

u3a on track for station accolade

WYRE Forest u3a group is celebrating after being short-listed in the Community Rail Partnership Awards in recognition of its work at Kidderminster Station.

It started when group member Sue suggested adopting the station so it could bring about improvements to reflect the town's history and community spirit.

A dedicated 'Kidderminster Station Adoption' group was formed within Wyre Forest u3a to coordinate the efforts of volunteers.

Since the adoption in 2022, the team has accomplished a variety of improvements, including building a 'bug hotel' to support local wildlife, planting a herb garden for commuters to enjoy, transforming a once-neglected bank into a well-tended woodland area and repurposing an old boat into a planter with signage referencing Kidderminster's twin town, Husum.

Other projects have included a display honouring Kidderminster's carpet-making heritage and plaques around the station that highlight

by **Tristan Harris**
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significant historical sites. A new noticeboard also keeps the public updated on Wyre Forest u3a activities.

The project has enabled members to apply their personal and professional skills in creative ways.

Sue drew on her background as a project manager, while former engineers John and Gilbert contributed their expertise to refurbish the boat planter.

Mike used his computer-aided design experience to develop visuals for installations, which helped communicate ideas with train operators and suppliers.

The u3a gardening group revitalised the green spaces, and another member named Sue, who leads the Industrial History group, partnered with the Museum of Carpet to secure display boards.

Tony, a photography enthusiast, documented the progress and shared the images on the Wyre Forest u3a website and station displays.



Members of the Wyre Forest u3a with the boat planter - one of many improvements the group has brought to Kidderminster Station. s

Sue said: "We were amazed and exceedingly proud to see that we had been shortlisted and especially placed in the GOLD category of 'Its Your Station'.

"It certainly made all of our efforts worthwhile that we had been recognised after a very long road to get our projects under way."

The transformation has not gone unnoticed by commuters and visitors.

Sue added: "When we work on the gardens, many people come and talk to us and ask who we

are and why we are doing it. We get many 'thanks' from passers-by who appreciate what we are doing for the community.

"One commuter also sent us an email thanking us for making her regular trips to the station more pleasant.

"People are learning all about Kidderminster and its rich heritage."

This year marked the 20th anniversary of the Community Rail Partnership Awards, which celebrate the volunteers, groups, and partnerships making a difference

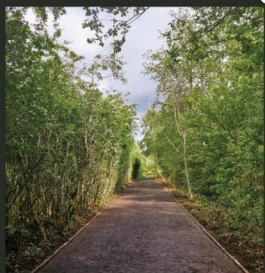
in their communities and at UK rail stations.

Wyre Forest u3a earned a place on the shortlist in the 'Its Your Station' category and was awarded a Certificate of Excellence.

Sue added u3a members had a wealth of experience, knowledge and skills and set about bringing them to create cheer and interest to Kidderminster Station which would be visited by so many people for many years to come.

Visit wyreforestu3a.org.uk/ for more on the group and how to join.

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News in brief

POLICE carried out speed checks on roads in Stourport and Kidderminster over the weekend and clocked 71 motorists going above the limit.

Officers were out with their speed guns on Minster Road, north of Stourport, and on the A448 Bromsgrove Road in Kidderminster.

The police were responding to road safety concerns, in particular speeding, raised by residents in those local communities.

West Mercia Police said: "Speeding can have a devastating impact on the safety of road users, increasing the risk of a collision and the severity of the consequences.

"If prosecuted for speeding, the minimum penalty is a £100 fine and three penalty points.

"Enforcing the speed limit is a 24/7 activity for us so don't risk it."

CASH and jewellery were stolen during a burglary overnight between last Thursday and Friday (April 3 and 4).

Thieves struck at the property on Church Avenue, ransacking the place before they escaped with their haul.

People living in the area are urged to check CCTV or Ring doorbell footage to see if they have captured anything of interest.

AN EASTER gathering to raise funds for a Kidderminster craft and wellbeing community group will take place on Wednesday, April 16.

The event, from 11.30am to 2.30pm in the Cinema Room at Berrington Court, will feature tea, homemade cake, a craft table, floral arrangements and more.

New Kidd on the block

WELCOME to your new print edition of the Kidderminster Standard, also covering Stourport and Bewdley.

We will be bringing you news, sports, events, features and more in our editions which will be available from every Friday, along with daily updates at: kidderminsterstandard.co.uk - the Kidderminster Standard website.

We want to hear from schools, churches, community groups, sports clubs, charities and individuals with a story to tell or an event to publicise.

Our news and sport team are waiting to hear from you regarding stories we can cover.

We also provide advertising opportunities for businesses, events, family announcements, public notices and more - both in the print edition and on our website.

The print edition is also available to view in its digital form at: kidderminsterstandard.co.uk/edition every Friday so you can read it on your mobile phone, tablet or laptop.

Bullivant Media Group, which is bringing you the Kidderminster Standard, already has a solid track record on delivering local newspapers and websites with successful titles across Worcestershire (including the Bromsgrove and Redditch Standards), Warwickshire and the West Midlands.



Our qualified and talented journalists will bring you news, sport and events every week and we pride ourselves on bringing you all the local stories for your area.

We want to hear from organisations, including schools, churches, charities, clubs, societies and more.

For businesses, the Kidderminster

Standard will offer very competitive rates for advertising in print and online, and will be offering an excellent service locally.

The Kidderminster Standard will be part of the established Observer Standard Group of 18 local newspaper titles and 12 local websites that span Worcestershire, Warwickshire and the West Midlands.

Get in touch

If you have news to tell, email me, editor Tristan Harris, at: editor@kidderminsterstandard.co.uk or call 01562 541506.

For sales, email Duncan Shaw at: duncan.shaw@bullivantmedia.com or call 01562 541500.

We also want to hear from you about what you think of the Kidderminster Standard and what you would like to see in the paper and on the website - please feel free to get in touch.

We look forward to hearing from you and being part of the thriving Kidderminster, Stourport and Bewdley communities.

Tristan Harris
Editor

Kidderminster Standard

Kidderminster Standard editor Tristan Harris wants to hear from you about what you think of the paper and website and your stories and events. s

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Stalls at Jelleyfest. s



All proceeds will go to help maintain the historic Jelleymans Mill. s

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Plenty for visitors to see and do at town's Spring Spectacular festival

JELLEYMAN'S Heritage Arts Charity in Kidderminster is hosting its Spring Spectacular from 11am to 4pm tomorrow (Saturday, April 12).

Jelleyfest at Jelley Mill aims to support the charity's ongoing efforts to raise vital funds for enriching art classes, workshops, and community projects, as well as the preservation and restoration of the beautiful Victorian industrial mill.

The event promises a vibrant and engaging experience for all ages, featuring a diverse array of attractions.

The highlight of the day will be a live music performance, courtesy of the Rub-A-Dub Pub Club, which will be providing an fantastic soundtrack to the festivities.

Attendees can also explore more than 50 indoor craft stalls, participate in a dedicated children's craft area and enjoy the grand opening of the new community cafe.

Visitors will also have the opportunity to view plans for the mill's new garden project, witness open craft workshops at the 'Craft

Jelley', eat some delicious hot food from various stalls or visit the two fully stocked bars available.

Those attending will be directly contributing to the preservation of an historical landmark that represents a key part of Kidderminster's industrial, carpet manufacturing heritage.

Samuel Davis, CEO of Jelleyman's Heritage Arts Charity, said: "We are incredibly excited to welcome the community to Jelleyman's Heritage Arts Charity.

"This fundraiser is crucial for us to continue our work in providing accessible arts opportunity and to preserve and restore this important part of Kidderminster's industrial heritage.

"We encourage everyone to join us for a day of fun, creativity and community spirit."

Entry is free, with a 'pay what you can' approach encouraged - all proceeds going to the charity.

Visit Jelleyman's Mill, Puxton Lane, Kidderminster, on April 12 and go to: jhac.co.uk for more details.

PUBLIC NOTICES



For all the latest information on Planning Proposals, Traffic Notices, Goods Vehicle Operator Licences, Licences To Sell Alcohol and Probate Notices check out our Classified Section



Heat is on Steven to complete massive Sahara fundraiser

Man loses 17 stone for Acorns challenge inspired by niece

A KIDDERMINSTER man is set to trek across the world's hottest desert to raise funds for Acorn's Children's Hospice.

Steven Duffield, who moved to the town three years ago, has shed more than 17st in less than a year ahead of what promises to be a grueling 1,880-mile trek for his chosen cause. He has set himself a fundraising target of £4,000 which he hopes to surpass.

The inspiration behind his epic journey is his beloved 11-year-old niece, Meggie, who relies on the critical support of Acorns for the Three Counties for rehabilitative respite care and family services.

Complex

She has a highly complex, rare and life limiting chromosome disorder known as Trisomy 9 mosaic syndrome. She requires permanent care, is non-verbal, unable to take solid food, has a compromised immune system and was born with several of her major organs twisted, fused and in the wrong place.

Steven, who was almost 30st in weight, made the decision to change his life two years ago and committed to improving his health.

He said: "When I started walking, it was just six miles in the first month – and that was more than enough for me at the time."

"But I stuck at it, walking more and more and I'm now up to 25 miles

by Tristan Harris
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a day. As the weight fell off, my mental health improved drastically too. I slowly began to feel like myself again.

"My dad, who we lost to dementia five years ago, was always fond of walking so walking makes me feel close to him too in many ways, and to appreciate life."

Steven is channeling his passion for walking and the great outdoors to give back.

Following a trip to Tunisia, where he first experienced the beauty of the Sahara Desert, Steven eagerly embraced the idea of trekking the Sahara.

Steven said: "A friend of mine thought I was actually walking all the way from Kidderminster to the Sahara."

"We had a good laugh when I explained the mix-up, but the idea stuck with me - I couldn't shake how incredible that challenge would be."

"Now, here I am. Whilst I'm not physically walking to the Sahara, I'm covering the exact same distance, and hoping to raise even more money for Acorns because of it."

In a full circle moment for Steven, he's covering this distance of 1,880 miles along the same local canals, nature reserves and trails where he first embarked on his remarkable weight loss journey, transforming both his physical health and mental wellbeing.

Steven added: "Acorns has been a lifeline for my



Steven Duffield recently met up with Kidderminster Mayor, Coun George Connolly, to talk about his Sahara Desert challenge.

sister and her family. It's about more than just Meggie - they care for the whole family, including her twin brother, through sibling groups and family fun days."

He added when Meggie stays overnight she gets to enjoy herself and her mum and dad can get much-needed rest knowing she is in expert hands.

Since February, Steven has been walking up six hours every day, carrying a 30lb backpack, aiming to cover all 1,880 miles before the Sahara trek in October - that equates to more than 72 marathons and over 4.2 million steps.

Raising awareness

Steven is also explaining his challenge and raising awareness of the hospice's work through his very own business cards, complete with a QR code linking to his fundraising page.

And he is reaching out to local businesses and planning a summer music festival to boost his funds.

He added: "I'm doing everything I can because I understand firsthand what families like mine go through."

"Living with Meggie, I see every day how poorly she is and the reality of having a child with a life-limiting condition."

"I've watched her go in and out of hospital, never knowing one day to the next if she would make it."

He added: "Whenever I'm out walking and my feet start to ache or the rain's pouring down, I just think about Meggie and other children at Acorns."

"It's a powerful reminder that any discomfort I feel is nothing compared to what they go through."

Visit justgiving.com/page/saharayomp4acorns to support Steven and donate to his cause and go to: acorns.org.uk for more on Acorns Children's Hospice and the support it offers.



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LEFT: The 17th Wyre Forest Scouts' Stourport (Mid Severn) Sea Scouts' groups undertook four nights' worth of litter-picking. ABOVE: The 3rd Kidderminster Rainbows cleared the whole of Habberley Playing Fields. RIGHT: The 18th Wyre Forest Scouts Arley Kings beavers collected four bags of litter and spring-cleaned their field. s

Groups making a tidy difference

SCOUT and guide groups from across Wyre Forest have been out and about tidying their local areas as part of the Great British Spring Clean.

The annual event is organised by Keep Britain Tidy and encourages people and groups to spruce up where they live as the nights get lighter and so it is looking pristine for when summer arrives.

Sea Scouts

The 17th Wyre Forest Scouts' Stourport (Mid Severn) Sea Scouts' groups, including Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts sections spent their four section nights clearing the litter from the streets

for their local community. In total, they collected 15 bags of litter.

Karen Blanchfield, who is a Keep Britain Tidy ambassador, a Wyre Forest Scout Leader and founder of the Droitwich-based Little Litter Warriors, joined them for two of the nights.

She congratulated all involved and said: "The enthusiasm and determination to collect every piece of litter they could find was inspiring."

Beavers

The 18th Wyre Forest Scouts Arley Kings beaver section picked litter from their field and community areas around their scout hut. They collected four bags full of

litter, ensuring they had completely spring cleaned their field.

Karen said: "A huge thank you to all involved and well done guys - amazing effort."

Rainbows

The 3rd Kidderminster Rainbows loved their litter pick, joining in the Keep Britain Tidy campaign.

The girls split into three groups and managed to cover the whole of Habberley Playing Fields, giving it a well-deserved spring clean.

Karen said: "They even raced each other to pick up the litter and collect it first."

"At first it looked very tidy, it looked like it had been recently picked - but once they started litter

hunting, the girls started to see all the litter."

"Huge shout of thanks to the 3rd Kidderminster Rainbows - thank you all."

They collected two full bags in total.

And eight bags of litter were collected by the Cubs from the Arley Kings Scout Group.

"Karen said: "Massive thank you to all the cubs for such fantastic litter picking."

"Well done - your bag count will be added to Keep Britain Tidy #gbspringclean count."

"Huge thank you also to Vel, Hayley and Becky from Food Share Wyre Forest and Community Cafe for giving our cubs a hot chocolate and treats as a thank you for litter

picking their community areas."

Litter Warriors link-up

The equipment was made available by the Little Litter Warriors, sponsored by Wyre Forest District Council which provided it.

Karen added: "We offer up the equipment and the Scout and Guide groups book it for a time and then organise their own litter-picks."

"It is a real community effort and great to see so many people come together to tidy their local areas."

Visit the Little Litter Warriors Facebook page for more information.

Visit this story at kidderminster-standard.co.uk for more pictures of the litter picks.




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SVR hope to start bridge repairs soon

THE SEVERN Valley Railway can now move ahead with repairs after the landslide at Mor Brook bridge in late January.

The heritage line's insurers have decided to settle its claim in respect of the incident.

The insurers have agreed to pay for the full reinstatement of the bridge's wing wall and stone arch as well as the embankment itself. The railway says the final costs will be significantly more than \$500,000.

The SVR's managing director, Jonathan 'Gus' Dunster said he was delighted by the insurers' decision which meant they could now get on with the repairs.

"Nevertheless, the SVR is still going to be responsible for funding a substantial excess as part of the settlement.

"We are still in negotiation with the insurers about the exact

by **Tristan Harris**
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amount, but thanks to the generous donations supporters have made to the SVR Resilience Fund and the SVR Charitable Trust since the landslide, we are confident we will be able to cover this.

"What's important here is that our insurance company's acceptance of the claim means we will not have to launch a full-scale appeal for the landslide repairs, which would have meant further delays before we could put things right."

SVR has appointed civil engineering contractors CML to carry out all the works required at Mor Brook to reinstate the line. The railway's infrastructure management and permanent way teams will work with CML to provide logistical support and carry out track work.



The landslide happened in late January at Mor Brook bridge. Picture by Matt Fielding. s

SVR head of infrastructure Chris Bond said CML must carry out essential and detailed civil engineering design work and in the next three to four weeks, the SVR's permanent way team would remove track in preparation for works to commence.

"Subject to statutory approvals from the Environment Agency and National Grid, we hope to start the main contract works within six to eight weeks," he added.

"Timescales are still subject to the production of a final programme

of works, and we will provide an update on this in due course."

Mr Bond added it was currently impossible to pin down a finish date as there were many variables.

But he said it was unlikely to be completed before the middle of the summer and could be even later.

Mr Dunster paid tribute to both Antony Bartlam, the consultant civil and structural engineer and SVR volunteer, and Mr Bond for the dedication and hard work they had already put in to get the scheme to this important stage.

And he thanked everyone who had donated, including the Bahamas Locomotive Society which was donating a day's steaming fee when the loco 45596 comes to the Spring Steam Gala later this month.

"We are humbled at the level of support that we've received," said Mr Dunster.

Visit the website at svr.co.uk for more on the SVR's upcoming enthusiast events - the Spring Steam Gala between April 18 and 21 and the Spring Diesel Festival from May 15 to 18.



Teams at Specsavers meet Nightstop's CEO, Judith Ford and fundraising manager, Coralie Hudson to get ready for the fundraising campaign. s

Nightstop campaign needs your support

A SOUTH Worcestershire charity working towards ending youth homelessness is calling on other businesses to support its latest campaign.

Wyre Forest and South Worcestershire Nightstop and Mediation Service is launching its 20/20 Campaign to celebrate its 20th anniversary.

The project, supported by Specsavers Manufacturing and Distribution, is focused on their shared vision of ending youth homelessness. The charity is inviting 20 other local businesses to step forward right now, pledge their support and be part of creating lasting change by each committing to raise at least £1,000 to help fund Nightstop's vital services for young people facing homelessness.

Wyre Forest and South Worcestershire Nightstop and Mediation Service provides critical support to local young people in crisis (aged 16 to 35) by offering safe, emergency accommodation.

The charity's preventative work also includes mediation services for young people (aged 11 to 25) and their families to resolve con-

licts, prevent family breakdown and avoid future homelessness.

It also delivers educational programmes in schools to raise awareness and improve communication skills.

Nightstop's 20/20 campaign seeks to raise awareness of increasing youth homelessness and raise vital funds to support vulnerable local young people, ensuring they have a safe place to stay and a pathway to a brighter future.

Coralie Hudson, fundraising manager at Nightstop, said: "We are delighted to have the support of Specsavers to help us shine a light on youth homelessness in our community."

The 20/20 campaign will feature fundraising events, community engagement schemes and a December awards ceremony, all designed to drive meaningful change locally.

Rachel Baldwin, operations manager at Specsavers manufacturing and distribution, said: "We believe in making a real difference in people's lives, especially in our own local community."

"Partnering for the 20/20 Campaign aligns with our com-

mitment to social impact, ensuring young people have the support they need to build a stable and successful future."

Visit the website at

wyreforestnightstop.org.uk/2020challenge or contact Coralie via email CHudson@wnightstop.org or phone 01562 743111 for more information.

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Tales of Harley and Pepi help Jeanne realise writing dream



Pepi and Harley in their illustrated form. s

by **Tristan Harris**
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A FORMER Miss Kidderminster and owner of a pamper party salon has written a series of children's books, inspired by her two dogs.

Jeanne Frith, who runs Pink Lemonade and also works at The Confidence Clinic in Hartlebury, first had an ambition to write a children's book when she was 13 years old.

She started it but never finished it and then one day, while she was out walking her two dogs, the idea for the book she had always wanted to write came to her, with her Yorkshire terrier Pepi and sausage dog Harley, as the main characters.

Whilst walking around Springfield Park, she came up with a short story and wrote it.

Jeanne said: "When I got home I said to my children, I'd written a book and when I read it to them, they didn't believe I had written it."

"The next day on my dog walk I wrote another one."

"The same thing happened and eventually I had written 10



short rhyming stories.

"For the next few months, every time I saw my son Carter, he was asking me what I was going to do with my books, asking if I had found an illustrator and 'would I get my books published?'"

Jeanne, who won Miss Kidderminster in 1986, has lived in the town for 50 years and has lots of clients here, needed an illustrator for some pictures to go with her words.

Her sister Helen Mikolajczyk

suggested she contact Nicola Christopher, a local teacher at Heronswood School and a talented artist.

Jeanne, who then commissioned Nicola to provide the illustrations, said: "She is an amazing artist - in fact, I don't think she realises how good she is."

"I give her a story and she produces such detailed pictures and it's just how I imagined them to be - it's like she's in my head."

As well as telling the tales of Harley and Pepi's escapades, each book also contains a lesson for the young readers to learn.

Jeanne has 10 books in the series and two have been published so far, via Amazon - 'Harley, Pepi and the Treasure Map' and 'Harley, Pepi and a Christmas Tale'.

In the first one, the canine pair find a treasure map and go in search of gold and jewels and in the second, it is Christmas Eve and Harley and Pepi cannot sleep - so they go out into the snowy night.

Both are available through Amazon and in two independent bookshops - Script Haven in Worcester and The Violet Bookshop in Upton-upon-Severn.

Jeanne is doing a book reading to children in Upton on May 29 and is hoping to get another couple of her creations into print this year.

Visit: amazon.co.uk and search for 'Harley, Pepi' to find the books or click through from the story on our [kidderminsterstandard.co.uk](https://www.kidderminsterstandard.co.uk) website.

Jeanne with sausage dog Harley and Yorkshire terrier Pepi, the inspirations for her books. s

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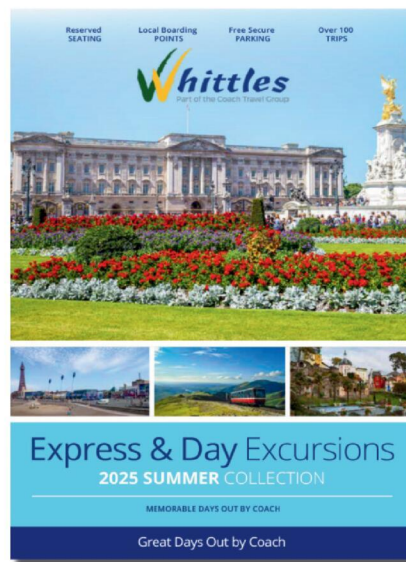


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Man jailed for attacking police

by **Sonny Rackham**
sonny.rackham@bullivantmedia.com

A MAN who climbed a derelict building in Kidderminster before throwing items off it and eventually assaulting police officers has been sentenced to 26 weeks in prison.

Stephen Collett, 40, of no fixed abode, was arrested after climbing the scaffolding around Derwent House at around 3am on March 29.

Collett had been throwing numerous items including windows and metal off

the scaffold from the tenth floor.

He was also seen to be endangering the public and police officers.

He had armed himself with a retractable knife he stole from the building - which is due to be demolished - further causing concerns for his welfare.

Stand-off

After a stand-off for several hours which including with negotiators, the fire and ambulance services, he was persuaded to come down and was arrested. He later assaulted two police officers.

At Kidderminster

Magistrates Court, Collett was convicted of multiple offences after pleading guilty to each count.

He was sentenced to 26 weeks imprisonment and was ordered to pay \$50 compensation to each of the officers he assaulted.

Convicted

Collett was convicted of using threatening behaviour to provoke unlawful violence, burglary other than dwelling, possession of a blade, criminal damage, harassment, breach of a restraining order and two counts of assault of an emergency worker.



Police believe the blaze at the former fire station was started deliberately. s

Former fire station blaze 'was arson'

A BLAZE broke out at the former Kidderminster Fire Station last Thursday evening and West Mercia Police believe the fire was started deliberately.

Two Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service crews - one from Kidderminster and one from Bromsgrove - were sent to the scene at 6.16pm.

The blaze was in the appliance bay of the former fire station in Castle Road.

Firefighters used water jets to extinguish the fire and crews carried out a full search of the building without finding any further fires or casualties.

Positive pressure ventilation was used to clear smoke from the building.

The premises were boarded up and the alarm silenced and re-set.

West Mercia Police also attended the incident.

A police spokesperson said a pile of wood was set alight and spread to the building.

"The fire is being treated as arson and enquiries are ongoing."

Witnesses or anyone with information should call police on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Pair arrested in Blakedown are facing Class A drugs charges

TWO men appeared in court last Thursday, charged with drug-dealing offences following arrests made in Blakedown two days before.

Syed Bilal Ahmad, 25 of Gheluvelt Avenue, Kidderminster was charged with possession with intent to supply a class A drug - cocaine and being con-

cerned in the supply of a class A drug.

Bradley Penn, 28, of Corbett Road, Brierley Hill, West Midlands faces the same charges.

Both the men were bailed with conditions and are set to appear at Worcester Crown Court on May 1.



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Sharing Kitty's Holocaust story

STUDENTS at The Stourport High School and Sixth Form College were gripped by the telling of one woman's Holocaust testimony.

Second generation Holocaust experts Peter and Moira Hart spoke to more than 130 history and philosophy students from years nine, 12 and 13 about the Second World War atrocity.

Their talk was based on the life of Peter's mother, Kitty Hart-Moxon, who survived the Nazi concentration camps and later helped establish the Holocaust Educational Trust.

Now, aged 98, the task of ensuring new generations never forget and learn that it must never happen again has fallen to Peter and his wife.

History teacher Ben Riley said: "The students listened intently to the harrowing account of Kitty's experience from 1939 to 1945 and how she went on to live her life. "As well as horrific it was also inspirational and they were full of questions for Peter and Moira to further their understanding. We are very grateful to them for taking the time to come and talk to us."

Polish-born Jew Kitty and



Moira and Peter Hart with Stourport High students at the Holocaust testimony event.

her mother survived being taken prisoner by the Nazis, which included time at Auschwitz, but her father, older brother and grandmother were killed.

After the war she and her mother came to live in Birmingham with her aunt who had escaped to England in 1938 and Kitty became a radiographer.

She has written two autobiographies, featured in two TV documentaries and in 2003 received the OBE for her work in Holocaust education.

The talk followed a visit to Auschwitz by four sixth form students, in conjunction with the Holocaust Educational Trust, in February.

Sixth former Saffy Watters said: "After visiting Auschwitz as part of the lessons from the Holocaust series, I think we must recognise our shared responsibility in rejecting complacency in the face of discrimination, ensuring that 'Never Again' is not an empty refrain but a guiding principle for the future."



Jessie-Lee Dolan, Ruben Gill and Gracie Moseley from the school's panathlon team.

Celebrating their place in the final

A GROUP of pupils from Hartlebury CE Primary School are through to the national finals of a sporting challenge after beating off strong competition at local and county levels.

The six year five and six youngsters claimed top spot in the Panathlon Challenge, leading the field in activities including boccia, new age kurling, table cricket, precision beanbag throwing and basketball skills.

Toni Branagh, Hartlebury CE Primary School's assistant headteacher, said: "The Panathlon is a brilliant opportunity for children to compete, to shine, build friendships and feel part of a team."

"They are so excited to be heading off to the national finals which will be in Birmingham in June. It will be an incredible experience for them and we wish them the very best of luck."

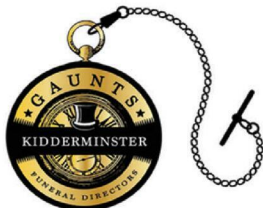
SCHOOLS, colleges and nurseries across Kidderminster, Stourport and Bewdley can send in their stories for the Kidderminster Standard print edition and the kidderminsterstandard.co.uk website.

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On Thursday 1st May from 5pm – 8pm, prospective students can visit the Colleges Worcester or Redditch campuses to get a deeper understanding of the adult and higher education courses on offer at HoW College.

The departments will be on hand throughout the evening to provide comprehensive information and guidance about the courses on offer and how they can kickstart your future. Whether you're looking to advance in your career, change your career path, gain important skills, or pursue a passion, the teams will be on hand to help navigate your future.

At the Worcester campus, you'll have the opportunity to explore a diverse selection of higher education and adult courses, including ESOL, Access to HE, Human Resources, Cyber Skills, and more. Meanwhile, at the Redditch campus, you can delve into courses such as Business, Accounting, Functional Skills/GCSEs, and additional exciting offerings.

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Four of the fund-raisers during last year's Plod and a Pint event. s

Lace up your boots for the KEMP Hospice

THE PLOD and Pint fundraiser for KEMP Hospice is back next month and people are being urged to sign up.

The walk, which starts at 10am on Saturday, May 10, sees participants choose to walk either eight miles to Arley and back or a 13.1mile half-marathon route along the River Severn to Highley and back. There, a cold pint will be waiting for them at Bewdley Brewery.

Participating adults and children can either raise as much sponsorship money as they can or they opt for a 'Supporter Ticket' where-

by they sign up with a donation and no longer need to fundraise as part of the event if they would prefer not to.

Every penny counts and your sponsorship makes a real difference - £18.44 helps pay for therapy sessions, £51.40 pays for a child to receive bereavement counselling sessions and £150.64 pays for a clinical nurse for a day.

The easiest way to fundraise - for those opting for the sponsorship route - is to set up a Just Giving page - justgiving.com - and share it with friends and family.

Alternatively, email fundraising@

kemphospice.org.uk to request a paper form.

Registration costs £10 for adults, £5 for under 16s or £25 for families of two adults and two under 16s.

The entry fee covers the cost of hosting the event and sponsorship goes to KEMP Hospice to allow it to continue to deliver care and support services for people living with life-illnesses and bereavement across Wyre Forest.

Visit: kemphospice.org.uk/support-us/fundraising/events-challenges/plod-and-a-pint/ to register for the event.

Time to have say on wards

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

RESIDENTS just have a few days left to have their say on boundary changes to town council wards in Stourport and Kidderminster.

The alterations are due to take effect at their next elections (May 2027 and 2028 respectively).

It follows a Local Government Boundary Commission review of electoral arrangements for Worcestershire County Council.

Both town councils have asked Wyre Forest District Council to conduct a community governance review on these new warding arrangements.

The reviews will examine continuing to use the wards in the two towns that existed prior to the Boundary Commission's review.

New boundaries

It was in October when Stourport-on-Severn Town Council resolved to 'request Wyre Forest District Council to carry out a Community Governance Review to re-establish its ward boundaries'.

In the case of Kidderminster, that would involve using the same ward boundaries as those used by the district council.

Also in October, Kidderminster

Town Council resolved the following:

For the Kidderminster Foreign Review - To support the proposal that the Kidderminster Town Council boundary should include the Habberley Road development which should be transferred to the town.

For Wolverley and Cookley - To call for redrawing of the boundary between Kidderminster and Wolverley and Cookley in two areas - 1. At Sion Hill, by bringing the site of the former school site into Kidderminster (Wildmoor Road) and 2. To also bring the development on Stourbridge Road (Albrighton Drive and Bowdler Close) into Kidderminster.

The council also resolved to call on Wyre Forest District Council to carry out a community governance review to re-establish common ward boundaries with those used for WFDC in Kidderminster and to make other changes to Kidderminster's boundary so that it includes Kittiwake Drive, the whole of the Woven Oaks development and the developed areas comprising Finepoint Way and Zortech Avenue.

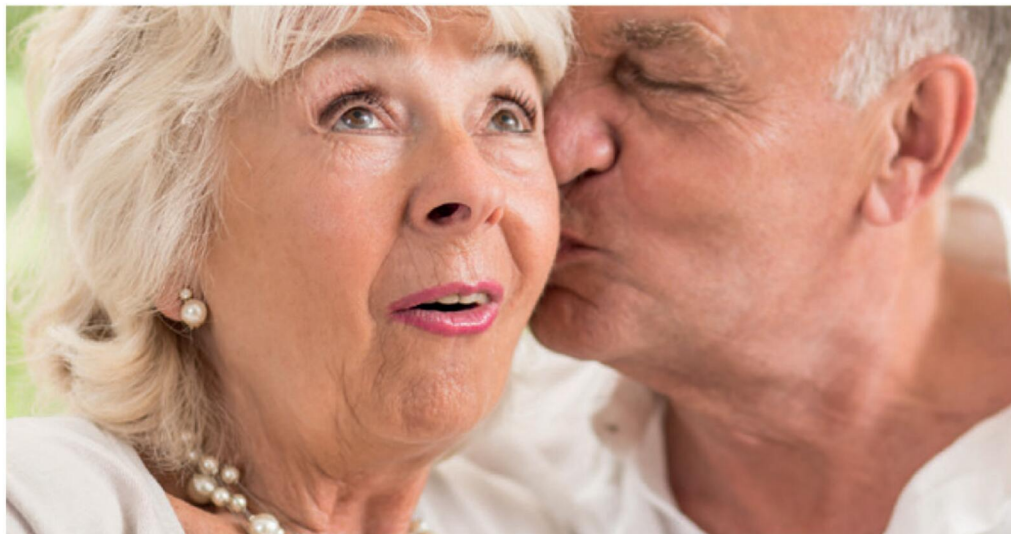
Anyone wanting to have their say on the proposals can visit: orlo.uk/UecLt to take part in a short survey.

The deadline for responses is 5pm on Wednesday, April 16.



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Pupils from Winterfold School celebrate regional arts festival. s

Students showcase their skills at festival

PUPILS at a Winterfold School in Chaddesley Corbett have celebrated an impressive haul of silverware after performances at a regional arts festival.

More than 30 pupils represented the school at the Dudley Competitive Arts Festival, an esteemed annual event celebrating young talent across music, drama, and speech.

The festival, held in a large and prestigious concert hall in Dudley, provides a challenging platform for performers from across the region to showcase their abilities in front of expert adjudicators and a live audience. Students from Winterfold put in 'exceptional' performances, demonstrating confidence, musicality, and dedication.

Among the award winners from Winterfold were Harry H, Cecilia G, Freddie A, Meredith M, Sophia O, Isaac W, Harrison G, Dominic A and all members of the School's Festival Choir.

Each of these students impressed the adjudicators with their talent, poise, and hard work.

Sharing their goal to help Feed The Hungry

by Sonny Rackham
sonny.rackham@bullivantmedia.com

FOOTBALLERS from Kidderminster Harriers and students from South Bromsgrove High School have joined forces to pack more than 5,000 meals to be shipped to children in Zimbabwe as part of an international campaign.

Kidderminster Harriers FC players Seb Thompson, Riley Reynolds and Reiss McNally got together with the pupils to pack ingredients such as dried rice, soya, lentils and essential micronutrients to be sent to those in need abroad.

The efforts are led by Feed The Hungry UK as part of their Million Meal Miracle campaign.

The students were also joined by Kidderminster Harriers players, Seb Thompson, Riley Reynolds and Reiss McNally, who lent a hand to support the cause.

In addition, Coun Tracey Onslow, chair of Worcestershire County Council, was also in attendance to get stuck in and support the work.

Carl Arntzen, CEO of Worcester Bosch, also attended the event to see how the company's donation had made a difference.

The scheme, organised in partnership with The Rotary Club of Bromsgrove, followed on a few weeks after the students' visit to the charity headquarters in Coventry where they learned first hand

about the positive impact of their work abroad.

The day, which cost \$2,000 to host, was paid through the schools own fundraising efforts, along with generous donations from Worcestershire Bosch and Bromsgrove Rotary Club.

Chris Smith, Rotarian and headteacher of South Bromsgrove High, said: "I am extremely proud of what the students in the school's charity group have achieved."

"This student-led group raised the necessary funding, planned the event and organised over 80 student volunteers."

"They enjoyed it so much they are already talking about making this an annual event."

Feed The Hungry UK is an international humanitarian organisation committed to fighting hunger due to poverty, war, famine and natural disasters.

The charity works to reduce world hunger by establishing feeding programmes in 28 different countries worldwide.

Through its Million Meal Miracle campaign, the charity aims to engage 200 schools in meal packing events with a target of packing 1 million meals in the next two years for schoolchildren in Zimbabwe and Somaliland.

Leading the project for Feed The Hungry is Ian Siddall, who said: "The ultimate goal of the project is to nourish and empower school children in Zimbabwe and Somaliland."

"We want to address immediate nutritional needs and instill a sense of significance and value in these young lives - fostering a brighter future for them and



the communities they belong to.

Since 1987, with its partner organisations, Feed The Hungry has globally assisted in regularly feeding more than 625,000 children in 28 countries.

Feed The Hungry also provides disaster relief recovery programmes through its network of community programmes around the globe.

Visit: millionmealmiracle.co.uk/ and business.feedthehungry.org.uk for more information.

The charity is appealing for more local partners to support its campaign, including schools, churches and businesses.

80 Bromsgrove students were joined by Kidderminster Harriers players - Seb Thompson, Riley Reynolds and Reiss McNally - to pack over 5,000 nutritional meals for children in Zimbabwe. s

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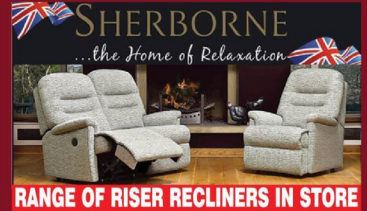
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Kidderminster man was among gang jailed for almost 100 years

A GANG of drug dealers who flooded Worcestershire with cocaine and cannabis have been sentenced to a total of 94 years and four months,

Paul Bailey, 56 of Jersey Close, Redditch, was sentenced to 20 years at Worcester Crown Court last Monday after being convicted of conspiracy to supply 10kg of cocaine and 20kg of cannabis.

His sentence is the final one in a complex and lengthy investigation by the Regional Organised Crime Unit for the West Midlands Region (ROCUWM) called Operation Pyrogenic which has seen other gang members sentenced at earlier court appearances.

The other five involved were also convicted in November of conspiracy to supply 10kg of cocaine and 20kg of cannabis.

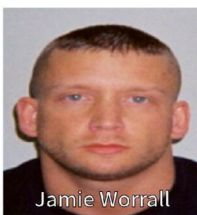
Jamie Worrall, 38, of Sandiccliffe Close, Kidderminster, was sentenced to 17 years, Arron Adams, 39, of Boughton Avenue, Worcester, was sentenced to 22 years and Adam Nicholls, 42, of Weyburn Close, Worcester was sentenced to 23 years.

Nicola Everton, 37, of Hindlip, Worcester, was sentenced to six years and Phillip Smith, 57, of Gregorys Bank, Worcester, was sentenced to six years four months.

Another accomplice - Shaun Carr, 39, of Woodmanote, Worcester - was given a 10-month sentence, sus-



Paul Bailey



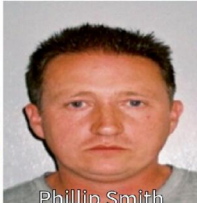
Jamie Worrall



Arron Adams



Nicola Everton



Phillip Smith



Adam Nicholls

pending for 12 months, after being found guilty of money laundering on November 6.

Large scale drug-dealing

Operation Pyrogenic was a ROCUWM operation into the large-scale supply of cocaine and cannabis into Worcestershire, Herefordshire and the West Midlands.

The operation - between April 2020 and July 2021 - revealed the gang operated a large-scale middle market

drugs supply chain and were involved in the sourcing, distribution and selling drugs which reached as far as Lincolnshire and Devon.

This organised crime group used encrypted mobile phone devices on a platform based in France called 'Encro-chat' to organise the supply of cannabis and cocaine which were infiltrated and deciphered by the National Crime Agency (NCA).

Bailey, Adams, Nicholls, Worrall, Everton, and Smith used the devices to orchestrate the multi-kilo supply of

cannabis and cocaine into the region. They continued to operate after the Encro-chat network had been infiltrated by police using other encrypted communication applications.

On July 9, 2020, Everton was arrested by police with a kilogram of cocaine in her vehicle on the M5 near junction 6 (Worcester).

On January 6, 2021, police arrested Bailey, Adams, Nicholls and Smith at their home addresses.

During searches of the addresses, imagery was found to assist in the attribution of the Encro-chat handles. Nicholls sent an image of his computer with his reflection on it over the Encro-chat under one of the user handles.

On October 27, 2020, Carr was arrested by officers at junction 2 on the M5 with £17,000 in a plastic shopping bag.

Fingerprints found

They found one of Nicholls' fingerprints on this bag. Police seized numerous mobile phones after the conspirators had been arrested.

On Smith's mobile phone, police found evidence of drug supply and conversations between him and other conspirators about the movement of drugs.

Carr, Smith, Bailey, Everton and Worrall all pleaded guilty prior to trial. After a three-week trial at Worcester Crown Court a jury took less than six hours of deliberation to find Adams

and Nicholls guilty of the conspiracy on November 6.

'Strong message'

Det Ch Insp Peter Cooke, from ROCUWM, said it was a fantastic result after a complex investigation.

"The team have successfully taken a large number of drugs off the streets and put this group who caused misery in our communities behind bars for a very long time.

"Drugs ruin lives and poison communities and we remain dedicated to breaking supply lines through our region.

"These offenders are ruthless and think nothing of exploiting vulnerable people, putting them at risk of serious harm, while they sit back and count the money.

"These sentences send a strong message that drug dealers will be caught, and they face many years in prison.

"We will continue to strive to keep drugs off our streets and protect vulnerable people."

This investigation forms part of Operation Target - West Mercia Police's work to tackle serious and organised crime.

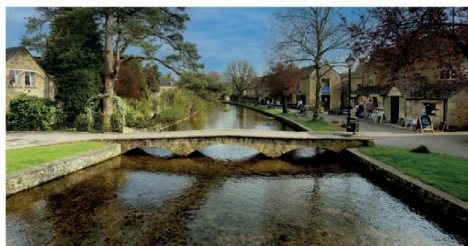
The group of six which flooded Worcestershire and Herefordshire with cocaine and cannabis have been jailed for almost 100 years between them. s

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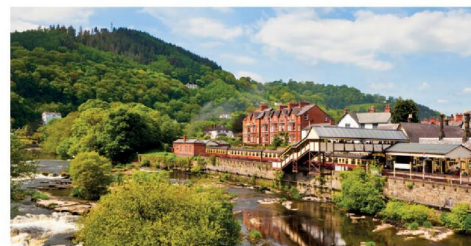
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On target to get taste of clay shooting

OLDER people in north Worcestershire can experience the thrill of clay pigeon shooting at an exciting new event.

Seniors – aged 65 and over – can go along to the first ‘Silver Shots’ session at Shooting 4 Fun (S4F) on Wednesday, April 23.

Set in the beautiful Hanbury countryside at The Oaklands Outdoor Pursuits Centre, the event offers a safe, welcoming environment for those looking to try something new.

Silver Shots is suitable for most abilities, whether a first-time shooter or someone with prior experience. Guns will be carefully selected to match age and build, helping to minimise recoil and maximise comfort.

Participants will enjoy a 15-minute session between 11am and 4pm, during which they’ll take aim at 25 flying clays.

With expert guidance and one-on-

one instruction, attendees will experience the satisfaction of breaking targets mid-air. The event promises plenty of fun, an exciting challenge and a welcoming atmosphere.

For just £25 per person, guests will receive a professionally guided clay shooting experience with all equipment provided.

Complimentary tea or coffee will be available and there is free on-site parking and toilet facilities.

Mark Treverton, owner of Shooting 4 Fun, said: “This is a brilliant opportunity for seniors to step out of their comfort zone and try something completely different.

“It’s all about having a great time, building confidence and maybe even discovering a new passion.”

Booking a time slot is essential and spaces are limited.

Call Mark on 01527 575141 or email: mark@shooting4fun.co.uk for more.



Mark Treverton from Shooting 4 Fun, will be welcoming participants to ‘Silver Shots’. Picture by Jelly Photography. s



A total of 11 people were nominated for the Bewdley Civic Awards. s

Community hero Colin praised by mayor

THE MAYOR of Bewdley presented this year’s Civic Awards at the Annual Town Meeting last month.

Coun Ian Latimer JP gave the overall accolade to Colin Hill at St George’s Hall.

Mr Hill has played a major role in the community, including being involved in the annual duck race and being part of the Bewdley Festival Committee, photographing many of the town events and organising monthly art exhibitions.

The Civic Award recognises outstanding

voluntary service to the Bewdley Community.

The council received 11 nominations this year.

All of the nominated candidates were awarded a ‘Thank You’ award by the Mayor, presented in the form of a framed certificate.

The winner of the Civic Award, Mr Hill, was also presented with the Civic Award pendant.

Mayor of Bewdley Coun Ian Latimer JP with overall winner Colin Hill. s



S4F SILVER SHOTS



SENIORS’ SHOOTING DAY
WEDNESDAY 23RD APRIL 2025

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S4F presents: Silver Shots - a Seniors' Clay Shooting Day in Hanbury, for the over 65s.

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Beware thieves at ATMs, warn police

POLICE officers in north Worcestershire are signposting the way to the public to protect themselves from distraction thefts at cash machines.

Warning posters are being displayed around the machines in Kidderminster town centre this week and will be rolled out in Redditch and Bromsgrove in due course.

The message tells members of the public to be cautious when using cash machines as thieves who may be operating in the area will try to distract them.

by **Sonny Rackham**
sonny.rackham
@bullivantmedia.com

The proactive campaign follows reports of people being targeted while at the machines by tricksters, normally working in pairs, diverting the victims' attention.

For example, the con artists may point to a bank note on the floor and ask the person if they have dropped it and meanwhile an accomplice will attempt to withdraw cash from the machine while their card is still in it or take the card itself.

They may also attempt to

get close to the person at the cash machine and ask questions, distracting them and allowing another offender to access the machine.

Sarah Sceats, Rural and Business Officers (RABO) for north Worcestershire, came up with the idea of the posters and is working with banks to roll them out across the area.

Ms Sceats said: "While thankfully there have only been a handful of these types of distraction thefts in this area, this tactic is becoming more prevalent nationally."

"We are acting now to help protect members of the

public from being tricked out of their money at cash machines.

"Working in partnership with local banks, we have designed and printed the new posters to stick next to machines warning people to be cautious whilst using them."

"Our advice is to be mindful of anyone nearby who seems suspicious or who may be trying to distract you and take extra care when at the cash machine."

West Mercia Police is rolling out posters to warn the public about distraction thieves at cash machines. s



Firefighters issue warning after tackling several fires on open land

A PROLONGED dry spell has led to a rise in the number of outdoor blazes getting out of control across north Worcestershire and a warning from Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service.

There has been very little rain in the past week-and-a-half and temperatures on some days have been upward of 20°C.

At the end of last week, over the weekend and dur-

ing this week, fire crews have been called to several incidents in Bromsgrove, Rubery, Redditch and Kidderminster.

A fire in the open in Gannow Green Lane, Rednal, around 5pm on Monday, was started by a disposable barbecue - firefighters used a water backpack to extinguish the flames.

In Bromsgrove on the same day, firefighters dealt

with a blaze in grasslands off Perryfields Road.

Also on Monday, a crew from Wyre Forest Fire Station was called at 11.53am to an embankment fire on the Severn Valley Railway at Devils Spittleful. Two seats of fire were located and were extinguished using beaters and water backpacks.

Last Friday there was a fire at Burlish Top Nature Reserve in Stourport which

started when youths lit a bonfire and it spread. Firefighters used water backpacks and buckets of water to extinguish the blaze there.

A Wyre Forest Fire Station crew was also called around 1.30pm on Sunday to a fire in the open in Borington Road, Offmore, Kidderminster. The fire involved 10m by 10m of undergrowth and trees which had spread to plastic

underground culverts. The fire was extinguished by the firefighters using a water jet.

It is believed that one was started deliberately as two youths were seen fleeing the scene.

These are just some of several fires across Worcestershire which has prompted a warning from Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service.

A spokesperson said: "We

urge people to refrain from using disposable barbecues and safely put out cigarette ends to avoid inadvertently starting a fire."

The service also discourages outdoor fires in rural areas.

Anyone using incinerators, log burners and bonfires should keep them away from fences, foliage, buildings and bushes and always keep buckets of water nearby.



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Double Victory! Cofton Park Manor named Top 20 Care Home in the West Midlands for second year running

Cofton Park Manor Luxury Care Home is celebrating a remarkable achievement - being named one of the Top 20 Care Homes in the West Midlands for the second year in a row.

This prestigious accolade, awarded as part of the annual Carehome.co.uk Awards, reflects the heartfelt praise and glowing reviews shared by residents, families and friends across the region.

This back-to-back recognition is a testament to the exceptional, multi award-winning care delivered by the dedicated team at Cofton Park Manor.

The team pride themselves on providing a truly personalised approach, ensuring each resident enjoys not only support but also fulfilment, dignity and joy every single day.

More than just a care home, Cofton Park Manor in Cofton Hackett offers a hotel-style experience within a warm, welcoming community. Residents can enjoy an array of luxury amenities, including a private dining suite for special celebrations with loved ones, a serene wellbeing and beauty salon, a stylish bistro café serving



fresh refreshments, and a deluxe cinema for the latest films and timeless classics.

This summer, the lifestyle at Cofton Park Manor is set to be more vibrant than ever. Residents can look forward to a lively calendar of seasonal events and

outdoor experiences, including alfresco dining in the beautifully landscaped gardens, botanical workshops, and themed culinary masterclasses led by their in-house chefs.

The home's exceptional care and vibrant lifestyle are consistently highlighted in the heartfelt testimonials of families:

"A beautiful home with lots of activities for the residents. The garden is lovely too. My aunt feels very happy here. Would definitely recommend." – Nephew of a resident.

"A wonderful home filled with happiness and joy. My aunt and uncle had the best time here and were so happy to be part of the Cofton Park Manor community. The lovely staff helped make their stay such an enjoyable time." – Niece of a resident.

Whether you're seeking a permanent move or a short summer retreat, Cofton Park Manor offers a supportive, enriching environment where residents truly thrive.

To find out more about this award-winning care home, and to book a personal tour, you can contact the team on 0121 826 3214 or email enquiries@hamberleycarehomes.co.uk.



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Steam locomotive 7029 'Clun Castle' hauled the Shakespeare Express from Worcester to Stratford-on-Avon on Sunday. Picture by Vintage Trains. s

THE POPULAR Shakespeare Express has completed its first outing of the new running season.

The train was heading from Worcester to Stratford-on-Avon while being hauled by steam locomotive 7029 Clun Castle when it visited the town on Sunday during the 40th anniversary of the train's inaugural run.

The train also passed through Kidderminster and called at Droitwich, Stourbridge Junction and Birmingham Snow Hill before arriving in Stratford-on-Avon for a break of around four hours to enable passenger's time to enjoy sightseeing and shopping, before commencing

the return journey.

A class 37 diesel locomotive, number 37240, also hauled the train from Birmingham to Worcester in the morning and back to Birmingham in the evening working its first passenger service since 1996.

A spokesperson for organisers Vintage Trains said: "It was pleasing so many people came to see the train, with Clun Castle and the class 37 both performing well."

For details on the three other steam-hauled Shakespeare Express trains this year visit: vintagetrains.co.uk for more information.

Good news on screening but more is urged

WORCESTERSHIRE is among the top three areas in the West Midlands for bowel cancer screening uptake.

Early detection is crucial as it allows treatment to begin sooner, significantly improving outcomes and saving lives.

According to the latest Government figures, over three-quarters of eligible people were screened for bowel cancer in 2024.

At 75.4 per cent this is higher than the West Midlands rate of 70.2 per cent and England's rate of 71.8 per cent.

Public Health in Worcestershire is revealing these figures to coincide with Bowel Cancer Awareness Month, where we highlight the importance of spotting the signs and early detection.

Our high screening rates mean more people have the chance to receive timely treatment.

Lisa McNally, director of Public Health in

by **Ashleigh Osborne**
news@bullivantmedia.com

Worcestershire, has thanked the local community for their positive response to bowel screening schemes.

She said: "We are really grateful to residents for engaging with our public health messages on bowel screening."

"However, we must not become complacent. I urge everyone who is eligible to take part in the screening programme. The home-test kit is simple to use and could save your life."

According to Bowel Cancer UK, more than nine in 10 people survive bowel cancer when it is diagnosed at the earliest stage, making it so important to recognise the symptoms of bowel cancer.

Symptoms can include changes in your bowel habits, such as persistent diarrhoea, constipation, or unusually soft stools, blood in the poo, which may appear

red or black and unexplained weight loss.

While these symptoms are common and can be linked to other conditions, it is essential people get checked by a GP if they experience them.

According to NHS England, people aged 50 and 52 are now starting to automatically receive a home test kit every two years by post when they become eligible, marking the final phase of the NHS ambition to offer everyone aged 50 to 74 the screening test.

Around 850,000 additional people in England a year will be eligible for the screening test, with over 4million more people invited since roll-out began in 2021.

People can call the free bowel cancer screening helpline for advice on 0800 707 60 60.

Information on bowel cancer and the screening programme can be found on the nhs.uk website.

COMPETITION TIME...COMPETITION TIME...COMPETITION TIME...COMPETITION TIME...COMPETITION TIME

WIN A FAMILY TICKET TO HOP INTO EASTER FUN AT



West Midlands SAFARI PARK

West Midlands Safari Park is excited to announce the return of 'Easter Eggstravaganza' with a variety of fun-fuelled family activities and a new character.

Running from 12 to 27 April 2025, guests will be invited to take part in the celebrations, which include an interactive trail, competitions, a new show and a chance to get creative with some Easter arts and crafts.

This year, a brand-new character has 'hatched' called Chirpy Chick, who will be roaming the Safari Walk areas of the Park, meeting guests and taking pictures with them.

Also new for 2025 is 'Bramble Bunny's Hoppy Easter Show', a live, interactive performance bursting with fun, games, magic and dancing.

Children will be able to win chocolate or a sweet treat by taking part in the Eggplorers' Trail, by following clues and answering questions at each point.

There is a photo competition, where guests can win a VIP Rhino Feed Experience if they find the missing egg and take a picture with it to post on the Park's Facebook page.

In the Discovery Trail, guests will find a huge egg, filled with smaller colourful eggs. If they can guess how many eggs it

contains, they can enter the competition to win a Safari Lodges stay of their choice.

There is also the chance to see the Park's newest arrivals, the three Sumatran tiger cubs, at the new viewing 'peepholes' of their outdoor den.



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

What is the name of the brand new character who has 'hatched' and will be roaming the Safari Walk Areas of the Park this Easter?

Simply email your answer, and your email contact details to:

Competitions@bullivantmedia.com
All entries must be in by noon on 16th April 2025

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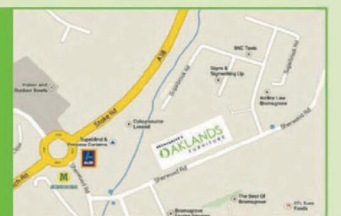
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Food for thought

THERE has been a significant step in tackling food waste, with new legislation requiring businesses across England to separate food waste from general waste.

As businesses adjust to these new regulations, Worcestershire County Council is encouraging residents to take a closer look at their own food waste habits.

To support this, the council is relaunching #FoodSavvy a campaign designed to help residents save cash and reduce food waste.

A recent poll revealed that one-third of Worcestershire residents throw away edible food more than once a week, often due to cooking too much or allowing food to expire. Additionally, 40 per cent admitted they discarded food simply because they lacked knowledge about proper storage or creative ways to use leftovers.

In Worcestershire, more than a third of household black bin waste consists of food, with over two-thirds of it classified as 'avoidable', meaning it could have been eaten.

To help, the county council is sharing top tips and practical advice on its social media channels to help residents waste less and make the most of their food.

Worcestershire County Council's waste prevention project manager said: "We know people waste food for all sorts of reasons - they buy too much, don't store it correctly, or aren't sure how best to use up leftovers.

"#FoodSavvy aims to provide simple and effective solutions to help people plan better, store food properly and get creative in the kitchen.

"Reducing food waste isn't just good for the environment; it also helps families save money.

"With the average family now wasting up to £1000 worth of perfectly edible food every year, it is more important than ever that families take a good look at what they do with their food."

The Food Savvy scheme focuses on key themes, such as planning meals and shopping, storing food correctly so it lasts longer and eating all food bought.

Visit: letsbewasteless.com/foodsavvy for practical tips and more information.

Time to prove you are top with the tourists

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

TOURISM and hospitality businesses across the county can now apply to be considered for the 2025/26 Visit Worcestershire Tourism Awards.

Organisations have until June 9 to put themselves forward for the accolades which will be announced in March 2026.

The awards are given for acclaimed attractions, hospitality venues, and innovative new tourism products, whilst also giving the chance to businesses to represent Worcestershire at the VisitEngland Awards for Excellence where, in 2025, Worcestershire secured two national finalists.

Lorna Robinson, visitor economy and destination manager at Visit Worcestershire, explained the importance of the awards.

She said: "These awards not only recognise the outstanding businesses that make our visitor economy thrive but also provide incredible PR and exposure, with finalists gaining local and national recognition.

"We can't wait to see this year's applicants and uncover more brilliant businesses showcasing Worcestershire's excellence in tourism and hospitality."

Among the accolades are the Accessible and Inclusive Tourism Award, Business Events Venue of the Year, Camping, Glamping and Holiday Park of the Year,



Experience of the Year, Festival and Event of the Year, Large Hotel of the Year and Large Visitor Attraction of the Year.

Others include the New Tourism Business of the Year, Pub of the Year, Regenerative Tourism Award, Self Catering Accommodation of the Year, Small Hotel of the Year/Small Serviced Accommodation Provider of the Year, Small Visitor Attraction of the Year, Taste of Worcestershire Award and the Unsung Hero Award.

Last year's winners have seen significant benefits including increased visibility, new business opportunities, accred-

ited quality assurance and boosted staff morale.

Businesses will find out if they have been shortlisted for the awards by the end of August this year.

To support the applicants, Visit Worcestershire have provided a range of helpful tools and guidance to simplify the process on the Tourism Awards page - go to: visitworcestershire.org/trade/tourism-awards/ for more.

Last year's winners in the Visit Worcestershire Tourism Awards. s

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UNCOMPLICATED SECURITY FOR COMPLETE PEACE OF MIND

County named burglary hotspot

by Sonny Rackham
sonny.rackham@bullivantmedia.com

WEST Mercia Police has recorded more than 1,800 home burglaries in the last year alone, with just five per cent resulting in a charge, a new investigation has revealed.

Data obtained by Legal Expert via Freedom of Information Requests has found that 7,875 residential break-ins have been recorded by West Mercia Police in the last three years.

Of the 1,812 burglaries logged last year, just 99 (five per cent) resulted in a person being charged.

While there will be cases still be under investigation, Legal Expert's CICA (Criminal Injury Compensation Authority) specialist, Ellie Lamey said charge rates were 'shockingly low.'

"Being the victim of a burglary can be extremely invasive and traumatic not to mention those instances of aggravated burglary where weapons are involved.

"Moreover the shockingly low charge rate gives victims



the impression that there is no support or justice following what can be in some cases, a life-altering event."

West Mercia Police also revealed the region's home burglary hotspots in 2024. North Worcestershire was revealed as the most targeted area for the crime with 552 offences recorded last year.

A total of 440 residential break-ins were also logged in South Worcestershire and a further 351 in Shropshire.

Out of the 32 UK police forces, (73 per cent) which responded to Legal Expert's Freedom of Information request within the deadline, West Mercia reported the ninth-highest number of

home burglaries over the last three years.

In 2024, there were 177,687 home burglaries reported across England and Wales - an average of 487 burglaries a day.

Ms Lamey said: "Throughout my legal career, I have worked with victims and families of burglaries and the impact can be long-lasting.

"Thankfully, I've been able to bring even a small comfort by securing them the compensation they deserve to help to start to rebuild their lives."

Visit: legalexpert.co.uk/ for more information.



HoW College's Open Event will shed light on adult and HE courses at the Redditch and Worcester campuses. s

Explore higher education at HoW

HEART of Worcestershire (HoW) College is opening its doors for its Adult and Higher Education (HE) Open Event from 5pm to 8pm on May 1.

The event - at the Redditch and Worcester campuses - provides an opportunity for prospective students to explore a wide range of adult and HE courses, tour the college's state-of-the-art facilities and receive expert advice from industry-leading tutors.

The Open Event will help prospective students who are looking to upskill with short courses, change career paths, embark on a higher education journey or explore professional programmes, take the next step towards their future.

At both campuses, attendees can explore Adult courses in ESOL, Functional Skills and GCSE maths and English, digital and IT, cyber security, work ready pathways (including care, retail, and teaching assistant), and Preparing to Work in Schools.

The HE provision at Worcester includes access to HE, computing and IT, engineering, Health and Social Care, Early Years, Human Resources, leadership and management, marketing, sport, and teacher training.

In addition, HE courses available at Redditch include Access to HE, accounting and book-keeping, business and manage-

ment, games design and digital media, and sport. Prospective students can also explore professional courses including strategic management and leadership.

Adrian Price, HoW College's manager for higher education, said everyone was delighted to be welcoming prospective students to the event.

"At HoW College, we are committed to providing high-quality education and training opportunities that help individuals achieve their career and personal development goals.

"This event is the perfect chance to discover the many pathways available, speak with our dedicated tutors, and take the first step towards an exciting future."

Visitors can drop in at any time during the three-hour event and are encouraged to register their interest using the following links:

Go to: forms.office.com/e/eBjCaeikRE for adult courses and visit: forms.office.com/e/5Hm5QwnTRp for HE courses.

Attendees will not receive a ticket or confirmation email upon registration - all necessary details will be emailed closer to the event date.

Go to: howcollege.ac.uk/about/open-events/adult-and-he-open-event/ for more on the adult and HE Open Event.

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Prime Minister hails importance of local news at media reception

PRIME Minister Sir Keir Starmer paid tribute to local and regional media at a special reception at 10 Downing Street last Monday.

Around 100 journalists from across the UK attended the event, including Tristan Harris, the head of editorial at Bullivant Media Group Ltd and the editor of the Kidderminster Standard and the Bromsgrove, Droitwich and Redditch Standards.

After a welcome, Sir Keir spoke

about the journalists he had met whilst on the campaign trail across the country.

"There's a sort of mixed feeling because I've always felt that - and I say this to Cabinet members - you may think answering questions in Parliament is the most difficult thing you're going to have to do, just wait until you get in front of regional media because somehow you always ask us the question that we've been secretly hoping was the one that wouldn't get asked.

"But there is a really serious

point that underpins this because nobody knows your local areas and issues in the way that you do and I don't think there's any other sort of media outlets, interrogators, interviewers who can put the questions in the way that you do because you understand what's happening on your patch the way nobody else does.

"And in a sense, I think because you're able to translate it into what matters where you are, it makes it more meaningful."

He added it was important for politicians to understand what mattered to local communities.

"There's no one more committed to shining the torch on those issues."

He also praised the local media for running campaigns on issues, such as knife crime, which, he said, had always been an important part of the job.

Sir Keir also said of local media: "It's such a force for good, and I think respected by millions and I strongly feel people go to their local regional media as a trusted source in a way that they don't quite believe they can get to a trusted source elsewhere."

He added he and his colleagues always tried to reserve space for local and regional media when out and about.

He said the reach of local regional media going up was 'a good news story' but added he understood

the pressure and the challenges coming up at the same time was huge.

"Keep advocating for your regions, because, obviously here in Downing Street is where we have a laser focus of communities that you're advocating for delivering on their priorities, and you must hold us to account for that."

He thanked the local media for all it did and added: "Thank you for all of the work that you do holding us to account."

"But as uncomfortable though it is it is really important and it's really important we're open about that because particularly at the moment, we have to remind ourselves what living in democracy really is, where politicians can't just say things and get away with it.

"They've got to say things, and then they've got to face questions of what they've said and particularly when it's put in the context of local communities, local areas and local regions."

Tristan said: "It was heartening to hear from the Prime Minister about the value he places on local media

and papers and websites like ours.

"And it was great to get the recognition for what we do - my team works extremely hard and these are tough times for our industry - but it is in everyone's interests to have a strong local press which supports and champions its local communities whilst also holding those in power to account."

ABOVE - Standard editor Tristan Harris at 10 Downing Street. s

LEFT - Sir Keir Starmer addressed around 100 local and regional journalists. s



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SUDOKU

Complete the grid so that every row, every column and every 3 x 3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

EASY

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

HARD

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

PATHFINDER

Beginning with the top highlighted letter, follow a continuous path of words associated with the given subject. The trail goes through each letter once, twisting up, down and sideways, but never diagonally.

Makeup bag contents

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

Solutions opposite

CROSSWORD

1	2			3	4		5		6		7
				8							
9							10				
11											
											12
13		14					15				
						16					
	17									18	
19											
20						21					
22										23	

ACROSS

1. Quote (4)
3. Crusade (8)
9. Harmful (7)
10. Morning reception (5)
11. Ingrained habit (6,6)
13. Foreign (6)
15. Anew (6)
17. Irrational belief (12)
20. Distort (5)
21. Raise (7)
22. Maim (8)
23. Exceedingly (4)

DOWN

1. Box (8)
2. Poisonous (5)
4. Agree (6)
5. Lowest RAF commission (5-7)
6. Upside down (7)
7. Requirement (4)
8. Agreeing by chance (12)
12. Stormy (8)
14. Eye-specialist (7)
16. Declare (6)
18. Angry (5)
19. Separate particular (4)

Scribble pad

LADDER

Using the clues provided, fill in each step of the ladder with a new word, changing one letter at a time.

- Terrible
- Goad
- Time period
- Moderate
- Chew

DIRT

BIKE

NINER

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

- 6347 gives a bird;
- 9728 gives a second bird;
- 651172 gives a third bird.

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

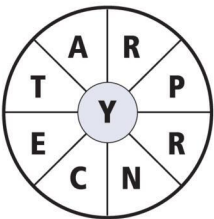
CODEWORD

This puzzle has no clues. Instead, every number printed in the grid represents a letter, with the same number always representing the same letter. For example, if 8 turns out to be a V, you can write in V wherever a square contains 8. Using your knowledge of words, complete the puzzle.

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

WORDWHEEL

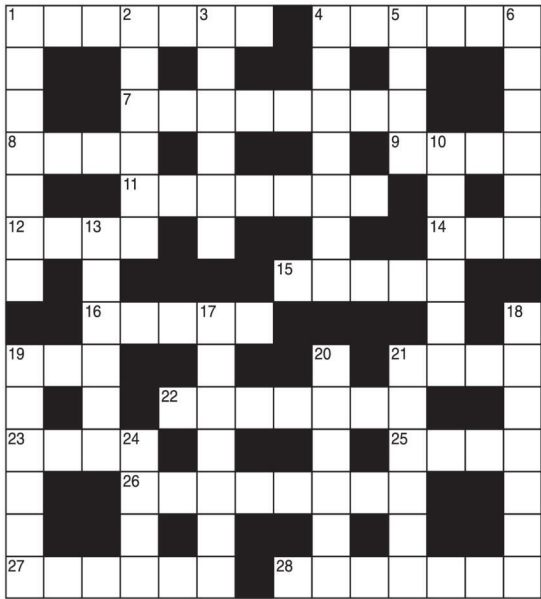
You have 10 mins to find as many words as possible using the letters in the wheel. Each must use the hub letter and at least 3 others. Letters may be used only once. You cannot use plurals, foreign words or proper nouns. There is at least one 9-letter word to be found.



How you rate
15 words: average
20 words: good
25 words: very good
30 or more: excellent.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 JRR ---, philologist and novelist whose works include The Hobbit and The Lord of the Rings (7)
- 4, 19 & 8 Across Howard Spring novel published in 1940 (4,2,3,4)
- 7 Fee paid to a barrister, etc., for a right to their services if required (8)
- 8 See 4 Across
- 9 & 20 Down Author of the Famous Five and Secret Seven series (4,6)
- 11 Of Spain and Portugal as one country (7)
- 12 & 16 Across Constellation also known as the Great Bear (4,5)
- 14, 19 & 5 Down British statesman who refused to take the oath of supremacy to Henry VIII as head of the Church and was executed for high treason in 1535 (3,6,4)
- 15 Surname of the second president of the US (5)
- 16 See 12 Across
- 19 See 4 Across
- 21 In the Bible, the twin brother of Jacob (4)
- 22 Angela ---, Irish television presenter (7)
- 23 Inland departement in Normandy, noted for the powerful Percheron horses bred there (4)
- 25 King of the Greek gods (4)
- 26 An ornamental textile fabric made by passing coloured threads among fixed warp threads (8)
- 27 Short lyrical poem (6)
- 28 Short, devotional exercise in honour of the Incarnation, repeated three times daily (7)



- DOWN**
- 1 The duke of Athens in A Midsummer-Night's Dream (7)
- 2 Hardy shrub, with bright yellow flowers in spring (6)
- 3 Dish served at dinner between the chief courses, or as a substitute (6)
- 4 Republic in north-eastern Europe whose capital is Helsinki (7)
- 5 See 14 Across
- 6 In snooker, a rest with long legs, used to raise the cue above a ball (6)
- 10 In Greek mythology, a centaur who carried travellers across the Euenus for a small fee (6)
- 13 In Acts 13, a Christian teacher at Antioch 'called Niger' (6)
- 17 The back of the head or skull (7)
- 18 Edible bivalve molluscs found in clusters attached to rocks (7)

- 19 See 14 Across
- 20 See 9 Across
- 21 Any one of a large class of protein substances produced by living cells, which act as catalysts in chemical changes (6)
- 24 Town opposite Windsor, with an old public school (4)

SOLUTIONS

General Knowledge Crossword

ACROSS: 1 Tolkien; 4 Fame; 7 Retainer; 8 Spur; 9 Enid; 11 Iberian; 12 Ursa; 14 Sir; 15 Adams; 16 Major; 19 The; 21 Esau; 22 Scanlon; 23 Orme; 25 Zeus; 26 Tapestry; 27 Sonnet; 28 Angelus. DOWN: 1 Theseus; 2 Kerra; 3 Enree; 4 Finland; 5 More; 6 Spider; 10 Nessus; 13 Simeon; 17 Occiput; 18 Mussels; 19 Thomas; 20 Blyton; 21 Enzyme; 24 Eton.

Crossword

ACROSS: 1 Cite; 3 Campaign; 9 Noxious; 10 Leave; 11 Second nature; 13 Exotic; 15 Aftersh; 17 Suppression; 20 Twist; 21 Elevate; 22 Mutilate; 23 Very. DOWN: 1 Canister; 2 Toxic; 4 Assent; 5 Pilot-officer; 6 Inverse; 7 Need; 8 Coincidental; 12 Thunder; 14 Oculist; 16 Assent; 18 Irate; 19 Item.

Wordwheel Pathfinder

Lipstick, powder, tissues, cotton buds, blusher, eyeshadow, Kohl, primer, mascara, lip liner, concealer, eye liner, foundation, rouge, bronzer, eyelash curler, false eyelashes, eyebrow pencil, lip gloss, cream, eyelash glue.

Niner

PROVIDENT

naïl polish, brushes, emery board, cleanser, tweezers, contour

Ladder

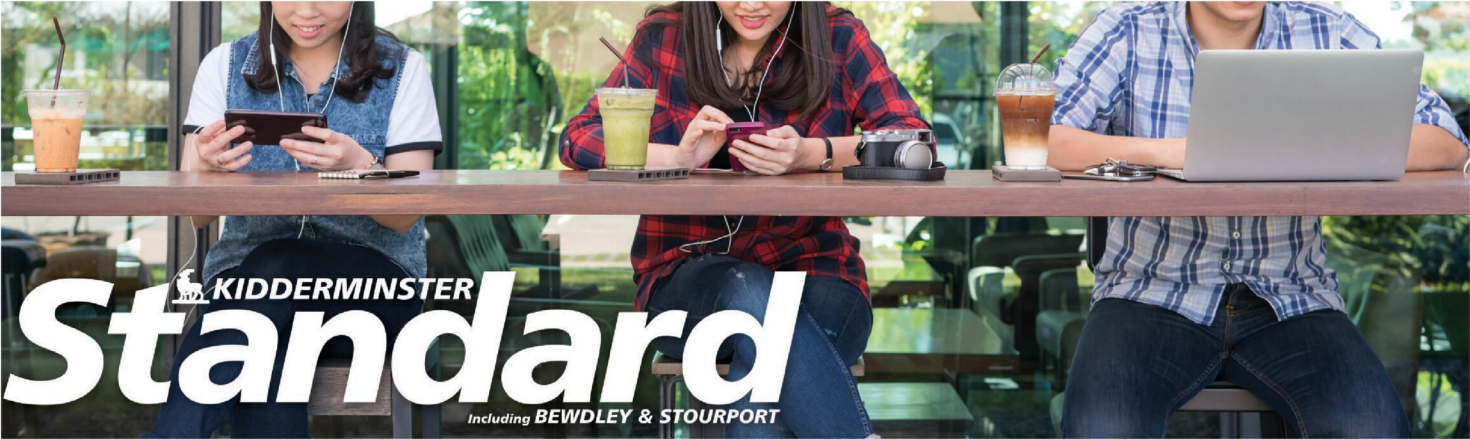
1=6, 2=Q, 3=X, 4=F, 5=W, 6=L, 7=D, 8=L, 9=U, 10=J, 11=N, 12=C, 13=K, 14=Y, 15=M, 16=P, 17=Y, 18=O, 19=T, 20=E, 21=H, 22=R, 23=A, 24=Z, 25=S, 26=B

Codeword

Hard

Easy

Sudoku



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New electric SUV is Smart choice

SMART is once again redefining the premium electric SUV segment with its UK debut of the smart #5 BRABUS.

The new smart #5 BRABUS combines smart's signature space efficiency, advanced connectivity and everyday usability with BRABUS' high-performance engineering, unmistakable aesthetic and individuality.

The smart #5 BRABUS seamlessly integrates striking design with cutting-edge electric drive technology,

delivering up to 475kW of power and a responsive all-wheel drive system. The Launch Mode enables maximum acceleration, propelling the SUV from 0 to 62mph in just 3.8 seconds.

Built on an 800-volt platform, the smart #5 BRABUS supports ultra-fast DC charging of up to 400kW, allowing the 100kW battery to charge from 10 per cent to 80 per cent (State of Charge) in just 18 minutes under optimal conditions. With a range of up to 335 miles (WLTP), it ensures exceptional long-distance capability. In addition, an exclusive BRABUS driving mode delivers simulated engine sounds.

Visually, the smart #5 BRABUS stands out with its unmistakable 21-inch BRABUS Monoblock Z wheels, distinctive red brake calipers, and a refined, sporty exterior. BRABUS branding and design elements further highlight its performance DNA, underlining the heritage of the German luxury brand.

'New flagship'

Dirk Adelmann, CEO of smart Europe, said: "The smart #5 BRABUS is the new flagship of our still young all-electric product portfolio. "This vehicle embodies

our vision of electric performance and redefines what customers can expect from an electric SUV with powerful dynamics, top connectivity features and the finest interior craftsmanship for an unmatched driving experience.

"With its advanced technology, the smart #5 BRABUS sets new benchmarks across segments and shows our commitment to providing uncompromising electric mobility through a remarkable cooperation with our long-standing partner BRABUS."

Inside, the smart #5 BRABUS delivers premium comfort with high-quality microfibre seats featuring DINAMICA accents.

Heated rear and ventilated front seats provide an enhanced experience, while the Alcantara steering wheel with illuminated BRABUS lettering adds to the luxury feel.

A panoramic halo roof, microfibre roof lining, sports pedals, BRABUS badges, and Ambient Light+ lighting with 256 colour options further elevate the interior's refined atmosphere.

'Exciting milestone'

Constantin Buschmann, CEO of BRABUS, said: "The world premiere of the smart #5 BRABUS is yet another exciting

milestone in our partnership with smart, showcasing what is possible when two brands with clear, unique identities and shared values bring together the best of what they have to offer to create something extraordinary.

"As the most powerful electric SUV ever in our joint lineup, it is all about pushing our design and engineering to the absolute maximum, delivering an electrifying 'One-Second-Wow' effect that truly stands out."

The smart #5 BRABUS is equipped with state-of-the-art technology, including an intuitive infotainment system with dual 13-inch OLED displays for the driver and front passenger.

The Sennheiser Signature Sound System, comprising 20 high-performance speakers as well as a central lifting speaker, delivers an immersive audio experience. With up to 1,190 Watts of output and support for multiple formats, from stereo and surround to full 7.1.4 Dolby Atmos, the system delivers an adaptable and immersive listening experience on the road.

The smart #5 BRABUS will be available to order for UK customers starting from Q4 2025.

The new smart #5 BRABUS.

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Awards double for Harriers pair as club target top spot

by Aaron Sutcliffe
aaron.sutcliffe@bullivantmedia.com

FOOTBALL: KIDDERMINSTER Harriers could move top of the table with a win against Curzon Ashton this weekend.

Harriers rescued a point in a 1-1 draw away at Buxton last time out as Zak Brown scored a dramatic injury-time equaliser at Silverlands Stadium.

The result means Kidderminster sit one point behind leaders Scunthorpe United in the National League North table.

Harriers boss Phil Brown won the league's manager of the month award for March - his second accolade of the season after also winning the November prize.

And Kidderminster celebrated an awards double as forward Ashley Hemmings claimed the player of the month going after scoring 11 goals and two hat-tricks in March.

The draw against Buxton stretched Kidderminster's unbeaten run in the league to 10 matches and Brown praised his side's mentality for salvaging a point.

Brown said: "The pressure cooker situation just gets bigger and better because it's a waste of time playing in a relegation battle.

"We showed a lot of character, in the end we get ourselves a goal and



Phil Brown is the National League North's manager of the month for March. Picture courtesy of Kidderminster Harriers FC.

probably could have had another one with the last kick of the game.

"It's always, it's but's and may-be's, it keeps that unbeaten run going and shows people we can withstand the pressure, that's the key, that's the message.

"Psychology plays a massive part in pressure cooker situations, the collective mentality was there for everybody to see - we don't want to be beaten.

"It's a great point and it could be the most important point of the season. We're a point closer.

"I've got a group of players in the changing room who wouldn't mind if it goes down to the wire.

"I've got players who play with a lot of instinct and bottle and they've

got a manager who has been there and done it a couple of times."

Buxton broke the deadlock with just eight minutes left to play as Cian Coleman curled a shot into the top right corner from 18-yards out.

However, Kidderminster equalised two minutes into injury time when Brown rose highest to head in David Worrall's cross from the left.

And Harriers spurned a golden chance to win the game moments later as substitute Ben Beresford saw his sliding effort at the back post held by Buxton goalkeeper Paul Cooper.

Kidderminster host Curzon Ashton on Saturday, April 12 with kick-off at 3pm at Aggborough.

Pears defy odds to draw against Somerset in opener

CRICKET: ALAN Richardson praised his side's spirit after Worcestershire CCC salvaged an unlikely draw against Somerset in their opening County Championship game of the season.

The Pears defied the odds to survive 200 overs in the second innings with just five wickets in-hand on the final day at Taunton.

A heroic innings from Matthew Waite and battling century from captain Brett D'Oliveira inspired the visitors to come away with a draw.

And head coach Richardson felt his side left the game with a lot of pride after showing great resilience with the bat.

Richardson said: "We spoke at the start of play about it being a great opportunity to do something special and the spirit shown by the players against a very good side was tremendous.

"I wouldn't go as far as to say it feels like a win because we were out-

played for much of the game, but we can take so much from the last day's efforts.

"To see so many players contribute in different ways was really pleasing.

"These are the kind of days that help build a strong squad culture.

"We've got things to improve on, of course, but we leave this game with a lot of pride."

Waite finished unbeaten on 87 after facing 319 deliveries while D'Oliveira hit 121 from 340 balls.

The Pears closed on 485-9 after they were bowled out for 154 in their first innings.

Somerset declared on 670-7 after Tom Banton produced the highest-ever score by a Somerset batter in first class cricket with 371 runs which included 58 boundaries.

Worcestershire are next in action against Yorkshire on Friday, April 11 with play to begin at 11am at Headingley.

Milestone for Lees in defeat

ELLIOTT Lees scored his 30th goal of the season in vain as Bewdley Town suffered a narrow 2-1 defeat away at promotion-chasing Redditch Borough.

A brace from Sean Brain condemned Bewdley to defeat after Lees had drawn the visitors level before the break at Cherry Tree Walk.

The result means Bewdley sit 10th in the Hellenic League Division One table.

Redditch broke the deadlock on 16 minutes when Brain drove a low effort into the net after Bewdley only half cleared a free-kick.

Bewdley equalised on 39 minutes

when a Redditch defender went down in the box and Lees took the ball around the goalkeeper before finishing into an empty net.

Despite furious Redditch protests, the referee allowed the goal to stand.

However, Borough reclaimed the lead on 69 minutes when Brain finished through a crowd of bodies with Town goalkeeper Kai Lloyd only able to parry an initial effort into the scorer's path.

Bewdley finish the season with a home game against Abingdon United on Saturday, April 12 with kick-off at 3pm at Ribbesford Meadows.

● SPORTS clubs and organisations across Kidderminster, Stourport and Bewdley can send in their stories for the Kidderminster Standard print edition and the kidderminsterstandard.co.uk website.

We would love to cover your events and achievements.

Email: sport@kidderminsterstandard.co.uk with the details, along with contact information of how we can get in touch with you if we need to.

Coming soon...



SIXTEEN 1 & 2 BED RETIREMENT* APARTMENTS

We are excited to announce that Albion Meadows, a new retirement development, will be available in the Autumn 2024. Albion Meadows is situated in the delightful village of Hanley Swan, Worcestershire and comprises of one and two bedrooomed apartments offering independence with the added comfort of 24hour support in a beautiful countryside setting.

At Albion Meadows we aim to create homes that have strong links with the surrounding community

and a real sense of belonging. The development itself is nestled in Hanley Swan, a quintessentially English village, with a duck pond, well stocked shop, and thriving pub. The village itself located near to the historic Malvern Hills, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, as well as the excellent Three Counties Show Ground. Nearby is also the delightful riverside town of Upton-Upon-Severn with the M5 close at hand.

The aim of this community is to provide well-

appointed homes rooted in the surrounding countryside with spacious balconies, an allotment style garden, and easily accessible walks in the meadows. The apartments themselves have practical living at their heart, with easy access shower rooms, a separate utility, ample storage space and flexible rooms. All appliances come as standard and are from high end brands. There will also be an owner's lounge, hairdressers, restaurant, and gym on site.

To register early interest please contact us at enquires@albionmeadows.co.uk or 01684 312140 or visit our website at www.albionmeadows.co.uk.