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November 2025 Issue 139



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Tikka Town Celebrates Five Years with Charity Fundraiser for Cancer Research

Tikka Town Restaurant, 1a Manorpark Road, Castle Bromwich, Birmingham B36 0GG marked its fifth anniversary with a special celebration on 20 October 2025, bringing together loyal customers, friends, and members of the local community for a night of food, festivity, and fundraising.

Guests were treated to a lavish celebration menu showcasing the best of Tikka Town's authentic Indian cuisine. In addition to enjoying the culinary delights, attendees generously contributed to a fundraising drive in support of Cancer Research UK, through both donations and a raffle prize draw.

By the end of the evening, the Tikka Town team and guests had successfully raised £502.10, which was proudly presented to representatives from Cancer Research UK at the close of the event.

Restaurant owner said:

"We're incredibly grateful to everyone who joined us to celebrate this special milestone. Over the past five years, our customers have become like family, and we're thrilled that we could use this occasion to give back to such a vital cause. Every pound raised will help support life-saving research."

The event not only commemorated Tikka Town's five years of success but also highlighted the restaurant's ongoing commitment to community involvement and charitable giving.



Free Foot Check-up this November!

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**THE Coleshill &
Castle Brom POST**

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

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



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

Advertising in our publications

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

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Getting in touch

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serena.postgroup@outlook.com

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Cllr Martin McCarthy, Castle Bromwich Ward (Solihull MBC)

October update

Welcome To November in Castle Bromwich, This when we Remember those who have given their lives so that we may live in peace.

Fireworks

Fireworks seem no longer to be just a November 5th phenomenon; these were a subject of debate at the Full Council meeting held on 7th October with calls for safety improvements and Licencing of Celebratory fireworks being made, what do you think ?

Road Safety, School time parking

Following "Report it" schooltime yellow line parking concerns made to SMBC, Transport and Highways, enforcement officers will be continuing to make snap checks on vehicles parking in restricted zones near schools in our area.

Deputy Mayoral report

I Have performed the following mayoral duties during October.

I was pleased to officiate at the Grand opening of the 1st Chelmsley Wood Scouts scout hut upgrade, I was impressed the commitment and enthusiasm of the large scout group and the much-needed improvements.

I performed the Investiture of Mayors Sea Scout at Arden School where a very smart turn- out was the order of the day.

These events reminded me of all the hard work done by the volunteer leaders and support people without which the comradeship and development of new skills and experience would not be possible.

I have Opened the new post 16 SEND development centre at The Tudor Grange Academy. I enjoyed meeting great students and very impressive staff and

facilities, I am confident that these will help students to progress towards achieving their full potential.

It is the Deputy Mayors duty to join the Remembrance parade in Shirley on the 9th of November, I will sadly miss our Castle Bromwich parade.

The Castle Bromwich society

Your Councillors have attended a further committee meeting on the 15th of October where a need for someone with legal drafting experience has been highlighted to support further development of the local plan. If you are such a person and fancy a little "Pro Bono" work to make a difference in Castle Bromwich, please do get hold of us.

Ben Turner the SMBC Community Development officer joined us to talk about organisational development and working with other local volunteer groups and has given contact detail for some of these, look out for these in the next newsletter on the CBS website.

Regular Councillor Surgery at Castle Bromwich Library

The next monthly surgery is scheduled for Monday the 3rd of November 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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Health & Wellness



Article 6: Cold? Tired? Run Down? Here's How to Boost Your Immunity This Season

As the colder months arrive, our immune systems can take a hit. But with a few simple lifestyle shifts, you can keep your defences strong and stay healthier all season long.

Eat for Immunity

- Citrus fruits (vitamin C)
- Garlic (antiviral)
- Yogurt with live cultures
- Leafy greens and root veg from local markets

Stay Warm and Hydrated

Cold air stresses your body. Layer up, drink warm drinks, and use a humidifier if needed.

Keep Moving

Even light exercise boosts immune cells. Try:

- Brisk walks
- Light stretches
- Dancing in the kitchen

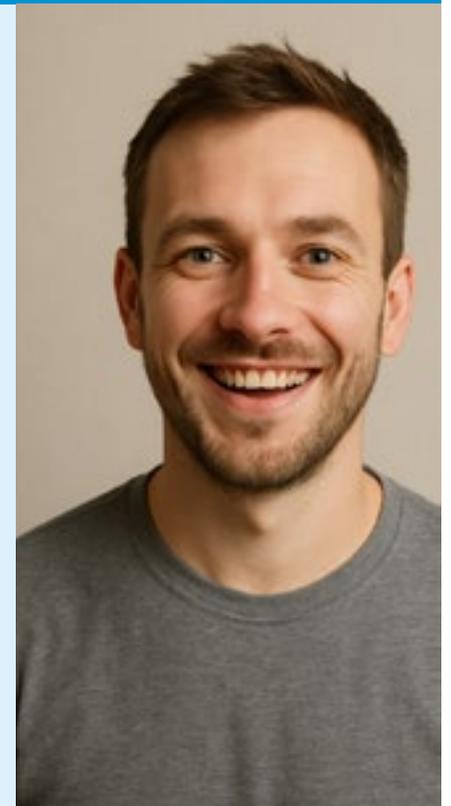
Connect and Rest

Sleep and social connection both support immune health. Get 7-8 hours of quality rest | and make time for family and friends.

Get Your Jabs

Don't skip your flu or COVID boosters – they're essential, especially for older adults.

Stay well, Coleshill. With these easy steps, you'll be ready for whatever winter brings.



Rachel Taylor MP, North Warwickshire and Bedworth



Government announces once in a generation reforms for young people

When I was elected as the new MP last year the number of young people starting apprenticeships was down 40%, and school leavers were not being given the choices and opportunities they needed to be able to succeed in work. Young people were being let down right across the country. The world is changing fast, but our young people were not supported to develop the skills and knowledge employers needed.

You can see the impact here in North Warwickshire.

A generation of young people are leaving school having had their education dramatically disrupted due to the lockdowns during the pandemic. There are so many brilliant local businesses in green energy, manufacturing, house building and the freight and logistics sector, yet they are struggling to recruit young people. We need to make sure there are the right courses and training available so that young people can take advantage of these fantastic local opportunities.

That is why I am pleased that the Prime Minister has set a new target for our country: two thirds of young people to be taking a gold standard apprenticeship, higher skills training or heading to university by age 25.

But it's one thing to set the target, it's another to get there.

This government has already made a start by creating 120,000 new training opportunities in the first year of government. Apprenticeships are up by all measures. But there is still more to do.

The once in a generation reforms announced by our government will ensure that when young people finish school, they have a great set of options to stay in education and training and to set themselves up for the world of work.

Starting with skills, new Technical Excellence Colleges in every corner of the country will bolster

training and create opportunities in key sectors like construction and clean energy. Technical Excellence Colleges will act as hubs of excellence with advanced facilities, expert staff, and strong employer partnerships whilst supporting other providers in their sector.

New V Levels will give students more options. Unlike T Levels, which are equivalent to 3 A Levels, young people who haven't yet decided what they want to do in the future

will be able to take a mixture of V Levels and A Levels offering much more choice and flexibility.

These measures, with an extra £800m investment into post-16 education, will make a real difference to opportunities for young people across this area and employers will benefit too.

But we also want to make sure that those students who do want to go to university will be able to get there regardless of how wealthy their parents are. We have brought back maintenance grants so students from disadvantaged backgrounds don't have the ladder kicked away from them.

After over a decade of decline in this area I am proud that we have such an exciting agenda for schools, colleges and universities, vocational and academic, further and higher education, that will give our young people the opportunities they deserve and drive the economic growth we need locally and nationally.

I know our teachers and students are already working hard to achieve excellent results. We've always promised our young people that if you work hard and play by the rules you'll get on in life – I'm delighted to see that that will once again be the reality here and across the country because of the investment this government is making.

MP Christmas Card Competition

I'm running a Christmas Card competition for all children in North Warwickshire and Bedworth who are in school years reception to year 6! If you would like to take part, please get in touch for more details on 02476 309 901 or rachel.taylor.mp@parliament. The deadline for all cards to be submitted is the 14 November. The winning design will be on my Christmas card and there are prizes to be won as well!

MP next MP Surgery in Coleshill

My next Coleshill surgery is on 22 November, from 9.30 am to 11.30 am. Surgeries are your opportunity to have a 15-minute discussion about anything that matters to you, from a personal case you need support with, to a policy issue you want to discuss. For more details or to make an appointment please contact my office on 02476 309 901 or rachel.taylor.mp@parliament.

WARM HUB

Town Hall Tue to Thu 10 to 1 and Community Centre (Tue only).

Come in for a chat and activities if you wish. Free refreshments.

INFORMATION

Help and support for any enquiries or issues such as:-

Blue Badges, Driving Licence, Passport Applications, Online Benefit Forms (including Pension Credit Checks) and much more

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



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Hours. Mon to Fri 10:00 to 13:00
www.coleshillhub.org.uk
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Memory Cafes (Coleshill/ Water Orton)
Young at Heart
Stitch Sewing Club

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CAB (Citizens Advice Bureau)
MIND
Vision Support
Wellbeing

GROUPS

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

Local Coleshill Creatives Launch New Children's Book



Two Coleshill creatives, Grace O'Malley and Emily Birch, have teamed up to release a brand-new children's book that's already winning hearts - City Kitty.

This beautifully illustrated, rhyming story follows Buddy, a curious cat who wanders off on an unexpected adventure to the big city (Birmingham). Along the way, he discovers that home truly is where the heart belongs.

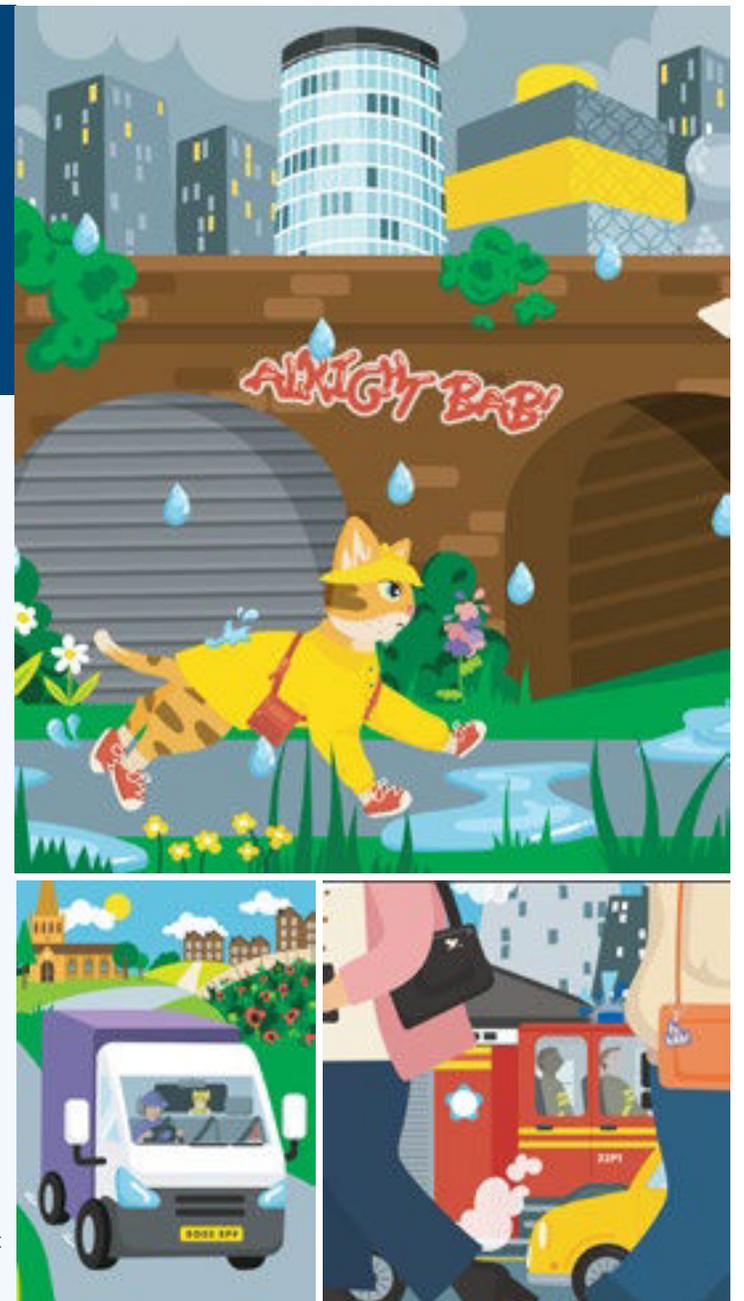
Written and illustrated in Coleshill, City Kitty has plenty of familiar touches that residents, young and old will recognise and enjoy.

Perfect for children aged 3-8, the book makes a wonderful Christmas gift or keepsake for local families, especially those who love stories full of curiosity, courage, and a comforting ending.

Copies are available for £7.99, with signed editions on request.

You can follow the creators on Instagram at @citykitty_brum for updates, sneak peeks, and to order your copy directly.

This Christmas, please support small and local. Proudly created in Coleshill - City Kitty is the purr-fect local story for your bookshelf this festive season.



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For more information and to make a booking to join us,
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www.coleshill-lodge-8272.co.uk



The Parish Church
of Water Orton

Operation Christmas Child 10th – 16th November

It is hard to imagine that there are children in the world today who do not know what it is like to receive a gift. Samaritan's Purse are trying to change that. Every year they run Operation Christmas Child, which is a charity that aims to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children around the world. They deliver shoeboxes filled with toys, personal care items, school supplies and fun gifts to some of the world's poorest children.

Packing a shoebox is simple, fun and has a big impact! This year, St Peter & St Paul's Church in Water Orton have elected to be a collection centre for the local area. If you don't have a shoebox, we can supply flatpack ones that you can make up and fill at home. For ideas of what to put in the shoeboxes, check the website:

occ.samaritans-purse.org.uk.

Opening times to drop off your shoeboxes are:

Monday 10th November: 10.30 am - 12.30 pm and 3.30 - 5.30 pm.

Tuesday 11th: 10.30 am - 12.30 pm and 3.30 - 5.30 pm.

Wednesday 12th: 10.30 am - 12.30 pm and 7.30 - 8.30 pm.

Thursday 13th: 10.30 am - 12.30 pm and 7.30 - 8.30 pm.

Friday 14th: 10.30 am - 12.30 pm and 3.30 - 5.30 pm.

Saturday 15th: 10.00 am - 12.00 noon.

Sunday 16th: 10.00 am - 12.00 noon.

Location: St Peter & St Paul's Church, New Road, Water Orton B46 1QU

For more information you can contact Judith Fisher:
waterortonchurch@hotmail.co.uk

This Christmas, you can bring joy to a child who may never have received a gift before. Would you consider sending a shoebox gift to bless just one child this festive season.



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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.

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

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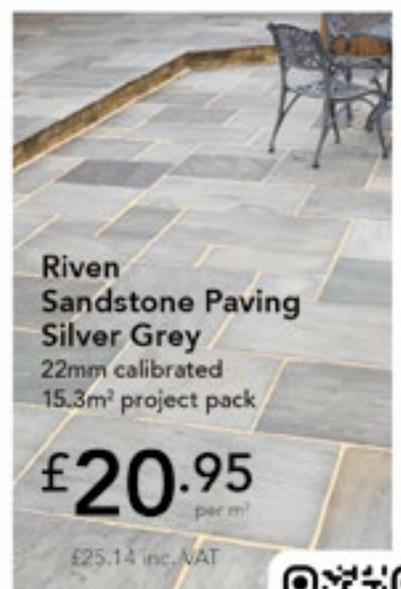
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Friends of Coleshill Country Market Newsletter

**Market every Friday morning 08:00 - 12:00
at The Parish Rooms, 132 Coleshill High
Street, Coleshill B47 3BJ**

Welcome to the first edition of the bi-monthly newsletter for Members and Friends of Coleshill Country Markets. This monthly newsletter is published to keep everyone informed about what is happening in the Coleshill Country Market (CCM), to encourage all members to engage in market activities and promote the market to the general public. Please share and circulate this email to your friends, neighbours and colleagues.

Introducing the CCM Committee



Chair: Di McDermott.

McDermott has been Chair of the market since just before Christmas 2024 as the previous long-serving gentleman Chairperson retired. I live some distance away from Coleshill and have had health issues this year so it's been a bit of a challenge. I don't feel worthy of the honour but here I am and will do my best.



Market Manager: Janet Reilly

The market manager is elected annually by the committee. Among her responsibilities are carrying out the weekly running of the market making sure all goods are to the correct standard, and that the market looks attractive and tidy with enough helpers for the day. Janet ensures that the market is always a welcoming and friendly place to visit.



Secretary: Sue Rogers

Sue is the CCM Secretary. She takes the minutes of the occasional meetings and any admin tasks. She is also known as "Origami Sue" for her beautifully executed origami cards which are on sale in the market.



Publicity and Social Media: Desiree Stewart

Desiree has been a craft producer with the Coleshill Country Market for about a year and recently taken on the role of promotion of the market. She manages the Market's Facebook page, publicity materials and edits this newsletter.

Treasurer: Sue Hundleby

Susan, a retired Finance Director, is acting as Treasurer. We are looking for a willing volunteer to take this role on permanently. Every week Susan reconciles the weekly takings and producer invoices and then, once a month, pays all the producers based on product sold. Each quarter the accounts are submitted to West Midlands and Susan liaises with the regional treasurer. Susan lives locally and sells organic fruit on the market stall.

Welcome to New Producers

We are pleased to introduce our newest producers - Janice Wade who is making amazing jams and preserves - and Karen White who is a macrame teacher and also produces macrame kits for sale.

Janice Wade - Preserves

I have been making jam for as long as I can remember. A family tradition going back a couple of generations where produce of any sort was not to be wasted. I remember aged about 9/10 picking blackberries, crab apples and wild fruit with my parents and then watching them turn them into delicious food for all the family together with produce from my grandfather's allotment and our gardens. I like to take advantage of 'pick your own' facilities in the county and enjoy making up the fruit I have picked. I'm a member of the Packington and Maxstoke WI and recently joined the Coleshill Country Market. Please see below a selection of my preserves available in the market on Fridays.



Karen White - Macrame

"I teach many crafts but my passion is macrame.

Bringing in my teaching background to show people that macrame is a simple but beautiful craft that can be picked up easily.

Craft sessions offered to all skill levels or if you just need a pre-made gift I got you!

Kits are another passion of mine. Creating sets so you can have a go or treat a friend - Do check out the selection of macrame kits. I have lots for sale at the market on Fridays.

I live in Coleshill and love being part of this wonderful community. I am also a member of the Twin Rivers WI in Coleshill."



Report for August Market Activity from Janet Reilly - Market Manager

This Summer we saw some changes which have proved very encouraging for the future of the market. With a new volunteer - Desiree Stewart - taking charge of promotion of the market we have improved our profile in the community by increased advertising, email appeals and new and frequent social media posts.

Desiree and I also attended the area meeting of the West Midlands Country markets which we have recently joined after the previous Warwickshire area group of markets was disbanded. We were able to meet and learn from other local markets such as Balsall Common, Leamington and Allesley. We also visited the Balsall Common Market which is held on Saturday mornings. They are a very friendly group and very keen to help us to develop and succeed in Coleshill. There are some pictures below from our visit.

We held a meeting of all stakeholders to discuss the future direction of the market. It was agreed that we should concentrate on improving the footfall in the market. One way would be to offer an additional cafe facility which is something the other successful markets offer. Our current premises will not support this so we are looking at options for another local venue which will enable us to offer cafe facilities. If members have any suggestions for a local venue in Coleshill please do get in touch.

The market also gained 3 new food producers and 3 new craft producers this summer. We are seeing new customers calling in to see what's on offer, and with such a large selection of goods for sale, they are tempted to buy. This is encouraging for the run up to Christmas and bodes well for the future of the market.



Sale of Jewellery

Di McDermott has reduced some lines of her beaded jewellery to half price.

She also has a range of beautiful silver pieces which is worth a look as they are very reasonably priced. See some examples on the left. You can purchase Di's jewellery at the market every Friday at the Parish Rooms, Coleshill High Street between 08:00 - 12:00.



Martin's Garden

Hints and Tips for improving your plant care with Martin Cross our resident garden expert.

- If you have some nice herbaceous plants in the garden & you'd like more, chop them down, dig them up, divide them with a spade then replant them where you like. Water them in well and they'll get some new root growth before the winter. They'll look great next year.
- Save the seeds of annual or perennial plants. Choose a dry day to pick them and put them in a paper bag. Make sure they're completely dry before you put them in a cool dry place for the winter.

• Herbaceous seed can be planted now and overwintered outside you'd be surprised how how quickly they can germinate.



Wanted! Home Bakers



If you love to bake, we would love you to join our team of friendly bakers selling your homemade cakes and bakes in the market on Fridays at the Parish Rooms, Coleshill. To find out more please email desireestewart@btinternet.com

📍 205 Tyburn Road, Erdington, B24 8NB (Covering all areas in the West Midlands)

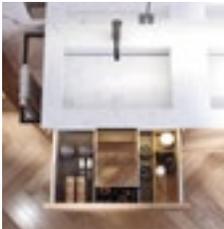
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COLESHILL & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Monday 17th November

Gerald Ingram (Planters Garden Centre) will be giving a talk on "GIFTS FOR GARDENERS" and will have gifts for sale on the night.

7.30pm at Coleshill Community Centre, 2 Temple Way, corner of Station Road, Coleshill, B46 1HH

Members £4

Non Members £6 all welcome.

Refreshments will be available and included in the entry fee.

For any further information contact Meda on 07549037477



Castle Bromwich
Hall Gardens

The love of bare November days



All Saints and All Souls

November traditionally begins with All Saints' Day, followed immediately by All Souls' Day. Together with All Hallows' Eve, which we more commonly call 'Halloween', they form Allhallowtide, a period in the Western Christian calendar. Following the commemoration of All Hallows' Eve and the deeper and older traditions of Samhain in the Celtic and Pagan calendar, All Saints' and All Souls' Day are centred on remembering the dead and martyred. It has many forms across the world, including the famous Day of the Dead celebrations in Mexico and other Mexican-populated regions. Across the British Isles, the tradition of 'souling' was observed, where bands of children would roam the streets of well-to-do areas, asking for alms, apples, and foodstuffs, and in response to this, special 'soul cakes' were often made. These children would be dressed in disguises and perform pranks on those who refused to give them anything. It is in these Medieval practices that more modern interpretations developed. With Bonfire Night happening shortly afterwards, the short period historically could become a time of great revelry and happenings, swinging between the solemnity of All Hallows' and the often raucous behaviour associated with 5th November.

Jobs for the Garden in November

As the shops begin blaring Christmas music, and the tell shows us its many adverts, this glare and sparkle runs contrary to what happens in the Gardens. November sees great clearances and tidying grip the Gardening team. It is the opportunity for cleaning the Batty Langley Kitchen Garden by edging the borders and raking out the beds to provide a clear space for next year's planting. The layout of the beds, as per designer Batty Langley's outline, is revealed by the lack of vegetation to highlight the formalised style of the Eighteenth-century. It is because of this that Winter is often the best time to truly appreciate the geometry and landscaping of these formal Baroque Gardens.



November will also witness a great bulb-planting campaign, one that seizes us every year as the tulips are dug into the ground in preparation for their wonderful Spring blooms. It is also the time for mulching borders; of layering leaf mould and new earth into the existing beds to aid the retention of vital nutrients and minerals. This is complemented by the gathering of vast quantities of leaves as the trees are stripped of their coverage and smother the pathways in crunchy leafage. These are then taken to the compost piles outside the walls to be turned into compost, crucial for the year ahead.

For your own gardens, November is a chance to trim back dead growth and start protecting your sensitive plants from the oncoming frosts. In doing this clearing, you may find dead wood and logs. Don't burn these, but use their stored nutrients by adding them to compost piles or recycle them under hedges. These will create vital habitats for hibernating mammals over Winter, as well as feeding the earth. Now is also the chance to raise containers off the ground. This is to prevent standing water developing which could later freeze and not only damage roots within the pots, but also crack the pots themselves! Wooden or ceramic feet are often rather useful inclusions in sheds for this purpose.

Falconry

Also on 30th November, we welcome a new falconer to the Gardens, Joe and Katie of Tora's Falconry. They will be leading an exciting and hands-on Hawk Walk around the Gardens in the morning and afternoon on that Sunday. Learn and experience the wonder of the raptor, those majestic hunters, with the expertise of Joe and Katie to accompany you. Tickets will be available on our website (but they are very popular so do be quick!)



Crafts and Mini Artisanal Market

Advent is here! Our calendar of Christmas events begins on the first day of Advent, Sunday 30th November. From late morning through to mid-afternoon, we will be having the first of a string of weekends of different festive events. Across the day, there will be drop-in crafts for both adults and children. We will welcome anyone who wishes to join us for a day of crafting, augmented by a few stalls of local crafters and the Gardens' own lovely artisanal products. It will be the perfect opportunity for an early foray into the festive season, with the chance to purchase some lovely handmade and hand-crafted gifts for loved ones. Our famous homemade jams and pickles will be in abundance.

The following weekends until our closure on 21st December, will feature a great variety of Yuletide events, but that will all be in next month's edition!

Of course, all will be accompanied by the wafting aroma of gently mulling wine...

**Chester Road, Castle Bromwich,
Birmingham B36 9BT**

0121 749 4100

cbhallgardens@gmail.com

castlebromwichhallgardens.org.uk



**We
Need
YOU** !

Make a Change- Become a Councillor

-  **Care about Castle Bromwich?**
-  **Got ideas for the community?**
-  **Want to make a real difference?**

If this is you, then sign up to be a Parish Councillor!

Castle Bromwich Parish Council is looking for new councillors to join our council. We want people from all backgrounds and experiences who want to make a difference to our local area.

The council makes a difference in everyday life from youth projects, managing open spaces, making representations on planning and traffic schemes, organising social events and we strive to improve the lives of residents in Castle Bromwich.

There are current vacancies, so please attend a meeting and see what we're about!

You can find out more information on the Electoral Commission and Local Government Association website.

SCAN ME



For more information contact
counciloffice@castlebromwich.pc.gov.uk
or call 0121 747 6503



**Wishing everyone a
Merry Christmas &
Prosperous New Year**

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QUIZ NIGHT

Friday 14th November
Coleshill Town Hall
B46 3BG

Doors Open: 7.00pm
Quiz Starts: 7.30PM
Fish/Sausage & Chips £14
No Food £7
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Max 6 per team
Tickets: Alison 07736835177






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**NOVEMBER 30TH
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Stalls
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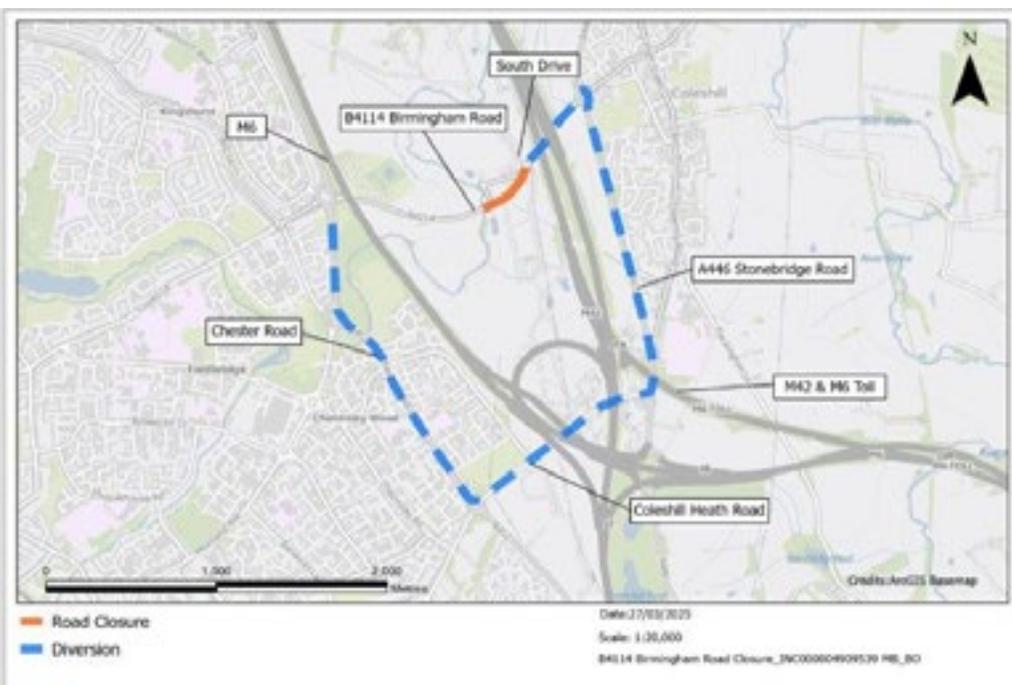
Coleshill Day Services, Coventry Road,
Coleshill, B46 3EA

01675 462160
enquiries@fatherhudsons.org.uk

Closure of B4114 Birmingham Road, Coleshill

The work we will be completing

As part of the ongoing preparations for the HS2 railway construction, we will be carrying out essential construction works to construct segmental viaducts spanning the B4114 Birmingham Road. In order to complete this work safely, we will install a three-week closure of B4114 Birmingham Road from Monday 10 November to Monday 01 December 2025. A diversion route will be in place and access for pedestrians, residents and businesses will be maintained throughout the closure.



HS2 Helpdesk

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

08081 434 434

hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk

Community Projects

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

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

communityinvestment@balfourbeattyvinci.com

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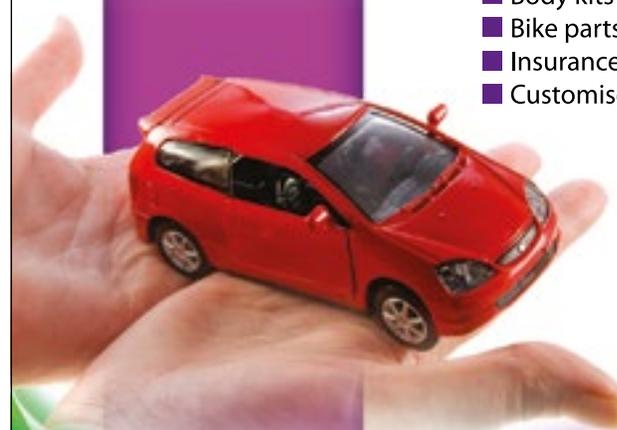


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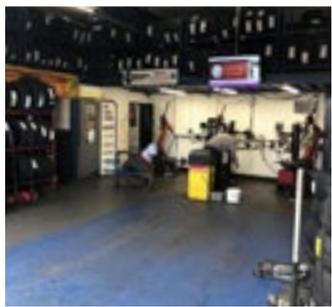
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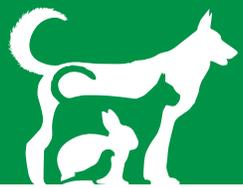


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Pet Page

Why Breed Traits Matter – and How They Can Help Us Understand Our Dogs



One of the joys of sharing life with a dog is discovering all their little quirks. Some carry shoes around the house, some seem to have their nose glued to the floor, and others will happily sleep most of the day away. These aren't just random habits. Many are shaped by what our ancestors bred them to do.

That's why looking at breed traits can be so useful. It helps us understand where certain behaviours come from, and it also shows us how we can give our dogs positive outlets for those instincts. This can reduce frustration for both of you.

Take retrievers, for example. They were bred to fetch game, so carrying and bringing things back is second nature. Many delight in retrieving toys or gently carrying something in their mouths. A terrier might see the same toy as something to dig out, shake, and destroy, because their job was once to locate and dispatch vermin. A sighthound may happily chase the toy, but once they have caught it, the job is done. Bringing it back again to us does not always make sense to them.

Understanding these instincts helps us see things differently. If your terrier is digging up the garden, it is not necessarily mischief, it is instinct. Knowing that means we can make simple changes: give them a safe place to dig rather than your flower bed, pick toys that match what they enjoy, or play games that let them use their natural skills. When we give dogs safe ways to use their instincts, it not only prevents frustration for us, it also reduces stress for them.

Enrichment is at its best when it matches what a dog was bred to do. A scenthound might thrive on sniffing out scatter feeds in the garden. These activities allow them to use their instincts in safe and satisfying ways.

Of course, many dogs today are crossbreeds. Cockapoos, Labradoodles and Cavapoos are very popular, often mixing the energy of a spaniel with the cleverness of a poodle. Then there are the much-loved "Heinz 57" mixes, who can be a combination of all sorts. With crossbreeds, you might see a blend of traits, or one that shines through more strongly than the others. DNA tests can give clues, but often the clearest answer is simply to watch your dog. If they spend every walk nose to the ground, try scatter feeding at home. If they love to carry, give them toys they can proudly parade.

I only work with sighthounds and specialise with ex-racing greyhounds, and I have seen the full range. Some will try to chase anything that moves. I remember Izzy, on her first day with us, leaping down the street to chase a crisp packet. However,

I do know an ex-racing greyhound who lived happily with a house rabbit. That was the exception, not the rule. The breed gives us useful clues, but the individual dog in front of us always matters most. And if they don't fit the mould, the key is to notice what they do find rewarding and work with that.

When we take the time to understand breed traits, it can transform how we approach training and play. Instead of expecting all dogs to behave the same, we can tailor games, toys, and training to what comes naturally for them. This reduces frustration, helps us set realistic expectations, and builds a stronger bond. It also makes life more enjoyable for

our dogs, because they get to use their instincts in ways that feel natural and rewarding.

Those instincts are bred in. Recognising them, and working with them, is one of the best ways we can support their well-being and get the best results. Clare - Insight Hounds - Training for Sighthounds

Clare

Insight Hounds –
Training for Sighthounds



Ward End Cat Rescue Christmas Fete

Ward End Cat Rescue invite you to our fabulous fundraising fete on the 23rd November at The Link in Water Orton at 2pm (full details are on the poster). Please come and support us and get yourself a bargain along with a cuppa and some yummy cake.

We are looking for tombola/raffle prizes too along with any volunteers to help us on the day.

For more info please contact Suzy on woottonsooz@aol.com.



**WARD END CAT RESCUE
CHRISTMAS FAYRE
SUNDAY 23RD NOVEMBER
2PM TO 4PM**

- TOMBOLA
- VENDOR STALLS
- FOOD AND DRINKS
- FESTIVE GOODIES
- SUPER MICE

Our famous knitted SUPER MICE will be on sale on the day, plus a fantastic raffle of prizes and lots of sale goodies to buy.

The Link, New Road,
Water Orton, B46 1QT

If you're looking to adopt a cat, or if you'd like to support the work of Ward End Cat Rescue, please visit our facebook page **WARD END CAT RESCUE OFFICIAL** or email us on wardendcatrescueofficial@outlook.com

Sukis Canine Rescue: 1yr old Athena Now ready for a forever home



This gorgeous girl was picked up as a stray. She was abandoned, and left to fend for herself with no thought given to the risks she faced alone. Although the state of her tells us she's probably had a lucky escape. What she has been through

has broken our hearts. Part of her ear has been bitten off, she's missing the front part of her tongue and is covered in bite wounds. 🐾 This poor girl has really been through something horrendous. She's done her 7 days in the pound and is currently safe in foster now. We have given her the name Athena. Despite what Athena has been through, she is a loving and trusting girl. She walks nicely on the lead and loves to snuggle up with you on the sofa. Athena is now fully vaccinated and spayed.

If you can offer her a forever home please PM our page or email us for the link to our online application form at sukiscaninerescue@gmail.com

ORCHARD NURSERIES

1973 - 2025

SANTA IS COMING!!

Our Christmas shop is now open with lots of new lines. Our beautiful non shed christmas trees will arrive around the third week of november. Hand made holly wreaths from end november.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Our fabulous Santa is back on: • Sunday 21st December • Tuesday 23rd December • Wednesday 24th December - 9.30 or 11.30

To include an English Breakfast with tea or coffee or juice and croissants.

Then its off to the grotto where the children will make reindeer food with Mrs Claus before meeting Santa and receiving a gift. **£18.50 PER Person**

Babies just seeing Santa £6.00 (no seat/food/reindeer food) including a gift. Full payment required on booking, also allergy advice/ veggie etc.

Or just visit the grotto and make reindeer food with Mrs Claus before visiting Santa and receiving a gift.

Dates as above, times between 10 - 1

Children **£10**, babies just seeing Santa **£6** Adults free.

Booking and payment required.

Traditional Holly wreath making

29th November 11am

£35 payable on booking to include all you need for your wreath and a tea or coffee and mince pie.



Matrix winter pansies now ready, single or mixed colours also violas, polyanthus and sugar rush wallflower.

Beautiful selection of spring flowering bulbs.

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Afternoon tea, prebooking required for up to 25 people

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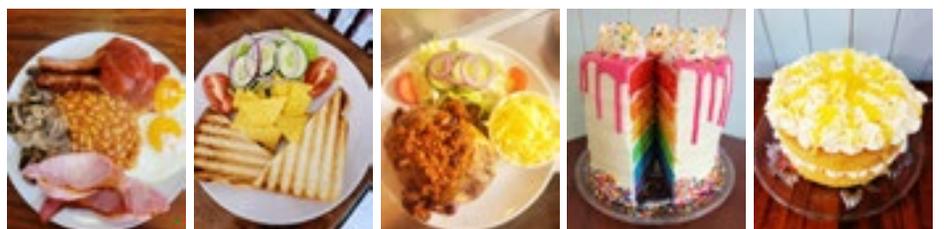
Check out our Facebook page for more details

Open currently Monday/Tuesdays 9.30 - 2pm

Wednesday/Thursday/Friday/Saturday 9.30 - 3pm

Sunday 10.00 - 1pm

Please enquire regarding group bookings.



Orchard Nurseries, Birmingham Road, Water Orton B46 1TG

Tel: 0121 749 7266 / 07450102855

Julie_heenan@yahoo.co.uk

Police News

Anti Spiking Campaign

As part of our commitment to the national Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee (NPG) and following the success of activities in Coleshill, we'll be running more town centre operations in the coming months.

With the welcome assistance of the Neighbourhood Watch Network Neighbourhood Watch Scheme team, our officers have been chatting to people about staying safe while out in town, handing out crime prevention products like personal security alarms and visiting local pubs and bars to give anti-spiking advice and carry out licensing checks.



Speaking about the operation, PC Thompson said: "It was great to receive so many positive comments about seeing officers out and about in the town centre. We're grateful for the support of local licensed premises to work together to make our town centres feel safer for everyone. We also encouraged people to sign up to Warwickshire Connected, where you can help shape policing priorities for where you live and find out what we're doing near you."



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.

Community Speed Watch

Would you like to support your community and join a speed watch group?

The Community Speed Watch Groups work closely with Warwickshire Police. By conducting the speed checks, they help reduce the speeding issue in the area. Community Speed Watch is a community driven road safety initiative and is managed by the volunteers, coordinated by Warwickshire Police.

Are you interested in joining the Community Speed Watch group?

If so email us on nws.snt@warwickshire.police.uk.



FREE FOOT CHECKS FOR NOVEMBER!

Many of us routinely have our teeth and eyes check but we never think to have a check-up of our feet despite all the hard work we put them through! Our feet are a much-neglected part of the body. It is a fact that most of us don't pay enough attention to our feet and only think about them when there is a problem. Often these issues can be easily rectified and prevented with the correct treatment and advice.

If you are suffering with pain in your feet or your legs, if you have any concerns or if you would simply like to check that your feet are free of any problems you can book in for a 10-minute appointment and get FREE expert advice from one of our HCPC registered Podiatrists.

If necessary, you can then arrange to return for an appointment to receive any required treatment that may have been recommended to you. We also stock a large array of products that you



can purchase directly from our clinic if required or recommended to you by our Podiatrist.



To book a **FREE 10-minute check-up during November**, with an experienced HCPC Registered Podiatrist, call **0121 749 6313**.



The Shabby Attic

* FREE VALUATIONS *

Unlike some other businesses we DON'T charge a fee when we value your jewellery/coins etc

Anything that you consider may have monetary worth, or if you're unsure we will try and value it completely FREE of charge with absolutely NO obligation to sell.

The Shabby Attic liaise with experts who have knowledge in different areas of valuables, the list below is just some of the items we will take a look at and we will always strive to offer the best CASH offer if there is value.

We also offer bank transfers as well as cash payments.

- * Gold, broken, dental etc * Silver * Silverware
- * Costume Jewellery * Vinyl Records
- * Vintage Advertising * Antiques
- * Georgian/Victorian * Masonic Regalia
- * Watches * Pocket Watches * Militaria
- * Lego * Glassware * Vintage * Coins
- * Vintage Toys/Antique Toys

Nothing above ??

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

82 High Street, Coleshill B46 3AH
Tel.07528964681

The only person who could change who I was and how I felt... was me



At just 17, I became a mum for the first time. By the age of 27, I had four beautiful children. With every pregnancy, my weight went up and down, and like so many others, I fell into the cycle of every fad and restrictive diet that came along. Nothing ever lasted.

When my husband sadly passed away, the weight crept on even more. As a busy mum of four, I barely had time to think about myself, let alone my weight. But when I started struggling with my breathing and found myself going up another dress size to an 18, I knew it was time to act.

Walking into my first Slimming World group was a turning point. I was nervous, but from the moment I stepped in, I felt cared for, welcomed, and supported. There was no judgement, no humiliation—just kindness and encouragement. I instantly felt part of a family.

Food Optimising was a revelation. For the first time, I wasn't depriving myself—I wasn't hungry, and I was eating real, satisfying meals that my whole family loved. From full English breakfasts to homemade curries and sweet and sour chicken, food became enjoyable again, not something to fear.

With the support of my group, I set my Personal Achievement Target. I went on to lose 3 stone, and something I never dreamed possible happened: I walked down the aisle at Villa Park, marrying my long-time fiancé in a stunning backless size 12 dress. I even wore my first-ever bikini on our honeymoon! Moments like these made me feel like I was finally living life to the fullest.

Being voted Woman of the Year by my group and representing them at the district final was an incredible honour—a moment where I truly felt on top of the world.

But like many journeys, mine wasn't without setbacks. I lost my second husband, supported my daughter through her courageous battle with cancer (which she won!), and then came Covid. Life felt overwhelming, and I regained 2 stone. But instead of giving up, I reminded myself: I had done this before, and I could do it again.

With my consultant's support, I adjusted my target to fit my life now—less mobile,

older, but still determined. And it worked. Slimming World isn't about perfection, it's about finding the target that makes you happy and healthy.

Recently, I travelled across India—from Delhi to Mumbai—climbing endless steps and walking for up to 4 hours a day. A few years ago, that would have been unthinkable. But now, with renewed energy and confidence, I embraced every moment, every adventure.

For years, I've proudly served as a Social Team member, meeting so many inspiring people. Now, I'm ready for the next step. It's "my time" to give back—to stand at the front of the room and inspire others as a Slimming World Consultant, helping them achieve their own goals, just as I once did.

Because if there's one thing I've learned, it's this: no food is banned, no journey is over, and no dream is too far out of reach.




Slimming World feel *real* good

Monday

Castle Brom The Baptist Church, 5.30 & 7.00pm Claire 07917867577

Yardley St Edburghas Church Hall, 7.30 & 9.00am Jacqui 07814 675180

Tuesday

Shard End Aylesford Hall, 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 Jacquie 07957133435

Friday

Sheldon St Thomas More Church, 9.00am Claire 07917867577

Chelmsley Wood The Family Tree, 9.00am Jayne 07453 348184

Saturday

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

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

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

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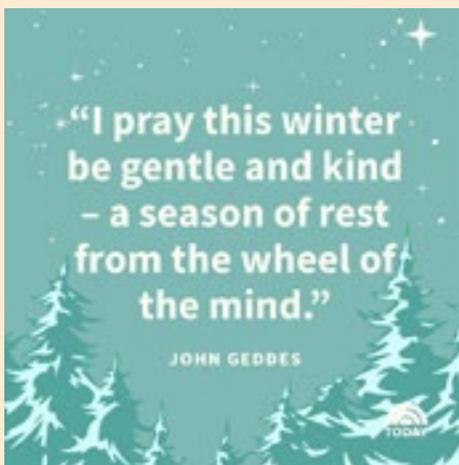


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News from St Clement of Alexandria Green Lane, Castle Bromwich (known locally as St Clements Church)



"With a few flowers in my garden, half a dozen pictures and some books, I live without envy".

After an extremely hot summer, when both the day and night temperatures were extremely high, what can we expect for the coming winter months? Well, if you listen to old English folklore, the Pyracantha — which this year has been completely covered with the most beautiful deep orange, lighter orange, or red berries — suggests we are certainly in for a harsh winter. But winter is a time when nature sleeps, conserves energy until it is renewed, and once again surprises us with the magic of colour and renewed energy, as spring, with all its promise of hope and new beginnings, bursts forth before our eyes.

St Clements has been very busy celebrating Harvest. On Saturday, 27th September, we came together for a Harvest Supper — jacket potatoes with fillings and a pudding with custard. Gosh, we were spoiled! Then the quiz — well, do you remember Steptoe and Son or Leonard Rossiter, or can you remember the theme

tunes to some of our favourite sitcoms? Coronation Street was easy! Well, that was just the beginning. We all knew The Man from Milk Tray advert, but did we remember Are You Being Served? It was a fun-packed evening, and our thanks go to all the wonderful volunteers who made it happen. Thank you — here's to the next time!

On Sunday, 28th September, our vicar, Revd Fiona Harrison-Smith, led our All Age Harvest Festival Service with Holy Communion. Being able to sing "We Plough the Fields and Scatter" took us back to our school days. Once again, St Clements supported our local food bank with tins of everything you can imagine. All the fresh vegetables were made into soup, which we served at our joint Crafternoon and Twenty21 Groups Together on Thursday, 16th October — all proceeds to be donated to the Neonatal Unit at Heartlands Hospital in support of their fundraising for twin cots. In December, St Clements will have a tree in church for people to hang Christmas cards on. Instead of giving and spending large amounts of money, we encourage our congregation to support by placing just one card on the tree and donating the rest of the money to our chosen charity for that year — something we have done for many years. This year it will be the Neonatal Unit at Heartlands. St Clements, during the year, supports a number of charities — Marie Curie, Macmillan, and this year, Troop Aid — when we came together to honour both VE and VJ Day.

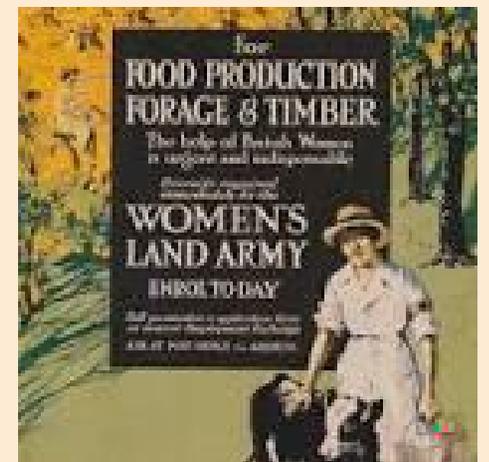
Although Black History Month started in America way back in 1926, when Carter G. Woodson launched the first Black History Week in the United States, it wasn't officially recognised until February 1976

by U.S. President Gerald Ford in a speech to the nation. Here in the UK, Black History Month serves to celebrate and promote the history, heritage, and cultural achievements of Black people, while also educating the public and fostering understanding and awareness. We at St Clements celebrated together on the 25th October, being treated to jerk chicken with rice and peas, curry, vegetarian curry, and so much more. It was an afternoon of entertainment, good food, and excellent company, and it is now a firm fixture in the Church Events diary. As a church, we are extremely lucky to have Clara Titre, who was accepted and is undergoing Reader training, which I understand is a two-year course. Clara leads Praise Services once a month, which means our very talented vicar, Revd Fiona, plays the organ during the service — and yes, she has a lovely voice!

We were also able to celebrate the first female Archbishop of Canterbury, with the appointment of Dame Sarah Mullally, who said in her first address, "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." This really makes you think, as it is so relevant in today's world.

Jesus consistently challenged the norms of his time — speaking to women directly, including them as disciples and financial supporters, and entrusting them with important roles such as announcing his resurrection. Today we find women in every walk of life, and we depended on them during the First and Second World Wars, when they replaced men on the land, in factories, and in retail. They have never looked back! Dame Sarah Mullally, before going into the priesthood, had already had a very successful career in the NHS, becoming a nurse in the 1980s and

then Chief Nursing Officer. Do we ever ask the question of our rectors or vicars, "What did you do before you became a priest?" I think we would be surprised at the answers.



Today there are many female priests who are also wives, mothers and sometimes carers and juggle very busy lives and which a few years ago would have been unheard of.

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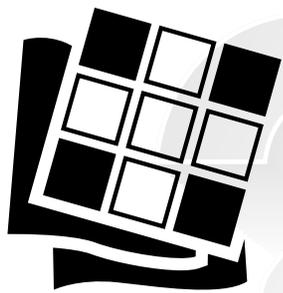
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Puzzle Page

ACROSS

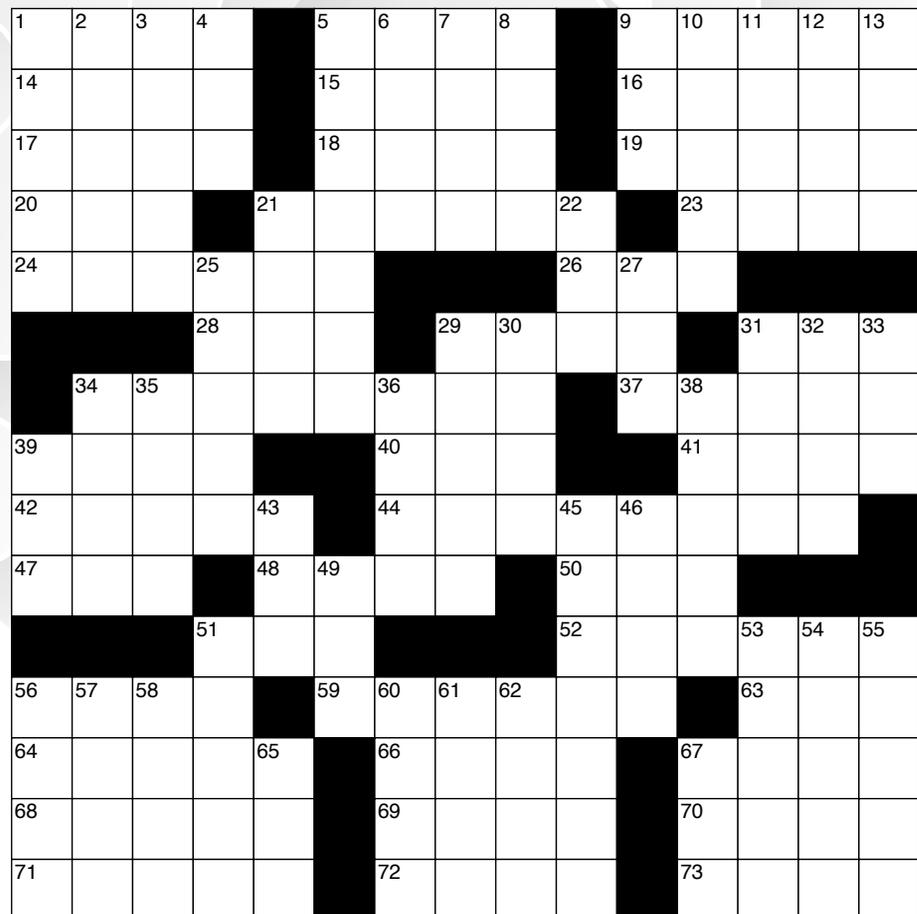
- 1 Cat cries
5 Vassal
9 Not before
14 Car rental agency
15 Opaque gem
16 Horde
17 Lavish party
18 Child's transportation
19 Specific areas
20 Business abbr.
21 Withdraw from a body
23 Mailed
24 Precision cut stone
26 Furrow
28 Snacked
29 Floating ice
31 Electric spark
34 Large terrier
37 Award
39 Summon
40 Girl
41 Attorney (abbr.)
42 Writing style
44 Joyful
47 Day of wk.
48 Face covering
50 Tree
51 Give a nickname to
52 Cut in half
56 Ballet skirt
59 Strange and secret doctrines

- 63 Body part
64 Fire residue
66 Madam
67 Extinct bird
68 Brings in a fish
69 At sea
70 A fox's hole (2 wds.)
71 Lover's meeting
72 List of meals
73 Not there

DOWN

- 1 Organized crime
2 Levels
3 Halloween broom rider
4 Compass point
5 Reversed intoxication
6 Heroic
7 Garden tool with teeth
8 Ran away
9 Wood tool
10 First sign of fall
11 Firm up muscles
12 Poetic "evening"
13 Repose
21 Fill
22 Make a mistake
25 Small birds
27 Good grief!
29 Halloween cat

- 30 Snaky fish
31 Negative (prefix)
32 Reserve Officers Training Corps.
33 Whoop
34 Air (prefix)
35 Computer picture button
36 Gets older
38 Formal declarations
39 Tempo
43 Flightless bird
45 Graphic description
46 Continent
49 Alphabet
51 Fights
53 Wear away
54 Fermented apple juice
55 Cut of beef
56 Tangy
57 Consumer
58 Those people
60 Eve's husband
61 Baseball plate
62 Prayer ending
65 Concord e.g.
67 Morse code dash



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Word Search

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

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.

Black
Broomstick
Calindula
Cider
Colorful
Cool
Fall

Fruit
Ghost
Goblin
Halloween
Harvest
Haunt
Holiday

Maize
Mask
October
Orange
Pumpkin
Spider
Witch

Bring a Beautiful Border to life at BBC Gardeners' World Live



Got a great idea for a gorgeous garden? Why not bring your design to life at next year's BBC Gardeners' World Live at the NEC Birmingham (18-21 June). Applications for the 2026 Beautiful Borders competition are now open for the BBC Gardeners' World flagship event.

Whether you're an experienced garden designer or amateur gardener, a student or school gardening club, or a charity or community group, BBC Gardeners' World events want to hear from you. The Beautiful Borders are an exciting opportunity to share your talents and skills, imagination and love of plants with tens of thousands of gardening fans. Measuring just 9m², the Beautiful Borders are miniature wonders, brimming with fresh inspiration for small gardens.

The creative theme for the 2026 Beautiful Borders competition is 'Once Upon a Time', inviting entrants to show how even the smallest garden space can become a storybook. Visitors will be transported into a world where imagination blooms and every detail tells a tale. Whether inspired by a special memory, a journey towards health and wellbeing, a personal achievement, dream or meaningful moment, creating a Beautiful Border is a great opportunity to tell a story through plants, colour and design. It's personal stories and lived experiences that the BBC Gardeners' World events team are looking for rather than film or book interpretations. Limited bursaries of £250 are available for plants and props.

BBC Gardeners' World events' friendly, experienced horticultural team supports entrants every step of the way, from application through build and to final reveal. Borders are assessed on site by expert assessment panels, with medals, awards and constructive feedback for every entrant.

The top awards are Best Beautiful Border, Best Interpretation of the Theme, and Best BBC Gardeners' World Magazine Subscriber Border, with a People's Choice award for visitors' favourite design.

Lucy Tremlett, Event Director at Immediate Live, organisers of BBC Gardeners' World events, said: "The Beautiful Borders are a hugely popular feature at our events, with visitors spoilt for choice for brilliant ideas for their own gardens. The designers put so much effort, planning and creativity into their Borders, many of them drawing on personal stories and lived experiences for inspiration. Gardens are great places for storytelling, and we can't wait to see how this year's entrants bring the Once Upon a Time theme to life."

Winner of the 'best in show' Beautiful Border and Platinum award at this year's BBC Gardeners' World Live was North Yorkshire garden designer Anita Rose (pictured) for The One to Three Border, designed to foster connections between oneself, others and nature. Anita's Border featured different seating scenarios for reflection and quiet contemplation.

Alex Valk, a BBC Gardeners' World Live 2025 Gold award winner, said: "The Beautiful Borders gave me a chance to test myself and the freedom to explore my own creative ideas. The atmosphere on-site was brilliant; everyone shared ideas and helped each other. I met fantastic new plant-y friends and winning the Gold gave me a much-needed confidence boost."

Entries are now open at www.bbcgardenersworldlive.com closing on 23 January 2026.

Tickets for BBC Gardeners' World Live are on sale now. Event highlights include inspiring Beautiful Borders and show gardens, spectacular floral displays, plant and garden shopping, theatres and stages, and BBC Gardeners' World TV presenters, Magazine editors and plant experts. There are garden tours and talks, workshops and demonstrations, and great food, drink and live entertainment.

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Interiors & Decorating



Platinum November Update

William Morris: The Enduring Influence on Painting, Decorating, and Interior Design

Few names are as synonymous with the marriage of art, craftsmanship, and interior beauty as William Morris. A towering figure of the nineteenth century, Morris was not only an artist but also a designer, writer, and social reformer. His philosophy and aesthetic sensibilities have shaped the principles of modern design and decoration more profoundly than perhaps any other individual of his time. More than a century after his death in 1896, Morris's influence continues to echo through contemporary interiors, painting, and decorative arts — a testament to his timeless vision of beauty, honesty, and craftsmanship.

The Life and Vision of William Morris

Born in 1834 in Walthamstow, England, William Morris grew up during a period of rapid industrialisation. The Victorian era was marked by mass production, which, while revolutionary in its efficiency, often produced goods that were cheaply made and aesthetically impoverished. Morris reacted strongly against this mechanisation of craftsmanship. He became one of the leading voices of the Arts and Crafts Movement, a movement dedicated to restoring integrity, beauty, and craftsmanship to the decorative arts.

Trained initially at Oxford, Morris was inspired by medieval art, Gothic architecture, and the writings of John Ruskin. Ruskin's belief that art should be both beautiful and moral struck a deep chord with him. Morris came to believe that good design was not merely an aesthetic pursuit but an ethical one — that the quality of one's surroundings had a direct impact on the quality of life itself.

Morris & Co: The Birth of a Design Revolution

In 1861, Morris founded Morris, Marshall, Faulkner & Co., later renamed Morris & Co. The firm produced an extraordinary range of handcrafted decorative items, including wallpapers, textiles, stained glass, and furniture. Each piece embodied Morris's belief that art should be accessible and that beauty should enrich the everyday home.

Perhaps the most famous of all Morris's contributions are his wallpaper and fabric designs. These works are characterised by intricate, nature-inspired patterns — intertwining vines, stylised flowers, birds, and leaves rendered in rich, harmonious colour palettes. Designs such as Trellis, Willow Boughs, and Strawberry Thief remain iconic, instantly recognisable symbols of Victorian elegance and craftsmanship.

Morris's approach to decoration represented a rejection of both the mechanical uniformity of industrial production and the over-elaborate ornamentation popular in mid-Victorian interiors. Instead, he promoted balance, simplicity, and the beauty of natural form — ideals that still inform design aesthetics today.

The Philosophy Behind the Pattern

Morris's work cannot be separated from his ideals. His approach to design was rooted in a deep respect for craftsmanship, nature, and honesty of materials. He

believed that the act of making — of working by hand with care and skill — imbued objects with a spiritual and moral value that machine-made goods could never replicate.

He once wrote, "Have nothing in your houses that you do not know to be useful, or believe to be beautiful." This statement remains one of the most quoted principles in interior design, encapsulating his philosophy that beauty and functionality should coexist harmoniously.

Nature was Morris's greatest muse. His designs often feature repeating botanical motifs, inspired by the flora of the English countryside and his own garden at Kelmscott Manor. These organic forms were not copied literally but stylised, creating a rhythm and order that conveyed both vitality and calm. His ability to merge natural inspiration with geometric precision created patterns that were both dynamic and timeless.

Influence on Painting and Decorative Art

While Morris is best remembered as a designer and craftsman, his influence on painting is more subtle but equally profound. His close collaboration with the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood — including Dante Gabriel Rossetti and Edward Burne-Jones — fostered a shared commitment to beauty, symbolism, and craftsmanship. The Pre-Raphaelites' richly detailed, nature-infused style had much in common with Morris's decorative work, and his friendship with these artists helped to bridge the worlds of fine art and design.

Morris's studio was a hub of artistic collaboration, blurring the boundaries between painting, textile design, and interior decoration. In this way, he helped to elevate the decorative arts to the same level of esteem as painting and sculpture. His belief that the applied arts were as significant as the fine arts paved the way for later design movements, including Art Nouveau and Modernism, both of which inherited aspects of his aesthetic and moral philosophy.

Lasting Influence on Interior Design

The impact of William Morris on interior design has been profound and enduring. His emphasis on craftsmanship and natural beauty has become a foundational principle of modern interior aesthetics. The resurgence of interest in his work in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries attests to its continued relevance.

In the early twentieth century, the Arts and Crafts Movement evolved into a global phenomenon, influencing designers from Charles Rennie Mackintosh in Scotland to Gustav Stickley and Frank Lloyd Wright in America. Wright's organic architecture and Stickley's Mission-style furniture owe much to Morris's ideals of simplicity, honesty, and harmony with nature.

In contemporary interiors, Morris's influence can be seen in several ways:

1. **Pattern and Ornament** – His richly patterned wallpapers and textiles remain in production through Sanderson and Morris & Co., decorating homes, hotels, and public spaces worldwide. Designers continue to reinterpret his motifs for modern settings, blending his intricate designs with contemporary colour palettes and materials.

2. **Sustainability and Craftsmanship** – In an age increasingly concerned with sustainability, Morris's insistence on handcraft, local production, and the ethical use of materials has taken on new relevance. His ideals resonate strongly with today's movements towards slow design, artisanal production, and eco-friendly interiors.
3. **Holistic Design Philosophy** – Morris viewed interior design as an integrated art form, where furniture, textiles, and architecture worked together in harmony. This holistic approach laid the groundwork for modern design principles that emphasise coherence, flow, and unity within interior spaces.
4. **Democratisation of Beauty** – Perhaps Morris's most enduring legacy is his belief that beautiful design should be available to all, not merely the wealthy. His designs were intended for everyday life, and this democratic spirit has influenced generations of designers committed to accessible, well-made interiors.

The Modern Relevance of Morris's Ideals

More than a century after his death, William Morris remains a touchstone for designers, decorators, and artists. His work embodies a timeless tension between tradition and modernity — the desire to create objects that are both beautiful and useful, hand-crafted yet relevant to contemporary life.

In today's world of digital design and mass production, Morris's insistence on the value of the handmade serves as both a challenge and an inspiration. His reverence for nature aligns perfectly with modern sustainability ethics, while his belief in the moral dimension of design encourages a more thoughtful approach to consumption and creativity.

The enduring popularity of his wallpapers and textiles demonstrates that his visual language — rooted in nature, geometry, and harmony — remains as appealing as ever. Whether in a traditional English country home or a sleek urban apartment, Morris's designs bring warmth, texture, and a sense of continuity with the past.

William Morris was far more than a designer; he was a philosopher of beauty, an advocate for craftsmanship, and a visionary who saw art as integral to everyday life. His influence on painting, decorating, and interior design continues to shape how we think about the spaces we inhabit.

By championing the unity of art and craft, Morris helped to redefine the relationship between aesthetics and ethics in design. His legacy endures not merely in the wallpapers that still adorn countless walls, but in the principles that guide modern interior design — simplicity, integrity, and a deep respect for nature and craftsmanship.

In the words of Morris himself, "The true secret of happiness lies in taking a genuine interest in all the details of daily life." His life's work was an embodiment of that philosophy, and his influence continues to remind us that beauty, thoughtfully made and honestly crafted, has the power to enrich the human spirit.



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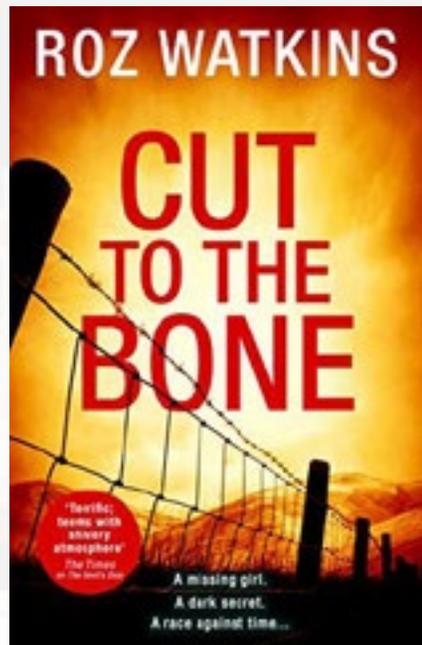
Cut to the Bone by Roz Watkins

When beautiful young social-media star Violet Armstrong goes missing in the middle of a scorching Peak District summer, the case sparks a media frenzy. The clock is ticking for DI Meg Dalton and her team to find Violet before online threats explode into real-life violence. And then the blood and hair of a young woman are found in an empty pig trough at the local abattoir. The more Meg finds out about this unnerving case, the more she becomes convinced that something very, very bad has happened to Violet. With temperatures rising and the press demanding answers, the case is about to take a terrifying turn.

What a wonderful thrilling book.

It is atmospheric, fast paced and has a fascinating plot with lots of twists and turns. I was gripped from start to finish and would definitely recommend reading it.

Review by Castle Bromwich Library member



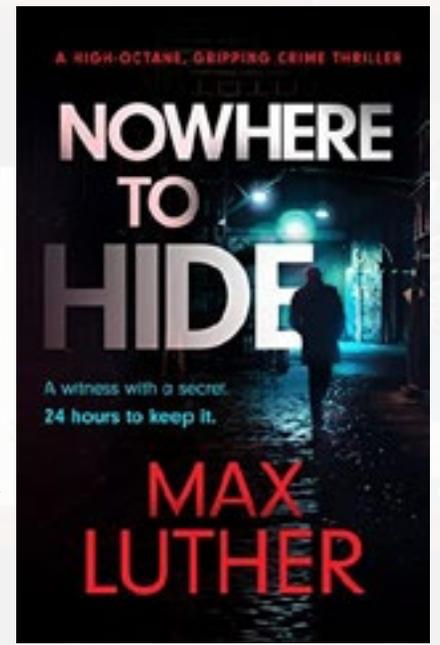
Nowhere to Hide by Max Luther

When the witness protection program fails catastrophically, Sarah Bennett is forced to go on the run, narrowly escaping with her life as she is hunted across London by the organised crime group she is imminently due to testify against. With the National Crime Agency compromised, private bodyguard Alex Drayce is hired to find Sarah and keep her safe. But with Britain's most powerful criminals on their trail, he'll need to use every weapon in his arsenal to keep them both alive. Because one thing is certain: Sarah knows something these people want to keep hidden, and they'll go to any lengths to keep it a secret.

This is an amazing action thriller. It

is an easy read with a great original plot. I loved the tension and suspense which keeps you on the edge of your seat. Once you start reading you will not want to put it down!

Review by Castle Bromwich Library member

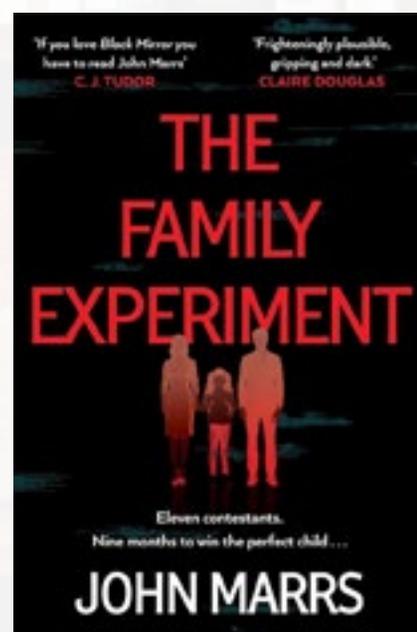


The Family Experiment by John Marrs

The world's population is soaring, creating overcrowded cities and an economic crisis. And in the UK, breaking point has arrived. A growing number of people can no longer afford to start families let alone raise them. But for those desperate to experience parenthood, there is an alternative. For a monthly subscription fee, clients can create a virtual child from scratch who they can access via the metaverse and a VR headset. To launch this new initiative, the company behind Virtual Children has created a reality tv show. It will follow ten couples as they raise a Virtual Child from birth to the age of eighteen but in a condensed nine-month time period. The prize: the right to keep their virtual child or risk it all for the chance of a real baby.

The concept of this book is unique and fascinating. I found myself totally immersed and gripped by the storyline and had no idea where it would eventually lead. This is a twisted, dark page turner which I loved.

Review by Castle Bromwich Library member

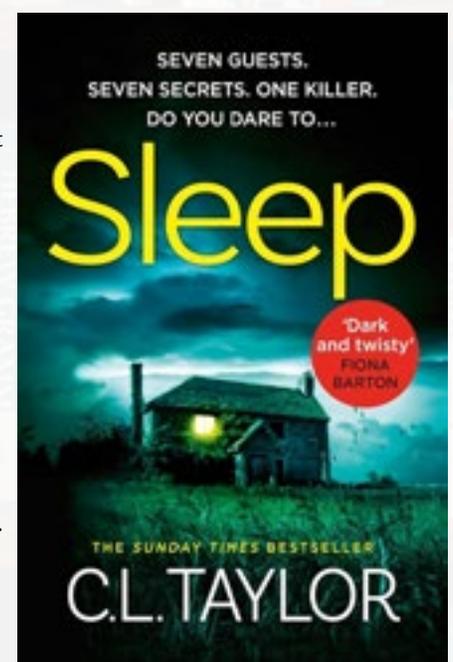


Sleep by C.L. Taylor

All Anna wants is to be able to sleep. But crushing insomnia, terrifying night terrors and memories of that terrible night are making it impossible. If only she didn't feel so guilty. To escape her past, Anna takes a job at a hotel on the remote Scottish island of Rum, but when seven guests join her, what started as a retreat from the world turns into a deadly nightmare. Each of the guests have a secret, but one of them is lying - about who they are and why they're on the island. There's a murderer staying in the Bay View hotel. And they've set their sights on Anna.

This is a dark and intense psychological thriller full of suspense, action, intrigue and mystery. I was torn between enjoying this book so much I didn't want to finish it, and desperate to find out the ending. Absolutely brilliant!

Review by Castle Bromwich Library member





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Whats On

The Coffee Pot Bereavement Group
Monday 10th November 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
12th & 26th Nov 10.00 - 11.30am
Community Hall

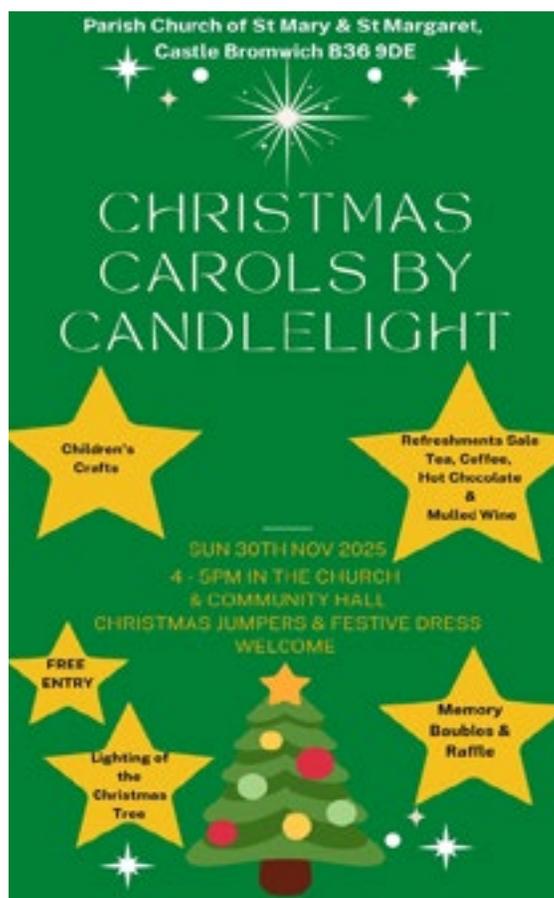
Join us for a cuppa and a chat - everyone is welcome!

Soup & a Roll Lunch
Wednesday 12th November
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 19th November
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!



Cafe Worship
3rd Sunday of the Month
Sun 16th November

11am Community Hall
 Join us for informal, all age worship which runs alongside our main Sunday Worship with refreshments, songs, activities and crafts. Everyone is welcome!

Upcoming Services

Sunday 2nd November
 11am All Age Communion & Baptism - All Saints
 4pm - Bereavement Service

Sunday 9th November
 9.30am Remembrance Day
 Communion followed by Service on The Green at 10.30am

Wednesday 12th November
 9.30am Family Communion

Sunday 16th November
 11am Sung Eucharist (Church)
 Cafe Worship (Community Hall)

Sunday 23rd November
 9.30am Parish Communion & Messy Worship for families

Wednesday 26th November
 9.30am Family Communion

Sunday 30th November
 9.30am All Age Communion - Advent Sunday



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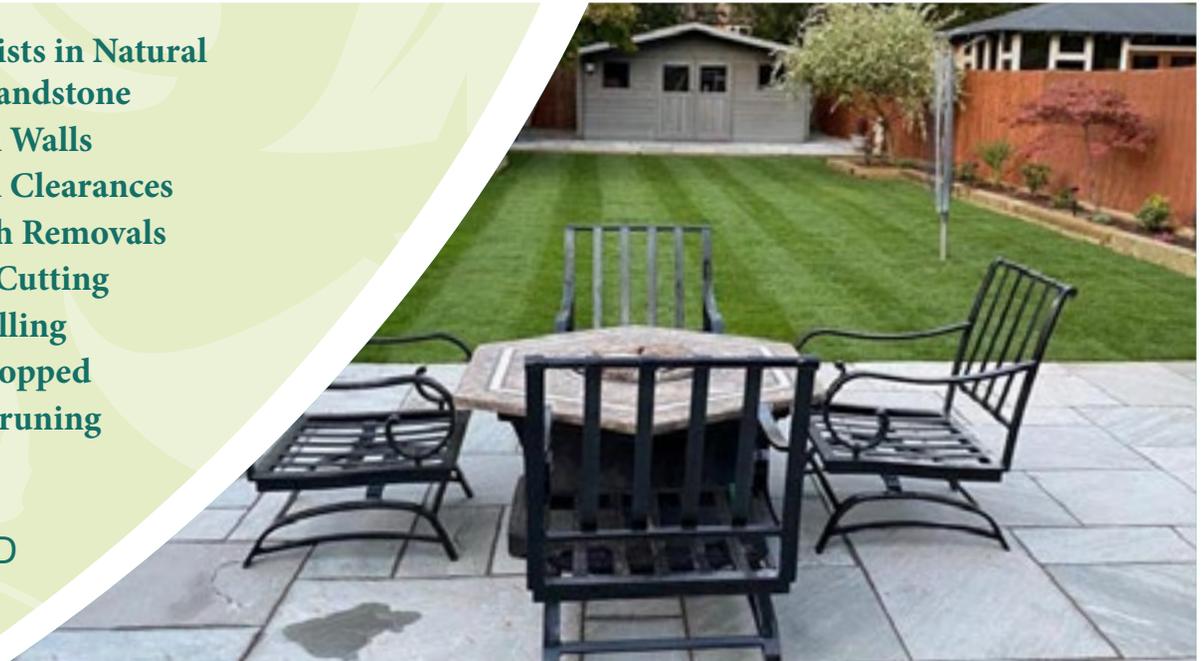
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Puzzle Page Solutions



Solution:

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Hidden message:

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Local Sports



Doyle Powers On

More cross-country strength speed-stamina challenges were achieved throughout September, in an exciting build-up to the 1000th record challenge to be held in November.



Paddy Doyle once again dug deep, increasing his career total to 998 documented physical feats in an exciting and busy few weeks!

Mountain biking carrying 39 lbs of expedition kit over Rowington Village footpaths, Heart of England Way footpath and Grand Union Canal South Warwickshire, started the new month off with a flourish!

His route was graded as a low technical course, achieving:

6 km in 26 min. 32 sec, 7 km in 33 min. 34 sec, 8 km in 39 min. 05 sec, 9 km in 45 min. 22 sec, 16 km in 1 hr. 01 min. 24 sec, 17 km in 1 hr. 09 min. 45 sec, 18 km 1 hr. 17 min. 27 sec, 19 km 1 hr. 25 min, 20 km in 1 hr. 32 min. 00 sec.

Six days later Doyle attempted the HELP for HEROES 9km Malvern Hills Challenge walk, alongside 400 other entrants, whilst carrying a 24 lb backpack. An event of special importance to Paddy as a Veteran himself. The route took him up Tinkers Hill, Black Hill, Pinnacle Hill, Worcestershire Hill and North Hill, respectively.

Seven days later The former Para and ex Army Reservist was back in the saddle and raring to go, completing two mountain bike course records carrying 40 lb backpack. Documented times were 14 kms in 55 min. 12 sec, 17 kms in 1hr. 09

min. 22 sec and the venue was Rowington Village, Warwickshire.

To bring him up to the 999th Challenge, a tough 10km cross country backpack challenge was achieved at Yarningale Common South Warwickshire, speed marching over a tough route carrying 80lb backpack, finishing in a time of 1hr. 31 min. 16 sec. taking Paddy to one away from the huge 1000th record attempt in November. A few weeks of welcomed down-time and reflection, but no standing still, as Paddy prepares to once again lace up his boots and attempt the historical feat of 1000 sporting achievements over 13 different disciplines, in a journey that has exceeded forty years of dedication to sport and pushing oneself out of the comfort zone of human endurance!

"It has been a tough but thrilling year for me, very challenging at times with carrying injuries from one sporting challenge to the next. However, I had to lock out the pain both mentally and physically.

My aim is to reach the historical 1000th milestone in November, an event which will bring together over forty years of sporting feats.

A very big thank you to all the support team members who have showed their loyalty throughout all weather seasons. I am looking forward to reflecting upon all of these events and the excitement of the journey, and will look forward to continuing to train for future fitness endurance challenges and World Records in 2026."



Picture credits David Hastings Rugby Warwickshire UK



Coleshill Town F.C.

From Heartbreak to Hope: The Coleman's October Revival

September was a month that tested every ounce of belief we had as Coleshill Town supporters. It ended in bitter disappointment with a 4-3 FA Trophy defeat to AFC Rushden & Diamonds – a game we felt we should have won. After a sluggish start, we roared back in the second half, showing heart and fight, but ultimately ran out of time. Our cup journey was over before it had truly begun.

Back in league action, the struggles continued. Defeats to Rugby Borough and Anstey Nomads saw us slip into the bottom three, despite some encouraging performances. The effort was there, the intent was clear, but the results just wouldn't fall our way. As fans, we could see the work going in – the training, the commitment, the togetherness – but football can be cruel, and September was a harsh reminder of that.

Then came October. And with it, a shift in momentum, belief, and results.

We kicked off the month backed by new sponsor Electric Centre Limited, and a 3-1 win over Mickleover in testing windy conditions. Goals from Alex McSkeane, Theo Rowe, and Bassit Mandey gave us the lift we needed. It was a performance full of attacking flair and resilience. The following fixture against Rugby Town was one we desperately wanted to win. We took the lead and looked the better side for long spells, but two late goals turned joy into heartbreak once again.

But this squad never gave up. They kept pushing, kept training, kept believing. And then came the statement win – a 2-0 triumph over league leaders Belper Town at Pack Meadow. From the first whistle, Coleshill looked sharper, hungrier, and more composed, ensuring Belper didn't register a single shot on target. McSkeane's early effort led to a red card and penalty drama, and although Rowe and Usher-Shipway were denied in a flurry of saves, we kept our heads. A Belper own goal and a sublime curling strike from Rowe – his third in three games – sealed a

deserved win and lifted us out of the drop zone.

That result lit the fire. Next up was Bedworth United, bottom of the table but far from easy. We dominated possession, created chances, and stayed patient. Cam was calm and commanding in goal, and just when it looked like we'd be held, Dan Brookes stepped up with a stunning late winner. Two wins. Two clean sheets.

Then came Wellingborough – a tough away day. But once again, The Coleman delivered. Ben Usher-Shipway's composed finish after a slick move involving Skeano gave us a 1-0 win and another clean sheet. The belief was growing. The momentum was real.

Shepshed followed – our eighth game in four weeks – and still the lads found the energy, the focus, and the quality. Brookes opened the scoring early, Carter-Bryne added a captain's header, and we saw out a 2-0 win with confidence and control.

Four wins. Four clean sheets. And with that run, Coleshill surged from 20th to 3rd in the league – a climb that speaks volumes about the quality of this squad, the leadership of the management team, and the sheer hard work that's gone into building a side that truly represents our club. It's a turnaround that better reflects the effort, the talent, and the spirit that's been brewing behind the scenes.

As supporters, we've felt every high and low. We've stood by the team through setbacks, and now we're seeing the rewards. Long Eaton away is next, followed by a big home clash with Sutton Coldfield on Saturday 1st November. Let's keep this run going. Let's pack out Pack Meadow. Let's show the league what The Coleman are made of.

Up the Town. Up the Coleman.

For all the latest updates, match reports, and behind-the-scenes content, don't forget to visit ColeshillTownFC.com and follow the club on Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), and TikTok.

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