill Hub, a not-for-profit service dedicated to keeping the community connected.

The Hub acts as a one-stop point for advice, support, and signposting. Whether residents are facing financial worries, health concerns, or simply in need of company, the Hub provides a safe space where no one feels alone. "It's amazing how often people just need someone to listen," said volunteer coordinator Mary Collins.

But it isn't all serious business—the Hub is also a champion of local talent. Earlier this year, it partnered in Coleshill Local Arts Week, transforming the Old Market Hall into a colourful exhibition space. The event featured schoolchildren's paintings, archaeological finds celebrating Coleshill's rich history, and pop-up shops highlighting the skills of local makers.

Proud parents, grandparents, and neighbours turned out in force. "Seeing our kids' paintings displayed in town? That's what community's all about," said one mother.

In a time when many small towns worry about losing their sense of togetherness, the Coleshill Hub is proof that with the right people and the right space, community spirit doesn't just survive—it thrives.



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



**Next Town Council Meeting –
17th Sep 7pm at
Coleshill Town Hall**

FREE Local Services for Local People
FREE WIFI and use of laptops & tablets
All welcome, come and visit us for a chat and see how the Hub could help you.

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

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

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

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

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

TWO WARM HUB'S
Community Centre (Tue only) and Town Hall Tue to Thu 10 to 1.
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Free refreshments.

Rachel Taylor MP, North Warwickshire and Bedworth



Rachel Taylor MP completes 1,300 mile drive from North Warwickshire to Ukraine to deliver an ambulance filled with aid



The Labour MP for North Warwickshire and Bedworth has completed a three-day, 1,300 mile trip from her constituency to the Poland-Ukraine border in an ambulance filled with humanitarian aid.

The journey formed part of a long-running charitable initiative by LKQ UK & Ireland, a major employer headquartered in Rachel Taylor MP's constituency, to deliver ambulances filled with aid to Ukraine. The MP said she was honoured to have been asked to take part.

The journey began at LKQ's headquarters in Birch Coppice Business Park in Rachel's constituency, where the group departed in a convoy of ambulances. The three-day drive included overnight stopovers in Germany and Poland, before reaching the Poland-Ukraine border where the vehicles and supplies were officially handed over to the Ukrainian authorities for onward transport to the Ukrainian frontline.

The ambulance driven by Ms Taylor was the 50th to be delivered to Ukraine as part of the initiative.



The mission was coordinated by Dawid Kozlowski, Demand Planner at LKQ UK & Ireland, whose tireless commitment has made him a central figure in the company's humanitarian programme. Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Dawid has overseen the delivery of 51 ambulances, tens-of-thousands-of-pounds-worth of prescription medicine, and over 1,000 individually tailored Christmas gifts to Ukrainian children

across nine cities. In recognition of his contribution, he was honoured with a Volunteer Award at the 2023 BBC CWR Make a Difference Awards.



Speaking at the end of the trip, Rachel Taylor MP said:

"I was honoured to be asked to drive one of these ambulances to the Ukrainian border, because it's one thing to see the generosity and determination in our community, but it's another to be part of it firsthand. Driving this ambulance has been an extraordinary experience.

The compassion shown by the LKQ team, supported by people across North Warwickshire and Bedworth, is a reminder of the exceptional things our community continue to do to support our Ukrainian friends in their fight for freedom."

Dawid Kozlowski, of LKQ, said:

"We have always focused on the most practical and immediate needs – medical supplies, vehicles, and support for children. Seeing this latest convoy of ambulances reach the border safely with the help of Rachel Taylor MP is a proud moment for all of us, especially those who donated, volunteered, and supported behind the scenes.

"The suffering of those in Ukraine continues to be a big issue at the heart of my community, and the support we've had from the company to help those in need has made an incredible difference."

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A doggy tale Poem

My children love to skip and dance, play and jump and run
But when they step in doggy doo then its no longer fun.

It sticks to soles and gets in the grooves,
and does not want to leave
I bellow: 'SHOES OFF BEFORE THE DOORSTEP'
after sacrificing handkerchiefs

Supporting the community litter picking,
leads to disastrous events
When glittery wellies have stepped in doggy logs,
with a horrific stench!

My daughter tells me 'Naughty dogs', but they've done no wrong
It's *some* lazy, inconsiderate dog owners who won't bag up, what
theirs belongs.

A leisurely stroll with my pram, ends up with mucky wheels,
I shouldn't have to hose off poo which nows become congealed.

Please dog owners sort it out, quite frankly I've had enough of it
Pick it up, bag it, bin it, please clean up your doggy's... poo!

By Rachael, a Mummy of Coleshill

Castle Bromwich: A Church, a Garden, and a Question of Character

A Georgian church with a medieval heart, Baroque gardens in bloom, and neighbours debating how to protect their heritage.

St Mary and St Margaret's: a church within a church



Castle Bromwich is a place where history and heritage breathe quietly alongside everyday life. Perhaps nowhere is that more visible than at St Mary and St Margaret's Church. At first glance, the red-brick Georgian church looks like a textbook 18th-century building. But step inside, and you discover something unusual: a medieval wooden chapel, encased like a time capsule within its Georgian shell. The ancient oak beams still support the roof, making the church quite literally "a building within a building."

Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens: 10 acres of history

Just a short stroll away lies another jewel of the village's past—Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens. Enclosed by towering 10-foot walls, the gardens are a living piece of Baroque design. Restored after years of decline, they now brim with heritage plants, carefully shaped topiary, and even a hedge maze inspired by Hampton Court. Families wander the grounds, volunteers tend the beds, and schoolchildren explore the orchards, learning that history can be alive, colourful, and fragrant.



Making sure progress doesn't erase what makes us special

Yet alongside these proud landmarks, residents are grappling with a modern challenge: how to preserve the character of their streets in the face of rapid change. Local councillor Alan Feeney has voiced concerns that oversized home extensions are altering the look and feel of Castle Bromwich's traditional neighbourhoods. He argues that outdated planning guidelines are leaving the area vulnerable to developments that don't respect its heritage.



"It's not about stopping progress," Feeney said, "but about making sure progress doesn't erase the character that makes Castle Bromwich special."

For residents, that balance—between preservation and change—is the defining story of their community. With a church that holds two centuries in one frame, gardens that bring the past into the present, and neighbours determined to defend their heritage, Castle Bromwich is a place where history and future meet on every street corner.

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Warwickshire PCC joins partners on patrols as part of Safer Streets Summer



The Police and Crime Commissioner for Warwickshire, Philip Seccombe, has joined a number of partner agencies in Stratford-upon-Avon as part of the Safer Streets Summer campaign to make our town centres safer.

Alongside the local Safer Neighbourhood Team, representatives from Warwickshire Fire & Rescue Service and the Stratford Business Improvement District (BID) Community Wardens, the PCC witnessed the impact the initiative is having to address local community concerns.

It is one of seven town centre locations across Warwickshire benefitting from focussed efforts to reduce anti-social behaviour, serious violence and retail crime. Each location sees a wide range of partners working collaboratively to deliver visible patrols and proactive engagements with businesses, residents and visitors to address these issues.

The scheme is being co-ordinated locally by the Warwickshire Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and is part of the Home Office's national campaign which runs until the end of September.

Police and Crime Commissioner for Warwickshire, Philip Seccombe, said: "Enhancing neighbourhood policing is a key priority within my Police and Crime Plan, so I am thrilled to see first-hand the benefits our town centres get from neighbourhood officers and partner agencies being out on patrol to tackle and prevent local issues.

"I frequently hear from communities about the impact ASB, retail crime and violence have, so it is welcoming to see a renewed effort to addressing the concerns that matter most to residents. The proactive patrols and active engagement with our communities will provide visibility and reassurance to help make Warwickshire a safe place for all."

Stratford Safer Neighbourhood Inspector Jake Kibblewhite said: "We're very proud of our Safer Neighbourhood Team in Stratford and the efforts they are making to curb antisocial behaviour and crime

in the town. They're doing a great job of linking in with local partners including the Business Improvement District, Stratford District Council, and a variety of other agencies provide the best possible service for residents, and they go out of their way to make themselves available for anyone in Stratford with concerns.

"If you want to keep up with the team, I would greatly encourage you to follow them through Warwickshire Connected or on their perennially popular Facebook page."

Cllr Dale Bridgewater, Portfolio Holder for Fire and Rescue and Community Safety at Warwickshire County Council said: "Keeping town centre streets safe is critical to the quality of life of local residents and the local economy. It is a hugely important task and one that takes the efforts and expertise of a range of agencies. I'm pleased to see the County Council playing its part."



ADHD Assessment and Post-Diagnostic Support Service

The Purple House Clinic has launched an adult ADHD Assessment and Post-Diagnostic Support Service, offering timely access to care for adults who may have struggled for years without answers. Awareness of ADHD has grown sharply in recent years, yet long NHS waiting times often prevent people from receiving the assessment and ongoing support they need.

For adults, a formal ADHD diagnosis can bring clarity, self-understanding, and practical strategies for everyday life. Many individuals seek an assessment after years of feeling different or experiencing difficulties with focus, organisation, or managing emotions. Receiving a diagnosis can help explain longstanding challenges in work, education, and relationships.

"People often come to us feeling misunderstood or that something has been holding them back," said Dr Danielle Grey, Clinical Director at The Purple House Clinic. "A diagnosis can validate those experiences and guide them towards the right support."

The clinic provides comprehensive, evidence-based assessment and post-diagnostic support, ensuring individuals not only receive a diagnosis but also practical strategies to manage daily life. Post-diagnostic support focuses on helping an individual to understand their own experience of ADHD and identify strategies including time management and emotional regulation. These services aim to support and individual to navigate challenges and make meaningful changes in their personal and professional lives.

By providing a faster, more personalised pathway, The Purple House Clinic aims to fill the gap left by long NHS waiting lists, offering adults the answers and support they need sooner. A formal ADHD diagnosis can be transformative, giving someone a clearer understanding of their experiences and opening the door to resources and strategies that improve daily life. With the right support in place, individuals are better equipped to manage the demands of work, relationships, and everyday routines, and to reach their full potential.

If you would like to find out more about ADHD services, please contact the Purple House Clinic Birmingham on 0121 8207851 or www.purplehouseclinic.co.uk

the PURPLE HOUSE CLINIC 



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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.

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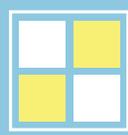
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Protect your Home

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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For more information please contact....

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0845 055 9415 or email;

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The Coleshill School Sixth Form Students Celebrate Post-16 Results

The Coleshill School (part of the Arthur Terry Learning Partnership) is delighted to announce another year of Sixth Form results, reflecting the commitment, resilience, and talent of our students. Across A-level and vocational courses, students have received their results today achieving the grades needed to secure places at their chosen universities, apprenticeships, and professional pathways.

This year we have seen success and positive outcomes in our technical qualifications and first T-Level Cohort in Education and Childcare. The highest result in our Sport Extended Diploma (with a D*, D*, D*) and students in the vocational subjects achieving full marks in their exams.

Our school values — work hard, be kind, and take responsibility — have been central to this success. Students have shown determination in their studies, compassion and support for one another, and a strong sense of ownership over their learning and future goals. Today's results stand as a testament to the perseverance and character that define The Coleshill School community.

Miss Blunt, Associate Assistant Head and Head of Sixth form, commented:

“We would like to congratulate the Class of 2025 on their exam results. Throughout their educational journey through secondary and into sixth form, we know that they have faced challenge and adversity, which they have come through, together. They have worked hard and we wish them success in their next steps”.

Miss Brindley, Head of School, commented:

“We are proud of our Sixth Form students — not only for their academic achievements but also for the maturity and integrity they have shown throughout their time with us. These results are a reflection of their dedication and the unwavering support of our staff and families. As our young people move on to university, higher-level apprenticeships, or the workplace, they take with them the skills, confidence, and values that will shape their futures. The paths they are choosing are as diverse and exciting as the individuals themselves, and we are confident they will continue to make a positive difference in the world.”

The Coleshill School congratulates all students, staff, and families on this outstanding achievement, and thanks our wider community for their continued encouragement and belief in our young people.



Sixth Form Students at The Coleshill School

The Coleshill School Celebrates their GCSE and vocational Success



The Coleshill School, part of the Arthur Terry Learning Partnership (ATLP), is proud to announce another year of positive GCSE and vocational results, reflecting the hard work, determination, and commitment of our students. Across all subjects, results show that students have achieved the grades that will open the door to exciting futures in further education, apprenticeships, and employment.

Our school values — work hard, be kind, and take responsibility — have been at the heart of this success. Students have shown dedication to their studies, kindness and respect to peers and staff, and a strong sense of ownership over their learning and future aspirations. Today's achievements are a testament to the resilience and ambition that define our school community.

Miss Brindley, Head of School, commented:

“We are incredibly proud of our students and the way they have approached their learning journey. These results are not only a reflection of their academic achievement, but also of the personal qualities they have developed during their time at The Coleshill School. As our students take their next steps — whether into our Sixth Form, further education, apprenticeships, or the world of work — they do so with the skills, confidence, and values that will serve them for life. The destinations they choose are as individual as they are, and we look forward to seeing all they will accomplish in the future.”

The Coleshill School wishes to congratulate all students, staff, and families on results day, and to thank our wider community for their ongoing support in helping every student to achieve their very best.



SHARE A STORY

contact:

serena.postgroup@outlook.com



BREAST CANCER NOW

Teacups at the Ready! Join Amy Smith from Birmingham and Host an Afternoon Tea

This August, Breast Cancer Now's Afternoon Tea is back, raising vital funds for world-class breast cancer research and life-changing support.

Amy Smith, 38, from Birmingham will be hosting an Afternoon Tea on 7TH September to raise vital funds for Breast Cancer Now's world-class research and life-changing support. Taking place throughout the month of August, Breast Cancer Now's Afternoon Tea is one of the charity's biggest events and has been running for over 25 years. Every 10 minutes, someone in the UK is told the devastating news 'you have breast cancer', and your Afternoon Tea could help the charity be there for anyone affected, every step of the way.

Amy Smith, from Birmingham, said: "I am really excited about holding my Afternoon Tea. Breast cancer is the most common cancer in the UK and over 55,000 people are diagnosed with breast cancer every year in the UK. I hope I can raise lots of money to help Breast Cancer Now be there for them through their life-changing support and research.

"On 7th September I am hosting Afternoon Tea at the beautiful Coleshill Town Hall. I am hoping to fill the venue and offer everyone attending a wonderful way of saving lives by eating cake and having fun! I am working hard to rally as much support from local businesses as possible, asking for donations of delicious food and fabulous raffle prizes, so that every penny raised can go to Breast Cancer Now! The afternoon will include live music and a photographer to capture the day."

"This event is important to me because the work and support of Breast Cancer Now is essential for those diagnosed with breast cancer and their loved ones. In September 2024 I was diagnosed with stage 2, Triple Negative Breast Cancer, just weeks after the birth of my baby girl. I have experienced first hand, not only the crucial support and resources that

Breast Cancer Now provide, but I am receiving life saving treatments that have been developed through research that is funded by charities such as Breast Cancer Now. Breast Cancer Now has a vision that by 2050 everyone diagnosed with breast cancer will live, and live well. This vision brings me hope and determination, and I am honoured and grateful that I get to play a small part in helping to make this vision a reality!"

Georgie Gibbons, Afternoon Tea Manager at Breast Cancer Now, said:

"I want to say a huge heartfelt thank you to Amy Smith for hosting an Afternoon Tea for Breast Cancer Now. We hope you have a wonderful time and enjoy the chance to get together with friends and family whilst knowing you are raising money to drive forward Breast Cancer Now's life-saving research and provide vital support.

"It's not too late to host your own Afternoon Tea, and it doesn't have to be big or fancy! Whether you bake or buy, just give it a try, because every single Afternoon Tea will help to give support for today and hope for the future to people affected by breast cancer."

Whatever you choose to do, Breast Cancer Now will support you with recipes, fundraising goodies or fun-filled games to play.

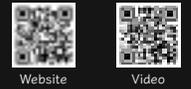
This August, join Amy Smith and support life-saving breast cancer research and life-changing support by joining us for this year's Afternoon Tea. Sign up for your fundraising kit today at: breastcancernow.org/afternoon-tea or search 'Breast Cancer Now Afternoon Tea'.

OR

To support Amy Smith's Afternoon Tea, visit https://www.justgiving.com/page/amy-smith-4-afternoon-tea-at-the-town-hall?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL

Amy Smith's Afternoon Tea at The Town Hall will be taking place at Coleshill Town Hall on 7th September at 2pm. For tickets or more information contact afternoontea@thetownhall@gmail.com

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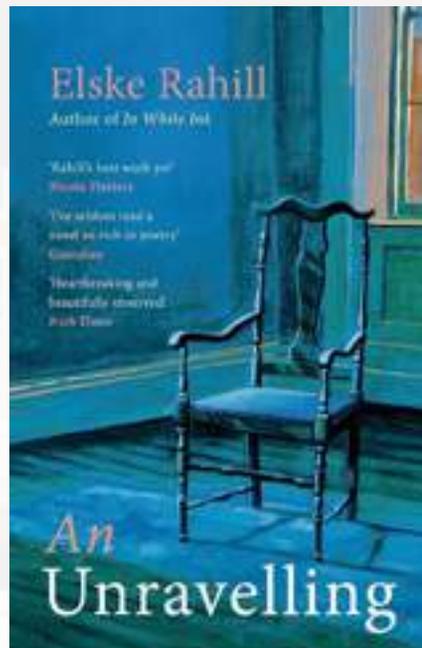
Castle Bromwich Library Book Club

An unravelling by Elske Rahill

Molly is now in her eighties and she helps her grand-daughters Cara and Freya bring up their young children with unstinting care. Hers has been a life of unselfpitying service, from her working-class Dublin girlhood to her current status as the wealthy widow of a famous artist. But her own children, particularly her daughter Eileen, are her life's great failure: unhappy, self-indulgent women who resent the younger generation's apparent freedom from guilt and their unconventional family arrangements. This intricate web of female relationships comes under terrible strain when Molly, her health sapped by her constant efforts on behalf of others, decides to consult the family solicitor about changing her will. This is a novel of great tenderness in its depiction of the small pleasures of family life and ruthless in its portrayal of the dangerous power of money.

A wonderful book about motherhood, family, control, relations and grief. The writing is poetic with a storyline that portrays good versus evil within a family. A beautiful, if sad, book that I loved from the beginning to the end.

Review by Castle Bromwich Library member

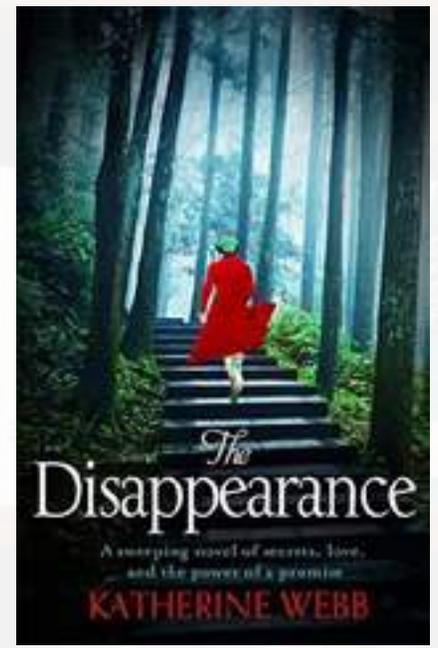


The Disappearance by Katherine Webb

When Frances' best friend Bronwyn disappeared over twenty years ago, her body was never found. The mystery over what happened has cast a shadow over Frances' life ever since. Now, it's 1942 and bombs are raining down on Bath. In the chaos a little boy - Davy Noyle - goes missing. Frances was meant to be looking after him and she is tortured by guilt at his disappearance. Where has he gone, and could he possibly have survived? But bombs conceal, and they reveal - and as quiet falls and the dust settles, a body is disturbed from its hiding place. What happened all those years ago? And can Frances put the wrongs of the past right again?

This story is a beautiful, haunting tale of tragedy and loss that draws you in. A heart aching page turner that kept me guessing right until the end. It has great characters, beautiful descriptions and is so atmospheric. Highly recommended.

Review by Castle Bromwich Library member

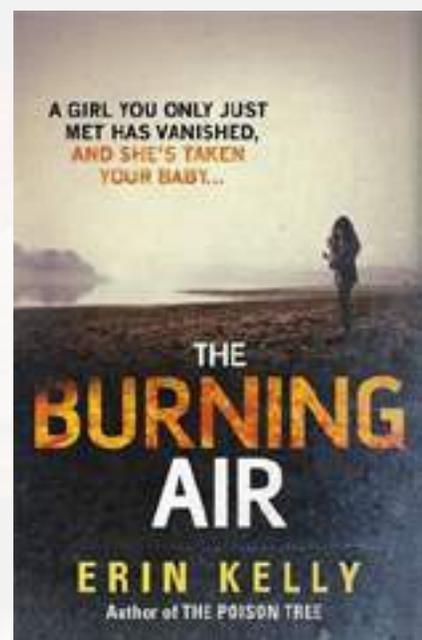


The burning air by Erin Kelly

Of course it was love for my children, love for my son, that caused me to act as I did. It was a lapse of judgement. If I could have foreseen the rippling aftershocks that followed, I would have acted differently, but by the time I realised the extent of the consequences, it was too late!

This is a dark psychological tale of obsession. It is well written with a great plot and completely absorbing. If you enjoy a dark, psychological tale with a clever surprise or two, this is definitely worth a read!

Review by Castle Bromwich Library member

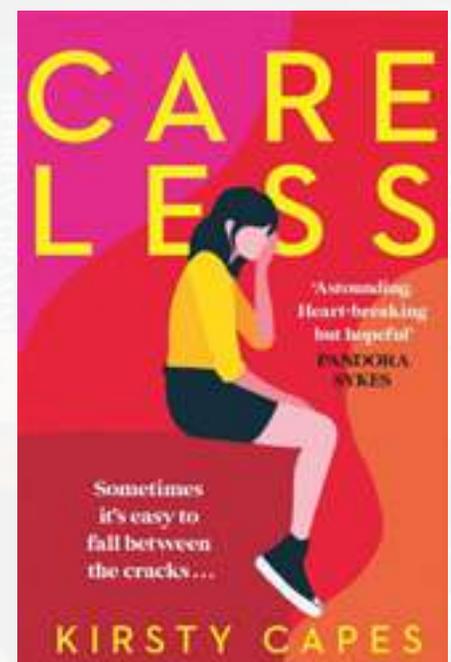


Careless by Kirsty Capes

Sometimes it's easy to fall between the cracks. At 3.04pm on a hot, sticky day in June, Bess finds out that she's pregnant. She could tell her social worker Henry, but he's useless. She should tell her foster mother, Lisa, but she won't understand. She really ought to tell Boy, but she hasn't spoken to him in weeks. Bess knows more than anyone that love doesn't come without conditions. But this isn't a love story.

This an absorbing read from start to finish. A heartwarming, sad, and emotional story about how all feelings and relationships are not like love stories with beautiful and predicted endings. This book left me with tears in my eyes and hope in my heart and it will stay with me for quite some time.

Review by Castle Bromwich Library member





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Historic trade deal with India to deliver £190 million boost to the West Midlands

- New figures show trade deal with India may deliver £190 million for the West Midlands economy as part of the Plan for Change
- Almost 1,000 West Midlands businesses exported goods worth £592 million to India last year, which could grow even more under the new deal
- Comes as Prime Minister welcomes Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi to UK for signing of most comprehensive trade deal India has ever agreed

Businesses and workers in the West Midlands are set to benefit from the UK's trade deal with India more than any other region in the UK, as new analysis shows the landmark agreement may deliver a £190 million boost for the local economy as part of the Plan for Change.

Both Prime Ministers met yesterday morning for the signing of the landmark UK-India trade deal as new analysis reveals communities across every region of the UK will benefit from its £4.8 billion increase to UK GDP each year.

977 West Midlands businesses exported goods worth £592 million to India last year, which could grow even more under the deal. The region's strong automotive sector for instance could see a boost thanks to tariffs on major manufacturers like Jaguar Land Rover and Aston

Martin being reduced from up to 110% to 10% under a quota.

Business and Trade Secretary Jonathan Reynolds said:

"The millions brought to the West Midlands each year from the deal we've signed with India will be keenly felt across local communities, whether that's higher wages for workers, more choice for shoppers, or increased overseas sales for businesses.

"This government is proving time and again that we can deliver on our mission to grow the economy, put more money in pockets and boost living standards under our Plan for Change."

Richard Parker, Mayor of the West Midlands, said:

"The West Midlands has long been a gateway for trade, and our region's deep-rooted ties with India - in business, culture and community - mean this deal will deliver real benefits on the ground.

"With nearly a thousand local firms already exporting to India, this agreement gives us a platform to grow even further - creating jobs, boosting wages and opening up new opportunities for the future."

Workers in the West Midlands will enjoy an uplift in pay as UK wages grow by £2.2 billion each year, and could also see cheaper prices and more choice on clothes, shoes, and food products. The UK already imports £11 billion in goods from India but liberalised tariffs on Indian goods

will make it easier and cheaper to buy their best products. For businesses in the West Midlands this could mean potential savings when importing automotive products and electrical goods.

India's trade weighted average tariff will drop from 15% to 3% which means companies in the West Midlands selling machinery to India will find it easier to sell to the Indian market. It gives the UK an advantage over international competitors in reaching the Indian market, forecast to have over a quarter of a billion high income consumers by 2050.

Aligned with the UK's recent Industrial and Trade Strategies, the deal will support the sectors which drive the most growth for the economy such as automotives in the West Midlands. The deal will also offer significant opportunities for business and financial services in the region.

JCB Chief Executive Graeme Macdonald said:

"India is a great country in which to do business. JCB has been manufacturing machines there since 1979. So, we know India very well and the opportunity for British businesses in that huge market is significant.

"It's the fifth largest economy in the world and is tipped to become the third largest by 2028. This Free Trade Agreement should give British businesses the confidence they need to enter the market, trade more easily and benefit from the massive opportunity."

The Castle Bromwich Lucombe Oak



My wife and I, with our two young girls and newborn baby boy, moved into the first house on the new development opposite Castle Bromwich Parish Church in August 1974.

Building work stopped there!

The housing market had taken one of its periodic “dives” and more work couldn’t be justified until “things picked up”

There was nothing I could do about this, even though I was the architect of the builders – we just had to sit it out and it wasn’t a comfortable position to be in.

The Old Chester Road at this point had

become vehicular only as far as the Gardens Trust access and pedestrian then down to the Chelmsley Wood Collector Road.

There being little “social surveillance”, it was a place for various forms of “hanky-panky” with occasional drug dealing and gang fights. It was generally uncomfortable until work restarted later in 1975.

It must have been a Saturday in spring of that year when I was trying to make something of the grotty front lawn, that I became aware that a distinguished elderly gent was watching me – he wished me “Good Day” and asked “Do you know what sort of tree this is, young man?” indicating the large specimen oak (I knew that much!) growing immediately against the low wall marking the back of the Chester Road pavement. “It’s an oak” I said helpfully. “Yes, but it is a Lucombe Oak” he said. “It’s a hybrid between a Turkey Oak and a Portuguese Cork Oak and it is quite rare” I was tempted to tell him that I knew why this was so, but I asked to whom I should be grateful for this

information. “I am the Earl of Bradford” he said “and it would have been my ancestor Sir John Bridgeman who had it planted”

This was an interesting encounter and over the forty-plus years, as we looked after the Lucombe Oak, we found out more about William Lucombe, the Exeter nursery-man who developed it.

In the mid-eighteenth century there was concern over an insufficient supply of English Oak to maintain the Royal Navy – a single warship needed the timber from up to four thousand trees!

To try to meet the demand, Turkey Oaks were imported in 1735 but they were found to split easily, so were unsuitable.

In Exeter, Lucombe grew both Turkey and Portuguese Cork Oaks and in 1762 he found a hybridation had occurred. Being of no Naval use, he touted it as a feature tree for country estates – such as that of Sir John Bridgeman. Coincidentally, however, in the

same year their family inherited, through marriage, the larger estate of Weston Park in Shropshire – the Newports,

Earl of Bradford (1st creation) – no further Lucombes were planted in Castle Bromwich.

Keeping our tree in a reasonable condition since it was first identified has cost my wife and I a considerable amount of both time and money.

In 2016 we began to be very concerned about its continuing health. Researches indicated it now being regarded as unsuitable for urban use because of its leathery leaves, impossible for composting, at all times of the year – it is semi evergreen of course. In addition ours also drops “blossom” and “fruit” which is ugly and stains pavements.

I wondered if the effect of the change of its surroundings was causing this aberrant behaviour and suggested the trees removal and replacement by a species more suitable for its location. Solihull Council stated that this was not possible and the tree was stated to be in fine fettle by an expert, whose services we paid for.

To be continued.....

David L. Adams

Coleshill Country Markets Seeking their Star Bakers!

Due to continued success with their bakery goods, Coleshill Country Markets are looking for more home bakers to join their team producing cakes and savouries for the Friday weekly market in Coleshill.

Coleshill Country markets is a co-operative holding a Friday morning weekly market, 08:00 – 12:00 at the Parish Rooms, Coleshill High Street. They are looking for home bakers who love to bake and would like to share their produce beyond the

family. There is a big demand for delicious home produced bakery goods and the Coleshill Country Market’s cakes, pastries, pies and desserts are always winners!

“We sell out most weeks”, says Janet Reilly, the Coleshill Country Market Manager, “we would love to have more home bakers to join us. We are a friendly group and if you can only make a few things we would still love to hear from you. You will be given lots of support and

guided in all aspects of packaging and selling your home baked products.”

The Coleshill Country Market is one of hundreds of small non-profit co-operative markets showcasing the diversity and deliciousness of local British home baked and preserved goods, fresh local eggs, home grown fruit, vegetables, plants and quality hand crafts. Producers sell co-operatively at the market and a small commission is retained on sales to cover

the cost of hall hire, public liability insurance and running the market.

If you are a home baker who would like to join the Coleshill Country markets team, please contact Janet Reilly the Market Manager any Friday morning at the market between 08:00 – 12:00 at the Parish Rooms, 132 High Street Coleshill. You can also send them a message via the Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/colescountrymarkets





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We are hosting a community drop-in event in your area!

High Speed two (HS2) High Speed Two (HS2) is the new high-speed railway for Britain. We will be holding an informal drop-in event in Coleshill, where you can come and meet with your local Community Engagement team.

At this event you will be able to:

- Find out more about the ongoing and upcoming works
- Talk to your local community engagement representatives and
- our specialist teams about any queries you may have
- Discuss community investment opportunities

Rachel Taylor MP for North Warwickshire and Bedworth will also be attending to meet and speak to residents.

You can register to attend our events by scanning the QR code. Note - you do not have to register to attend




Thursday 11 September from 4pm to 7:30pm
Cameo Function & Conference Centre, The Coleshill Hotel, 152-156 High Street, B46 3BG





Castle Bromwich
Hall Gardens

August in the Gardens



Summer Strain and Autumnal Relief

One of the great strengths of these historic gardens is their wonderful seasonality. However, they will be breathing a deep sigh of relief as we hope the transition to Autumn brings with it much-needed rain. As the entire country has been reeling under a series of heatwaves, and the effects of the intense lack of water are felt, we are reflecting on the impact on the Gardens. We know that many plants are able to bounce back from such seasonal strife, but as the frequency of these blisteringly hot spells increases, their ability to do so will lessen. There is also the unrelenting march of the box-moth caterpillar, aided and abetted by the warmer weather, which continues to devastate our box hedging. This creature is going to be a mainstay of our gardens for years to come.

The heat also heralds the unwelcome spectre of wild fires, accidental or otherwise. The Parkland suffers most from these, often begun by carelessly discarded cigarettes, or people believing they can

control even a small fire in a heatwave.

Whilst not wishing to sound the drum of doom and gloom, the rise in this sort of weather is only going to have negative impacts on our habitats, and that includes the heritage garden.

Nevertheless, as Summer inevitably turns to Autumn, we welcome cooler nights, a wetter earth and the delightful changing of the arboreal scene. Russets, yellows, browns, reds and the evergreen mark this season, made all-the-more special as the sun sets and catches these colours to create a stunning autumnal palette.

Heritage Weekend

Art in Nature: Re-discovering the artist Edith Holden

Autumnal colours herald another celebration of the local gal and artist, Edith Holden. Many readers will remember the popular books from the 1970s, 'The Country Diary of an Edwardian Lady' and 'Nature Notes'. The books were facsimiles of works by a forgotten and neglected woman artist Edith Holden. Did you know that Holden was a 'local gal'?!

Holden spent many days walking, cycling and drawing around Moseley, Castle Bromwich, Olton and North Warwickshire. As part of Birmingham Heritage Week,

we are championing local and hidden by trumpeting the wonder and joy of Edith Holden. Join us on Saturday 20th September for talks, demonstrations and hands on opportunities to draw and paint nature in the Gardens.

What can you expect from the day? A talk about Holden from Rachel Smith Chopra, a local enthusiast, the chance to unleash your creativity through drawings and paintings of plants and nature in the Gardens. We hope to create a couple of temporary exhibitions on the day (there might be some prizes too!).

All activities free with admission (please see the website for details) ... but all donations for materials charities are welcome.

Edwardian Sunday



And the celebration of Castle Bromwich heritage doesn't end there! In collaboration with St. Mary's and St. Margaret's Parish Church, we are staging an 'Edwardian Sunday' by processing in costume from the Hall, where the Bridgeman family lived, to what was their family church. This procession will then be followed by a tremendous chorus of well-known hymns, taking us in a tour of the English hymnal tradition right from the time of Henry VIII all the way to Lady Bradford herself in the 1930s. You can expect great triumphant songs of praise such as Lord of the Dance, as well as more contemplative like the Coventry Carol. Be prepared to work your vocal chords!

As an example of contemporary heritage, we are also very pleased to welcome on Sunday afternoon, experimental textile artists and crafters from the Birmingham Nettle Project. This small group will be preparing nettles and processing them by twining and spinning - they're happy to be watched and will answer any questions.

It's all there to champion the vital heritage we are part of and will be followed by tours of both the medieval church tower, and the Baroque Gardens.

Car Boot

After a mere six-year hiatus, the Castle Bromwich Historic Gardens car boot is back! We will be hosting a day of car booters and visitors in our Paddock on Sunday 14th September from 09:30 until 13:00. It is a chance to indulge in one of those great British traditions. If you wish to join us by having a stall, please do get in touch or go onto our website and follow the link to book a pitch. Please note that we will not be providing tables and they must be booked in advance.

It's £10 for a pitch, and donations suggested for entry to the Car Boot. The Gardens will be open and normal entry fees apply - but our Courtyard Cafe is free to enter and will be serving hot bacon batches and drinks from gates opening.

We are really looking forward to welcoming this well-loved and (we hope) well-remembered fixture of our calendar back into our diary. What will you discover in amongst the trinkets and trifles on the stalls?

Want to help?

Just because the summer season is winding down, doesn't mean we aren't looking for volunteers. There is always room in our Front of House Team for new people. If you feel you are able to help, please do get in touch with us.

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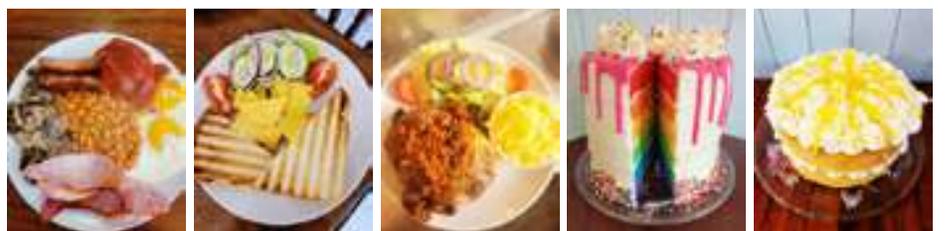


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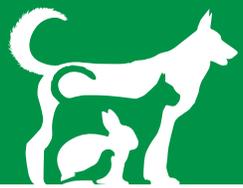
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Pet Page

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Medical detection dogs are a great example of this skill in action, but even your own dog snoozing on the sofa can detect far more than we'll ever realise.

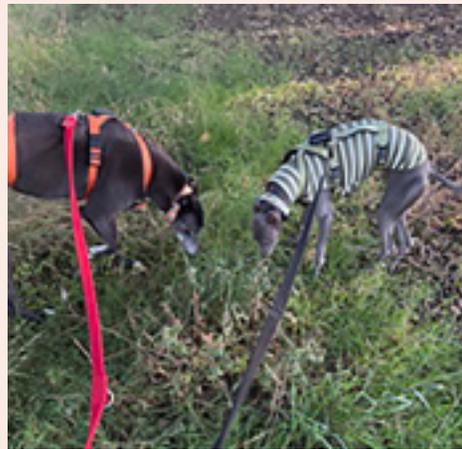
Here are a few nose facts that always make me stop and appreciate just how incredible they are:

- Super-scenting power – Dogs can have up to 300 million scent receptors compared to our six million. The part of their brain that interprets smells is about 40 times bigger (proportionally) than ours.
- Built for sniffing – Their noses are cleverly designed to separate breathing from smelling. They can even breathe in and out at the same time when sniffing, creating a continuous flow of air – unlike us humans, who can only do one at a time.
- Smelling the time – Dogs can actually detect the passage of time by following how scents change throughout the day. As the sun moves around your house, it warms different areas and releases scent changes your dog can "read" like a clock.

I'm a big fan of scent work. For dogs who are a little unsure of the world, it can help them explore and build confidence. And for those "full of beans," more running isn't always the answer. Using their nose is mentally tiring and often leaves them calmer and more settled afterwards.

Simple ways to bring scent into your dog's day

- Slow down on walks – Let your dog take proper sniff stops, especially in hedgerows, around tree bases, or along verges. Sniffing is their version of checking messages or reading the news.
- Play 'Find It' – Scatter a few small treats in the grass, on leaves, along a quiet verge, or even in your garden, and encourage your dog to sniff them out.
- The Box Game – Use a plain cardboard box with a few treats or a favourite toy inside, then add scrunched-up plain paper, kitchen roll or toilet roll inners for your dog to rummage through. It's a simple, low-cost game that taps into their natural foraging instincts. (Always supervise, stop if your dog tries to eat the box, and be mindful around birthdays and Christmas, when tempting gift boxes might be too hard to resist!)



Izzy, our ex-racing greyhound, and Freddie, our rescue whippet, both love a good sniff when we're out walking. Watching them reminds me daily just how powerful a dog's nose really is. Next time you're out, letting them linger at that verge or lamppost a little longer might just be the highlight of their day.

Clare

Insight Hounds – Training for Sighthounds



Birmingham Dogs Home - Forever homes



Shadow

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

Sukis Canine Rescue Important Update



For the time being, we have made the difficult decision to pause new intakes of dogs into our rescue. This is not a choice we make lightly, but one made out of love and responsibility to ensure that every dog already in our care receives the attention, stability, and resources they need. Their health, safety, and well-being will always be our top priority.

Please know:

- All dogs currently in our care will continue to receive love, medical attention, and support.
- Adoption and foster placements will move forward as usual.
- We will announce as soon as we are ready to safely reopen for new intakes.

Right now, two things are more important than ever:

- 1 Reliable Foster Homes – Fostering truly saves lives. Without enough dependable foster families, we simply cannot keep helping dogs in need. If you've ever considered fostering, now is the time. We'll support you every step of the way.

2 Committed Adopters – Every rescue dog comes with a story, and sometimes with challenges. We ask adopters to work through these bumps with patience and compassion rather than returning dogs at the first sign of difficulty. Training, time, and understanding can make all the difference.

Please consider fostering, adopting, or sharing this message to help us reach those who can.

We believe every dog deserves a chance to heal, to trust, and to find their forever family. We are so grateful for your understanding, patience, and continued support during this time. Every share, donation, adoption, and kind word helps us keep moving forward for the dogs who depend on us. It is only with your support, that we can continue giving them that chance.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for standing by us — and by the dogs who need us most.

Foster online application form:





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

Nothing above ??

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Cllr Martin McCarthy, Castle Bromwich Ward (Solihull MBC)

August update

Welcome to September in Castle Bromwich, the cooler weather may be welcome as our children head back to school, but preferably not Too cool!

The Castle Bromwich Society.

The Castle Bromwich Society continues to develop and grow in membership; the next meeting will be during September.

Membership remains open to Castle Bromwich Residents on <https://tchs.org.uk>

I have researched our past resident's association and it's Castle Bromwich residents' association COBRA newsletter, finding a rich seam of historical information and locally led social activity.

Road Safety

SMBC are preparing to undertake improvement works on Chester Road near to Broom Close as part of the HS2 Road Safety Fund allocation which aims to facilitate highway improvement schemes that will contribute to a lasting road safety legacy.

As part of the feasibility process, Officers have visited the site to establish the preferred location for three traffic islands to be installed as well as the provision of new central road markings and dedicated right hand turn lanes which aim to reduce the risk currently posed to motorists and pedestrians alike by the existing central lane which in its current layout could lead to motorists carrying out dangerous overtaking manoeuvres.

A plan showing the location of the proposed improvements on Chester Road is available. The proposed improvements aim to reduce the risk of road traffic collisions occurring and will ensure this section of Chester Road is brought in keeping with the remainder

of the wider route along Chester Road between its junction with Cooks Lane and Hazelhurst Road in which central hatching and dedicated right hand turn lanes are present.

SMBC are to consult with affected local frontages via letter drop on Monday 1st September 2025 for a period of 4 weeks.

I have requested that lane separation markings within the service road entrances are considered in line with resident's requests.

Speeding rat running drivers continue to plague the Water Orton service road, we are looking at further options to stop this dangerous practice.

We expect to get some feedback on the Speed cable device data taken on this road recently; we will keep you posted.

The alleyway between Park Hall Crescent and Blackthorn Road, Castle Bromwich is being used as a cut-through by a gang of about six motorcyclists who go on to damage grass verges and threaten the safety of drivers and pedestrians, councillor Lesley has taken this up with Paul Tovey SMBC head of Highways with the result that the existing barriers will be assessed to see if they can be improved on in order to address this. these items were also raised with local police officers at the Cuppa with a copper event held at Arden Hall.

Regular Councillor Surgery at Castle Bromwich Library.

The next monthly surgery is scheduled for Monday the 1st of September and takes place at the Library at 14:00, no appointment is required, please email, or call me if anything urgent comes up in the meantime.

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

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Samantha's Journey



Samantha embarked on her journey with Slimming World at the Baptist Church on Timberley Lane, Castle Bromwich, attending Claire's Monday sessions at 5:30 PM and 7:00pm. Her goal? To feel incredible in her dream wedding dress.

She embraced the food optimising plans wholeheartedly, transforming her cooking – especially her curries – by swapping out fats and oils for healthier alternatives. Though traditional body magic wasn't quite her thing, she found her rhythm by

turning housework into a workout, using timers to challenge herself and stay active. That creative approach helped her reach her target weight of nine stone eight just a couple of weeks before her big day.

Since then, Samantha has been crowned Woman of the Year in the group, and she brings so much positivity, encouragement, and sparkle to every session. In her own words:

"I love Street Food—the book is amazing! Dirty chips are my fave."

"I love the group. When I first came, you made me feel so welcome, and now I

love the group—we're like our own little family. Everyone is there to offer advice."

"I always stay to group even though I'm at my target, as it will always set you up for a good week, keep you on plan, and you still get good advice and new things to try."

"I feel so great in myself—I wear clothes now I wouldn't ever even think of buying."

Samantha's story is a shining example of how Slimming World isn't just about weight loss—it's about confidence, community, and discovering the best version of yourself.



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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, 7.30am & 9.00am 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 3.30pm & 5.30pm Jacqui 07814675180

Wednesday

Castle Brom Arden Hall, 9.30am Diane 07432123206

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, 5.30pm & 7pm Jayne 07453348184

Thursday

Smiths Wood SJB Centre, 9.00am, 5.00 & 6.30pm Nataley 07939 949136

Castle Vale St Cuthberts Church, 5.30pm Diane 07432 123206

Chelmsley Wood The Fordbridge Centre (by Asda), 5.30pm Jacqui 07957133435

Friday

Sheldon St Thomas More Church, 9.00am Claire 07917867577

Chelmsley Wood The Family Tree, 9.00am Jayne 07453 348184

Saturday

Chelmsley Wood Three Trees Community Centre, 7.30 & 9.00am Michael 07957 510533

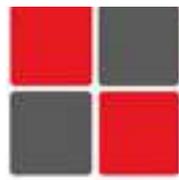
Chelmsley Wood The Family Tree, 8.30 & 10.00am Jayne 07453 348184

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

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



"Summer has always been good to me, even the bittersweet end, with the slanted yellow light." – Paul Monette

As we step into September which is known as the Harvest Month, St Clement's will be celebrating Harvest in our own traditional way.

Saturday 27th September we will be having our Harvest Quiz, with jacket potatoes and plenty of fillings and then on Sunday 28th September will be our Harvest Service at 11am and this short poem gives thanks for what we have:

"For golden fields and fruits so sweet, we thank you, Lord, for all we eat. The earth provides, a bounty rare, a harvest blessing we all share."

What a vital role our farmers play, they work tirelessly, often in challenging conditions, to cultivate the land and raise livestock, ensuring a consistent food supply. Their dedication is essential and we must never forget that we owe them so much throughout the year.

July proved to be a very busy month for St Clements: On Saturday 5th July, St Clements joined St Mary and St Margaret's Summer Fun Day. Cloudy but a brilliant day, it didn't rain. Thank you to everyone who donated "bits and bobs" for us to sell. We had a really good day and our raffle went well. On our stall was a beautiful cut-glass vase which had been donated and we decided that this was perfect to have in Church as a remembrance to all who have worshipped at St Clements over the years and made it the Church it is today. It now sits on the "half moon" table that was given in memory of John Ellercamp by his wife Jean.



On Sunday 6th July we welcomed to St Clements the CMM Choir (Christian Music Ministries) to watch a new musical by Roger Jones, conducted by Annie Routely. Zac the story of Zacchaeus Luke 19: 1 – 10. What a spellbinding hour, the singing, music and the story telling made for a riveting afternoon. Hopefully we can welcome them back in 2026 - we'll have to wait and see!

On the 12th of July, which turned out to be an extremely hot day, we boarded a coach to Weston. Yes, we had fish and chips on the pier, and some even ventured onto the Ferris Wheel. It brought back memories of donkey rides, ice cream, and buckets and spades in hand — gosh, it really takes you back, doesn't it? All the excitement! The sea was still a long way out, but never mind — it was a really good day, and new memories were made.

19th July – Party in the Park, organised by Castle Bromwich Parish Council, turned out to be a very wet day. A few from St Clements helped out, but "extremely wet" doesn't quite cover it — drenched is more accurate! We were told that in the three

years this event has been running, 2025 was the first time the weather nearly rained it off. Still, the show went on, and eventually the sun decided to make an appearance.

Saturday 26th July – Our Garden Party (or should that be Garden Party with a Twist?) had to be held indoors once again — could we depend on the weather? Perhaps not! But it turned out to be a truly fabulous afternoon. It was hard work, but there was plenty to enjoy: fruit jelly, a choice of ice cream or cream with cake, and then Bingo — with prizes for a line and a full house. And if that wasn't enough excitement, we had a Raffle too. Did my numbers go in? Who knows!

Sunday 27th July, we had our cake and a cuppa after the service. St Clement's certainly loves cake!

The Crafternoon Group's new project is focused on knitting for the neonatal units at local hospitals, as well as creating hats and gloves for the homeless. Our dedicated knitters have already been busy getting started.



St Clements is once again supporting Macmillan Cancer Support, with an event taking place on Saturday 4th October, starting at 11am. So many lives are touched by cancer — whether personally or through family and friends — and by supporting Macmillan, one of the UK's

largest and most longstanding charities (founded in 1911), we hope to help in some small but meaningful way.

Life is full of the unexpected, but there is one thing for certain Jesus loves us. God's love, embodied in Jesus Christ, is constant no matter what. A love which can be seen as a source of comfort and guidance through the most difficult times. Talking and listening is so important to be able to show understanding and patience for those that most need our support. Our Forget Me Not Memory Café provides and offers a space for those living with dementia and their carers and for those that have cared for someone. It's a place to come together and chat. To talk through their worries and if needed where to go for help and perhaps respite. There are many challenges in life but there is help out there, if you know where to look or who to ask.

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

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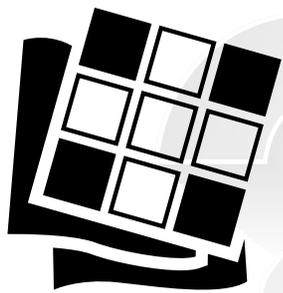
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Puzzle Page

ACROSS

- 1 American College of Physicians (abbr.)
- 4 ___-garde
- 9 Sandy area at the edge of the ocean
- 14 Holding or giving off great heat
- 15 Small boat with pointed ends that is moved by using a paddle
- 16 National bird
- 17 Government agency
- 18 Fried bread
- 19 Kitchen seat
- 20 Plateau
- 22 Absence of values
- 24 Exercise place
- 25 Rodent
- 27 Lease
- 29 Dissertation
- 32 Wall recess
- 35 That girl
- 36 Place with many rooms and beds where people pay to stay
- 38 Laughing dog
- 40 Extremely long time periods
- 42 Bird homes
- 44 Take a picture
- 45 African ground squirrel
- 47 Dickens' "___ of Two Cities" (2 wds.)
- 49 Enact

- 50 Blue-penciled
- 52 Rebel
- 54 Sticky black substance
- 55 Last month of year
- 56 Expression of surprise
- 59 Spread
- 63 Sticky black substances
- 67 Start
- 69 Avert
- 71 Down
- 72 Mustang
- 73 Food from heaven
- 74 Luau dish
- 75 Place where cattle, horses, or sheep are raised
- 76 Lament
- 77 Short-term memory

DOWN

- 1 Excuse me!
- 2 Get by
- 3 Parent teacher groups
- 4 American Cancer Society (abbr.)
- 5 Period of rest from school or work
- 6 After awhile
- 7 Taboo
- 8 Seethe
- 9 Adjure
- 10 Consume
- 11 Eager
- 12 Disgust with excess

- 13 Steering mechanism
- 21 To be
- 23 Sick
- 26 Fire remains
- 28 Children's love
- 29 Troika
- 30 Perceived
- 31 Word with home or in
- 32 Marriage site
- 33 Bribeable
- 34 Make into law
- 35 Gender
- 37 Eastern Standard Time
- 39 Inclined
- 41 Lawyer dress
- 43 Lugging
- 46 Faithful
- 48 Evening
- 51 Gray sea eagle
- 53 Halloween mo.
- 56 Shorten (abbr.)
- 57 Goddess
- 58 Competition at the Greek games
- 60 Glory
- 61 Elliptical
- 62 ___ Ranger
- 64 Swiss mountains
- 65 Basic
- 66 Move through the water by using parts of the body
- 68 Incorporated (abbr.)
- 70 Part of a week

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14				15						16				
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67			68			69				70		71		
72						73						74		
75						76						77		

By Jimmy and Evelyn Johnson - www.qets.com

Word Search

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

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.

- Augment
- Confabulate
- Kith
- Barbeque
- Fire
- Peridot
- Baseball
- Fishing
- Perseid
- Boating
- Gladiolus
- Sunshine
- Camping
- Harvest
- Swimming
- Canoeing
- Hiking
- Travel
- Climbing
- Hot
- Vacation

Answers to the puzzles if stuggling are on page 33

Interiors & Decorating



Platinum September Update

Hi everyone, as much as we enjoy painting and decorating we know that for some people it can feel like an uphill struggle. Especially if you're doing it in your spare time at home. So this month we thought we'd go back to basics and give you some simple hints and tips about how to make the job a little less arduous.

The first thing to consider is setting up for the job. In an ideal world the room would be completely empty. It might seem like a lot of work to totally clear a room but the difference in working in an empty room compared to trying to work around furniture is huge. Firstly it's easier to cover- just cover the floor with dust sheets or other protection and you're ready to go. A room full of furniture means having to adequately protect all of that first. Secondly the difference in speed in an empty room is considerable. You're able to move freely without tripping over stuff or having to twist yourself awkwardly in between a settee and a wall. Obviously it's not always possible to remove all of the furniture from a room. In that case then the best practice is to remove anything that's breakable, unplug and remove TVs and other electrical equipment and then move any furniture left away from the walls. Be mindful when doing this that you don't put it all underneath things like light fittings that you need to be able to reach to paint round. Another thing to consider is taking shelves, TV wall brackets and other fixings off the walls. It's a much easier job to paint a wall without having to cut in around these sorts of things and will produce a more even finish. Once the room is as empty as possible just make sure you use good quality dust sheets and floor protection. You'll get the job done much faster if you're not worrying about getting paint on the floor and furniture. A bit of time spent setting up the room prior to starting will save time in the long run and you'll be able to do a better job of it. The next thing to look at is preparation. We could talk all day about how important proper prep is prior to painting but it is also the thing that DIY enthusiasts are most likely to cut corners on. Fortunately there are a few ways to make the process easier without sacrificing quality. Proper sanding is essential on previously painted

woodwork to ensure proper adhesion of the new paint as well as a smooth finish. It is also good practice to sand walls prior to painting to get rid of any lumps and bumps or heavy texture from previous paint jobs. The cheapest way to make this job less laborious is to use a pole sander. This is basically a sanding pad on the end of a pole which you can change the sandpaper on when necessary. Using a pole you can sand a wall from top to bottom quickly and effectively without straining your back. It's also worth mentioning sandpaper grit- that is the measurement of how coarse sandpaper is. A low grit such as 60 is very coarse and better suited to smoothing out very rough texture. A high number such as 240 is very fine and more suitable for achieving a very smooth finish. If the surface is very rough and you're using a very fine paper such as 240 you'll be there all week and use too much sandpaper. If you initially use a more coarse paper and then finish with a smoother paper you'll get through the job much faster. As professionals we use power sanders with dust extraction, these are very expensive but if you've got a lot of work to do such as a whole house renovation it might be worth considering buying or hiring a similar set up. These make the process immeasurably quicker and easier and will do it to a better standard. The last thing to say about sanding is to make sure you wear a decent dust mask.

Once the prep is done you'll want to start painting. There are many different levels of budget when it comes to paint but we'd recommend avoiding the very cheap stuff. In an ideal world you don't want to be doing more than 2 coats, very cheap paint rarely covers well enough to make that possible. Even if it looks covered it usually won't have the depth of colour that a quality job should have. It also won't be durable enough. The big brands such as Dulux are generally ok but if you want to be assured of a better finish in as few coats as possible then you should look at the trade ranges. Compared to standard Dulux retail paint the trade range will cover better, cover more square foot per litre and be more stringently tested for quality. It may be that the retail version is cheaper but by the time you've factored in the lower coverage, more coats and time spent then the trade range is usually the better option. Most of the big paint

manufacturers like Dulux, Crown and Johnstone's have trade centres where the staff will be able to advise you on the best paint and process for your project. The last thing to think about with paint is whether to use water based paint or more traditional solvent based for the woodwork. Solvent based will make it easier to achieve a better finish but will discolour in areas of low natural light and due to the long drying time you often won't be able to do the second coat until the next day. During that time don't be surprised if an over excited dog brushes past the still wet paint. It also smells very strongly of solvents which can be unpleasant. Water based trim paints are a far preferable option. It's taken a while for them to become good enough quality to be a proper alternative to solvent based but if you steer clear of the cheaper retail brands they are now a viable option. Dulux Trade make decent water based paint but for the best quality you have to look further afield at companies like Benjamin Moore or Tikkurila. With water based paint there's very short drying times meaning that you can usually do 2 coats in a day and very little odour while drying. As long as the prep has been done properly- ie properly de-greased and sanded- then they should be just as durable as solvent based paints. Finally we'll just have a quick look at how to apply the paint in a way that makes the job as easy as possible. If all your prep has been done properly the job will be immediately easier- smoother surfaces and straight lines with no lumps and

bumps will be easier and quicker to cut in on. It's definitely advisable to spend a bit more of your budget on decent brushes. Cheap brushes will shed bristles, meaning you'll waste time picking them out of your paint work. They'll also hold less paint than better quality brushes so you'll be dipping them back in the paint more often to reload them. Another benefit of better quality brushes is that they'll make cutting in easier and once you're used to it that will mean that it's faster.

For rollers you need to pay special attention to how long the pile is. Long pile rollers will make the job faster because they hold so much more paint meaning less dipping back in the tray or scuttle. The draw back is that these will live a very textured finish, using a short pile roller makes it much easier to achieve a smoother finish. There's a happy medium to be struck by using a medium pile roller. Also the one thing we'd highly recommend is using a roller pole. This obviously makes ceilings easier but will also allow you to roll walls much faster and more evenly from top to bottom without putting too much strain on your body. Another way to speed up the process is to use a scuttle rather than a roller tray. If you are only doing one room then a tray is fine but for larger projects a scuttle will hold more paint meaning you have to refill it less frequently.

Hopefully some of this advice will make the job less of an ordeal and give you more time to relax and enjoy the results of your hard work.



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Footwear related foot issues

As we move into the wetter, cooler months our footwear begins to change from sandals to closed in shoes. It is important to ensure that we are wearing the correct footwear to prevent problems with our feet.



We always recommend a shoe with a small heel (no more than an inch) as well as a shoe with a strap or a lace. A small heel will prevent painful cramping and aching in your feet and legs by taking some of the strain away from the muscles in your feet and in your legs. A strap or a lace will allow more support so that when you walk your foot is not moving around in the shoe possibly leading to rubbing or soft tissue strain. We can measure you for footwear and help you pick the correct shoe for you during your appointment with us. We can then order this in and ensure that it fits you correctly.

A shoe with a thick sole will help to insulate your feet, keeping them warming and protecting them from the cold weather. This can help to protect against conditions called chilblains. Chilblains are caused by the cold affecting the blood vessels in the skin closing them down so that the blood is diverted deeper. This causes the skin to become even colder and the waste products produced by our cells build up. This can lead to a red, painful, shiny toe which may split open.

A wide, rounded shoe with a deep toe box is important to prevent issues on the sides of your foot as well as in between your toes. Corns are hard plugs of skin which arise because of pressure. Any corns on the top of your toes can only be caused by footwear as there is no other pressure which touches this area. By wearing a wide, rounded shoe with a deep toe box it prevents pressure on the sides of your foot but also pressure from your toes being squeezed together in your shoe which over time may lead to painful corns in between your toes.



If you think you may be suffering with any of the conditions we have mentioned, or you are unsure if your current footwear is suitable, you can give us a call on 0121 749 6313 and book in to see one of our HCPC registered Podiatrists.

Claim your BikeSafe discount voucher



BikeSafe workshops help bikers improve their skills, enjoyment and overall safety on the roads. National Highways have teamed up with them to offer their one-day courses for just £49.

You can pick up your BikeSafe discount voucher from Alf England Motorcycles in Bedworth on Wednesday 27 August.

Book a course as soon as possible as the vouchers need to be used by 31 March 2026 or earlier if the maximum number of discounted courses is reached. In Warwickshire, spaces are available on 21 September and 26 October, but the

voucher can be used anywhere in the UK. PC Darren Bailey said "As we head into the bank holiday weekend, we are asking everyone to take extra care on the roads, look after each other and make sure we all get home safely.

"As well as encouraging motorcyclists to improve their skills, we are also asking drivers to be extra careful around motorcyclists and to look at least twice for bikers especially at junctions where most collisions occur."

For more information on BikeSafe and other free and subsidised courses available in Warwickshire, visit www.warksroadsafety.org/leisure-riders/



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GOVERNMENT CHALLENGED TO SAVE MISSING COMMONS: ‘INACTION HAMPERS MINISTERS’ DRIVE FOR GREEN SPACES’



On the sixtieth anniversary of the Commons Registration Act 1965, Britain’s leading pressure group for open spaces challenges ministers to re-open the closed registers in England, and save thousands of square miles of green land for the people to enjoy.

In a letter to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Rt Hon Steve Reed MP, Kate Ashbrook, general secretary of the Open Spaces Society⁽¹⁾, points out that it is 60 years today (5 August) since the Commons Registration Act received royal assent in 1965. ‘That was landmark legislation says Kate, ‘under which some 7,000 commons⁽²⁾ totalling nearly 375,000 hectares (1,447 square miles) have since been registered and preserved for all time with public access.

‘But how many commons remain unregistered today and vulnerable to agricultural improvement, developers, road-builders, etc? That is a mystery,’ she says, ‘which only the government can solve.

‘The big flaw in the 1965 act was that it allowed only three years for registration which is often a complicated and lengthy process involving historical research, possible litigation, and the organisation

and training of volunteers.’

In 2006 the Commons Act promised to re-open the registers, but this initially was allowed only in seven pioneer areas⁽³⁾ and then only until the end of 2020. The registers are currently open in Cumbria and North Yorkshire, but only until March 2027. No other areas of England have been opened to registration. Meanwhile, landowners have been allowed to remove commons from the register throughout England.

‘This messy and inequitable patchwork needs to be cleaned up,’ says Kate. ‘Since 2019 we have employed a professional historian, Dr Frances Kerner,⁽⁴⁾ in the seven pioneer areas, and now in the two northern counties where registration is still allowed. Her painstaking work has already produced 1,640 hectares (6.4 square miles) of newly-registered common land—and there is more to come.

‘This work needs to be extended to the whole country where there are thousands of hectares of commons still to be recorded and safeguarded.’

The Commons Registration Act 1965 enabled common land throughout England and Wales, its owners and the rights over it, to be registered for the first time. It followed a report by the Royal Commission on Common Land in 1958⁽⁵⁾.

Unfortunately, the Act’s time limit and perverse judicial decisions which were later proved wrong (but too late for registration under the 1965 act) meant that commons which should have been registered were not (and in some cases, vice versa).

Kate continues: ‘The government should mark the sixtieth anniversary of the Commons Registration Act by extending registration of lost commons throughout England (as is already the case in Wales); this would match the ability of landowners to remove land from the registers. Our success so far demonstrates that there are thousands of hectares of common waiting to be registered, on which, in due course, we shall win the right to walk freely⁽⁶⁾.

‘Labour governments have a good record on legislating for common land: the Commons Registration Act 1965, the Commons Act 2006, and the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000—they all helped to win a better deal for commons. Registration throughout England could help the government to achieve its excellent target of providing green space within 15 minutes’ walk of everyone’s home.’

Notes

1 The Open Spaces Society was founded in 1865 and is Britain’s oldest national conservation body. It campaigns in England and Wales to protect common land, village greens, open spaces and public paths, and people’s right to enjoy them.

2 Common land is land subject to, or formerly subject to, rights of common—to graze animals or collect wood for instance—or waste land of the manor not subject to rights. The public has the right to walk on nearly all commons, and to ride on many. Commons are protected in that works on common land require the consent of the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, via the Planning Inspectorate, under section 38 of the Commons Act 2006. Over 3,500 town or village greens also were registered under the 1965 Act.

3 The seven initial pioneer areas were: Blackburn with Darwen, Cornwall, Devon, Herefordshire, Hertfordshire, Kent, and Lancashire. They were followed by Cumbria and North Yorkshire. Registration is possible throughout Wales until 2032.

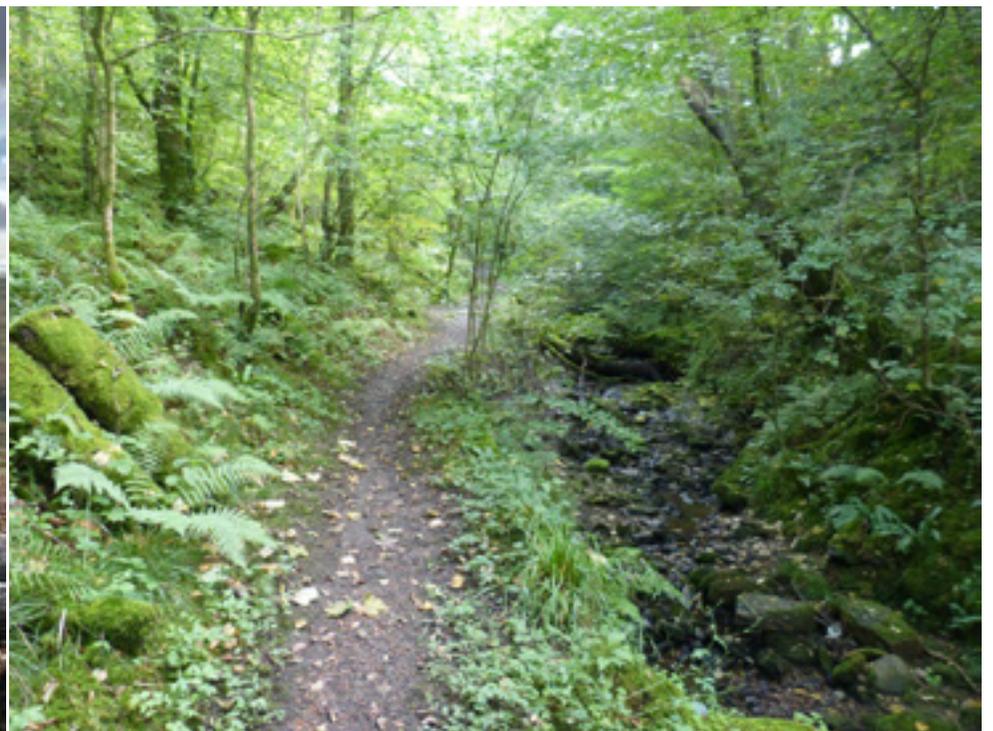
4 Frances Kerner holds a doctorate from Lancaster University for which she researched a thesis on commons in the Chilterns, and an MSc in English Local History from Oxford. Frances’s work is funded by the Candy bequest.

5 The establishment of the Royal Commission on Common Land was inspired by the society which wrote to the Minister of Agriculture in October 1953 on this subject. The commission recommended among other things that all commons should be registered.

6 The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 gives the right to walk on mapped commons, mountain, moor, heath, and down. The right does not apply to newly-registered commons until the maps are reviewed in around 2031, unless the land already qualifies as access land. For newly-registered commons in former urban districts there is an immediate right to walk and ride under section 193 of the Law of Property Act 1925.



1 part of Walkhampton Common, Dartmoor, Devon, 12 square kilometres.



Greta Wood, Burton in Lonsdale, North Yorkshire, 5.7 hectares.



North Warwickshire
Borough Council

Press Release

Reducing Car Thefts - Free Signal Blockers Now Available Across North Warwickshire



In a bid to protect our communities from car thefts, North Warwickshire Borough Council has secured extra funding to offer residents a free signal-blocking tool, known as a Faraday pouch, to store their car keys in.

Keyless car thefts continue to be a problem across the UK. Criminals use a relay device to transmit the signal to the owners' cars. The car thinks the actual key is close by and unlocks itself, and allows the engine to be started. When keys are kept in the Faraday pouch, it prevents the thief from picking up the signal from the key and, therefore, they are unable to steal your car. It is equally important to remember to safeguard your spare key fob similarly to ensure comprehensive security.

Faraday pouches have already been distributed around

some of the hot spot locations by the Police, along with some great engagement with residents whilst on patrol. To date, 1600 pouches have been distributed, and a further 1000 will be made available.

The Community Safety Partnership is committed to working together to reduce crime and disorder across North Warwickshire. The goal is to ensure that North Warwickshire remains a healthy, happy, prosperous, and safe place to live, work and visit. The partnership's priorities are to protect our residents and communities from violent crime, make our roads safer, prevent and reduce crime in our rural communities, and prevent and help the police detect house burglary, vehicle crimes, business crime and robbery.

The current analysis of hotspot locations near the M6 identifies Coleshill, Corley, and Fillongley as areas of concern, with a notable increase in vehicle thefts over the past quarter, particularly involving Ford and BMW models. Offences in these hotspots predominantly occur overnight, from Tuesday to Thursday. In response, additional patrols and operations, including TAVACO and Operation Yard, are being implemented to intercept offenders. These efforts are complemented by initiatives aimed at raising awareness about vehicle crime and promoting the use of Faraday pouches for enhanced security.

Chair of the Safer Communities Sub-Committee, Councillor Ray Jarvis, said:

"Over time, I have observed a concerning trend: a significant increase in keyless car thefts. Recently,

I engaged in discussions with North Warwickshire Borough Council's Community Safety Officer, as well as representatives from the police, regarding the procurement of 1000 Faraday pouches for distribution by our Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) Officers throughout North Warwickshire.

The 1000 pouches were effectively distributed in high-crime areas, resulting in positive feedback from both the police and the public. The demand was so significant that the SNT requested an additional supply. Consequently, a further 1000 pouches are being purchased.

The success of this initiative has prompted the police to request an additional 1000 pouches, a request I am more than happy to endorse".

Adam Skelsey, Warwickshire Police, said:

"Thanks to the support of North Warwickshire Borough Council, we have successfully distributed over 1,600 Faraday pouches to date, with more on order. Each distribution not only allows the public to engage with our officers but also facilitates the provision of crime prevention advice, fostering positive interactions between the officers and the community. Given that this type of crime is currently our most pressing concern, I am confident that these efforts have contributed significantly to the prevention of further offences, and we will continue this work going forward".

If you are a resident in North Warwickshire and would like a free Faraday Pouch, please email nwe.snt@warwickshire.police.uk with your name and address.

The Council gives the go-ahead for the implementation of a Residents app

The Council has recently approved the go-ahead for a resident's app, and at the Community and Environment Board meeting on Wednesday, 20th August 2025, members were given an update on the implementation.

The app will enable residents to access a variety of council services on their smartphone or tablet.

Using the app, residents will be able to:

- Complete 'Report It' forms to notify the Council of something such as fly-tipping, a missed bin collection or a dead animal,

- View refuse and recycling collections and sign up to receive weekly reminders of when to present your bin for collection,
- Find the nearest recycling centre, car parks and leisure facilities within the borough,
- View local food hygiene ratings,
- View your local Councillor contact details,
- View Council contact information,
- View Council news stories,
- See the Council's social media posts.

Other council services will be added to the app in future,

such as reviewing planning applications and submitting responses.

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

"We're really excited to be introducing our new council app for residents. From bin collection reminders to checking nearby restaurants, reporting missed bins and fly-tipping, the app makes it easier than ever for residents to stay informed and connected to the Council.

A similar version of the app is already used by many other councils with thousands of residents downloading their local version and using it every week."



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St Mary and St Margaret Church

Castle Bromwich

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Whats On

The Coffee Pot Bereavement Group
Monday 8th September 1.30 - 3pm
Community Hall

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

Wednesday Drop In
10th & 24th September 10.00 - 11.30am
Community Hall

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

Soup & a Roll Lunch
Wednesday 10th September
12.00 - 1.30pm
Community Hall

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

Mothers Union Friendship Afternoon
Wednesday 17th September
1.30- 3pm
Community Hall

Join us for an afternoon of fellowship & fun with a cuppa, a piece of cake & a chat!

All are welcome to join us - we would love to see you!

Heritage Open Days
Saturday 13th & 20th September
(Heritage Fayre on the 20th)
Sunday 14th & 21st September

12 - 4pm Church & Community Hall
 St Mary and St Margaret's Church will be opening its doors for the National Heritage Open Day Festival . This years theme 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. Come and find out more about the history of this beautiful old building and the people who built it. The events are free of charge & refreshments will be available on all days.

Warm Welcome
Wednesday 10th, 17th & 24th Sept
3.30 - 5pm
Community Hall

Come & enjoy a warm, welcome & free space for families with children. Enjoy games, chat, Jenga, table tennis, arts & crafts plus lots more. Refreshments available - please note children must be accompanied and supervised by an adult.

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

Sunday 7th September

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

Wednesday 10th September

9.30am Family Communion

Sunday 14th September

9.30am Parish Communion & Messy Worship for families

Sunday 21st September

11am Heritage Service & Eucharist (Church)
 Cafe Worship (Community Hall)

Wednesday 24th September

9.30am Family Communion

Sunday 28th September

9.30am Parish Communion & Messy Worship for families



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

Police News

Neighbourhood Policing

We're shining a light on neighbourhood policing in Warwickshire this summer because we want to show you where we are, how to contact us, and what we're doing to help. We are your Safer Neighbourhood Team across Coleshill and Atherstone. We are dedicated to serving our communities. We work with you, with local authorities, and with community leaders to solve problems and understand what's important to you. We know that collaboration between police and communities is one of the best ways to cut crime and keep people safe. Effective local policing is about more than just fighting crime, it's about building relationships, understanding local concerns and being where it matters most. Your input helps shape what we do to tackle crime and bring offenders to justice so we're listening and want you to tell us what's important to you. Any concerns, police incidents, please report to 101 or 999 in emergencies and also you can use our quick and easy Warwickshire Police Online Report Service. The link for this is below. We rely on the public to keep us informed of any issues or concerns so we can do what we do best and keep our community safe.



OP PLENTY

#OpPlenty has now launched in Atherstone, Coleshill and the surrounding villages.

The scheme was already running in Nuneaton and Bedworth, and since last year, there were 35 people visited as a result of Op Plenty.

Op Plenty involves our Safer Neighbourhood Team officers dropping by the homes of vulnerable people in our community for a cup of tea and a chat to check whether they are OK and if there's any further support that can be provided.

Inspector Andi Gibbons of North Warwickshire Safer Neighbourhood Team said "We're very happy to announce our support of Op Plenty in Atherstone and the surrounding villages. "We are in quite a rural part of the county, and we're aware that this can sometimes make the loneliness of older people in particular who find travelling difficult more pronounced. "Op Plenty gives us a way of finding out where those who would appreciate us dropping by are, and a reason to check in."



If you know someone in your community, be it a neighbour, friend, or relative, who would appreciate a visit from one of our officers for a cup of tea and a chat, fill out a form and send it to sntreachout@warwickshire.police.uk. There is a link to the referral form in the comments.



Get Connected with Warwickshire Police

Atherstone and Coleshill SNT have been promoting Warwickshire Connected.

Get connected with what is happening in your local area, keep up to date and get involved in shaping what goes on where you live or work. Warwickshire Connected is a free messaging service brought to you by Warwickshire Police where you decide when and how you hear about the issues that matter most to you, whether that be getting regular crime updates, the latest information on ongoing incidents and emergencies or learning more about what your local police are doing.

This is also the place where you can get involved in helping to make your local area a safer place, tell us what police should be doing in your area, shape the initiatives that help to keep people and property safe and tell us what matters are causing your communities harm.

Follow the link to sign up today:

www.warwickshireconnected.com

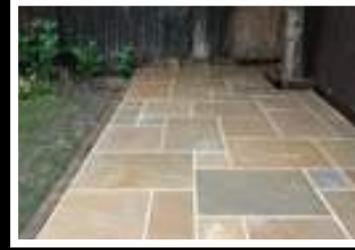


Also please follow our Facebook page where we put updates of what Atherstone and Coleshill Safer Neighbourhood Teams get up to.

There are updates on going incidents, appeals and much more. We will be posting about upcoming events also so please take a look, see when they are and come along. We like to be as accessible as possible so using our social media page is a great way for us to communicate with our communities.

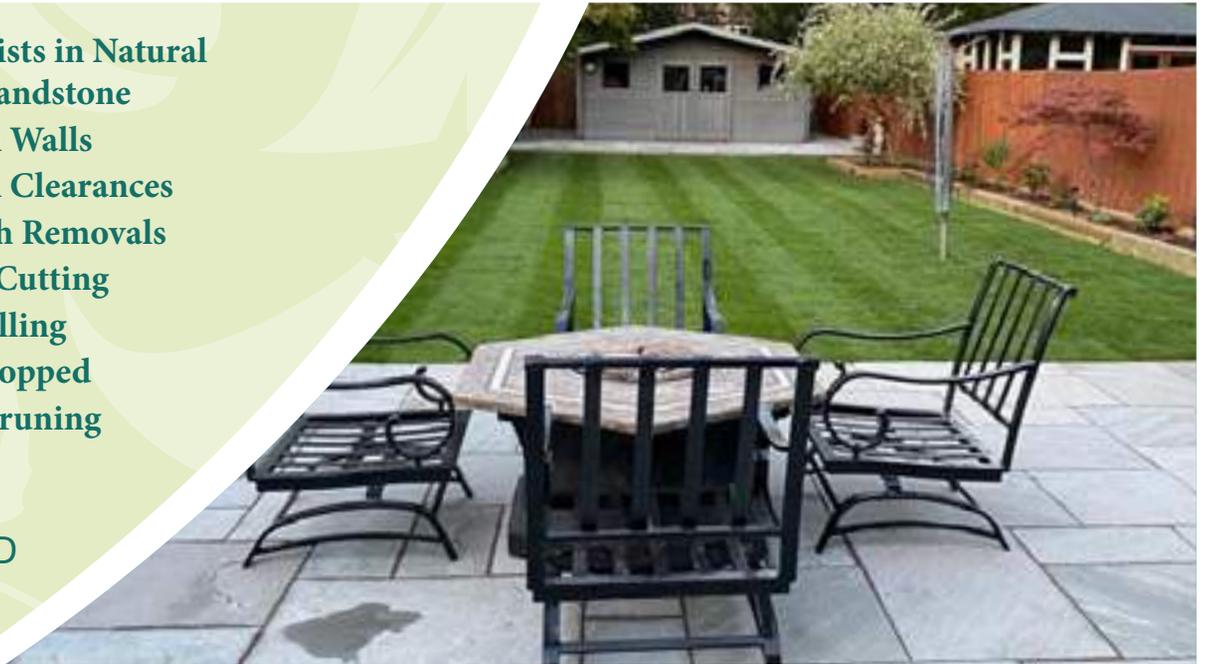
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Hidden message:

THOUGH WE TRAVEL THE WORLD OVER TO FIND THE BEAUTIFUL, WE MUST CARRY IT WITH US OR WE FIND IT NOT.

By Ralph Waldo Emerson



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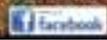
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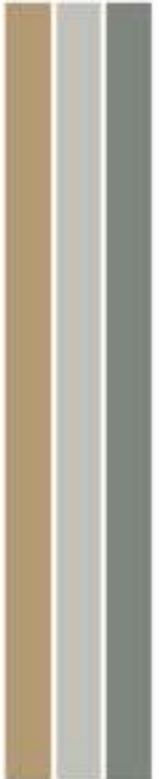
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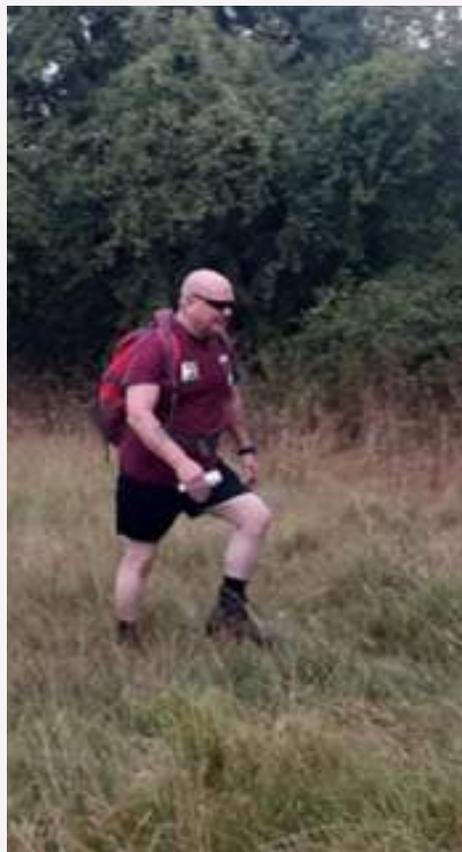
Paddy Doyle stuck to an arduous schedule of physically demanding seven weeks, beating five martial artists from Pakistan and India who held World Records in speed punching, some of the other records included holding weights, cross country backpack speed marches and gym strength exercises, the results were.



506 fullcontact punches in one minute carrying 40 lb backpack wearing two 2kg wrist weights on each wrist, beating Pakistan's Martial Arts Black Belt expert Ahmad Amin Bodla record of 337. After a five minute break Doyle then attempted the following strict ab crunches holding 10kg dumbbell on chest, new rules stipulated that shoulder blades must be visually clear from the matt on every repetition. 92 in 1 mins, 143 in 2 mins, 224 in 3 mins, 392 in 4 mins, 476 in 5 mins, 557 in 6 mins, 641 in 7 mins, 726 in 8 mins, 812 in 9 mins, 902 in 10 mins. Twenty fours later Doyle dug deep to complete four cross country speed marches carrying 46.58 lbs backpack over Barston Village Solihull permanent footpaths completing the following times. 5km. 26 min. 02.87 sec, 5.5km. 32 min. 02 sec, 6km. 41 min. 11 sec, 7km. 52 min.48 sec.

"mentally I had to block out fatigue making sure I was eating healthy and relying on my experience to reach the finish lines and cut off times."

Seven days later four more punch strike World Records were set, doing it the tough way holding hand weights, striking a martial arts punch dummy . 302 punches in 30 seconds holding two 1kg dumbbells in each hand. 284 punches holding two 4kg dumbbells in 30 seconds, 582 contact punch strikes in one minute holding 1kg weights (British & European Record), and finally 491 punches in one minute holding two 4kg dumbbells in each hand beating the previous holder Ismail Khan (Pakistan) World Record of 341.



It took eighteen days to recover and get ready for the next martial arts fitness endurance challenges, Doyle's support team were ready to push him again and achieve more successful sporting outcomes, the stats are. 576 karate chest

level punches hitting a punch dummy in one minute, beating Asia Book of Records World Record Holder Rohit Sidarm (India) World Record of 219, 146 left hook punches with 2 kg wrist weight on wrist in 30 sec's, beating International Book of World Records Holder Raj Choudhury (India) World Record of 136, 274 punches in 30 sec's beating International Book of Records Holder Sreehari Pillal (India) record of 252, 652 martial arts triple punches hitting punch dummy in 2 mins, beating Asia Book of Records World Record Holder Anand Babulal (India) record of 361, 574 fullcontact punches in 1 min holding two 1.5kg dumbbells in each hand, 546 fullcontact punches in 1 min holding 2.5kg dumbbells in each hand.

" It has been very hard and over the last few weeks I just worked at it, determined not to give up, my support team have

been there for me and are looking forward to pushing me for the next challenge."

Kevin Brown President of Official Record Breakers UK said "I just wanted to take a moment to share my admiration for Paddy Doyle , an outstanding endurance athlete and true warrior. As a former Olympian, I feel incredibly privileged to know this incredible human being. I have never seen anyone achieve so much in the World of sports record-breaking, it looks like Paddy will be the first human ever to reach 1,000 World Records and documented physical fitness challenges covering thirteen different sporting categories. As President of Official Record Breakers we are immensely proud to support him all the way. Keep up the fantastic work, Paddy! Thank you once again for your previous service in the military. Best regards Kevin Brown."



Coleshill Town F.C.

The Coleman March On: FA Cup Journey Continues at Pack Meadow

Coleshill Town FC are making headlines once again as their FA Cup campaign gathers momentum, with the next challenge set for Saturday 30th August at Pack Meadow against Worcester Raiders, kicking off at 3pm.

The road so far has been packed with drama and quality football. In the opening round, Coleshill overcame a spirited and reborn Nuneaton Town side, who played impressive football but couldn't stop The Coleman from edging a 2-1 victory. Next came Pershore Town, where Coleshill turned on the style in a commanding 3-0 win. The third goal—a stunning strike—captured the attention of ITV Central News and was voted Goal of the Week, showcasing the talent and flair running through this squad.

Match Details

FA Cup Preliminary Round
Coleshill Town FC vs Worcester Raiders
Pack Meadow
Saturday 30th August – Kick-off: 3:00pm

Match Sponsorship Opportunity

As excitement builds, Coleshill Town FC are inviting local businesses and supporters to become part of the journey by sponsoring this crucial FA Cup fixture. Match sponsorship is a fantastic way to support grassroots football while gaining exposure in front of a passionate fanbase. If you're interested in sponsoring the game, please contact Club Chairman Paul Billing at chairman@coleshilltownfc.com.

Stay Connected

For match reports, highlights, and to relive the goals—including that ITV-featured stunner—head over to our website: www.coleshilltownfc.com.

You can also follow live match updates and behind-the-scenes content on X, Facebook, YouTube, and the club website.

But even better—come and watch it live. There's nothing like the roar of Pack Meadow when The Coleman are on the march.



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