

the Coleshill Post



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Two Local Students Secure Places on Prestigious Ballet Programme

Two local students from Coleshill-based S.L.E Dance & Fitness have successfully secured places on the prestigious Ballet Britain Associate Programme in Birmingham.

Arabella and Isla worked incredibly hard throughout the audition process to earn their places on the programme. As Associates, they will now train on Saturdays with leading dance professionals and teachers, including industry experts connected with Birmingham Royal Ballet.

This is a fantastic achievement for both students and a proud milestone for S.L.E Dance & Fitness, which has been established for just two years.

Miss Sarah, Principal of S.L.E Dance & Fitness, said: "I am incredibly proud of both girls and all they have achieved. Their dedication, hard work and passion for dance have truly paid off. I wish them every success as they begin this exciting journey and cannot wait to watch them grow and progress in their future dance training."

Everyone at S.L.E Dance & Fitness would like to congratulate Arabella and Isla on this wonderful achievement and wish them the very best of luck in the programme.



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Cllr Dave Reilly. Water Orton Ward. North Warwickshire Borough Council

HS2 Tunnel Portal Appeal and Odour Update

My apologies for my absence from the Post over the last few months. Hopefully this article will bring you up to date with key local HS2 matters for Water Orton and our neighbouring communities

Legal Action against HS2.

In short North Warwickshire borough council has taken legal action about hs2's decision to build the eastern tunnel portal in Water Orton; In the original HS2 Act of Parliament, it was proposed that the railway line into and out of Birmingham as it enters Water Orton to be overground partly by way of a viaduct and entering a tunnel at Castle Vale, but after the hs2 Act became law, HS2 changed their mind and proposed a significantly longer tunnel, increasing its length from 2.9km to 5.8km with a portal or 'mouth' at Water Orton. This change was significant both because of the enormity of the structure, and because our communities representations to the HS2 Select Committee before the Act to build the railway was made law, were based on the understanding that there would be a viaduct and not a tunnel mouth, which was something we would most certainly have objected to on amenity grounds and the sheer unacceptability of such a major construction project being undertaken in a residential community because of all the reasons and problems we are now experiencing.

Because This was a different proposal from the development authorised by the HS2 Act and the local Planning Authority North Warwickshire Borough Council, said it needed planning permission and that it was not appropriate for HS2 to use the shorter self-determining consent that HS2 have the legal power to grant consent to themselves for 'minor' alterations under the powers of the HS2 Act. As a council We also said the decision to build the tunnel needed to be informed by the completion of an Environmental Impact Statement. A full review of all the impacts the tunnel would have on local communities, landscape and ecology. Our NWBC position was fortified that the alterations were at the time in the Green Belt, which at the time was then a vitally important strategic land - use planning policy designed to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land between urban areas permanently open or undeveloped so as to prevent towns and communities merging. Unfortunately, the current government has reformed the Greenbelt policy nationally, to release land for 1.5million new homes to be built.

HS2 originally agreed with our NWBC position, even to the extent of submitting an initial scoping document for the Environmental Impact Statement. The Government also at this time accepted that an Environmental Statement was needed.

However, HS2 then changed their minds, instead saying the changes were 'ancillary' to the main development of the HS2 line and could be authorised by the HS2 Act process and submitted a Planning application. The Council rightly refused to determine the application and so HS2 appealed against the council's position and consequently a government Inspector was appointed to review the situation and agreed with NWBC on the main point that a separate, more detailed application setting out and mitigating the significant impacts was needed. However, the Secretary of State (for Communities and Transport) directed that they the Secretary of State, make the final decision. They overruled the Planning Inspector and granted permission to HS2, who consequently started construction work.

Several of the elements of this case are of national importance and are deeply concerning; the Government should not be able to make significant changes to major projects that have significant impacts on communities that have not been properly assessed or about which local community had no chance to comment on. In addition, by directing they make the final decision the Government removed all independence in the process and in effect granted permission for their own project. This could have far reaching consequences for future infrastructure projects here in North Warwickshire and Nationally, especially because HS2 has such a significant impact on numerous North Warwickshire communities.

The Council therefore judicially reviewed the decision and, the High Court upheld the decision. The Court of Appeal acknowledged that there are important elements to this case and have given us NWBC permission to appeal. The Court of Appeal will therefore heard the case on the 6th and 7th May. But unfortunately, the Court of Appeal 'reserved' their judgment and at the time of writing this article we do not know what they determined. I will update you once we know.

One thing we do know is that a Transport and Works Act Order application is also required to legalise the tunnel building but decisions on launching the process to enact this order have been suspended by the Department of Transport until this High Court litigation has been resolved. You may recall that I previously urged residents to petition the Dept of Transport to demand that a Transport and Works Act Order be made By the Sec of state for Transport and I know several residents did. This was important as if the order is to be legally issued we will have a public right to make representations directly to the Secretary of State to inform their decision making about the protect representations which will I expect will be to demand further mitigations for impacts on residents such as vibration; noise flooding; dust ;and traffic disruption. While there is no possibility that the construction works will be halted or that the locality be restored to its state before construction started. At least we can ensure the remaining construction works up until 2039 when the line is now expected to open, are completed properly, to the least local impact. it is daunting taking on the government and a national infrastructure project. But we must continue to fight to get the best mitigation locally and prevent the same happening elsewhere in our communities or across North Warwickshire. Considering the recent Government announcements that the cost of HS2 has risen to £.102.7bn there is no realistic prospect of a new compensation scheme being created to compensate property owners who have already suffered negative impacts Which are likely to happen again in future as we know the Government has already announced its intention to build a new north south railway line. Hopefully if the new north south railway line goes ahead, it will steer well clear of north Warwickshire! But if it doesn't, we'll be ready and experienced for a fight! Our readiness will be as a local borough council, local communities and as an excellent partnership between Coleshill; Water Orton; Curdworth; Lea Marston; Middleton; and Kingsbury parish councils called the Special Management Zone (SMZ). Who have and continue to extremely effectively represent local community interests both locally for each village and on cross cutting problems that impact on all Parishes such as traffic.

Odour and air Pollution.

Residents in Water Orton, Coleshill and Curdworth have all noticed and objected to the unpleasant odour being generated by the HS2 earthworks. the odour is caused by the use of Lime in the construction process. The lime is commonly used in UK earthworks and ground engineering primarily for soil stabilisation and modification. It dries out wet, cohesive (clay-heavy) soils, improves workability, and alters the soil chemistry to prevent shrinking and swelling. This transforms "unsuitable" site-won earth into a stable, strong foundation for roads, railways, and building. Locally hs2 are re-using the soil extracted from the tunnel boring process to build embankments for the elevated sections of the line in Coleshill. Importantly there are no health risks to residents from the use of the lime locally and following complaints HS2 contractors continue to work closely with the Environment Agency and NWBC Planning and Environmental Health teams about this matter. The specifics around HD2's contractor's approach to these coming earthworks, and the package of intended mitigations, are still in the finalisation stage. More will be communicated in due course. The issue of dust, following a request from residents and the SMZ, HS2 CEO Mark Wild has commissioned an independent Air Quality Assessment report for the Water Orton area via Imperial Collage London. The findings of this report will be shared once this has been undertaken. This is in addition to the air quality monitoring already undertaken by the Director for Public Health in Warwickshire and Environmental Health team at NWBC, which did not find and harmful impacts from \hs2 but did register the usual high levels of nitrogen oxides and carbon monoxide which are attributable to motorway and road traffic.

So, importantly while there is certainly a high level of dust created by hs2 earthworks, it is not harming anyone's health and HS2 are taking local complaints seriously, and will seek to reduce and prevent it, as work progresses, to completion of the construction of the railway

As ever, If I can be of any help my email address is davidreilly@northwarks.gov.uk and my phone number is 07770 704 617. With kindest regards, Dave.

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Firms warn of rising costs and disruption from Iran crisis – Chambers



Three-quarters of West Midlands businesses report an existing or expected impact from the Iran conflict, according to new research from the region's three Chambers of Commerce.

Increased fuel prices and shipping costs, rising prices from suppliers and customer delivery delays were most frequently cited in the data gathered by the Greater Birmingham, Black Country and Coventry & Warwickshire Chambers of Commerce.

More than 120 businesses from the West Midlands Combined Authority area took part in the online research, which was part of a national British Chambers of Commerce survey.

Of the West Midlands firms surveyed, 49 per cent said they are already impacted by the unrest in the Middle East, while 26 per cent expect to be in the future.

The most impacted sectors were manufacturing and production (23 per cent); hospitality, catering and tourism (11 per cent); admin, support and consulting (11 per

cent); and retail and wholesale (7 per cent).

The majority of organisations expect their energy bills to increase in the next year - with 43 per cent anticipating rises of more than 20 per cent.

Thirty per cent expect it to be "fairly difficult" to pay their bills.

One SME wholesale business said: "We are experiencing fuel surcharges on seas freight containers and UK haulage [and] material cost increases in the Far East and India."

A micro hospitality firm said: "We work with long haul flights and holidays. The war has left clients in an unsure situation, where they do not want to travel because of uncertainty.

"Repatriation admin costs are borne by the company, refunds are processed, so there is a loss of profits."

Meanwhile, consulting firms and other service-based organisations described cancelling or postponing overseas training courses, interruptions to ongoing projects, and increasing difficulty completing business transactions.

Henrietta Brealey (pictured), chief executive of Greater Birmingham Chambers of Commerce, said: "The results of this survey demonstrate how quickly global events can create challenges for businesses closer to home.

"Firms across Greater Birmingham and the wider West Midlands are telling us that rising fuel costs, supply chain disruption and ongoing uncertainty are already having a tangible impact on their operations.

"While businesses are resilient, many are facing difficult decisions as costs continue to increase.

"These findings reinforce the need for policymakers to recognise the pressures firms are under and provide the stability and support needed to sustain growth and

investment across our region."

Sarah Moorhouse, chief executive of Black Country Chamber of Commerce, said businesses across Wolverhampton, Dudley, Sandwell and Walsall, were being hit from every direction.

"We have members forecasting energy bill increases of 77 per cent this year, others facing half a million pounds in additional costs on top of escalating logistics charges" she said.

"The conflict is piling pressure on businesses that were already struggling. The findings reflect the reality facing businesses across the region where Black Country manufacturers, retailers and service firms alike are reporting rising costs, supply chain disruption and growing uncertainty.

"Our members are asking for help with fuel and energy costs and to be kept informed - that is not a lot to ask when you are fighting to keep your doors open."

Corin Crane, group chief executive, Coventry & Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce, said: "This survey shows that businesses across Coventry, Warwickshire and the wider West Midlands, are already feeling the effects of the conflict in Iran, with rising fuel, energy and transport costs placing additional pressure on firms that are already operating in a challenging economic environment.

"Nearly half of businesses told us they have been directly impacted, while many more expect disruption in the months ahead.

"The findings underline the need for government to provide practical support on energy and operating costs, while ensuring businesses receive clear and timely information to help them plan with confidence during a period of continued uncertainty."



North Warwickshire
Borough Council

Press Release

North Warwickshire Celebrates the Appointment of a New Mayor



Councillor Davina Ridley was appointed Mayor at North Warwickshire Borough Council's Annual Meeting on Wednesday 13th May.

The ceremonial robes and chains were handed over by outgoing Mayor Councillor Debbie Bates, after what she described as "a truly wonderful year and a great honour."

Mayor Councillor Davina Ridley will be supported by the newly appointed Deputy Mayor, Councillor Sandra Smith.

On appointment, Councillor Ridley firstly sincerely thanked the previous Mayor Councillor Debbie Bates for her dedication and hard work she committed to during her year.

She then went on to say "A heartfelt thank you to everybody for showing confidence in me to represent North Warwickshire as its Mayor. I am honoured to be given your assent, and I promise I will serve you to the best of my ability and shine a light on our Borough just as the previous Mayor did"

Councillor Ridley was born in North Warwickshire and spent a childhood surrounded by rurality. Her family have lived in the area for over 150 years.

In 1982 she joined the Metropolitan Police, being half an inch too short to join Warwickshire Police and was posted to central London where a force of 26,000 officers consisted of only 2,500 women.

She pioneered one of the first Domestic Violence units in

conjunction with the Home Office on Islington Borough. She served for five years on the Child Abuse Investigation Team and ten years on the Serious Crime Unit Homicide Command as a Detective.

Councillor Ridley was elected as a Borough Councillor for Dordon ward in 2023, She is also a Dordon Parish Councillor, representing her home community and village. The Mayor has chosen two charities to support and raise funds for during her mayoral year. One of these is the North Warwickshire Veterans Hubs, as the Tam Webster Veterans Group in Dordon provides a remarkable support service and forms part of the wider network, alongside its sister hub in Atherstone.

The second charity is Jessie's Journey, which was granted charitable status in January 2026. Jessie's Journey is dedicated to supporting children and young people diagnosed with cancer, as well as their families. The charity offers practical, emotional and financial assistance during challenging times, raises awareness of childhood cancer, and helps to build a strong support network within the community.

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Mayor Celebrates Successful Year in Office with Significant Fundraising Achievement

Councillor Debbie Bates is marking the end of her time as Mayor of North Warwickshire by reflecting on a successful year supporting local people, promoting good causes and raising money across the borough.

During her time in office, Councillor Bates has worked tirelessly attending a variety of events and championing causes that make a real difference to people's lives.

She has successfully raised an impressive £4376.31. The funds will be distributed to a range of local community groups within North Warwickshire.

Councillor Debbie Bates said:

"It has been a huge honour to serve the people of North Warwickshire, and I am incredibly proud of what we have achieved together and grateful to everyone who has

supported my fundraising events. The generosity of our community has been truly inspiring."



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North Warwickshire
Borough Council

Press Release

Funding Agreed from North Warwickshire Borough Council's Safer Communities Sub-Committee to Help Prevent Crime and Support Local Policing

North Warwickshire Borough Council has shown its continued commitment to keeping communities safe and connected, following a recent funding allocation from the Safer Communities Sub-Committee.

At its meeting on 24th March 2026, the Sub-Committee agreed funding to support the Warwickshire Safer Neighbourhood Team, helping improve both their day-to-day work and how they engage with local residents.

To help prevent crime, the Sub-Committee has agreed to fund £2,000 to buy at least 1,000 Faraday pouches. These small security items help protect keyless cars from theft by blocking electronic signals. They will be given to residents for free across North Warwickshire to help keep their vehicles safe.

A total of £500 will be used to buy televisions, stands and cables. These will be placed at the Safer Neighbourhood Team offices in Coleshill and Atherstone, giving officers better facilities for briefings, online meetings and community updates

on social media. This will help Police with communications at community meetings. A further £240 has been set aside for a portable speaker and microphone. This will help officers speak clearly at local events and meetings, making it easier to connect with residents and share important information.

This funding shows the Council's practical approach to community safety, focusing on simple improvements that make a real difference. By working closely with the Safer Neighbourhood Team, the Council continues to support safer, stronger communities across North Warwickshire. Councillors have welcomed the funding, highlighting the importance of working together with local police to support and protect residents.

Becky Wrighting, T/Inspector of SNT North Warwickshire, said:

"This funding is a very welcome investment and reflects the strong partnership we have with North Warwickshire Borough Council to keep our communities safe. The improvements will directly support our officers in coordinating their daily

activity, sharing information effectively and strengthening how we communicate with the public.

The addition of audio equipment enhances our ability to engage at community events, ensuring residents can clearly hear advice, ask questions and remain connected to their local policing teams.

Importantly, the provision of Faraday pouches is a simple but highly effective crime prevention measure. Keyless vehicle theft is a concern for many residents, and this initiative gives people practical tools to protect themselves.

This funding demonstrates a proactive and collaborative approach to community safety, and we remain committed to working with partners to deliver visible policing, prevent crime and build confidence across North Warwickshire." Councillor Ray Jarvis, Chair of the Safer Communities Sub-Committee, said:

"We were pleased to agree this funding as it reflects a practical and targeted approach to community safety. By investing in both the tools officers need to carry out their day-to-day work and in simple crime

prevention measures for residents, we are helping to strengthen local policing and improve engagement with the public. This includes supporting better communication at community events and providing practical items, such as Faraday pouches, which can make a real difference in helping residents protect their vehicles. It's about making sure resources are used in a way that has a clear, visible impact across North Warwickshire."



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Birmingham students turn charity shop donations into catwalk creations for Mend It May



Birmingham Hospice's Reloved Brum charity superstore in Harborne is proudly supporting the national Mend It May campaign in partnership with Birmingham City University (BCU), celebrating creativity, sustainability and the power of giving clothing a second life.

Mend It May, an initiative from Sustainable Fashion Week, encourages people to repair, reuse, and reimagine their clothing through sewing and textile techniques, helping to reduce waste and challenge the culture of fast fashion.

As part of the collaboration, students from BCU's Department of Fashion and Jewellery worked with unsuitable stock donated to Reloved Brum, transforming discarded garments into unique, bespoke fashion pieces. The project allowed students to combine sustainability with creative experimentation while contributing to their textile degree coursework.

The finished designs will be displayed in store from Friday 22nd May until mid-August, before being showcased at the Reloved Brum Fashion Show on 5th June.

Maria Penaloza, BA Textile Design student at BCU said: "Watching the garment gradually transform changed my relationship with it, to the point that I even created a character to tell its story. Through experimentation, I began to appreciate its qualities and learned how materials interact across techniques. I am inspired to transform garments and share these techniques with others, encouraging people to value discarded items rather than letting them end up in landfill."

Ed Blackwell, Store Manager at Reloved Brum said: "We are thrilled to be involved in this exciting project. It's clear to see Birmingham has some incredibly talented fashion creators. Seeing donated garments transformed into completely unique pieces has been inspiring for both our team and customers. Projects like this show how charity retail can support sustainability, creativity and the local community all at the same time."

Zoe Hillyard, Senior Lecturer in Textile Design at BCU said: "It has been so enjoyable seeing how customisation and repair skills have built a strong bond between each textile design student and their salvaged garment. Being introduced to heritage hand-stitching skills like gold work, sachiko and needle weaving, the project explored what can happen when you work directly on one garment for a

month. The outcomes are joyful and unique celebrations of technical and creative experimentation!"



The collaboration is a great example of the community working together and underpins the importance of charity shops on our high streets and the positive environmental impact they make. This year alone Birmingham Hospice shops have either sold or recycled 581 tonnes of textiles, saving 7.8m tonnes of CO2 emissions.

You can see the students designs in store from now until mid-August.

For tickets or information about the Reloved Brum fashion show on 5th June, email Ed, the store manager, at ed.blackwell@birminghamhospice.org.uk or pop into the store at 48-50 High Street, Harborne, B17 9NE.

Atherstone's biggest high street supporting event returns, and it's completely free

Atherstone is gearing up for its busiest weekend of the year as the Atherstone Big Weekender returns for its third year on Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th June bringing two days of free, family-friendly entertainment to the heart of the town and footfall survey proves that it supports the high street.

Organised entirely by volunteers, the much-loved community event transforms Atherstone into a vibrant hub of live music, markets, arts and activities, while driving record footfall for local businesses.

Saturday 6th June begins with a poignant D-Day remembrance service in The Market Square, followed by a nostalgic performance from 1940s-style vocalist Kitten Von Mew. The celebrations continue into the afternoon with live sets from various bands including local favourites Living Proof and Three Times Scarlett, alongside a DJ spinning crowd-pleasing club classics.

Sunday 7th June sees the full town come alive, with road closures creating a safe, festival-style environment for families to explore and enjoy.

Visitors can expect between 10am-4pm

- Free steam train rides
- Free climbing wall for kids
- Free arts & crafts activities
- Free magician and circus skills workshops
- Free mini Land Rover driving experience for children
- Bustling independent market stalls
- A vibrant Teenage Market
- ...and plenty more surprises

With over 25 community groups and societies involved, the event is a true celebration of Atherstone's community spirit and last year delivered the highest footfall day of the year, giving a major boost to local traders.

Laura Donnelly, Chairperson of Atherstone Partnership says "Weekends such as Atherstone Big Weekender are an amazing way to celebrate our town, its independent traders and showcase a welcoming environment for visitors. It's our third year running and I'm incredibly proud that this event is completely volunteer run and the stats don't lie, last year we were the busiest day for footfall"

This event comes hot off the heels of submitting Atherstone's expression of interest for Town of Culture 2028, so fingers crossed for even more to celebrate later this year.

Don't miss Atherstone's biggest and best weekend.

For more information, visit: www.visitatherstone.com

Contact

Laura Donnelly - Chairperson,
Atherstone Big Weekender
chairman@atherstone-partnership.co.uk
07848642937

About Atherstone Partnership

Atherstone Partnership is a community group consisting entirely of local volunteers across business and residents. The group aims to bring together other clubs and societies to create a joined up and proactive approach to community events. As well as fundraise and produce multiple community projects.

205 Tyburn Road,
Erdington, B24 8NB
(Covering all areas in
the West Midlands)
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Step 2 > Site Visit
Step 3 > Design & Quotation

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Every Mind Matters

Better Health Let's do this

Foster Care Fortnight 2026



As part of Foster Care Fortnight 2026 New Routes Fostering organised a wonderful day trip to West Midlands Safari Park on 16th May for our fostering community.

17 adults, including foster carers, extended family members and staff, joined 11 children for a fun-filled day together. Everyone enjoyed the coach ride through the safari park and the exciting rides and attractions afterwards.

The children were especially excited to see different animals up close, many of which they had only ever seen on television before. Their smiles, excitement and curiosity made the day extra special.

The trip gave foster families the chance to relax, spend time together and create happy memories. It was a lovely reminder of what fostering is all about - giving

children safe, caring, and supportive experiences where they can feel happy, valued and able to thrive. This is why foster carers play such an important role in children's lives by providing loving and stable homes when they are unable to live with their own families.

Every year, thousands of children across the UK need foster families from all backgrounds. Although fostering can be challenging, it is also one of the most rewarding things you can do.

New Routes Fostering Agency is a friendly, not-for-profit fostering agency supporting children, young people, and families across the Midlands. We are a small, caring team that supports foster carers every step of the way, helping children feel safe, listened to and given the best opportunity to thrive.



Foster
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 Caritas

UPCOMING EVENTS



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23

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 www.newroutesfostering.org





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www.coleshillhub.org.uk
coleshillcommunityhub@gmail.com



**Next Town Council
Meeting –
24th June 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 Club**

GROUPS

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

SIGNPOSTING

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

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.**



Pet Page

Birmingham Dogs Home - Forever homes



Peggy

Breed: Border Collie Gender: Female

Meet Peggy our beautiful three legged Collie who never lets anything hold her back!

Despite having only three legs she is a very active girl and it does not seem to bother her one bit. Peggy was originally found as a stray so we do not know what happened in her past or how she lost her leg but she has adapted brilliantly and takes everything in her stride.

Peggy is still a young girl and although she is very sweet once she knows you she can be a little nervous around new people and unfamiliar situations. She sometimes seems unsure of life and will need a patient and understanding home that is happy to take things at her pace. With time kindness and reassurance

she will continue to build trust and confidence.

Because of her Collie nature Peggy does show some typical stalking and herding behaviours which can present like prey drive. For this reason she is not suitable to live with other dogs and would do best in an adult only or single person home with no children or other pets. She needs a calm environment where she can settle and feel secure.

Peggy has been adopted previously and was brought back to the centre due to reasons we are more than happy to discuss here at the centre. Her new family will need to be committed to understanding her needs and continuing to support her.

She already knows how to sit and give paw and is highly motivated by human interaction and food which will really help with her ongoing training. At the centre she particularly enjoys balls and soft toys which bring out her playful side.

Peggy is a sweet and special girl who with the right guidance and understanding will make a wonderfully loyal and devoted companion.

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

www.birminghamdogshome.org.uk



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Walsh Podiatry marks 25 years on Chester Road



An announcement from Dean Walsh, Principal Podiatrist Walsh Podiatry is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. A quarter of a century since the doors first opened at 329 Chester Road in 2001, and the clinic is still right here in Castle Bromwich, busier than it's ever been.

The idea at the start was straightforward. Somewhere local people could come for any foot or lower limb problem and actually get it sorted. A centre of excellence in the heart of the country, as I used to put it back then. Twenty-five years on, that's still exactly what we're trying to be.

The clinic has always been family-run. My wife Jenny has been alongside it from day one as practice manager, and the founding aim has held all the way through: a practice patients enjoy coming to and staff enjoy working at.

What's grown around that is the team. Today we have five podiatrists on the rota, and they're a genuinely strong line-up. Sam Holloway is our clinical lead, with Alex Downton, Lauren Nicholls and Alesia King alongside her. All four are excellent clinicians, each with their own strengths across routine podiatry, nail surgery, MSK, orthotics and rehab. Between them they look after thousands of patients a year, supported by a reception and clinical-assistant team who keep the whole place running smoothly.

My own role has shifted. These days I'm overseeing the practice itself, the team, the systems and the direction we're heading in, and treating MSK patients alongside that. The clinic standing on its own feet, with such capable clinicians delivering the day-to-day care, is one of

the things I'm most proud of after twenty-five years.

The work has come a long way too. When we started, private podiatry was mostly nail care, corns and callus, and some basic biomechanics. We now offer shockwave therapy, MLS laser, SWIFT for verrucas, 3D foot scanning, gait analysis, custom orthotics, and most recently 3D-printed orthotics produced in-house. The tagline we've used for years is "Keeping you Moving and keeping you Comfortable", and that's still the job. The team is bigger, the tools are better, the principle is the same.

None of this would mean anything without the patients. Some of you have been coming to us for the full twenty-five years. We've treated three generations of the same household. People still walk in and tell us they were recommended by a neighbour who first came in 2004. That kind of loyalty doesn't happen by accident, and we don't take a moment of it for granted.

We're not slowing down. New treatments are on the way, the gait lab is developing, MSK capacity is growing, and we'll keep investing in the people, the technology, and the practice itself so we can carry on serving the local community as well as we possibly can.

So on behalf of the whole team, thank you. Thank you to every patient who's trusted us with their feet over the past twenty-five years. Here's to the next chapter.

If you would like to book an appointment to see one of our HCPC registered Podiatrists, you can at www.walshpodiatry.co.uk or by calling us on 0121 749 6313.



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COLESHILL SKATEPARK - HAVE YOUR SAY

Coleshill Town Council is exploring ways to improve and renovate the Coleshill Skatepark.



We want to hear from:

- Local residents
- Young people
- Families
- Skatepark users and non-users

Your feedback helps:

- The design & layout
- Who it is for
- Key improvements that matter most

Scan or collect a paper copy

1) Scan the QR code to complete the short questionnaire online.

2) No internet?

Paper copies can be collected and returned to Coleshill Town Hall during opening hrs.



It only takes a few minutes, every response helps.

Coleshill Town Council – Community Consultation



Puzzle Page

ACROSS

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

51 Head motion

52 Talk about, with "over"

56 Pretentious

57 City in Yemen

59 Mexican holiday
"___ de Mayo"

60 Prow

61 Want

62 Frame

63 Dry

64 Points

65 Snips

DOWN

1 Metric weight unit

2 Position

3 Against

4 Sun's light

5 Encounter

6 Plant louse

7 Steak

8 Make a mistake

9 Sub's weapon

10 Typographic character

11 Head coverings

12 Tipped

13 Decrease

21 Air commuter's
transportation

23 Dinner tools

25 Was (3 wds.)

26 Horse race

27 Water pitcher

28 Not one

29 Harp

30 Hiker's trail marker

32 Tapestry

33 Little Mermaid's love

34 Douse

35 Swirl

39 Cloth maker

42 Birthstone that means
love and success

45 Not good

46 Skill

47 Swimming mammal

48 Sounds alike

49 Types of letters

50 Volume

51 Place where birds lay
their eggs

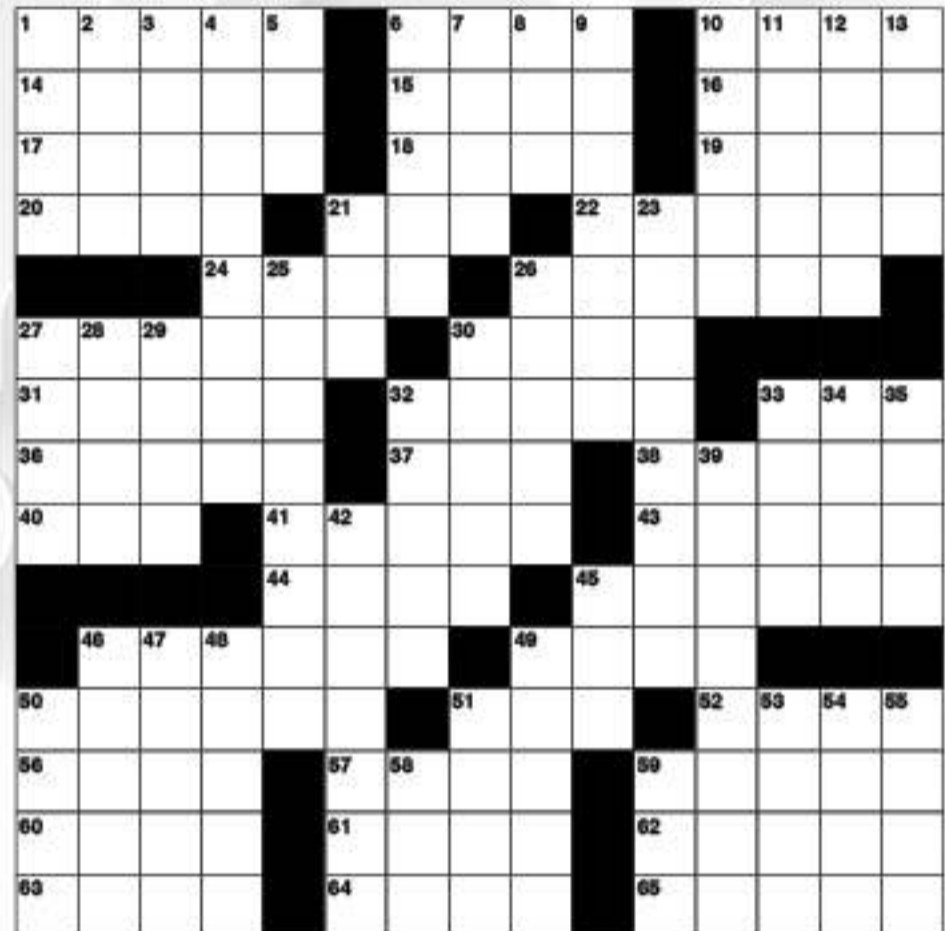
53 Negative (prefix)

54 Water film

55 Jumps

58 Twosome

59 Time zone



By Jimmy and Evelyn Johnson - www.qets.com

Word Search

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

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

Birds

Butterfly

Emerald

Flowers

Garden

Grass

Honeybee

Hose

Maypole

Memorial

Mother

Nest

Plant

Rain

Seeds

Soil

Spring

Sprout

Sunshine

Taurus

Wheelbarrow

Record numbers of rural residents and businesses supported with crime prevention across rural South Warwickshire



Record numbers of rural residents and businesses have been supported with crime prevention advice and equipment to help improve their security over the past year, through a programme jointly funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner for Warwickshire and Stratford-on-Avon District Council.

The Rural Crime Advisor service supported 780 people across South Warwickshire during 2025/26, as more residents, landowners and businesses were helped with practical advice and support to protect their homes, property and livelihoods.

The service focuses on prevention, practical advice and reassurance, helping people take proportionate steps to reduce risk and feel more confident in their communities.

Over the past year:

- Crime prevention event engagement increased by 73%
- Residential crime prevention referrals rose by more than 350%
- Loans of security equipment increased by 47%

This reflects growing awareness of the service and strong engagement from rural communities, with more people coming forward to seek advice and support before problems arise.

Thanks to additional funding from the Shared Prosperity Fund to increase working hours, the Rural Crime Advisors, Rebecca and Ali have been able to extend their support to the community extensively in the past year.

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Warwickshire said:

"Reaching record numbers of residents and businesses with practical prevention advice is exactly what this programme is designed to do. By working in partnership with

Stratford District Council, we are helping rural communities take straightforward steps to protect themselves and their property.

"Ensuring support is accessible and focused on prevention is a key part of reducing harm and maintaining confidence in local services."

A key area of growth has been support for residents in their own homes, with more people requesting tailored crime prevention visits following engagement at community events. This reflects increased awareness of the service and a willingness to take proactive steps to improve security. Councillor Natalie Gist, Portfolio Holder for Law and Governance at Stratford-on-Avon District Council, said:

"The work of the Rural Crime Advisors is very valuable to our rural communities. The joint approach between Stratford on Avon District Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner is helping us reach more people across our rural communities

with practical advice and support.

"The strong level of engagement shows that residents and businesses value crime prevention and are taking positive steps to protect themselves, supported by a service that is accessible and responsive to local, rural needs across the District."

The programme also supports wider community safety priorities, including helping residents and businesses protect themselves from vehicle-related crime, raising awareness of livestock worrying, and working with partners on local issues such as environmental crime.

Both organisations will continue to work together to ensure that rural communities have access to effective prevention advice and support tailored to local needs.

If you or anyone you know might benefit from a visit from the Rural Crime Advisors, please contact them via our website: <https://www.stratford.gov.uk/online-forms/rural-crime-advisor-enquiry.cfm>

SDC'S RURAL CRIME ADVISORS INFOGRAPHIC

Highlights of projects from April 2025 to March 2026

COMMUNITY CRIME PREVENTION

Supporting residents through crime prevention events at which Crime Prevention Tool Boxes are launched. Providing communities with equipment to help improve home security

The toolboxes contain a selection of security equipment, such as shed alarms, van alarms, property marking equipment, faraday pouches, personal alarms.

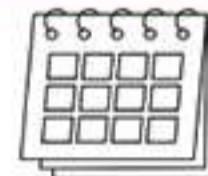
9 toolboxes have been provided over the last year. This is a 50% increase from the year before

EQUIPMENT LOAN INITIATIVE

47 pieces of equipment have been provided on loan in the last year. This represents a 47% increase compared to the previous year.

The equipment is loaned on a 3-month basis and feedback continues to be positive.

RURAL CRIME PREVENTION EVENTS



24 events have been organised/attended by Rural Crime Advisors. This is a 33% increase compared to the previous year

LIVESTOCK WORRYING - OPERATION RECALL



Rural Crime Advisors have continued to support the National police campaign 'Operation Recall' which has included visits to

12

locations including veterinary practices, farm shops, community cafes and warm hubs to distribute educational information.

CRIME PREVENTION RESIDENTIAL REFERRALS



357%

increase in crime prevention residential referrals from the previous year

APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF RURAL CRIME ADVISORS' ACTIVITIES



The activities included:

- Crime Prevention visits to businesses/residential
- Provision of crime prevention community tool boxes
- Van/caravan crime prevention events
- Livestock Worrying
- Other events e.g. fetes, shows, Community Safety, Farming, Business & Retail



Jointly funded by
Police & Crime Commissioner Warwickshire



An Evening with Jo Callaghan

Our own award winning local author

Tuesday, 16 June 2026
7.30pm to 9.30pm

Coleshill Town Hall, High Street, Coleshill B46 3BG



Jo is the winner of the 2024 Theakston Old Peculiar Crime Novel of the Year, and a recipient of the CWA John Creasey (New Books) Dagger award.

Join us for a very special night as we welcome a successful local crime writer. And even better – Jo's books are set right here in Coleshill and the surrounding areas! Her gripping crime novel series has captivated readers but now it's your chance to hear directly from the author herself:

- ❑ Discover what life is really like as a successful writer
- ❑ Hear behind-the-scenes insights into her bestselling books
- ❑ Be among the first to hear about her latest release *Body of Lies*.

Whether you are a crime fiction fan, an avid reader, or simply curious about the work of writing, this promises to be a fascinating and inspiring evening.

Books will be available to purchase on the night which Jo will be signing.

FREE to members / £5 entry fee for non-members
ALL LADIES WELCOME

OTHER UPCOMING TWIN RIVERS WI EVENTS IN 2028*

21 Jul: TRWI's Annual Games Night
16 Sep: Hula Hooping!

20 Oct: Chocolate Tasting

*Note: All events can be subject to change



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Police News

CALL YOUR LOCAL POLICE

101
**IN AN EMERGENCY
ALWAYS CALL 999**

**Warwickshire
POLICE**

Threat Level - Severe



You will have likely seen in the news last few days that the UK terrorist threat level has been raised to **SEVERE** – meaning an attack is highly likely.

For you, the public, this means remaining alert but not alarmed. Within Warwickshire, we will continue to work, day and night, to keep you safe.

Our officers will continue to be out and about in our communities, please come and talk to one of them if you have concerns.

If you see anything that doesn't feel right report via gov.uk/ACT.

In an emergency always call 999.

Operations



Operation Corton

We are carrying out an operation to tackle the illegal use and sale of nitrous oxide.

Inhaling nitrous oxide carries a range of health risks and is against the law. It is also a significant contributor to antisocial behaviour, and we are increasingly seeing cases of people driving while under its influence – in some instances with fatal consequences.

If you have information about where nitrous oxide is being used (discarded canisters are often a clear sign) or where it

is being sold illegally, please report it.

Your reports help us plan targeted patrols and focus our efforts where they are most needed.



Bobbies on the Beat

01/05/2026 Officers from Atherstone SNT were responding to reports of a stolen motorbike when suspects were spotted riding an electric bike. Despite efforts to locate them, they managed to evade capture.

While this was ongoing, a member of the public reported finding a motorbike, it turned out to be the same bike officers were looking for. Officers attended and were able to recover the vehicle.

Thanks to the information provided, there is now a strong opportunity for the bike to be returned to its rightful owner. We'd like to thank the member of the public for their vigilance and support – your information really does make a difference. If you have any information about incidents in your area, please don't hesitate to get in touch.



03/05/2026 Officers from Atherstone SNT have recovered a vehicle this afternoon suspected to be involved in fuel thefts from HS2 sites in Coleshill.

The driver and passenger, both white males, have fled the scene prior to police arrival. Enquiries are being made in relation to an abandoned red, Peugeot 207 located nearby

to the site.



02/05/2026 Atherstone Officers whilst out through the night have spotted this van been driven in the early hours. Concerned it may be stolen officers have stopped the vehicle. Unfortunately for the driver checks have shown they are not insured and don't have a licence, so the vehicle was seized by police.



The morning 10/05/2026 of PCSO's Rygielski and Hodson were out and about supporting the riders taking on the 25,50- and 100-miles bike rides for St Giles Hospice. We greeted and waved through many riders and even had the opportunity to chat with a few of them. Mesmerised by the bikes and their capability, we were both educated on what equipment many had on board. We wished all the riders a safe ride and hopefully will catch many of you on the return leg.



10/05/2026 Early morning patrols around Atherstone town centre by PCSO Scott found this vehicle insecure with shopping bags on display. The owner was in the local Aldi supermarket thanks to the staff. Please ensure you check your vehicle is secure before walking away. We still have free Faraday pouches available kindly donated by the Community Safety

Partnership Team at NWBC. If you are a resident in North Warwickshire and would like a pouch, please email the team with your name and address to: nwe.snt@warwickshire.police.uk



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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- Return coach travel from Solihull, Sutton Coldfield
- 4 nights at the Heathlands Hotel, Bournemouth (JG2 rating) with dinner & breakfast
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News from St Clement of Alexandria Green Lane, Castle Bromwich (known locally as St Clements Church)



*"The clearest way into the Universe
is through a forest wilderness."*

John Muir

After very hot days and yes nights, we certainly might have expected the usual thunder storm; and just to be clear: lightning is a spark of electricity in the atmosphere, while thunder is the loud sound that the lightning creates. They are both part of the same event and happen at the exact same time, but we see the light before we hear the sound.

I think this quote sums it all up perfectly:

"Nature is the art of God."

Dante Alighieri

St Clements was opened during the 1960's and although not a building with a long heritage it has its challenges to contend with; asbestos, leaking roof, old heating system and so much more. Over the years, we have planned and budgeted for work to be carried out and have been extremely lucky in getting funding.

BUT on very wet and windy nights with torrential rain, we always go into the building the next day, hoping against hope that the roof has not let us down and so far so good. We do however, in the next couple of years need to find a way to repair the high roof which is like a patchwork quilt.

The Quiz on 16th May was once again a great success. Our sincere thanks go to Linda, Anne and Ray, without whom the evening would not have been possible. We would also like to thank Cola's Fish Saloon for providing the fish and chips, which as always were excellent. With delivery included, what more could we ask for? THANK YOU.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of our communities and can be found in every walk of life. Wherever you go, you are likely to encounter volunteers giving their time and talents to help others. I certainly did during a recent visit to Scotland. At Robert Burns' Birthplace, the volunteers were not only welcoming but also incredibly knowledgeable. A conversation with them could be both inspiring and informative, making the visit all the more memorable.

St Clement's Church is no different. Behind the scenes is a dedicated team of volunteers who serve in many different roles, including readers, greeters, cleaners, café staff, group leaders and event organisers. Together they create the rich tapestry of life within our church community.

The week of 1st-7th June marked Volunteers' Week in the UK, providing an opportunity to recognise and celebrate all that volunteers contribute. They are a constant source of inspiration, and without their commitment and generosity, many aspects of church and community life would simply not be possible for us to enjoy.

St Clements will be having a stall on the 4th July at St Mary and St Margarets Church Fete.

Our Volunteers will have enjoyed a Toby in June.

Our Church trip on the 18th July to Gloucester Cathedral or Quays is booked and confirmed at 9am start, no good coming at 9.30am we will have left!

When you read this we will have supported Castle Bromwich Parish Council at Party in the Park. Was it dry this year??

Daniel the Musical with members of both Churches is on Sunday 7th September.

Harvest Supper - TBC end of September beginning of October in planning stage.

If you want to know more about St Clement's, our Services, how to arrange a baptism, wedding or funeral, our work in the community or events, you can get in touch in the usual ways by:

Phone: 0121 274 7120

A Church Near You:
[www.achurchnearyou.com/
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Hidden message:
 ROUGH WINDS DO SHAKE THE
 DARLING BUDS OF MAY AND
 SUMMERS LEASE HATH ALL
 TOO SHORT A DATE
 By William Shakespeare



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- Return coach travel from Solihull, Sutton Coldfield
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- Excursions to Rochester, Canterbury, Margate & Sandwich

Optional excursion to Hastings (£12pp)



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Torquay Cruise & Devon Steam

Departing Mon 17 Aug '26

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So much included...

- Return coach travel from Solihull, Sutton Coldfield
- 4 nights at the Burlington Hotel, Torquay (JG2 rating) with dinner & breakfast
- Entertainment some evenings
- Heritage train journey on the South Devon Railway
- Cruise on the River Exe
- Free time in Exmouth
- Excursion to Buckfast Abbey & Buckfast Butterfly Farm & Dartmoor Otter Sanctuary

Optional excursion to Teignmouth (£12pp)



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Isle of Wight Weekend

Departing Fri 9 Oct '26

A long weekend by the sea beckons on this lovely escape to the Isle of Wight. Beloved since Queen Victoria's reign, follow in the footsteps of royalty and relax at our base in a popular seaside resort and discover other highlights during an optional trip!

So much included...

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- Entertainment some evenings
- Excursion to Newport

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Local Sports



Strong Start to May for Paddy Doyle

Paddy Doyle made a strong start in May, breaking five martial arts records, two strength records and setting one endurance challenge.

The first to fall was:

The most full-contact knee strikes in 1 minute (alternate legs) with 5kg ankle weights on each ankle with Doyle completing 93, beating Asia High Range Book of Records Holder Estarla Mahesh (Taekwondo martial artist) record of 76, set on 12 Feb 2020 in India.

After a short rest, Doyle attempted the most full-contact knee strikes in three 3 minutes (alternate legs with 5kg on each ankle) achieving 245, beating Asia Exclusive World Record Holder Association Athlete Lagishetti Kumar's record of 156 set on 27 Jan 2020, India.

The next of Doyle's challenge attempts was most martial arts full-contact knee strikes (alternate legs 5kg's on each ankle) in 2 minutes, finishing off with a total of 166.

The final strength record was next attempting to surpass the most standing 10kg dumbbell shoulder presses in 1 minute. Digging -deep, Paddy completed 68 dumbbell straight arm shoulder presses, beating Asia Elite World Records Association title holder Suman Singh's record of 54, set on 17th May 2012.



Eight days later Doyle attempted a 13 km cross speed march carrying 35.56lbs backpack over the permanent South Warwickshire hills and footpaths of Yarningale Common, reaching the finish line in 1 hr. 21 min. 41 sec's.



The following week, feeling recovered and eager to go again, the former Para / army reservist and WUMA martial arts Black Belt 4th Dan instructor set his sights on beating more martial arts strength records! Results as follows:

46 full- contact knee strikes in 30 seconds (left leg only 5kg on ankle).



83 strict weightlifting calf raises in 30 seconds holding 30kg dumbbells in each hand, beating Asia Kalam World Record Association title holder IR - Adithyan (Pakistan) record of 78.



Master / Veterans World Record, 915 martial arts shadowing boxing straight arm strikes in 2 minutes (924 punches achieved but 9 punches were discounted) in 2 minutes, beating Asia Kalam World Records Association title holder Pediredla Karaka (India) record of 730.



Doyle said "May has been another tough but positive month for me and the team. The knee strikes were hard as I had to raise the knees to the level of the chest of the appointed support team official. I was very happy increasing my career strength speed stamina challenges and World Records to 1,039. A big thank- you to the support team members who are always there for me."

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MAMER SAJID

Entrepreneur & Business Graduate

Class of 2021

After leaving WMG Academy, Mamer began studying Electrical and Electronic Engineering at Aston University. During his studies, he discovered that his passion lay elsewhere and made the bold decision to switch to Business Management, achieving First-Class grades throughout his degree.

Alongside university, Mamer gained valuable experience working at Jaguar Land Rover and in logistics and supply chain management. He has also built experience in car trading, hospitality and property management, and is now exploring opportunities to incorporate AI into future business ventures.

This year, Mamer graduates and plans to travel across Asia, seeking inspiration and new ideas before beginning his next chapter.



MAMER'S ADVICE

"Stay true to yourself and follow what your heart tells you. Finding your true calling takes time, effort and experience. Success doesn't come without setbacks, but every challenge helps shape your future."



SUMMER HUDSON

Apprentice Civil Engineer, Arcadis

Class of 2024

Since joining Arcadis in September 2024 as an Apprentice Civil Engineer within the Rail Civils and Structures team, I have gained valuable experience across several major HS2 project teams. I initially worked in the Project and Construction Management (PMCM) team, supporting quality assurance activities and contributing to technical reviews of reinforced concrete structures. More recently, I have been involved with the Engineering Construction Services (eCSS) team, where my responsibilities have included reviewing technical drawings for ancillary civil engineering assets, as well as producing schedules, specifications and engineering drawings. These opportunities have provided me with a broad understanding of the rail industry and allowed me to develop both my technical knowledge and practical engineering skills.



SUMMER'S ADVICE

"Be proactive and look for opportunities for personal and professional development and take up as many as you can."



JACOB RACE

Engineering Aircraft Technician Avionics, Royal Air Force

Class of 2022

I applied for my apprenticeship shortly before completing college and successfully progressed through the Royal Air Force selection process, including medical, fitness and aptitude assessments. I then attended a 10-week Basic Training course at RAF Halton, followed by a 15-month Phase 2 training programme to become an Aircraft Avionics Technician. During this time, I completed a range of technical modules covering aerodynamics, aircraft maintenance, electronic and electrical fundamentals, aircraft handling, and safety procedures. Following my training, I was posted to RAF Coningsby, where I undertook a four-month specialist 'Q' course focused on the Typhoon aircraft system, providing the knowledge required to maintain and support the aircraft operationally. Having recently completed my apprenticeship, I am now working as a fully qualified Avionics Technician in the Royal Air Force, serving at the Typhoon Mission Support Centre as an Air Specialist Class 1 Technician.



JACOB'S ADVICE

"Work hard and achieve good grades, as this will open up more pathways and opportunities for you after education. It's always better to have five doors to choose from than to be limited to just one."

