

## Appeal to find a new home for vital charity

**A MUCH-LOVED charity which serves the people of Wyre Forest has launched an appeal to find a new base after having to leave its current home in Kidderminster.**

For years, Simply Limitless has supported the health and wellbeing of the local community, offering everything from mental health support and physical activity sessions to social groups which help tackle loneliness and isolation.

The charity said the move from Walter Nash Road came as a result of changes in tenancy arrangements and the news had left staff, volunteers and service users deeply saddened.

"The building has become a vital community hub and leaving it will be a huge loss to many who rely on the services Simply Limitless provides," it added.

The charity has now found itself in a race against time as it has to be out by August 8 and has appealed for urgent help.

Lisa McNally, director of public health for Worcestershire, has shared her support.

She said: "The Simply Limitless team do an amazing job supporting the health and wellbeing of local people.

"They provide a wide range

by **Tristan Harris**  
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of support aimed at helping people thrive, both physically and mentally. I really hope they can find a new home from which to operate their invaluable service.

"The charity is now urgently looking for a new venue in the Wyre Forest – ideally one that is central, accessible and affordable.

"The team would be incredibly grateful for any support from the local community in identifying potential spaces or offering assistance during this challenging transition.

"If you know of a venue, or would like to help in any way, please get in touch.

"With the community's support, Simply Limitless is determined to continue its life-changing work in a new home."

Since putting out the appeal, Simply Limitless has thanked everyone for their 'incredibly kind words and offers of support and encouragement'.

"It means so much to all of the staff volunteers and the people that charity supports," the charity said.

And it has outlined the size of space needed.

The charity requires a hall or open space capable of holding around 60 people and office space for 10 people,



The much-loved Simply Limitless charity is on the hunt for a new premises. Picture by Marcus Mings 2925005MMR

ple, along with small meeting rooms.

Any businesses or people who have these kind of facilities available are urged to get in touch.

Simply Limitless also needs cash to cover relocation costs, replacing equipment it cannot take with it and to cover any improvement or refurbishment works which

will need to be undertaken at the new venue.

Anyone who can help should call the charity on 01562 751144, email info@simply-limitless.org or

visit simply-limitless.org to get in touch. Alternatively, go to facebook.com/SimplyLimitless to make contact through the Facebook page.

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ABOVE: The new-look Kidderminster Street Market was officially launched last Thursday. Picture by Kidderminster Town Council. s  
CENTRE: Garden ornaments are among the many items on offer. s  
RIGHT: JoJo's Cakes provides sweet treats. s  
INSET: There is seasonal fresh fruit and vegetables available, including British strawberries. s

## 'Brilliant' beginning to town's new market

by **Tristan Harris**  
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**THE ORGANISERS** of the new-look Kidderminster Street Market said its first days last Thursday and Saturday could not have gone any better.

The sun shone and crowds flocked to the town for the events.

Bescot Promotions Ltd, which is run by brothers Scott and Spencer Evans and has a host of highly successful other markets across the Midlands, has taken over the event.

It was awarded the contract by Kidderminster Town Council after a competitive tender process found it to be the preferred option.

Scott told the Standard: "The first days were absolutely brilliant – it was like going back in time to the good old days of the market."

"Everyone who visited was very positive and traders were getting good feedback from shoppers."

"We also popped in to some of the surrounding shops whose owners said their trade was up due to the increased footfall."

"It really did exceed our expectations."

There are a host of stalls on offer, including a butcher, fruit and veg, cakes, hot food and drinks, sweets, ladies and gents fashion, socks, underwear, garden



Council said it was thrilled to celebrate a successful launch week for its new market providers.

"The stalls looked absolutely amazing," said a spokesperson. "It was lovely to see so many people out enjoying the market and the weather."

"A huge thank you to all the traders, shoppers, and partners who made this possible, especially our brilliant new providers Bescot Promotions working in partnership with Kidderminster Town Council."

"We can't wait to build on this momentum – the market is back, better than ever and here to stay."

"Come down and see for yourself – every Thursday and Saturday in the heart of the town centre."

For stallholder information contact Bescot Promotions via email at [Traders.bescot.p@hotmail.com](mailto:Traders.bescot.p@hotmail.com) or [info@bescotpromotions.co.uk](mailto:info@bescotpromotions.co.uk) or call or WhatsApp to 07875 655 875. Alternatively, call 07792 676746 or check out the Bescot Promotions Facebook page.

The next Kidderminster Street Market takes place between 9am and 4pm tomorrow (Saturday, July 12).

\* Have you been to the new-look Kidderminster Market? What did you think? Email [editor@kidderminsterstandard.co.uk](mailto:editor@kidderminsterstandard.co.uk) with your views.



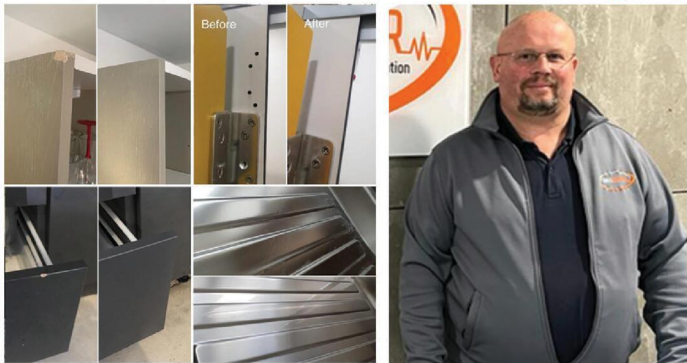
ornaments, pet supplies, jewellery, crystals and household goods including curtains and bedding.

Kidderminster Street Market takes place from 9am to 4pm every Thursday and Saturday in the town centre and is easily accessible and dog friendly.

The closest car parks are Weavers Wharf Car Park and Black Horse Lane, Kidderminster Town



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LEFT: Students Emily Hall, Leanna Allen, Emma Viney, and Tia Cope provided the catering and hospitality at the opening event with the head of department Gaynor Watkins. s  
ABOVE: The new student common room. s

# College offers students their own SPACE to grow

by Hannah Taylor

**KIDDERMINSTER** College has opened the doors to **SPACE** (Safe Place And Calm Environment), a support centre for students aged 16 and up with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

Funded by \$279,312 worth of investment from Worcestershire County Council, SPACE aims to prepare students for life after college and provide them with a comfortable environment away from the

overwhelming college day.

Construction began in August 2024 and was finished in February this year.

Among the features at SPACE are a fully-functional and accessible kitchen, a realistic one-bedroom flat, a quiet student common room and two relaxing sensory rooms.

These are designed to provide a safe place for SEND students, where they can practise fundamental life skills such as cooking and laundry or unwind in a quiet environment.

The specialised sensory rooms



The training kitchen at the college which prepares students for life when they have finished their courses. s

and specialist course provision for students with SEND, ensuring they are well-supported in difficult aspects of college life.

Worcestershire County Council's cabinet member with responsibility for education and SEND, Coun Dr Stephen Foster, said: "It's fantastic to see the courses and dedicated staff in place to support students as they move on to their next steps in life and we're proud to have been able to help Kidderminster College to make that possible."

Students have been able to access SPACE since May of this year, and have particularly been enjoying developing their hospitality and customer service skills in a safe environment to support their increasing independence into adulthood and the world of work.

provide emotional regulation and a relaxing environment, which can be tailored to individual students' needs.

Kidderminster College vice principal, Claire Heywood, said: "We're proud to offer inclusive education for students with SEND across our full range of courses."

"Through this project, we've enhanced our SEND facilities, offering specialist spaces designed to support independence and well-being."

Kidderminster College also offers a range of learning support

## Police appeal after car taken

A BLACK Honda Civic car was stolen from Kidderminster.

Police said thieves struck sometime between 10am on Friday and 1pm on Sunday to take the 63-plate car while it was parked on Hurcott Road, Broadwaters.

Police are investigating and have urged witnesses or anyone with information who was in the area at the time and heard or saw anything to call them on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. Always call 999 if a crime is taking place.

## Wreaths laid for VJ Day

A SERVICE to commemorate VJ Day and to remember those from the 7th Battalion Worcestershire Regiment who have made the ultimate sacrifice will be held in Kidderminster.

The event, which is being run by the Mercian Volunteer Regiment, takes place at 6.30pm on August 15 in St Mary's Church.

There will be a Remembrance service with standards on parade.

Afterwards, there will be a wreath-laying ceremony at the 7th Battalion Worcestershire Regiment war memorial in St Mary's Churchyard.

There will also, hopefully, be a beacon lit to mark the occasion and refreshments will be provided by Kidderminster Town Council afterwards.

Coun Kevin Gale, Wyre Forest District Council's Armed Forces Champion, said: "I'm happy to be involved in what will be a poignant occasion to remember all those involved in the Victory in Japan."

## Legion set to host festival

THE CLEOBURY Mortimer branch of the Royal British Legion (RBL) will hold a festival to celebrate the 80th anniversary of VJ Day.

August 15 this year marks Allied victory over Japan and the end the Second World War.

Cleobury Mortimer's RBL thinks the VJ (Victory in Japan) milestone deserves as many festivities as the often better-known VE (Victory in Europe) Day on its 80th anniversary.

Celebrations will begin with a short service at the war memorial beside St Mary's Church, conducted by the Rector, Rev Ashley Buck. Local organisations will then assemble with the public in Talbot Yard, forming an RBL-led procession to the town Sports Field.

Branch chairman, Paul Serrell-Cooke, will declare the Exhortation and the bugler will sound the Last Post. After a two-minute silence, the beacon will then be lit.

Anyone wanting to become a member of the branch should call 01299 270110 to find out more.



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# Ofsted hails school 'good' in all areas

A WYRE Forest village school has been praised by Ofsted inspectors as being 'highly ambitious' for pupils who 'enjoyed their lessons and achieve well'.

Ofsted graded Far Forest School in Kidderminster 'good' across all five areas inspected – quality of education, behaviour and attitudes, personal development, leadership and management and early years provision.

Mokshuda Begum, head of school, said: "I am pleased the Ofsted report highlights our ambitious curriculum

by Tilly Kellaway

and recognises the positive culture and climate at Far Forest.

"We remain committed to building upon these strong foundations and are excited about the journey ahead."

Ofsted reported pupils 'behaved well' and 'enjoyed a rich and diverse curriculum'. They added reading was given a high priority and staff taught phonics 'consistently well'.

The inspectors also noted how carefully pupils learning was checked to identify and address any gaps in their knowledge and

understanding.

The teaching of children with special educational needs (SEND) was also highly praised in the report.

The inspector said: "Pupils with SEND are well supported."

"The school has a clearly defined approach which ensures that any additional needs are identified at an early stage."

The report also added children could talk confidently about their work, enjoyed many opportunities to develop interests or experience new activities in after school club and were 'proud to take on roles of leadership and



Pupils celebrate being graded 'good' in all areas with headteacher Shelley Reeves-Walters and head of school Mokshuda Begum. s

responsibility'.

The school is part of the Severn Academies Educational Trust.

Shelley Reeves-Walters, executive headteacher for the trust's primary schools, said: "I'm delighted the

report recognises our commitment to providing the best all-round education, learning experiences and personal development for our children to thrive."

Award-winning students, Maisie Thompson, Ethan Cosnett, Jensen O'Mahony (back), Eisa Javed, Theo Hughes and Jacob Hammond (middle) and Maisie Crocker (front). s



## Students praised as 'shining lights' in awards

HIGH-ACHIEVING students at Stourport High School were rewarded for their efforts during a celebrations evening which recognised their exceptional achievements and personal growth.

More than 70 students were presented with awards across years seven, eight and nine.

For year seven students, their ability to settle into their first year at secondary school was celebrated.

And for years eight and nine, their consistent efforts throughout the school year

were recognised. Head of Year awards were received by Theo Hughes (year seven), Ethan Cosnett (year eight) and Jacob Hammond (year nine) for their outstanding politeness, kindness and hard work.

Student of the Year awards were presented to Eisa Javed (year seven), Maisie Crocker (year eight) and Maisie Thompson (year nine) for their consistent positive attitudes and academic growth.

Jensen O'Mahony earned the Triumph Over Adversity award for his ability to settle in as

a valued member of his year and embodying school values, despite starting year seven late.

Stourport High School headteacher, Dr Elizabeth Ford, said: "All the students who received awards are shining lights in the way they exemplify our school values."

"We are delighted by the brilliant personal and academic growth they have made already and wish them well as they move up through our school."

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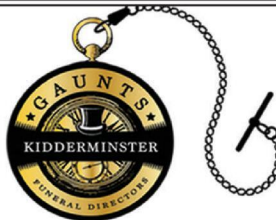
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# Firm hopes trade will be better as road is re-opened

A KIDDERMINSTER business has expressed its relief at the end of the road closures following the burst water mains which happened in the town a fortnight ago.

The mains pipe burst in Green Street on June 27 and caused mass flooding in that road and the surrounding areas.

Sewer Trent spent most of that week-end fixing the pipe and roadworks were needed - both because of the ferocity of the water and the need to gain access to the mains.

But, some of the roads in the area were still shut up until last weekend.

One of the businesses - Foynes Carpets on the New Road Complex - told the Standard it had severely impacted on the business because it had caused access issues for potential customers.

The shop has been in the town since 1983 and, although Christmas is its busiest time of year, many people still buy its products, including carpets and flooring, at this time of year.

Dean Martin, who works there, said: "Trade has dropped off drastically over the past two weeks - it has been a nightmare."

He added he had looked at the roadworks last week and it all looked ready to open so it was frustrating it was still shut.

The roadworks were finally completed at the weekend and the roads reopened. But Paul Phillips, who also works at Foynes, said trade had still been slow this week and there were concerns that people had not realised the road had reopened and were still using their diverted routes.

"We want people to know the road is open again and hope that our trade returns to its usual levels soon."

Sewer Trent said the roadworks were lifted at the weekend, adding it took so long because the tarmac needed to fully and properly set in the heat before vehicles could safely use it.

"We are incredibly thankful to the local community for their patience and understanding after we repaired and fixed what was a large, complex repair in the area."

"We're sorry for the impact it caused."

Call 01562 755769, visit: foynescarpets.co.uk or email sales@foynescarpets.co.uk for more information.



Alveley Village Band will be performing 'The Music of James Bond' at St George's Church in Kidderminster.

## Licensed to entertain

A CHURCH in Kidderminster will be hosting 'The Music of James Bond' when Alveley Village Band (AVB) comes to town.

The concert will take place at 7.30pm next Saturday, July 26, at St George's Church.

Although the band is Shropshire based, many of its players are from the Kidderminster area.

Joining the band will be soloists Nina Aver and William Hayward who will perform a host of songs from the films, including the classics 'From Russia With Love', 'Goldfinger' and 'Thunderball' along with later music 'Tomorrow Never Dies', 'Skyfall', 'The Writing's on the Wall' and, of course, the iconic James Bond theme.

AVB musical director Garry Bailey said: "We're really looking forward to presenting our James Bond concert."

"The evening will take a tour through all the musical highlights from most of the films."

"The band has been rehearsing very hard for what promises to be a very enjoyable and spectacular event which will hopefully leave our audience 'shaken and stirred' in a good way."

Jenny Jarvis, from the Alveley Village Band, said: "We are really looking forward to performing - there are so many fantastic songs in the James Bond films."

"We intend to play out these wonderful tunes on what promises to be a highly entertaining evening at this truly stunning venue."

Tickets for the concert are £10 (children under 12 go free) from ticketsource.co.uk/alveley-village-band/ or on the door. Email: alveleyvillageband@gmail.com for more on the band.

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# Policing conference enables discussions

**THE MUM** of a Kidderminster woman who was killed in a road crash has spoken at an event which provided stark statistics, shocking stories and insights into policing methods.

Leanne Vaughan featured at the Evidence Based Policing Conference at the University of Worcester.

Leanne's daughter - 17-year-old Lily-May - was killed in a crash. She spoke about how the Serious Collision Investigation Unit led its probes and how policing on the roads could prevent harm.

She said: "Having once had my voice stifled by the criminal justice system, the invitation to speak at the conference was profoundly meaningful.

"If my words prompt even one person to reflect, Lily-May's story will have made a difference."

The event, attended by students, staff, and representatives from a host of organisations, addressed topics ranging from serious domestic abuse to deaths on our roads.

Other speakers included criminology experts Professor Jane Monckton-Smith and Dr Gillian Harrop, as well as the Chief Constable of West Mercia Police.

Also speaking at the conference were the father of a woman who was killed by her ex-partner and the mother of a girl killed in a road traffic incident.



Michelle Clarke, head of the school of Law at the University of Worcester organised the talk.

Nick Gazzard OBE's daughter Hollie was just 20 when she was stabbed by her ex-boyfriend while she worked at a hair salon. He has since set up a trust in her name and campaigned to educate young people about domestic violence.

Prof Jane Monckton-Smith opened the conference with the keynote address, where she discussed statistics relating to domestic abuse, honour killings and partner killings.

She also discussed cases she has worked on in recent years around coercive control and 'staged homicide', where a murder is staged as an accident or a suicide.

Michelle Clarke, head of the School of Law at the University of

Worcester, said: "We are committed to ensuring we do everything we can do to inform the discussion around how we reduce harm in our society, in all its forms.

"This Evidence Based Policing Conference was a chance to look at the experience and expertise of some incredibly knowledgeable and influential people and see how it can be applied to modern policing methods.

"If we can change the course of behaviours in just one person, we could save a life. Events like this have the potential to enable those changes on a societal basis."

THE NEXT Kidderminster Canal and Food Festival takes place this weekend in the town centre.

The event - which is free to attend with no tickets required - will take place at Weaver's Wharf from 10am to 7pm tomorrow (Saturday) and between 10am to 5pm on Sunday (July 19 and 20).

As well as street food, sweet treats, cocktails and craft ales, there will also be an artisan market, family funfair rides, face-painting and an arts and crafts bus.

There will also be roaming characters and a butterfly still walker blowing bubbles.

And there will be live music from a host of artists, including tribute acts to Queen, Michael Jackson, Bruno Mars and reggae and motown performers.

And local legends RetsecroWs and Kev Donaldson will take to the stage.

The action-packed event -

hosted by FAB Food Fest with Kidderminster BID - will offer something for all the family.

More events for the town will soon be announced by the Kidderminster BID during what promises to be an exciting year ahead.

To coincide with the canal festival, St Mary and All Saints Church will be serving coffee and cakes from 10am to 2pm tomorrow (Saturday).

Entry is free but donations towards the upkeep of the building, which is deemed 'Kidderminster's Greatest Treasure' would be gratefully received.

And everyone is welcome to the church's service at 11am on Sunday.

Anyone wanting more information on the coffee and cake event or service should visit: [achurch-nearyou.com/church/18775](http://achurch-nearyou.com/church/18775) or call 07427 766054.

POLICE have released these pictures of three people they want to speak to after an assault in Bewdley on Saturday.

The incident happened around 9pm outside the Severn Quay when the victim was attacked by a group of men.

The victim sustained serious injuries and remains in hospital. It is believed the people pic-

tured had been in the area at the time of the assault. Officers believe they could help them with their enquiries.

Witnesses or anyone with information should email Det Con Paul Lofthouse by emailing him at: [paul.lofthouse@westmercia.police.uk](mailto:paul.lofthouse@westmercia.police.uk) or by calling 101.

THIEVES stole a Vauxhall Morano van from Marlpool, Kidderminster, some time between 11.45pm on Monday and 7.30am on Tuesday.

The vehicle, which was taken without keys, had the partial registration number 'ESO' and

'Contract Roofing Services on the side in blue and yellow.

Witnesses or anyone with information or doorbell camera footage of the area of the time should call police on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



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# 'Wonderful' park will fly the flag for council and group's hard work

**STAFF at Kidderminster Town Council and volunteers are celebrating after Broadwaters Mill Park was given a Green Flag Award.**

The accolade is the international quality mark for parks and green spaces and is testament, not only to the council's Public Realm and Operations Team, but also to the Friends of Broadwaters Mill Park group.

"To receive a Green Flag Award is a moment of immense pride and a wonderful achievement for Kidderminster Town Council," said Mayor of Kidderminster, Coun Doug Hine.

"This recognition is a direct result of the dedicated work of our Public Realm and Operations Team, who ensure the park is always maintained to the highest standard for our community

by **Tristan Harris**  
tristan.harris  
@bullivantmedia.com

to enjoy. My heartfelt thanks also go to the passionate volunteers of the Friends of Broadwaters Mill Park.

"Their incredible community spirit and hands-on efforts have been instrumental in making the park the beautiful, welcoming space it is today."

Coun Hine added the award showed what could be accomplished when the council and community worked together so effectively.

"It is a shared achievement for everyone in Kidderminster who cherishes this vital green space," he said.

"We are very much looking forward to raising the flag and celebrating this award in the park with the Friends group and park users on August 29."

Broadwaters Mill Park is the only site to win this prestigious award this year.

Sobia Shaw, chair of the Friends of Broadwaters Mill Park, also reflected on the group's long-standing commitment.

She said: "We are absolutely delighted and proud as punch to be receiving the Green Flag Award."

"The Friends of Broadwaters Mill Park have been instrumental in the development and upkeep of the park for over 20 years."

"We were the first group of volunteers in Kidderminster to come together and form a Friends Group to improve and look after our local park."

"Since we have been working in partnership with the town council, together we have created a safe, inviting and picturesque environment to be enjoyed by not only local residents but also the



**Adam Stockhall, Kidderminster Town Council's public realm and operations manager, Coun Helen Dyke, Sobi Shaw, chair of the Friends of Broadwaters Mill Park group and Rob Beeston, the town council's public realm and operations officer. s**

whole of Kidderminster, as well as visitors from further afield.

"This award is a testament to all of the volunteers who work tirelessly to make our park the beautiful place it is today."

The Green Flag Award scheme is managed by the environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy under licence from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

It sets the benchmark standard for the management

of parks and green spaces not only across the United Kingdom, but around the world.

Paul Todd MBE, Green Flag Award Scheme manager, praised the achievement.

He said: "Congratulations to everyone involved in Broadwaters Mill Park who have worked tirelessly to ensure that it achieves the high standards required for the Green Flag Award."

"Quality parks and green spaces like Broadwaters Mill

Park make the country a healthier place to live and work in, and a stronger place in which to invest."

"Crucially, Broadwaters Mill Park is a vital green space for communities in Kidderminster to enjoy nature, and during the ongoing cost of living crisis it is a free and safe space for families to socialise."

"It also provides important opportunities for local people and visitors to reap the physical and mental health benefits of green space."



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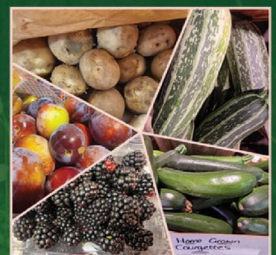
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# All aboard for a constructive day

by Rafi Khan  
news@bullivantmedia.com

**LEGO enthusiasts are in for a choo-tastic treat as Brick Weekend propels its way into the Severn Valley Railway's Engine House Visitor Centre.**

The stunning venue has partnered with the Lego UK Railway club, the largest and most active locomotive building club in the country.

The group says its aim is to showcase its custom Lego locomotives and using the bricks to build trains as a hobby.

The highly-anticipated 'Brick Weekend' will be awash with passionate amateur creators.

There will also be steam and heritage diesel services running on the SVR that weekend which is perfect for people of all ages and Lego enthusiasts.

The Engine House in Highley is accessible by train from either Kidderminster or Bridgnorth.

Visitors are encouraged to hop on and off the train, stopping at stations along the line to allow them to soak in everything the railway has to



**Brick Weekend will have a wide range of model locomotives on display. Picture by Lewis Maddox. s**

offer.

Guests can count on seeing detailed Lego railway layouts.

The SVR's visitor engagement manager Lewis Maddox said: "There's a specially themed Thomas and Friends section, and a range of interactive experiences that will delight young minds."

Children can take part in creative puzzles or enter a fun-filled Minifigure Hunt and try their hand at robot

battling in a mini area.

The event runs from 10.45am to 4pm on both days, with the last entry at 4pm.

LEGO is a registered trademark of the LEGO Group, which does not sponsor or endorse this event.

Models on display may differ from promotional photography and are subject to change.

Visit: [svr.co.uk](http://svr.co.uk) for more information.



**The Kidderminster Male Choir will give a musical welcome to the Flying Scotsman when it takes to the Severn Valley Railway. s**

## Choir to sing for the Flying Scotsman

THE WORLD famous British steam locomotive The Flying Scotsman will receive a musical welcome from Kidderminster Male Choir during its guest appearance on the Severn Valley Railway.

The 'Men in Red' will entertain crowds with a hour-long concert, free of charge.

The group will perform at 1.30pm on Saturday, July 26, on the Kidderminster Station concourse, as part of the railway's 'Swingin' Sixties' weekend.

Classics from The Beatles will be the pinnacle of their programme, which also features Glen Miller's 'Chatanooga Choo Choo', a vastly popular train-themed song.

A Kidderminster Male Choir spokesperson said "We are honoured to be taking part in this special weekend, which cel-

brates the 60th anniversary of the presentation of the SVR line".

The concert is free, but the choir will have collecting buckets to raise cash for charities and good causes, such as KEMP Hospice.

The Flying Scotsman will herald the re-opening of the full 16-mile Kidderminster to Bridgnorth line on July 25, following an embankment collapse earlier this year.

There will be more trips over the weekend.

Initially, the Flying Scotsman, Locomotive 60103, was just going to run from Friday to Sunday, July 25 to 27 but an extra day has been added, and it will now also run on Monday, July 28.

Visit: [svr.co.uk](http://svr.co.uk) for more information and to book the 'Swingin' Sixties' event.

# Re@d @ll @bout it!



Check out our e-edition at [kidderminsterstandard.co.uk](http://kidderminsterstandard.co.uk)



# Park thrilled to see birth of two red panda cubs

by **Tristan Harris**  
tristan.harris@bullivantmedia.com

**TWO rare red panda cub twins have been born at West Midlands Safari Park in Bewdley.**

The birth came as a milestone moment as the species is listed as endangered.

Keepers suspected there may be more than one cute surprise after noticing how 'round' mum Mei Lin was during her pregnancy.

Then on the morning of June 16, they started to hear some squeaks coming from one of the nest boxes.

A few days later, Mei Lin was seen moving a cub to a different nest box and keepers were overjoyed when she went back to then collect a second cub.

The twin cubs are a first for the park in its history and second time mum, five-year-old Mei Lin, gave birth exactly two years to the day



of her first cub in 2023.

Head keeper of the Discovery Trail, Amy Sewell, said everyone was thrilled to welcome the two panda cubs, adding they were not incredibly special – not just for the team – but for the wider conservation effort of this endangered species.

"It is thought the wild population is less than 10,000 individuals," she said.

"Every successful birth helps to secure a future for red pandas, whose num-

bers in the wild continue to decline."

The two cubs are in the nest boxes, in the care of mum Mei Lin with little disturbance from the keepers.

For the next few weeks, keepers will continue to monitor the cubs and Mei Lin from a safe distance, allowing her the time she needs to adapt to becoming a mum of two.

Staff said the secret of the birth was hard to keep as some guests in the park's Red Panda Cottages caught glimpses of the cubs, whilst



West Midlands Safari Park's red pandas will welcome two new additions. Pictures by Matthew Lissimore. s

Mei Lin was moving them.

One of the first guests to spot the cubs was Mari Mascarenhas, a GP from Perth, Western Australia, on holiday with her partner Ty and daughter Alice, visiting family in the UK.

Mari, who booked the trip for 10-year-old Alice, who absolutely adores red pandas, said, "We planned this trip with the hope of giving Alice a chance to see them up close, and we were beyond thrilled with the experience."

"Not only did we get to see the red pandas, but we also caught the first glimpses of the new cubs, which was truly magical."

"It was such a rare moment and one that made our entire trip unforgettable."

"We feel so grateful for this memorable experience."

Mei Lin arrived at the park in August 2021 and was joined by male, Sanka, in March 2022, as part of an EEP (Eaza Ex-Situ Programme) – a collaboration between European zoos to conserve endangered species.

Red pandas are endangered because of threats to their habitats due to humans and poaching and hunting of them is also on the rise.

The park supports the Red Panda Network (RPN), committed to the conservation of wild red pandas and their habitat through the education and empowerment of local communities. The park sponsors a for-

est guardian who helps monitor and protect wild red pandas and their habitats.

The sex of the cubs will be known when they are around 16 weeks, when they start to venture out of the nest boxes on their own.

Their names will then be chosen – all baby animals born at the safari park this year will have names starting with the letter 'N'.

This year, as well as the red pandas, West Midlands Safari Park has seen the birth of tiger cub triplets, an Indian rhino calf, lion cub triplets, barasingha fawn and blesbok calves.

Visit [wmssp.co.uk](http://wmssp.co.uk) for more on the safari park, including visiting times and ticket prices.

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## Sword surrender

NINJA swords are set to be banned in the UK later this summer prompting West Mercia Police to offer surrender bins for the weapons.

From August 1, it will become illegal to possess or make ninja swords.

Ahead of this ban, the Home Office has launched a month-long surrender and compensation scheme that will run throughout July.

West Mercia Police, ahead of the ban, are urging anyone who owns these weapons to safely hand them into police stations before midnight on August 1.

Throughout July, on Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm, the following police stations are prepared to take the surrendered swords - Telford Police Station, Kidderminster Police Station, Shrewsbury Police Station, Hereford Police Station and Worcester Police Station.

When giving in the harmful weapons, owners will be eligible for financial compensation if given proof the ninja sword was purchased before March 27, 2025.

Owning, manufacturing, importing and selling ninja swords will be against the law at the end of this surrender period.

Supt Brian Gibbs, head of prevention for West Mercia Police said: "We are in full support of this scheme which will be removing these unnecessary and life-threatening weapons from our communities."

"We have sadly seen the destruction and devastation these weapons have brought to victims, their families and the officers who have to respond to incidents that involve them."

"This is a good opportunity for anyone who possesses such a weapon to bring them to one of the designated police stations and help get them out of our communities and off our streets."

Visit: [gov.uk/government/publications/ninja-sword-surrender-and-compensation-scheme](http://gov.uk/government/publications/ninja-sword-surrender-and-compensation-scheme) to find out more information about the ninja sword surrender scheme.

# Snowdon group climbs to an impressive total

by Tilly Kellaway  
news@bullivantmedia.com

## A GROUP of 58 people from across the county climbed Snowdon in the dark to support the Worcestershire Acute Hospitals Charity.

The trek to witness a sunrise from the summit has already raised £21,000 for the cause. The cash will help to enhance hospital life that goes above core NHS services - bringing comfort, innovation and care to those who need it the most.

Guided by the expert team from Sky Blue Adventures, participants faced torrential rain and 50mph wind. Despite the conditions, most reached the summit, producing a shared sense of purpose and community spirit for everyone involved.

Each participant had their own personal reason for taking on the challenge, whether hospital staff raising funds for their departments, patients in a show of gratitude for care received or community members coming together for local hospitals.

Paige Cheshire climbed with her family to give back to the Neonatal unit at Worcestershire Royal hospital after her son was born at 30 weeks, staying in the hospital for 47 days, where he was diagnosed with cerebral palsy.

Paige said: "Throughout it all, the neonatal team stood by us with expertise, compassion and unwavering support."

"They saved my boy - and held me up when I needed strength the most."

Husband and wife, Andy and Heather



Asbury, climbed alongside children's cancer specialist nurse, Dawn Forbes, for The Children of Worcestershire and Herefordshire Cancer Fund which supported their son, Josh, during his treatment.

Mr Asbury said: "They helped us to make memories and to feel more comfortable during our hospital stays."

"Even now they're still there for us after Josh rang his end of treatment bell."

Also among the climbers were members of the children's emergency department team, raising funds to purchase toys and

therapeutic resources to help young patients feel more at ease during hospital visits.

Natalya Moore, children's emergency department manager, said: "Our trained healthcare play specialists use toys and resources to deliver therapeutic play techniques that help children better understand their illness and treatment."

"This support reduces anxiety and helps both children and their families feel more relaxed during their time with us."

The event was sponsored by Altera Digital Health whose generous support helped make the challenge possible.

Their involvement reflected a shared commitment to giving back to the community and supporting local healthcare services.

Visit: [wahcharity.org](http://wahcharity.org) for more on the

Jess Streeter and Steph Hill, along with Claire Emms, Liz Wall and Andrea Vipond-Day during the Snowdon trek. s

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# JelleyFest 4 at historic mill to bring plenty of fun for all ages

by Rafi Khan  
news@bullivantmedia.com

## A FESTIVAL will take place at Jelleyman's Mill on the first weekend of next month.

JelleyFest 4 - Steampunk Summer will be held by Jelleyman's Heritage Arts Charity on August 2 and 3.

This highly anticipated festival promises a fantastical journey into the world of steampunk, alongside a dynamic programme of activities and entertainment for all ages.

The venue - a spirited hub of Victorian-era ingenuity and industrial wonder - provides the perfect backdrop for all that is taking place.

These include a large craft market offering an array of unique hand-made goods, an outdoor music stage takeover by Load Street Studios, showcasing over 14 local acts performing across the weekend and a dedicated children's activity room hosted by Worcestershire Wildlife Trust, offering engaging and educational fun for younger visitors.

There will be a plant sale in Jelleyman's Community Garden, food and drink from The Bungalow



Cafe, cocktails and canapes and bee gluten free, along with a whole host

of other attractions and fun for all the family.

All events are free to attend, ensuring the entire community can

join in the celebration.

Although admission is complimentary, JelleyFest 4 also serves as a fundraiser for their Heritage Arts Charity and donations are welcome to support its ongoing work.

Sam Davies, CEO of Jelleyman Heritage Arts Charity, said: "We're incredibly excited to bring JelleyFest 4: Steampunk Summer to Jelleyman's Mill this August."

"This year's theme allows us to explore a rich tapestry of creativity, from intricate designs to captivating stories rooted in a reimagined past."

"It's an opportunity for our community to come together, express themselves, and experience something truly unique."

He added, while it had been almost a year since the first JelleyFest, the charity and venue had come such a long way with each event building on the success of the last.

"If you haven't been before, this is definitely the one to attend."

Search for 'JHAC - Jelleyman's Heritage Arts Charity' on Facebook for more.

**The historic Jelleyman's Mill will provide the perfect setting for JelleyFest 4. s**

## Photography studio is now more SEND friendly after refurbishment

**FOCUS** Photography in Kidderminster has been revamped to create a safe space for people and families with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

And the studio, based within the Jelleyman's Heritage Arts Charity (JHAC) building on Puxton Lane, will hold its grand re-opening of the new-look studio from midday to 2pm on Tuesday, July 22.

Focus Photography has recently launched Community Cuddles - a new scheme which gives every child visiting the studio a teddy of their own to take home and keep.

With this in mind, Focus Photography has launched an appeal for new or gently-loved teddies and cuddly toys.

These donations can be dropped off at Jelleyman's Heritage Arts Charity, from Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.

The refurbishment of the studio has been aimed at creating a safe, sensory-aware space, specifically designed for individuals and families with SEND.

After years of navigating typical studio settings that often feel overwhelming or overstimulating, Cam Smart, the studio's founder and an autistic photographer, is determined to offer something different - a photography experience which feels gentle, unhurried and truly inclusive.

Cam said: "As someone who is autistic myself, I know how stressful a photo studio can feel - from

the bright lights to the noise and unpredictability.

"So I've redesigned this space with care, comfort, and calm in mind - because everyone deserves to feel seen and celebrated."

The newly adapted space includes a simplified and clutter-free layout, adjustable, soft lighting to reduce sensory overload and a quiet zone for guests to take breaks.

The grand reopening event is free to attend and will offer free photo sessions and two printed photos per guest, along with sensory-friendly activities in a quiet, accessible room downstairs. Each child attending the reopening event will also receive a free goodie bag to take home, filled with sensory-

friendly treats and surprises.

The reopening will also serve as a fundraiser to support an important accessibility upgrade at JHAC.

All cash raised will be strictly dedicated to repairing the building's lift which serves not only Focus Photography's customers but also visitors and other businesses operating within JHAC.

Ensuring the lift is fully operational is essential for providing safe and easy access for people with mobility challenges, including those with physical disabilities, older visitors and families with young children.

By contributing to this cause, attendees will be helping to make JHAC a more welcoming and inclusive environment for everyone who uses the space.

Photography sessions will take place one at a time, while the event space features soft music, refreshments and a live video stream of the ribbon-cutting ceremony so everyone can feel part of the moment, whether there or watching from a distance.

The event will also be livestreamed on the Focus Photography Facebook page, helping to spread the word about the importance of accessibility in local business.

Cam added: "It's a reimagining of what a studio can be when you put people's needs first."

"I want families who may have avoided traditional settings to know - this space was made with you in mind."

"Everyone is welcome."



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# Duckweed leaves Stourport Basin looking like Wimbledon's Centre Court

THESE stunning images taken by our photographer **Marcus Mings** show the duckweed which has amassed in Stourport basin during the hot weather.

The aquatic plant almost gives the impression that the waterway has been carpeted or turfed.

According to the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust (WWT), duckweed species can be difficult to tell apart and it has not had confirmation of the species growing in Stourport Basin.

However, common duckweed is a natural

and common part of freshwater ecosystems that have slow flowing-water, such as ponds or canals.

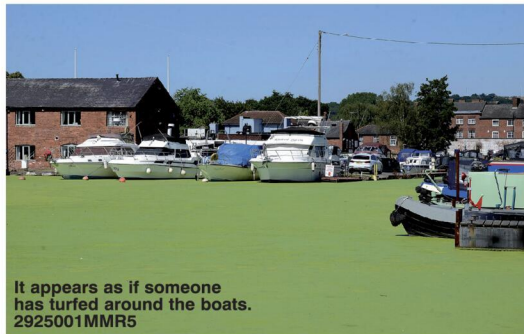
The WWT said: "Individual duckweeds are very small, often only a few millimetres in diameter, and have single roots that sit directly in the water, allowing them to absorb water and nutrients."

"Each plant can produce two daughter plants, essentially clones, every two to three days when the conditions are right."

"Due to the sunny, warm weather and their ability to absorb nutrients from water, the conditions are likely to have been perfect for duckweed to have carpeted waterbodies."

According to the trust, common duckweed is native and wildlife, including ducks, geese and swans, will eat it and it can provide shelter for amphibians.

Duckweed provides competition for algae, which thrive in sunny, warm conditions but, if duckweed completely covers a waterbody, it can cause issues by blocking out sunlight and it can also lead to



It appears as if someone has turfed around the boats. 2925001MMR5



This swan looks more like it is lying on the grass than swimming in the basin. Pictures by Marcus Mings 2925001MMR1



The water can hardly be seen beneath the 'green carpet'. 2925001MMR7

deoxygenated water which can cause problems for fish and other aquatic wildlife.

The WWT said: "The Canal and River Trust will have their own vegetation management plans but if people find that they have excessive duckweed in their garden ponds there are ways to manage it. you can scoop it out with a net, stick, sieve or rake and leave it beside the water to allow anything living in it

to escape, before composting it or responsibly disposing of it."

It is recommended at least 50 per cent of the duckweed in water is left so any wildlife relying on it as a food source or for cover still has some.

And, when working with water, it is strongly advised to wear gloves and wash hands afterwards.

By Coach from Kidderminster, Stourport

Reader Travel

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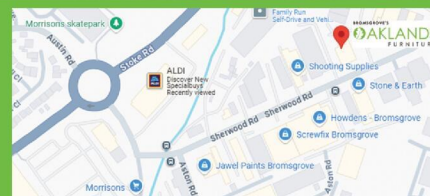
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**LEFT - Students enjoying the activities at Blackwell Outdoor Activities Centre. s**

**RIGHT - Imayah-Louise Malpass and Austin Humphries lay a wreath at the Menin Gate. s**



**Musical students performing at an outdoor concert on Lake Garda in Italy. s**

## Activities galore

BAXTER College students benefited from a hands-on learning experience during their Activities Fortnight.

Throughout the two-weeks, students enjoyed professional-led workshops, residential trips and days out.

Lord Rooker spoke to students about his role in the House of Lords, an official from the Bank of England provided some insight into a financial career and Medical Mavericks gave students an introduction to healthcare and medicine.

Students with an interest in animals and conservation were able to visit Dudley Zoo and Warwick Castle for the day.

Italian and performing arts students had the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity of a five-day trip to Lake Garda, Italy, where they per-

formed in an open-air gala concert.

In school, creative students demonstrated their skills at the 'trashion show', where clothes were made from recycled materials.

Baxter College headteacher, Katie Beech, said: "Our students have shown great enthusiasm, immersing themselves fully into the activities and demonstrating passion and a real sense of adventure."

"Such experiences will live with them for a long time, broadening their horizons and knowledge."

Other experiences throughout the week included Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, a residential at Blackwell Adventure Outdoor Activity Centre and a tour of Old Trafford football stadium.

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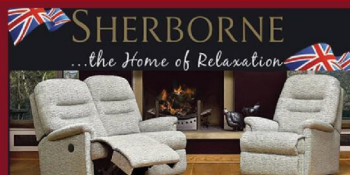


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## Local cardiologist to lead research work

A SPECIALIST heart doctor from Worcestershire's hospitals will lead a research project to try to identify those at risk of rare, life-threatening heart conditions so they get an earlier diagnosis and treatment.

Consultant cardiologist Dr David Wilson has got a grant from pharmaceutical giant Pfizer to set up specialist heart screening clinics in Worcestershire to spot people who could develop Transthyretin Amyloidosis Cardiomyopathy (ATTR-CM).

The condition was previously considered untreatable and can lead to progressive heart failure or death if left undiagnosed.

Using a digital platform called TriNetX, Dr Wilson, who is from Malvern, will input a list of diagnoses such as carpal tunnel syndrome and spinal stenosis that are known to be more likely to be present in those with ATTR-CM.

The TriNetX system is used at Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust enables researchers to identify patients eligible for clinical trials through advanced searches of anonymised hospital electronic records.

Those patients are then invited to a specialist screening clinic for further testing, which includes an ECG recording, echocardiogram, blood and urine tests, and a full clinical history and examination.

If initial assessment suggests the possibility of ATTR-CM, the patient will be referred to the West Midlands Amyloid Service for confirmation



testing, early treatment, and potential enrolment in further clinical trials.

Dr Wilson said: "This grant allows us to carry out this research into ATTR-CM which has the potential to bring transformational benefits to patients with earlier diagnosis and therefore earlier and more effective treatment against this life-threatening condition."

**Dr David Wilson, who will lead a research project to identify people at risk of a rare cardiac condition. s**

## Summer effort to get kids reading

WORCESTERSHIRE libraries launch has launched its Summer Reading Challenge.

The Reading Agency has developed the exciting challenge, which is aimed at children aged between four and 11 and will run throughout the summer holidays until September 13, 2025.

The challenge, available at all libraries across the county, enhances children's imagination as they experience magic through entertaining stories and meet new characters - all for free.

Children are tasked with reading six books and this year's scheme has a 'Story Garden' theme, which allows them to make connections between powerful storytelling and nature whilst also keeping their mind active during the summer break.

Coun Ian Cresswell, Worcestershire County Council's Cabinet Member for Environment and Communities, said: "The Summer Reading Challenge is a great way to keep children motivated to read during the holidays, which will help maintain their reading skills and confidence ahead of the new school year."

He urged all parents to visit their local library with their children and discover what it had to offer the whole family this summer.

To participate, children can sign up at their local library and choose the books they want to read. Library staff and volunteers will be on hand



**David and Hannah from Worcestershire Libraries promoting this year's Summer Reading Challenge. s**

to assist the children and learn more about what they have read in the past.

Rewards and incentives are included in this challenge to encourage the children to actively participate - for example this year those who have read four books are given free admission for one child and one adult for National Trust Croome and each child which completes the challenge receives a medal and a certificate.

Karen Napier, CEO of The Reading Agency, added: "The Summer Reading Challenge continues to be a bright light in what has recently

been an uncertain picture of children's reading.

"Story Garden will create magical spaces where children can explore and be curious, combining the joy of reading with the wellbeing benefits of connecting with nature."

From storytimes to a range of free events and activities, Worcestershire's libraries offer welcoming spaces to support children learning, boosting confidence and even offering free family resources.

Visit: [worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/worcestershire-libraries/](http://worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/worcestershire-libraries/) for more information about this summer event.

## Quarter Jewellery and Malvern Goldsmiths



Quarter Jewellery (The most reasonable jewellers in Worcester) has now been open for 18 years, I have always endeavoured to run the shop as jewellers were run when I started in the jewellery trade 59 years ago. Five years ago we were lucky enough to acquire the lease of 28, Belle Vue Terrace, Great Malvern a beautifully fitted Victorian pharmacy, now reborn as Malvern Goldsmiths

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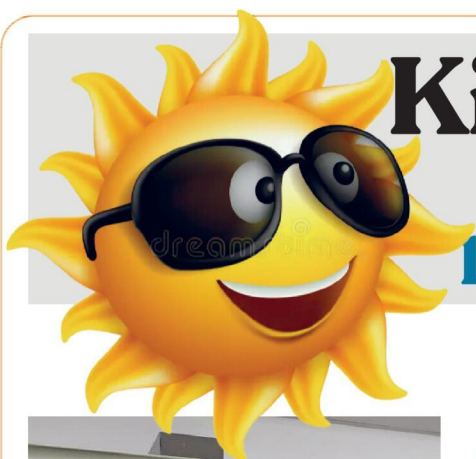
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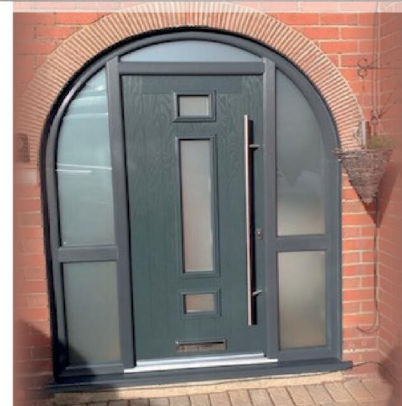
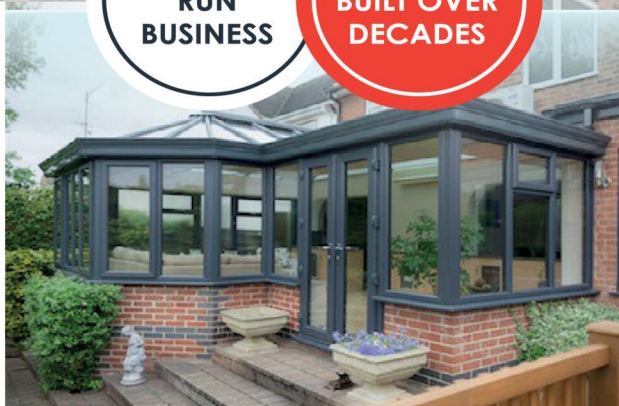


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# A magical time for all at party

by Rafi Khan  
news@bullivantmedia.com

**POPULAR** children's entertainer and magician, Magic Russ, ignited sparks of excitement as he transformed a local nursery's farewell celebration into an event the children, their families and staff would never forget.

Nursery manager Gaynor Carter said: "Marking the children's time at nursery with a final celebration is yet another way we prepare them for school, and it's something the families of our children greatly value."

The celebration to mark the end of the children's nursery journey was launched by a bubbly disco which had all the children up on their feet grooving and laughing the afternoon away.

The excitement then soared



when the Kidderminster-based entertainer Russ, brought out the stars of his show.

Thrilling acts were shown off, including Chico the mind reading monkey, Puddles the Platypus and the crowd's favourite Dave The Wonderdog.

The Wonderdog filled the hall with joyful applause at the sight of his magical and silly tricks.

The magic did not end with

the performance as each child received a Magic Russ balloon and some party treats to help them continue the celebration.

The gleeful afternoon ended as families mingled and children snacked and jovially compared their party balloons.

**Four-year-olds Isla Bowen, Hana Hamid and Ezra Brookes with Magic Russ and Chico the Monkey.**



Specsavers Kidderminster's Akram Ali, ophthalmic director and Amber Bayliss, optical assistant, at the Old Swinford Hospital School's careers fair. s

## Plenty to see at school's career fair

STAFF from Specsavers in Kidderminster helped pupils from Old Swinford Hospital School (OSH) see what a career at an opticians looked like.

The employees attended the school's careers fair which invited pupils in years nine to 12 to interact with representatives from a number of sectors, including opticians, healthcare providers, the Armed Forces and university advocates.

The local team at Specsavers Kidderminster showcased a range of optical opportunities - from front-of-house retail roles to clinical and lab-based positions, as well as apprenticeship opportunities for those not set on the university path.

Emma Singh, store director at Specsavers Kidderminster, says: "It was fantastic to be part of such a vibrant and well-attended event as OSH."

"We spoke to lots of enthusiastic students who were curious about the different routes into the optical sector."

"Our apprenticeship programme is a great alternative to university, with options for school leavers and those looking to change careers."

Visit: [join.specsavers.com/uk/explore-careers/apprenticeships-and-future-talent-at-specsavers](https://join.specsavers.com/uk/explore-careers/apprenticeships-and-future-talent-at-specsavers) to learn more about apprenticeships at Specsavers.

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**SAFARI PARK**

**SUPERHERO SUMMER**

**1<sup>st</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> AUGUST**

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**POW!!!**

# Suit up for Superhero Summer at West Midlands Safari Park

**THIS AUGUST**, families are invited to suit up and celebrate wildlife conservation in heroic style, as West Midlands Safari Park launches Superhero Summer - a month-long adventure packed with action, education, and fun.



Running from 1 to 31 August 2025, this brand-new event is packed with competitions and entertainment, all focussed around the Park's five conservation partners and the animals they protect. Guests can follow the Superhero Shield Trail, answering clues and completing exciting challenges to build their own superhero shield. Those who complete the trail will be entered into a prize draw to win a bespoke VIP experience for four. Another brand-new feature is Eddie's Safari Superhero Show, a 20-minute interactive stage show full of games, dancing, and laughter.

Taking place daily at 2pm and 3pm, the show also gives families a chance to grab a "super selfie" with the characters, as well as learning about the Park's superhero animals. Throughout the month, visitors can also meet the Park's very own superhero explorers, Eddie and Eliza at daily meet and greets and those feeling extra adventurous can take part in the Superhero Photo Competition by striking a pose at the themed photo wall and sharing it on Facebook, with the chance to win an unforgettable overnight stay in a Hippo or White Lion Safari Lodge. For those inspired to make a real-world difference, the Conservation Station offers the opportunity to chat with the Park's own conservation superheroes, who will share more about the animals at the Park and the incredible work being done to protect wildlife around the world.

The event focusses on five incredible conservation organisations supported by the Park. These include the Lemur Conservation Association in Madagascar, WildCats Conservation Alliance in Sumatra, the Mali Elephant Project, Save the Rhino International, and the Global Penguin Society. Through fundraising and awareness campaigns, the Park helps support each partner's vital work protecting endangered species and their habitats. Children can earn a special sticker by learning how they too can



help, even from their own home. Superhero Summer activities are included in the standard admission price and guests can book in advance online for the best prices, which also includes a free return visit.

For your chance to win a WMSP Family Ticket, so you and your family can enjoy Family Fun at West Midlands Safari Park, just answer the following question:

**In which month is Superhero Summer launched?**

Simply email your answer and your email contact details to:  
**Competitions@bullivantmedia.com**

All entries must be in by noon on Thursday 24th July 2025

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# Competition

## New lion cubs venture out for the first time - ready for the summer holiday visitors

THREE lion cubs at West Midlands Safari Park have made their first public appearance, delighting visitors to the venue. The 12-week old cubs ventured out into their habitat. Nero, Nox and Nancy - all animals born at the park this year have names beginning with 'N' - were encouraged by their mum, 12-year-old Amber, as they met the rest of the pride for the first time.

Head keeper of carnivores, Kasha Carter, said Amber needed to check out the surroundings before her cubs came out.

"She then encouraged her cubs to follow her out and all three were fairly confident but kept close to mum."

Kasha noted that, after spending lots of time near the lion house, they soon started to play with sticks and in the bushes and

had their first encounters with butterflies and a passing gull for the first time.

Later on, they then met half-sister Hernatty and pride member Dakota who showed them new areas to explore and things to do in the habitat, such as watching the hooftstock on the other side of the fence line. The trio of cubs first arrived in April 2025, amidst a baby boom, following the birth of three



Story: Tilly Kellaway.

Pictures:  
West Midlands Safari Park. s



Sumatran tiger cubs, an Indian rhino calf, two blesbok calves and a barasingha fawn.

Keepers said the birth of the cubs was extremely significant, as lions were currently classed as 'vulnerable' in the wild by the IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature). This is due to recent studies showing that lions now exist in only 6% of their historic range, demonstrating severe declines from habitat loss and prey depletion, as well as human-lion conflict.

Now the cubs have had their

first day out, their next steps will be introducing them to the rest of the pride, starting with the females and then eventually the males, including dad, Tsavo. The cubs big brothers, Hodge, Havoc and Harabi, can be seen with their half brother Hercules on Lion ridge in the safari walk area of the park.

West Midlands Safari Park is open daily for its summer season and guests can book in advance online for the best prices, which also includes a free return visit.

**Visit: [wmssp.co.uk](http://wmssp.co.uk) for more information and to book.**

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# Competition

## Safari Park animals chill out during heatwave with frozen treats

Creatures big and small at West Midlands Safari Park have been treated to ice lollies to help them keep cool during the recent heatwave.

As temperatures soared, keepers had been busy making frozen treats for the animals in their care, by suspending the animals' favourite foods in ice.

Tiny blueberry and apple ice blocks were made for the minuscule meerkats, whereas the

African elephants had huge fruit, vegetables and browse ice lollies, moulded using large buckets.

Discovery Trail Keeper, Jenny Garde, said, "As animal keepers it is important that we ensure the animals in our care stay comfortable during hot weather spells. One of the ways we do this is by providing them with frozen enrichment. For the lemurs and meerkats, this means making them ice lollies which contain

their favourite fruity treats such as apple and blueberry.

"A lot of the other animals around the Park, such as the sea lions and elephants, have



nice pools to dip in, but their keepers also provide them with ice blocks.

"The frozen treats not only provide the animals with cool relief but also stimulate their brains as they have to work out how to get to the suspended delights inside. Just like with us



humans, they always go down a treat!"

For the California sea lions, their ice treat also doubled as a birthday cake for Callum, who turned 19-years-old recently.


Callum enjoyed pushing the ice cake into the water and playing with it, before sharing it with his friends Jack and Bounty.

Keepers always keep a watchful eye over the animals in extreme weather, but when it's hot they have other crafty ways of keeping the animals cool, such as sprinkler sessions, creating wet spots of sand and ensuring all of

the pools and mud wallows are topped up.

Eagle-eyed visitors to the wildlife attraction may spot the animals with their icy treats and are being urged to make sure they take care in this heat too by keeping hydrated and wearing sun cream. The animals can be seen on the Safari Drive or the Safari Walk areas of the Park, included in the admission price and guests can book in advance online for the best deals, which also includes a free return visit.

**More information is available on the Park's website: [www.wmsp.co.uk](http://www.wmsp.co.uk)**






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# Public urged to think about use of water as situation worsens

WATER provider Severn Trent is urging its customers across the region to think carefully about their water use amidst this hot weather and hosepipe bans in other areas of the country.

The West Midlands is now officially 'in drought' following the third heatwave of this summer and temperatures which have soared above 30°C in the region in the last few days.

The National Drought Group (NDG) made the announcement on Tuesday as dry weather continued to impact water resources across England requiring water companies to take action to manage demand with the public being urged to use water wisely.

Since the group last met on June 5, the situation has deteriorated, with further areas, including the West and East Midlands.

Across England, rainfall was 20 per cent less than the long-term average for June.

June was also the hottest on record for England, with two heatwaves driving unusually high demand for water.

## Water levels dropping

Reservoir levels continue to fall with overall storage across England at 75.6 per cent - Yorkshire has seen its water levels drop to 53.8 per cent. This has seen its local water

company introduce a Temporary Use Ban (TUB) - commonly known as a 'hosepipe ban'.

The National Drought Group heard that - without further substantial rain - some water companies may need to implement further drought measures, including more Temporary Use Bans (TUBs) to conserve supplies.

The Environment Agency expects and will ensure that water companies follow their drought management plans. Water companies need to step up their work to fix leaks and adjust their operations to conserve water.

We contacted water provider Severn Trent to ask if the West Midlands could be subject to water limits.

A spokesperson said: "Severn Trent hasn't had a hosepipe ban for over 30 years because we know just how important it is for our customers.

"It's why we have thousands of employees working around the clock right now to keep the water flowing.

"We're finding and fixing more leaks than ever before, investing record amounts in new pipes, and upgrading and developing new treatment works, adding hundreds of millions of litres of drinking water into our network.

"So, whilst we want to reassure our customers that we're doing



Environment Agency teams are actively monitoring river levels and are urging anglers, swimmers and boaters to remain vigilant. s

everything we can to keep the water flowing, we can't escape how hot and dry it is, and how little rainfall we've had this year.

"We experienced record levels of demand just last week and that's why, as well as doing everything we can, we're also asking our custom-

ers to be even more mindful of their water usage during this hot spell."

## Think about water use

The public is being asked to think about how they use water at home as the less water they use at the

home, the more water there is for their local environment.

The National Drought Group is also asking recreational water users - such as anglers, swimmers and boaters to remain vigilant and report any environmental issues they see, such as fish in distress, acting as important eyes and ears on the ground.

Farmers are using water efficiently, supporting one another, and looking to trade water and welcome the support from the Environment Agency.

However, without further rain, the agricultural community are facing a range of challenges due to the dry weather including concerns about irrigation reservoir levels.

It is likely yields will be lower than last year, particularly non-irrigated grains and straw.

Environment Agency teams are out on the ground actively monitoring river levels, with staff working with the water sector to ensure there is enough water for the people and the environment.

Teams are also supporting farmers and abstractors with advice on how to manage abstraction during prolonged dry weather and low flows.

Fisheries teams are responding where necessary to protect fish which are struggling due to reduced oxygen or moving them if the river has dried up and they have become stranded.



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# Cathedral yard project creates 'gift to the city'

by Philippa Mingins

**A PAINSTAKING project to revitalise an outdoor area at Worcester Cathedral is now complete.**

The new space in College Yard – the main north entrance to the cathedral – has been transformed to include a central path to the city, as well as landscaping to make it a welcoming meeting point for the community.

The project is part of the cathedral's ongoing commitment to creating inclusive, accessible, and welcoming spaces for all. Whether visitors are heading into the cathedral, meeting a friend, or simply enjoying a moment of peace, the new College Yard space is open to everyone.

Work started on site in September 2024, and Fitzgerald Contractors Ltd have been working alongside a team of archaeologists from Worcestershire Archaeology



The revitalisation of College Yard is complete.

and the cathedral team on the project.

Nick Coley, managing director of Fitzgerald Contractors, explained: "The delivery of the works presented many challenges, not least of which was the extensive archaeology on the site. Working closely with the cathedral team over 100 days of archaeological excavation took place without adversely impacting on the programme."

"Over the course of the project 60 linear metres of Victorian brick stormwater

culvert have been repaired and lined, 7,200 basalt setts have been installed and around 20,000 historic river cobbles reinstalled.

"The nature of the site means the public have been able to view the works as they have progressed, which created a real buzz of anticipation and the feedback we've received on the finished project has been fantastic. We're proud to have delivered such a high-quality scheme in such an historic location."

The project has been made possible thanks to generous funding from the Kildare Trust, the Wolfson Foundation, The Dulverton Trust, Garfield Weston and the Towns Deal Levelling up Fund, as well as a number of anonymous donors.

The Dean of Worcester, The Very Revd Dr Stephen Edwards, added: "This new outdoor area is a gift to the city – a place of beauty, connection, and calm. We hope it becomes a cherished part of the community's daily rhythm."



Women have been learning essential bike repair skills.

## Bike workshops geared for women

WOMEN are pedalling their way towards empowerment in Worcester.

Bike maintenance workshop's held by Bike Worcester's bike recycling project, have been providing local women with essential cycling skills.

The hands-on sessions have seen 15 women gain confidence in bike repair under the guidance of a skilled female mechanic.

The first workshop focused on practical, accessible learning. Participants dismantled five donated bikes, learning how to salvage and repurpose the parts for future donated bikes.

At the next session, the focus was on applying their new skills to repair their own bikes, tackling common issues such as punctures, keeping chains clean and lubricated, and adjusting brakes.

After the first session, everyone reported feeling welcomed, supported and looking forward to returning to the workshop for another session.

Workshop facilitator Daisey Wallis said: "These workshops are about more than fixing flat tyres. It's about demystifying bike mechanics, building self-reliance, and creating a space where women feel

able to handle their own repairs. Seeing participants confidently tackle problems on their own bike has been rewarding for me too as I was a complete novice until I started coming to the bike recycling workshop about a year ago."

Danny Brothwell, chair of Bike Worcester, added: "Bike Worcester plans to host more women-focused and other inclusive workshops in the future. The organisation welcomes donations of used bicycles or parts for future projects."

Email [info@bikeworchester.org.uk](mailto:info@bikeworchester.org.uk) to find out more.



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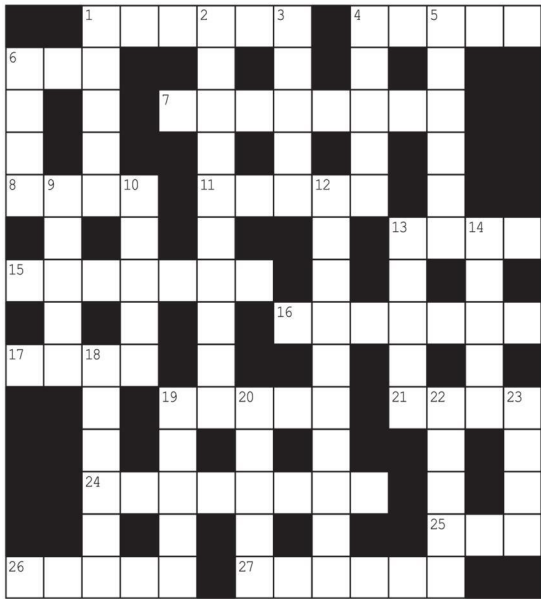






GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 A constellation, 'the Crab' (6)
- 4 Measurement of distance at sea (5)
- 6 Surname of an American Civil War general (3)
- 7 & 11 Across Playwright famous for The Country Girl, etc. (8,5)
- 8 A fairy of Persian mythology (4)
- 11 See 7 Down
- 13 Horse race for 3-year-old fillies, founded 1779 (4)
- 15 Convert and colleague of St Paul (7)
- 16 A bridge of boats (7)
- 17, 13 Down and 6 Down Epithet given to Florence Nightingale (4,2,3,4)
- 19 Subway of Paris (5)
- 21 Greek love-god (4)
- 24 & 4 Down Decoration for conspicuous bravery on the field (8,5)
- 25 & 26 Across She was called 'Evita' (3,5)
- 26 See 25 Across
- 27 Fly that carries sleeping sickness (6)



- DOWN**
- 1 A tree of Lebanon (5)
- 2 Transparent wrapping material made from viscose (10)
- 3 Firearm with a spirally grooved barrel (5)
- 4 See 24 Across
- 5 Name applied to Sidhartha Gautama, 'The Enlightened One' (6)
- 6 See 17 Across
- 9 First name of the Cockney flower girl in Shaw's Pygmalion (5)
- 10 A piano key (5)
- 12 Surveying instrument (10)
- 13 See 17 Across
- 14 Japanese city of Honshu (5)
- 18 City of Colorado, USA (6)
- 19 Kind of French wine (5)
- 20 Freshwater fish esteemed as food (5)
- 22 Monetary unit of Pakistan, etc. (5)
- 23 Very aggressive seabird (4)

SOLUTIONS

**General Knowledge Crossword**

ACROSS: 1 Cancer; 4 Cable; 6 Lee; 7 Clifford; 8 Peri; 11 Odes; 13 Oaks; 15 Timothy; 16 Pontoon; 17 Lady; 19 Metro; 21 Eros; 24 Victoria; 25 Eva; 26 Peron; 27 Tsetse.

DOWN: 1 Cedar; 2 Celtophane; 3 Riffe; 4 Cross; 5 Buddha; 6 Lamp; 9 Eliza; 10 Ivory; 12 Theodolite; 13 Of the; 14 Kyoto; 18 Denver; 19 Macon; 20 Trout; 22 Rupee; 23 Skua.

**Crossword**

ACROSS: 1 Predecessor; 9 Nip; 10 Timepiece; 11 Offer; 13 Imitate; 14 Cynics; 16 Egoist; 18 Ringlet; 19 Tight; 20 Eliminate; 21 Ago; 22 Alternately; Down: 2 Rip; 3 Deter; 4 Commit; 5 Sapling; 6 Operating; 7 Unconcerned; 8 Detestation; 12 Financial; 15 Collide; 17 Altair; 19 Treat; 21 All.

**Wordwheel Pathfinder**

Elvis Presley, The Beatles, Cliff Richard, Westlife, Madonna, Take That, The Shadows, Abba, Eminem, Calvin Harris, Rihanna, Spice Girls, Oasis, The Rolling Stones, Jess Glynne, Michael Jackson, Rod Stewart, Robbie Williams.

**Niner**

LAUNDRIES

**Ladder**

Wing, King, Bull, Bill, Will, Wild, Wind, 1=D, 2=B, 3=U, 4=R, 5=Q, 6=N, 7=Z, 8=E, 9=F, 10=L, 11=P, 12=A, 13=W, 14=X, 15=J, 16=T, 17=H, 18=S, 19=Y, 20=O, 21=I, 22=C, 23=M, 24=G, 25=K, 26=V

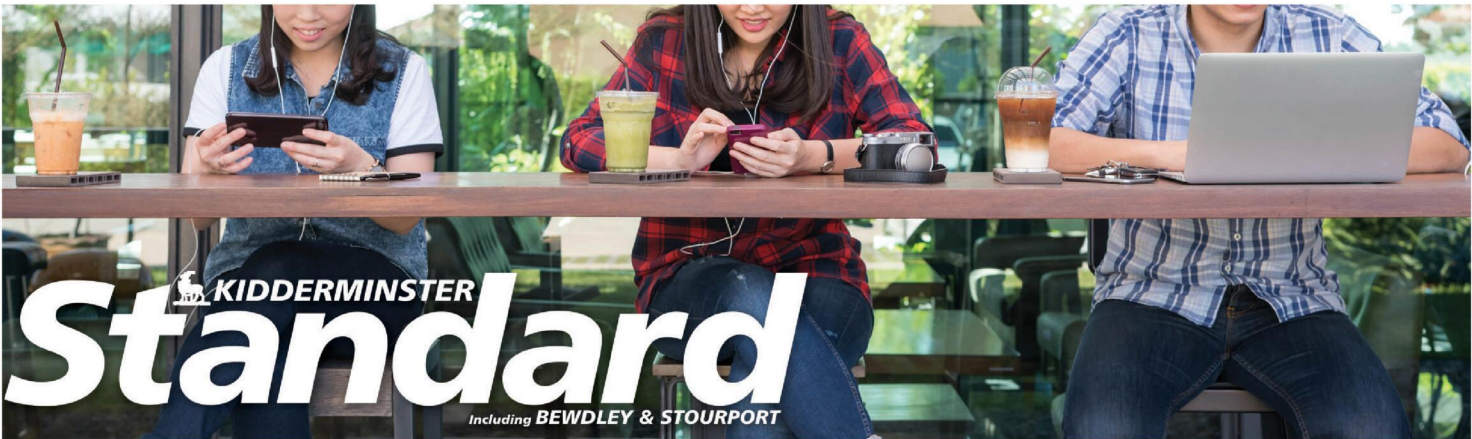
**Codeword**

4	8	3	1	5	2	7	6	9
2	5	9	3	6	7	1	4	8
2	5	9	3	6	7	1	4	8
1	7	6	8	4	9	2	3	5
6	3	4	5	2	8	9	7	1
7	2	5	9	1	3	6	8	4
8	4	2	7	9	6	5	1	3
3	6	1	2	8	5	4	9	7
5	9	7	4	3	1	8	2	6

**Easy**

5	9	6	7	2	1	3	8	4
8	2	3	6	4	5	7	1	9
1	7	4	3	8	9	5	2	6
3	1	8	6	7	9	5	2	6
9	6	5	1	3	2	8	4	7
7	4	2	9	5	8	6	3	1
2	5	1	8	9	6	4	7	3
6	3	7	5	1	4	2	9	8
4	8	9	2	7	3	1	6	5

**Hard**



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BLACK ash filing cabinet £10 D39 x W45 x H62 cms Tel: 07831 488658

SMALL TV Oak Effect Corner Unit As New £50 ono Tel: 07879015716

SIX Oak Dining Chairs (black seats) Good Condition £50 ono Tel: 07879015716

### MISCELLANEOUS

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## Maserati wows festival crowds

**A MEMORABLE edition of the Goodwood Festival of Speed draws to a close, and Maserati bids farewell to the British public after four days celebrating Italian excellence.**

Amidst the world-bests, the Trident captivated motorsport fans with a charismatic and high-adrenaline presence, track runs, world premieres, and a paddock showcasing the very best of luxury and performance.

Among the standout highlights was the debut of the new MCPURA Super Sports Car, the purest expression of Maserati's performance-driven philosophy, which was unveiled on Thursday, July 10.

The MCPURA takes the spirit of the MC20 and elevates it, bringing it to its most intense and refined form.

Available immediately in both coupé and convertible versions (the latter dubbed MCPURA Cielo) this new model features four defining elements: a carbon fiber monocoque, the iconic Nettuno V6 engine with a patented pre-chamber combustion technology, the "Butterfly" doors, and the retractable electrochromic glass roof for the cabrio version.

In terms of dynamics, it was the Maserati GT2 Stradale that stole the show, lighting up the legendary Hillclimb with its deep, magnetic sound—delivered by a brand-new racing exhaust system.

Its mechanical symphony electrified the crowd, turning each run into a visceral experience.

Born directly from Maserati's expertise on international race-

tracks, the GT2 Stradale is the road-legal version of the iconic GT2 race car that marked Maserati's return to victory in GT championships.

The extraordinary roar came from a new racing exhaust system developed by Maserati Corse in collaboration with TubiStyle, a benchmark in high-performance exhaust and supplier of the original system for the legendary MC12.

Built exclusively for track use and crafted from high quality titanium, the new system reduces weight by 7kilograms compared to the standard setup, enhancing the car's dynamic capabilities even further.

Every component is welded by hand to the highest artisanal standards, reflecting Maserati's commitment to technical and stylistic excellence. Created to amplify the performance of the engine, the new system delivers a direct and authentic sound that mirrors the GT2 Stradale's sporty character and Maserati's deep roots in motorsport.

With this new system, Maserati Corse reaffirms its role in the development of high-performance solutions.

Moreover, on the same track as the legendary Hillclimb, two different interpretations of Maserati competed in a perfect alternation of dynamic refinement and extreme power. Under the spotlight, the new GranCabrio 490 hp, sporting a refined Verde Giada livery, with perforated Ice top grain leather interiors, powered by a 3.0 litres V6 Nettuno Twin Turbo engine, the GranCabrio reaches a top speed of 300 km/h and can sprint from 0 to 100 km/h in just 4 seconds.

Crowning the event, the exclusive MCXtrema made its debut

at the event, showing a spectacular Blue Xtrema livery. Homologated for track use only and limited to just 62 units, the MCXtrema is a true racing beast, equipped with a V6 3.0-litre twin-turbo derived from Nettuno producing 740 hp of pure power for an extreme driving experience.

Goodwood 2025 thus comes to a close under the unmistakable sign of the Trident, which stole the show with the world premiere of MCPURA, the introduction of the new racing exhaust, and the presence of its most striking models both in the Super Paddock and on the challenging Hillclimb, defining Maserati's unique interpretation of high-performance luxury.

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## Harriers start run of friendlies with victory against Droitwich Spa

by Aaron Sutcliffe  
aaron.sutcliffe@bullivantmedia.com

**FOOTBALL:** ADAM Murray praised the mentality of his players after Kidderminster Harriers began pre-season with a 1-0 victory at Droitwich Spa.

An early goal from summer signing Dan Mooney ensured Harriers made a winning start to pre-season at the King George Playing Fields.

Harriers named two trialists in their starting line-up while a further three trialists featured on the bench along with a number of young players and new signings.

And Murray felt the friendly acted as a good first test for his side in their opening pre-season fixture.

Murray said: "I enjoyed it, it was exactly what the first real pre-season game normally looks like there were a lot of changes and a little bit of rustiness.

"It was a good game, it was really physical and a real game. We'll take a lot out of it, we didn't risk a few of the boys that put in a real shift in training.

"I'm really happy with the outcome. This was a mentality game in terms of the pitch wasn't going to be great, you're going to have to make your own atmosphere and it's a tough environment to come into.

"But we're going to face that in our league, we can't just expect that everything is going to be rosy, that's not the National League North.



Kidderminster Harriers were put through their paces by Droitwich Spa. Picture by Mathew Mason.

"It was important that I saw the mentality of the players, even the young boys coming on showed the same mentality to win."

Harriers played Championship side Swansea City in a behind-closed-doors friendly prior to taking on Droitwich.

And following victory against Droitwich, Murray wants his side to create a winning habit ahead of the 2025/26 National League North season.

Murray added: "We had a training game [at Swansea], it was more about the physicals, we spent a lot of time without the ball

in crazy heat.

"The Droitwich game was more of a down to earth game where you've got to battle, do the basics and try and break a block down which we did well.

"I'm happy with the progress the boys are making, I'm happy with the stage we're at.

"It's important we keep building that mentality and that winning habit."

Harriers are next in action against Shrewsbury Town on Saturday, July 19 with kick-off at 3pm at the Croud Meadow.

## Women's team make six signings

KIDDERMINSTER Harriers Women have revealed the club's retained and released list following the conclusion of the 2024/25 season.

Some six players will depart the club after Harriers won a league and cup double last term.

Alex Nicklin and Lil Beth Brown have both retired while Ellie Mae Locke, Imogen Poile, Zara Gibbs and Mollie Mae Summers will also depart Harriers.

The club have retained 13 players from the side which achieved promotion to the Women's National League last season.

Ruby Hill, Izzie Whittick, Sophie Levick, Ellie McGovern, Macey Turvey, Chiara Stokes, Grace Rogers, Phoebe Hill, Beth Gallagher, Amber Lawrence, Mill Rogers, Eloise Harris and Mia Badland have all agreed to stay with the club at Step Four.

Harriers Women have made a number of new signings ahead of the upcoming 2025/26 campaign.

Full-back Beth Grady has signed for Harriers following spells with Boldmere St Michaels and Alvechurch. Teenage midfielder-

er Mary Brittain has joined Harriers on loan from Cheltenham Town.

And winger Olivia Woolston brings a wealth of Step Four experience to Kidderminster's squad.

Harriers have also signed young midfielder Oliwia Wronska-Stokes from Birmingham City.

And Chloe Evans has returned to the club following a previous spell with Harriers eight years ago.

Defender Keira Newell has also joined the club to form part of Andy Fisher's squad next season.

Harriers will play in the National League Division One Midlands in 2025/26.

Kidderminster will start the season with a trip to Sheffield FC on Sunday, August 17.

Harriers will then host Northampton Town in their first home game of the season on Sunday, August 24.

And Harriers have also discovered their Women's National League Cup opponents.

Harriers have been drawn in Group F alongside Birmingham PGA, Worcester City and Cheltenham Town.



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