



# WYRE FOREST Matters WYRE FOREST

## KIDDERMINSTER TOWN HALL

A New Era For Historic Icon

## WYRE FOREST GYMNASTS CELEBRATE

First-Time Success at  
National Championships

## KIDDERMINSTER MUSIC FESTIVAL

Bigger, Louder, and Bolder

## MENTOR LINK

Supporting Young People  
Across Wyre Forest

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IMAGE CREDIT: DAVE PEDEN



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Roof work being completed



Work continues in the main hall

## Local News

# A New Era For Historic Icon Kidderminster Town Hall's Stunning Transformation Nears Completion



New look town hall well underway

One of Kidderminster's most cherished landmarks is getting a new lease of life — and it's shaping up to be nothing short of spectacular.

The transformation of Kidderminster Town Hall, a Grade II Listed building at the heart of the town, is well underway and due to reopen its doors in Autumn 2025. With a striking new courtyard, modern performance upgrades, and a full refurbishment of key areas, the revamped venue promises to deliver a true "wow factor" for the community and visitors alike.

Leading the charge is Kidderminster Town Council, working in partnership with Wyre Forest

District Council and backed by a share of the Government's Levelling Up Fund. The Town Hall alone has secured £8.5 million as part of a wider £17.9 million investment across the district. Councillor John Beckingham, Chairman of the Kidderminster Town Hall Committee, shared his excitement:

"It's great to see the transformation of our heritage building taking shape before our eyes. The new covered courtyard is almost complete and will be a real destination space when we open perfect for residents, bands, theatre companies, choirs, musicians, and performers."

Inside, the Music Room has re-

ceived a major upgrade, with the stage modernised, new sound and lighting systems installed, and the beautifully ornate historic ceiling carefully restored. The original flooring has also been refurbished, preserving the charm of the space while enhancing its functionality for today's performers and audiences.

A special highlight of the restoration is the ongoing work on the rare William Hill organ — an instrument of national and international importance that holds pride of place in the venue's musical heritage.

But it's not just about performances. The Town Hall's café area is being completely redeveloped

to create a flexible, vibrant space with indoor and outdoor seating and multiple entertainment zones for community use.

Accessibility and sustainability are also at the forefront. A new lift is being installed, alongside improved entrances for disabled visitors, upgraded mechanical and electrical systems, and refurbishment of ground floor facilities. Even the King Charles Suite roof is getting a makeover, with better insulation to make the space more energy-efficient and welcoming. Outside, the building's historic façade is being lovingly cleaned and restored, ensuring it continues to

stand tall for future generations. All this work is being carried out by Speller Metcalfe, an award-winning contractor known for its sensitive approach to heritage projects — including the Grand Theatre in Wolverhampton and the Museum of Making in Derby. Mark Hudgeon, Regional Director at Speller Metcalfe, said:

"As a local contractor, many of our team are from the Kidderminster area, so this project is close to our hearts. The new courtyard is a stunning focal point, and we're proud to help breathe new life into this incred-

ible venue."

The regeneration of Kidderminster Town Hall is more than a renovation — it's a cultural revival, and a powerful reminder of the role that heritage, music, and performance can play in shaping vibrant town centres. Keep an eye out for updates and opening details as Autumn approaches and prepare to be wowed.

To find out more visit:  
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New look town hall - Once completed



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Chloe Field, Ellie Daines, and Chloe Coffin proudly represented Wyre Forest Gymnastics School at the English Jim Moss Championships 2025 the club's first-ever appearance at this prestigious national competition. Each gymnast had a unique and inspiring journey throughout the event, showcasing skill, determination and composure on a big stage.

Chloe Field competed in the Diamond category, placing 14th overall while pushing through an injury. Her determination paid off on beam, where she delivered the routine of her career earning her highest-ever score on the apparatus and

## Wyre Forest Gymnasts Celebrate First-Time Success at National Championships

Strong debut at the English Jim Moss Championships 2025



taking home a gold medal in a truly standout moment.

Ellie Daines brought strength and focus to the vault, where her efforts were rewarded with a superb score of 11.3 and a well-deserved silver medal.

In the Ruby Senior category, Ellie Daines and Chloe Coffin both performed strongly in a highly competitive field, placing 22nd and 24th respectively. This exciting debut marks a proud milestone for Wyre Forest Gymnastics School.

Louise Hodges of Wyre Forest Gymnastics said "Everyone at Wyre Forest Gymnastics School

is incredibly proud of Chloe, Ellie, and Chloe – not just for their results, but for the way they represented the club with grace, resilience and true team spirit".

Wyre Forest Gymnastics School is committed to nurturing gymnasts of all ages and abilities, offering classes for beginners through to competitive athletes. Their dedicated team of coaches focuses on developing strength, technique and confidence in a supportive, friendly environment. For more information about their programmes, upcoming events and how to get involved, visit their website at: [www.wyreforestgymnastics.co.uk](http://www.wyreforestgymnastics.co.uk).





## Hartlebury Castle History, Heritage & Family Days Out



Easily reached from across the Wyre Forest district, Hartlebury Castle is one of Worcestershire's most fascinating heritage sites. With over 1,000 years of history behind its gates, the castle was once the powerful residence of the Bishops of Worcester—who have shaped both the building and the landscape around it since the 9th century. The current fortified manor began in the 1200s, and through the centuries, the castle has hosted royalty, endured the English Civil War, and witnessed moments of quiet faith and political drama.

Today, Hartlebury Castle is a much-loved visitor attraction, offering a full day out for all ages. Visitors can explore the historic Bishop's Palace, complete with beautiful state rooms, grand staircases and the renowned Hurd Library—a hidden gem of 18th-century scholarship. Audio guides and displays bring the past to life, from stories of saintly bishops to humorous

tales about butlers and dignitaries. Children can enjoy dressing up, spotting curiosities, and engaging with interactive displays designed to make history fun and accessible.

The castle is also home to Worcestershire County Museum, housed in the North Wing. This museum collection is a nostalgic journey through local life, with everything from Victorian schoolrooms and traditional toys to fashion, farming tools and even a 1950s kitchen. There are regular temporary exhibitions and hands-on activities for younger visitors. Outdoors, the grounds are just as inviting, with scenic walks around the moat, a sunken garden, picnic spaces, and a natural play area with a zip-wire and climbing features—ideal for families looking to spend a relaxed few hours in nature.

Since being saved by the Hartlebury Castle Preservation Trust in

2015, and with the help of a major National Lottery Heritage Fund grant, the site has been restored and revitalised. A range of community outreach programmes, education workshops and seasonal events now ensure the castle remains a living part of local culture. From open-air theatre to Tudor re-enactments, there's always something new to experience.

Hartlebury Castle is open from February to December, with access to all areas included in a single admission ticket. There's a friendly café on site, a well-stocked shop, and most areas are wheelchair accessible. Whether you're a history enthusiast, a family on a day out, or simply someone who enjoys a peaceful walk in beautiful surroundings, Hartlebury Castle is a must-visit treasure in the heart of the Wyre Forest.

To find out more visit:  
[hartleburycastle.com](http://hartleburycastle.com)



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## Mentor Link Supporting Young People Across Wyre Forest

Across the Wyre Forest, from Kidderminster and Stourport to Bewdley, children and young people are facing growing pressures that can seriously affect their emotional wellbeing. Whether it's anxiety, bullying, bereavement, or difficulties at home, many young people are struggling in silence. That's where Mentor Link steps in, a dedicated local charity providing vital one to one emotional support when it's needed most.

Based in Bewdley but working throughout the

Wyre Forest and beyond, Mentor Link provides long term mentoring for vulnerable and distressed children and teenagers. Their trained volunteer mentors offer regular support sessions in schools and community settings, creating safe spaces where young people can talk, feel heard, and begin to build confidence.

What makes Mentor Link different is its focus on long term, consistent support. Rather than short term fixes, they work over weeks



and months, sometimes years, to help young people rebuild trust, boost self esteem, and develop tools to cope with life's challenges. The charity works in partnership with schools across Kidderminster, Stourport and Bewdley, supporting pupils who may be at risk of exclusion, disengagement, or emotional distress.

Teachers and parents consistently praise the charity for the positive impact it has on children's behaviour, academic performance, attendance and confidence. Simply having someone who listens, without judgment or pressure, can make a huge difference to a young person

navigating difficult emotions.

Mentor Link is also passionate about early intervention. By identifying and supporting issues before they escalate, they provide a vital safety net for young people who might otherwise fall through the cracks.

Their volunteer mentors come from all walks of life, and the charity offers full training, DBS checks and ongoing support. No experience is necessary, just the willingness to listen, care, and be there.

Giving just an hour or two a week can change a young person's future.

Mentor Link's work in the Wyre Forest is making a real, lasting difference to the lives of young people, families, and schools. At a time when mental health services are under strain, this grassroots support is more important than ever. Want to make a difference in your community?

Mentor Link is always looking for new mentors and supporters. Whether you're interested in volunteering, fundraising or simply spreading the word, your help could change a life.

To find out more or to support the charity visit: [www.mentorlink.org.uk](http://www.mentorlink.org.uk)



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*We have been supporting families in the Wyre Forest area for over 20 years and are enormously privileged to have been a part of so many peoples home care journeys.*

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[www.riversidehomecare.co.uk](http://www.riversidehomecare.co.uk)





Worcestershire's Go-To Website For Families

## Events, Support & Connection All in One Place

From a simple Facebook timetable to a trusted local resource; how one local mum found a way to make things a little easier



For busy parents, finding the right class, event, or support group can feel overwhelming. No one knew that better than local mum Eileen Cowles. What began as a simple weekly timetable on Facebook has grown into FamilyFunandSupport.com Worcestershire's one-stop website for family-friendly events and essential support services.

What is:  
FamilyFunandSupport.com?  
This free, easy-to-use guide helps parents, carers, and guard-

ians across Worcestershire discover what's happening locally from baby classes and teen events to vital support groups. The site is organised into helpful calendars tailored to different age groups and needs. You'll find everything from antenatal classes and toddler groups to inclusive SEND events and older kids' activities. A Support Calendar also highlights services like mental health groups, dementia cafés, and community drop-ins making it easier to find the help you need, when you

need it. "We want families to feel connected, informed, and supported," says founder Eileen. "This site makes it simple to find what works — whether that's a fun day out or a safe space to talk."

**The Story Behind the Site:**  
Eileen created the first version during a difficult time in her parenting journey.

"As a postnatal mum of two, I found it hard to stay on top of what was going on. There were flyers in cafés, Facebook events,

posters in surgeries — but nothing all in one place. I felt overwhelmed and isolated, even though I knew support was out there." Motivated by her experience, Eileen began collecting information from notice boards, Facebook, and word of mouth — compiling it into a weekly timetable for other parents. What started as a personal lifeline grew into a community project, then a full website with help from her partner, friends, and local groups.

Now operating as a Community Interest Company (CIC), Family Fun and Support Worcestershire

is proudly backed by Worcestershire Public Health and Worcestershire Family Hubs. Their support helps the platform reach more families while reducing pressure on services by helping people self-navigate.

**Working Together to Support Families:**

"We're not just here to list events," says Eileen. "We want to work with local businesses, charities, and services to help them get seen by the families who need them most. If everyone knows where to look, everyone benefits."

The goal is simple: help families in Worcestershire feel connected to each other, to support networks, and to their community.

To find out more visit  
[www.familyfunandsupport.com](http://www.familyfunandsupport.com)

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THIS MONTHS

## Local Lowdown

### Quirky Tales & Local Lore

The Wyre Forest is full of fascinating tales, curious characters, and unexpected oddities that give this corner of Worcestershire its unique charm. From ancient woodland whispers to strange sightings on the canal towpaths, here's your monthly dose of local legend.

Let's start in Bewdley, where it's said that Queen Elizabeth I once stayed overnight at Tickenhill Manor—and that her ghost still walks its gardens. Locals have long reported sightings of a woman in Tudor dress drifting through the grounds on misty evenings, especially near the old orchard.



In Kidderminster, there's the tale of the carpet factory bell that could supposedly be heard chiming at midnight long after the mill shut down. While some chalk it up to imagination or the wind in the old rooftops, others believe it's the lingering spirit of the town's industrial past.



Then there's the curious case of the "Wolverley Tunnel Whistle." Near the canal tunnel, boaters have occasionally reported hearing a high-pitched whistle with no known source. Some

say it's caused by wind over the water, others blame a mischievous local spirit who enjoys startling passers-by.



Meanwhile, Stourport-on-Severn has its own local mascot—the tale of the River Severn Monster. Described as a long, dark shape that occasionally surfaces near the old basins, it's often dismissed as a floating log... but not everyone's convinced.



Whether you believe in ghosts, monsters or just enjoy the richness of local folklore, Wyre Forest never disappoints. These stories may not appear in textbooks, but they're passed down with pride and a smile.



# IMAGINE LENNON

Celebrating John Lennon, Kidderminster 18th October



Coming to Kidderminster Town Hall – Saturday 18th October 2025 Music lovers in Wyre Forest are in for a real treat this October as a stunning new live production, IMAGINE LENNON, heads to Kidderminster Town Hall for one night only.

This world-class show stars Tyson Kelly, widely recognised as the greatest John Lennon tribute artist in the world. Known internationally for his role as Lennon in Broadway's Let It Be and for seven years with the globally renowned Bootleg Beatles, Kelly brings both authenticity and charisma to the stage in a performance that has wowed audiences across the UK, Europe and the USA.

What sets IMAGINE LENNON apart is not just the music – although the setlist is packed with Lennon and McCartney classics,

solo hits, and some lesser-known gems fans will love – but the sheer depth and personal connection that Tyson Kelly brings to the role. Having dedicated over 15 years to perfecting his portrayal of John Lennon, Kelly doesn't just play the part – he becomes Lennon, embodying his voice, energy, and stage presence with uncanny precision.

Audiences can expect an elegant and powerful musical journey, taking in the early days of Beatlemania with hits like Please Please Me and A Hard Day's Night, through to the soulful introspection of Lennon's solo career, including tracks from Imagine, Mind Games, and Double Fantasy. Backed by a superb five-piece live band, the production is both musically rich and emotionally charged – a fitting tribute to a true icon of 20th-century music. A gifted musician and trained

performer, Kelly also comes from strong musical roots. His father, Tom Kelly, co-wrote some of the biggest pop songs of the 1980s and 90s, including Madonna's Like a Virgin and Cyndi Lauper's True Colors. That same passion for songwriting and storytelling runs through Tyson's portrayal of Lennon, making IMAGINE LENNON not just a concert, but a heartfelt homage.

For Beatles fans, lovers of live music, or anyone who has ever been moved by John Lennon's voice and message, this is a must-see show. With only one date in the area, be sure to book early to avoid disappointment.

IMAGINE LENNON –  
Kidderminster Town Hall  
Saturday 18th October 2025  
Tickets and full tour info:  
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## A New SPACE for SEND Students at Kidderminster College

Kidderminster College has officially opened its brand-new specialist learning facility for students with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and it's already changing lives.

The dedicated new area, named SPACE (Safe Place and Calm Environment), is a purpose-built learning zone designed for young people aged 16+ who need extra support to develop independence, life skills, and confidence as they prepare for adulthood.

Thanks to £279,312 of capital investment from Worcestershire County Council, this ambitious project was brought to life between August 2024 and February 2025. Students began accessing the facilities in May, with many more set to benefit from September onwards.

SPACE isn't just a room it's a learning experience. It includes:

- A fully accessible training kitchen,

where students learn to cook, budget, and prepare meals, as well as develop hospitality skills like serving hot drinks and customer service.

- Two sensory rooms, designed for emotional regulation and sensory stimulation — essential for students who benefit from calm, low-stimulation spaces.

- A one-bedroom training flat, replicating everyday living. Here, learners gain hands-on experience in tasks like cleaning, laundry, personal care, and managing daily routines.

- A quiet common room, offering a welcoming space for students who prefer low-noise environments during breaks or between sessions.

Together, these new facilities create a bridge between education and everyday life — helping young people with SEND gain real-world skills in a supportive

environment.

Claire Heywood, Vice Principal at Kidderminster College, explained: "We're proud to offer inclusive education for students with SEND across all levels. Through SPACE, we've expanded our support, providing the specialist environment so many of our learners need to grow in confidence, independence and wellbeing. We're especially grateful to Worcestershire County Council for believing in this vision and funding it — as nationally, post-16 SEND provision rarely receives this level of capital investment."

Kidderminster College now supports over 100 young people with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), across entry-level, Level 1, 2, and 3 programmes. Many of these courses are designed to prepare students for adulthood, community living and, ultimately, employment.

Students are already making the most of SPACE — developing customer service, hospitality, and retail skills, while also enjoying the chance to step away from the bustle of college life and recharge when needed. Councillor Dr Stephen Foster, Cabinet Member for Education and SEND, added:

"It's fantastic to see such dedicated facilities and passionate staff supporting these learners. This project is about investing in futures — and we're proud to have played a part in making that possible."

SPACE is now open and playing an important role in shaping brighter, more independent futures for young people with SEND across Wyre Forest and beyond.



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## Freezer: Your Food's Best Friend!

Ever wondered how to hit pause on that rapidly ripening punnet of raspberries or even those very soft bananas? Meet your freezer, the unsung hero of the kitchen!

Freezing works by slowing down the growth of microorganisms, essentially putting your food into a state of delicious, suspended animation. This means that fruits, vegetables, cooked meals, and even bread can retain their flavour, texture, and nutritional value

for weeks or even months!

It's an excellent solution to food waste and a brilliant way to save money. So, next time you have more than you can eat, think frozen! Your future self (and your wallet) will thank you for making your freezer your new best friend and yes, even bananas can be frozen – remove them from their peel and freeze inside a bag or foil and use them to make smoothies or banana bread once defrosted.



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## Mark Garnier Member of Parliament for Wyre Forest

As a Conservative MP, readers will not be surprised to learn that I was dismayed at Labour's election landslide. But I was, perhaps grudgingly, optimistic about Keir Starmer's performance on the global stage, and Wes Streeting's potential handling of NHS reforms. Until last week.

Keir Starmer's frankly extraordinary announcement that the UK will, from September, recognise Palestine as a state has completely shattered any illusions that Starmer is a global statesman. For sure, I agree that the situation in Gaza, with starving innocent civilians being, apparently, randomly shot by the Israeli Defence Force is simply appalling. And I have always agreed that a long-term aim of the so called "two state solution" is one

to support. But the terms of the announcement were surreal. Starmer's proposal, at its most basic level, said that unless the treatment of innocent civilians was not stopped by Israel, then the UK would recognise Palestine. So, rather than negotiating with Palestine (not easy, when Gaza is run by proscribed terrorist organisation Hamas) and seeking release of the hostages in return for recognition, he uses the objective as an effective punishment for a third state. Of course, I simplify the arguments immensely. 400 words is not enough to convey the complexity. But this all questions his motivation.

It is no coincidence that this announcement comes on the back of a letter from 150 Labour

MPs, many of whom face electoral obliteration in constituencies with Muslim populations. So, our position on regional peace in Israel lies not with a global strategy, but more with Starmer's prospects of lasting this parliament as Prime Minister. It seems that his principled position lies in tatters, a threadbare windsock blowing limply in the breeze of political opinion. Meanwhile, back home, we've had the start of 6 months doctors' strikes.

Health Secretary Wes Streeting made a schoolboy error last year when he awarded junior doctors an unconditional 22.3% pay rise. We all warned that they would be back for more. The NHS needs reform. It has never had so much money spent on it, yet it is falling back with regards productivity. To be fair to the junior doctors, their training arrangements illustrate this point. So, I am disappointed by Streeting, but remain hopeful that he can pull something out of the bag. Successful reform of the NHS is the goal he must achieve, for all our sakes.

Mark holds regular weekly surgeries: to book an appointment please contact his office via:

T: 01562 746771  
E: mark.garnier.mp@parliament.uk

Promoted by Mark Garnier,  
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## Stourport Carnival Returns

A Day to Celebrate! Saturday 6 September  
12 noon – 10pm



Get ready for one of the brightest and best-loved events in the Wyre Forest calendar – Stourport Carnival is back on Saturday 6 September, promising a full day of colour, music and community spirit in the heart of town.

Following a parade through the town, there will be events at the Riverside. Go along for an afternoon of live music, stalls, a fun fair and activities for children and families – perfect for making memories with your loved ones. From 12 noon, Stourport's streets will come alive with vibrant floats, lively performers and local groups taking part in the traditional carnival proces-

sion. Expect everything from marching bands and costumed dancers to classic cars and community champions – a joyful celebration of everything that makes Stourport special.


Throughout the day, the town centre and riverside will host family-friendly entertainment, street food stalls, craft traders and more live music. Whether you're bringing the kids for face painting and fairground rides or meeting friends for a late-summer afternoon of food and festivities, there'll be something for everyone.

As the sun begins to set, the carnival atmosphere continues into

the evening with music and dancing carrying on until 10pm. Grab a bite to eat, enjoy a drink from a local vendor, and soak up the atmosphere as the town comes together for one final summer celebration.

The Stourport Carnival is a proud tradition that's been drawing crowds for generations – and this year promises to be as spectacular as ever.

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## Over 50s Showcase Event – Bewdley Tuesday 23 September 2025 - 10 am – 12 pm

### Event Overview

Bewdley Town Council invites residents aged 50 and over to a special Over 50s Showcase, taking place this autumn at the historic St George's Hall. This friendly, morning-time event offers a rich programme of free activities, talks and information stands – all designed to support active lifestyles, social wellbeing, and community engagement for those in midlife and beyond. Visitors can explore a wide variety of local services, charities, and organisations that provide support, advice, and leisure opportunities – from health checks and fitness groups to financial guidance, social clubs, and volunteer pathways. There will also be light refreshments

available, making it a great chance to relax, chat and enjoy a sociable atmosphere. This inclusive showcase aims to bring together like-minded individuals and help strengthen community ties. Whether you're looking for ways to stay active, meet new people, or simply learn what's available locally, this event offers something for everyone.

### Who Should Attend

This event is ideal for residents aged 50 and over, anyone interested in learning more about local services for mature adults, and those looking to discover new social opportunities, community connections or support groups in the area.

### Why Attend

Attendees will have the chance to discover a wide range of health, finance, leisure and wellbeing services tailored for the over-50s. It's a great way to explore local groups and activities available in the Wyre Forest area, and to connect with fellow community members in a welcoming, sociable setting.

### Want to Know More?

For full event details, schedule updates, or enquiries, please visit the Bewdley Town Council event page linked above or contact the Town Council during their office hours (Monday to Friday, 9 am–5 pm).

(bewdleytowncouncil.gov.uk)

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## History: The Great Floods of Bewdley When the Severn Rose Too High

Nestled along the banks of the River Severn, Bewdley is a picturesque market town renowned for its charming riverside setting and historic architecture. But behind this tranquil scene lies a history marked by powerful floods moments when the Severn swelled beyond its banks and reshaped the town, its buildings, and the spirit of its people.

Bewdley's relationship with flooding stretches back centuries. The town's position on a meandering stretch of the Severn makes it especially vulnerable to rising waters during heavy rains and upstream surges. Over the years, there have been several major floods that tested the resilience of this tight-knit com-

munity.

One of the most devastating floods occurred in July 1947, a time etched in the memories of many local families. After weeks of heavy rainfall and melting snow from the Welsh hills, the Severn surged, inundating much of Bewdley's low-lying areas. Local newspaper reports from the time described scenes of chaos: "Water rose swiftly through the streets, forcing residents to evacuate by boat," said one eyewitness. Businesses along the riverside faced severe damage, and several homes were left uninhabitable for months. The floodwaters did not only destroy property; they brought the community together in extraordinary ways. Volunteers from across Bewdley banded

together to sandbag homes and businesses, providing relief and support to their neighbours. Local schools and churches opened their doors as shelters, embodying a spirit of solidarity that has become a defining trait of Bewdley.

Another major event was the flood of August 2007, part of a series of storms that caused widespread flooding across much of England. Bewdley's riverside streets were once again submerged, with water levels reaching record highs. Modern flood defences, installed after previous disasters, helped reduce the impact, but some areas were still severely affected. "It was frightening to watch the water rise so quickly," said a long-time resident. "But seeing the community come together reminded me

why I love this town."

Since then, Bewdley has seen significant investment in new flood defences designed to protect the town from future high waters. These include reinforced embankments, improved river walls, and flood gates that can be closed during emergency events. The Environment Agency has also installed advanced monitoring systems along the Severn, allowing for earlier flood warnings and better response coordination.

These upgrades have made a real difference. In more recent flood events, water levels that might have previously caused widespread damage have been held back, protecting homes, businesses, and key infrastructure. Residents report feeling more secure knowing these measures are in place, and the town council regularly tests and updates its flood response plans to keep pace with evolving risks.

Bewdley's historic buildings, many dating back to the 17th and 18th centuries, have also been adapted to withstand flooding. Some have been raised, while others have installed flood-resistant doors and windows, blending preservation with practicality.

As climate change brings increasingly unpredictable weather patterns, Bewdley continues to prepare for the future. Local authorities work closely with the community to promote awareness, resilience, and readiness, ensuring that when the Severn rises again, the town will be ready.

The story of Bewdley's great floods is not just one of destruction but of resilience, adaptation, and community spirit. It reminds us that while nature can be powerful and unpredictable, the strength and unity of a community can shine through even the highest waters.

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## September in the Garden: A Time to Harvest, Tidy and Plan

As summer begins to fade and the first hints of autumn appear, September is a rewarding and productive month in the garden. It's a time of transition where harvesting meets preparation, and colour still lingers while change is in the air.

One of the biggest joys of September is the abundance of crops ready for picking. Tomatoes, runner beans, apples, pears, courgettes, and squashes are in full swing. Keep harvesting regularly to encourage continued cropping and avoid waste. If you've grown herbs, now's the time to cut and dry them for use throughout the colder months.

While the vegetable patch is in its prime, your flower beds and borders will start to slow down. Deadhead faded blooms to prolong flowering into autumn, especially for dahlias and roses. September is also ideal for planting spring-flowering bulbs such as daffodils, crocuses, and hyacinths get them in the ground



now so they can develop strong roots before winter.

Lawns will also benefit from attention at this time of year. It's the perfect month for aerating, feeding, and overseeding if needed. The cooler temperatures and occasional rainfall help new grass establish quickly.

In terms of tidying, don't be too hasty to clear everything away. Seed heads can be left for wildlife, and some perennials will provide structure and interest well into winter. However, do keep on top of weeds and remove any diseased plant material to prevent problems carrying over into next season.

September is also a good time to divide overcrowded perennials and move shrubs while the soil is still warm. It gives plants time to settle before the chill of winter sets in.

Finally, September is a great time to plan ahead. Start thinking about your spring layout, and if you're considering any structural changes like raised beds, new borders, or greenhouses now's the time to sketch out ideas.

The days may be getting shorter, but there's still so much life in the garden. With a bit of thoughtful care now, you can ensure a bright and beautiful start when spring returns.



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## Maximising Small Spaces: Style Meets Practicality

Living in a smaller home doesn't mean compromising on style or function – in fact, it's often where clever design shines brightest. Making the most of limited square footage is all about smart planning, multi-functional pieces, and a bit of creative thinking.

The first step is layout. Assess how each room is used and whether the furniture really suits the space. Modular sofas, extendable tables, and nesting side tables are great options for flexibility without clutter. Ottomans that double as storage or a daybed that works as both a sofa and guest bed are practical and space-saving.

Light and colour play a big part in opening up smaller rooms. Stick to pale tones or soft neutrals to create a sense of airiness. Glossy

finishes, mirrored surfaces, and metallic accents help reflect light and make the room feel bigger. A large mirror opposite a window can work wonders in visually expanding the space. Vertical space is often under-used. Consider tall shelving units, hanging storage, or wall-mounted desks and bedside tables to free up floor space. Open shelving can also add visual interest and function when styled thoughtfully with books, art, and greenery. Even high-mounted curtain poles can draw the eye upwards and give the illusion of height.

Built-in furniture is another way to maximise awkward spaces, like alcoves or sloped ceilings. Bespoke joinery can provide seamless storage while enhancing the character of your home. Window seats with hidden stor-

age, floor-to-ceiling wardrobes, or built-in bookcases add charm as well as practicality. For those on a budget, flat-pack and modular ranges can often be customised with a few tweaks and clever styling.

For renters or those not looking to renovate, consider easy upgrades: peel-and-stick wallpaper, floating shelves, updated soft furnishings, and statement lighting can make a room feel refreshed without long-term commitment or expense.

Remember, small doesn't have to mean basic. With a thoughtful approach, a mix of functionality, and a few space-saving tricks, even the most compact room can feel welcoming, balanced, and beautifully designed.

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## Refresh Your Space: Simple Style Updates to Revive Your Home

September is the perfect time to reset — and that includes your living space. Whether the kids are back at school, you're returning from holidays, or simply craving a change, this is an ideal month to refresh your interiors and set the tone for the months ahead.

Start by evaluating how each room feels. Does your space still reflect your style? Could it be more comfortable or functional? Sometimes, the smallest updates — new cushions, updated throws, or a change in curtains — can breathe new life into a tired room. Look for colours that soothe and energise, such as soft greens, warm neutrals, or elegant greys.

Layering textures adds depth and personality. Try combining natural materials like cotton,

linen, and jute with softer elements such as velvet or boucle. It's a subtle way to make any room feel more inviting without overhauling everything.

Lighting plays a key role in atmosphere. As daylight changes, it's worth reconsidering your lamps and fixtures. A statement floor lamp or well-placed table light can transform corners that once felt dull. Warm white bulbs and layered lighting (overhead + task + ambient) help keep your space practical and cosy.

Thinking bigger? September is a great time to start a refresh project before the busy end-of-year season. A fresh coat of paint, a feature wall using wallpaper or panelling, or upgrading tired furniture can make a huge difference. Swapping hardware on kitchen cabinets or updating a

rug can also modernise your space with minimal effort.

Don't forget greenery — houseplants are still a strong interior trend and work well in every season. From trailing vines on shelves to tall leafy centrepieces, plants bring calm, colour, and a sense of life into your home.

If you enjoy getting hands-on, consider upcycling furniture or browsing second-hand markets for one-of-a-kind finds. A little creativity goes a long way when it comes to interiors.

Now's the time to rework your space into something that feels fresh, functional, and a reflection of you.



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Wolverley Memorial Hall is inviting local residents to enjoy a free breakfast event at the Community Café, aimed at anyone who might be interested in volunteering a couple of hours each week.

Taking place on Thursday 11th September from 10am to 11am, the café will be serving complimentary pastries, tea and coffee. The event is a relaxed and friendly opportunity to find out more about the wide variety of volunteering roles available at the Hall.

"Just a couple of hours a week of someone's time could really help us," says Graham Wallis, Chair of

the Trustees for Wolverley Memorial Charitable Trust, which maintains the Hall, its grounds and children's playground for the benefit of the local community.

"We need help in the café, which has become a really popular social hub. But we also need volunteers for the upkeep of the grounds, support with our community garden, and ongoing indoor maintenance. We'd especially love to hear from any local DIY enthusiasts!"

If you're curious about getting involved, simply pop along to the Wolverley Community Café at the Memorial Hall, Shatterford Lane, Wolverley, on the day.

Alternatively, you can email [gramwallis05@aol.com](mailto:gramwallis05@aol.com) to register your interest or ask questions.





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All materials are provided, including plant cuttings — but if you have a treasured houseplant you'd like to propagate, you're welcome to bring it along and work with it during the session.

Whether you're curious about cuttings, ready to expand your plant collection, or simply looking for a calming, creative weekend activity, this workshop promises to be a leafy delight.

Workshop Dates & Location:

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- Saturday 4 October 2025  
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- Saturday 8 November 2025  
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Bowling Club  
Lickhill Road, Stourport  
Jane 07800889768

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Stourport Bowling Club  
Lickhill Road, Stourport  
Jane 07800889768

KIDDERMINSTER 5.30pm  
Foley Park Methodist Church  
Off Brinton Close Kidderminster  
Ally 07719 415278

KIDDERMINSTER 5pm & 7pm  
St George's Social Club  
Radford Avenue  
Kidderminster  
Net 07989598589

BEWDLEY 5.30pm & 7pm  
St. George's Hall  
Load Street  
Bewdley  
Russell 07742254410

## THURSDAY

KIDDERMINSTER  
9.30am & 11am  
Foley Park Methodist Church  
Off Brinton Close  
Kidderminster  
Paula 07926192600

KIDDERMINSTER  
5pm & 6.30pm  
Foley Park Methodist Church  
Off Brinton Close  
Kidderminster  
Ally 07719 415278

STOURPORT 5pm & 7pm  
The Severns Club  
Lickhill Road, Stourport  
Lisa 07906 989728

## FRIDAY

STOURPORT 9.30am & 11am  
The Severns Club  
Lickhill Road, Stourport  
Lisa 07906 989728

KIDDERMINSTER 9am & 10.30am  
Kidderminster Carolinas R.F.C  
Marlpool Lane  
Paula 07926192600

## SATURDAY

KIDDERMINSTER  
7.30am, 9am & 10.30am  
St Mary's Church  
Churchfields  
Kidderminster  
Kerry 07936495211

STOURPORT 8am & 9.30am  
The Cornerstone Rooms  
Minster Road, Stourport  
Paula 07926192600



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# Health: Happy Gut, Healthy You! Simple Ways to Boost Your Digestive Health

Gut health has become a hot topic in recent years – and for good reason. Beyond just aiding digestion, your gut plays a vital role in immunity, energy, mental health, hormone regulation, and even the condition of your skin. The gut is often referred to as the “second brain” due to its complex communication with the nervous system and its significant impact on mood and overall wellbeing.

Inside your digestive tract lives the gut microbiome – trillions of bacteria, yeasts, and other microorganisms. A healthy gut has a balanced mix of beneficial

bacteria that work together to process food, absorb nutrients, eliminate waste, and protect against illness. But when that balance is disrupted a condition known as dysbiosis problems can arise. People with poor gut health may experience bloating, irregular bowel movements, fatigue, skin flare-ups, food intolerances, low mood, or difficulty concentrating. For many, these symptoms become part of daily life, without ever realising the gut could be the root cause.

Fortunately, there are simple, effective ways to support a healthier gut no extreme diets

or expensive supplements required. One of the most important things you can do is increase your intake of fibre. High-fibre foods like vegetables, fruit, whole grains, oats, lentils, and beans act as prebiotics – they feed your good gut bacteria and help them thrive. The more variety you eat, the better, as different types of fibre support different strains of microbes. Experts recommend aiming for 30 different plant-based foods a week – that includes herbs, spices, nuts, seeds, and even coffee.



Alongside fibre, fermented foods are also key. Natural yoghurt, kefir, sauerkraut, kimchi, miso, and kombucha all contain probiotics – live bacteria that can help restore balance in your digestive system. Including small amounts of these in your daily diet can gradually improve the diversity of your gut flora. If you're trying these for the first time, introduce them slowly to avoid overwhelming your system, and be mindful of sugar content in shop-bought varieties.

Equally important is what you reduce. Diets high in sugar, refined carbohydrates, and ultra-processed foods tend to feed the “bad” bacteria in your gut, encouraging imbalance. Limiting fizzy drinks, sweets, and ready-made snacks,

and replacing them with whole foods, nuts, seeds, or fruit can help reset your microbiome. It's not about being perfect – just making better choices more often. Even small swaps, like choosing brown rice over white or adding a handful of spinach to a sandwich, can have long-term benefits.

Stress management is another powerful tool for gut health. The gut and brain are closely linked via the vagus nerve, and stress can directly affect digestion, trigger inflammation, and alter the microbial environment. Simple practices such as mindfulness, breathing exercises, gentle walking, and regular sleep patterns can reduce this impact and support digestive health over time. For many people, taking just ten to fifteen minutes a day to unwind can noticeably ease digestive discomfort.

While antibiotics are sometimes necessary, they don't differentiate between good and bad bacteria. If you've been prescribed a course of antibiotics, it may be worth speaking to a pharmacist or GP about taking a probiotic supplement afterwards to help your gut recover. This is particularly important if you've had multiple rounds of antibiotics in a short period or experienced digestive issues afterward.

Improving your gut health is not about drastic overhauls – it's about small, consistent habits. Over time, these changes can lead to better digestion, stronger immunity, clearer skin, sharper thinking, and improved mood. Treat your gut well, and it will return the favour in ways you might not expect.



# M&J OPEN DAY



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SEPTEMBER**

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## Food Spotlight - EAT THE SEASON

Celebrate local produce with simple, delicious ideas

As summer fades, September brings a rich and colourful harvest to local markets, gardens and hedgerows. It's the perfect time to enjoy British-grown ingredients at their best—full of flavour, naturally affordable, and ideal for cosy home cooking. Plums are in their prime this month, offering juicy sweetness with a slight tartness. They're perfect in crumbles, compotes, or simply roasted with a drizzle of honey and a pinch of cinnamon. Try tossing a few halved plums into a salad with rocket, goat's cheese and walnuts for a savoury twist.

Apples begin to flood in too, especially early British varieties like Discovery or Worcester Pearmain. Whether you're making a classic apple pie or slicing

them into a cheese toastie, the crisp bite and bright flavour of fresh apples can lift sweet and savoury dishes alike. Add them grated into coleslaw or stew them with cinnamon for a comforting dessert topping. Squash and pumpkins also begin to appear, offering earthy, nutty depth. Butternut squash is a firm favourite, perfect roasted in chunks with rosemary, or blended into a silky soup with garlic and a dash of cream. You can also slice it thinly and bake it as a base for a healthier take on pizza.

Don't forget beetroot, blackberries, leeks, sweetcorn, and runner beans—all in peak condition right now. Blackberries, in particular, are brilliant for foraging. Use them in muffins, jams or



simply scatter them on porridge or yoghurt for a vitamin-packed breakfast.

Cooking seasonally not only supports local growers, but also encourages variety in your kitchen. It's better for the environment, better for your taste buds—and better for your wallet.

So, whether you're baking an apple traybake, blending squash into a warming curry, or picking the last of the summer blackberries from a country lane, September is bursting with reasons to eat well and feel good.



**FREE**

# KIDDERMINSTER MUSIC FESTIVAL 2025

**SEPTEMBER 26-28TH**

**HIGH ST-FRIDAY/SATURDAY**

**TINCHY STRYDER**  
**SWEET FEMALE ATTITUDE**  
**MICHELLE PLATNUM**  
**TANYA TANYA**  
**ALICE COLLEY CANNON BEACH CHEATED**  
**PUNKBAND THE CORNISH LARK TIN DRUM**  
**COMPARE**

**THE POST HOUSE-SAT/SUN**

**RUB A DUB PUB CLUB FROM THE FIRE**  
**BEN WEBB CATCH THE RAIN ERICA JEAN**  
**HALF A CLOWN MILKY & LIV SPLIT SECOND TOM**  
**SOUTH & THE LIFELINE TOGETHER WITH GRACE**

**THE CHURCH-SAT/SUN**

**CANTALOOP CHLOE MOGG SUNSET LEVELS**  
**DAN HUNT STRIDE**  
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**KRINGO LOSA UK MISTRUSTED RETSECROW(S)**  
**LOUIS BENNETT THIS SUMMIT FEVER**

**CARRIGAN EVENTS**  
 KIDDERMINSTER  
 BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT  
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 MY LOCAL  
 WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL





## Riverside Dining with Style: Why Tappeto Lounge Is a Local Favourite

If you're looking for relaxed, vibrant dining in Kidderminster, you can't miss Tappeto Lounge. Sitting proudly on Riverside Walk, this buzzing café-bar has quickly become a firm favourite for locals seeking quality food, great coffee, and a laid-back social atmosphere.

From morning lattes to evening cocktails, the Lounge offers something for everyone. Its stylish interior mixes quirky charm with comfort—think eclectic artwork, cosy corners, and a river-

side terrace perfect for watching the world go by. Whether you're after a solo coffee or a full family brunch, Tappeto caters to every moment.

Tappeto's all-day menu is a crowd-pleaser. You'll find hearty brunches, colourful salads, burgers, tapas, and indulgent puddings—all made with care and served with a smile. The Louisiana Fried Chicken is a standout, while the Smashed Avocado Brunch is a lighter favourite, topped with feta, poached egg,

and zingy harissa lime honey.

Vegetarian, vegan and gluten-free options are plentiful, and the separate kids' menu makes this a winner for family visits. Their Clifton Coffee is top-notch, and there's a tempting list of wines, beers and classic cocktails—available.

Tappeto Lounge isn't just a place to eat—it's a part of the local community. From bake sales and craft sessions to LoungeAid fundraising events, the team takes pride in supporting local causes and creating space for people to come together. The venue is dog-friendly, wheelchair accessible, and available for private hire with cosy spaces like the Caraboo Room.

You don't need to book unless you're in a group of six or more—just pop in and make yourself at home.

Tappeto Lounge is proof that good food, friendly vibes, and community spirit can all live under one colourful roof. If you haven't dropped by yet, now's the time.

Find them at: Riverside Walk, Kidderminster DY10 1BY



## Looking for a Tasty Midday Treat?

Available in the heart of Stourport, enjoy a freshly prepared 2-course hot lunch with a delicious main and dessert in a warm and welcoming setting.

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T: 01299 333 337

A: Paisley at 106, 106 Minster Road, Stourport-on-Severn, DY13 8AB







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**Bewdley Festival of the Arts 2025**  
**18 events from 10th to 26th October**

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Comedy | Authors | Visual Arts

Be part of something special this October...

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*of the Fine Young Cannibals*  
**Ria Lina**  
*Mock the Week, Have I got News for You*  
**Mikey North**  
*Coronation Street*  
**Richard Herring**  
*"UK's comedy pioneer" - The Times*  
**The Toby Lee Band**  
*"You're going to love him" - Jools Holland*  
**And many more...**

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<https://boxoffice.bewdleyfestival.org.uk>  
✉ [admin@bewdleyfestival.org.uk](mailto:admin@bewdleyfestival.org.uk) ☎ 01299 404808



## Blackberry Hunt & Bake: A Sweet Taste of September

There's nothing quite like the simple pleasure of blackberry picking on a sunny September afternoon. Across Wyre Forest, the hedgerows are brimming with these juicy dark berries, just waiting to be gathered.

Whether you're wandering along the canal in Stourport, exploring the trails of Habberley Valley, or strolling the riverside paths near Bewdley, you're likely to spot a bramble or two. Foraging is a brilliant way to reconnect

with nature—and it's completely free. Just bring a tub, wear gloves to avoid the thorns, and stick to safe, accessible public paths. Avoid berries close to roads or sprayed areas, and always wash your haul before eating.

Once you've picked your fill, the fun doesn't stop there. Blackberries are wonderfully versatile. Eat them fresh, freeze for later, or—our favourite—turn them into a classic crumble. There's something so satisfying about baking

with ingredients you picked yourself.

It's a lovely weekend activity, and a great way to get kids involved in both nature and cooking.

Look out for wild apples too—they often grow near brambles and are ideal companions for blackberries in a traditional dessert. Soft, tangy apple balances the rich sweetness of the berries perfectly.

Next page: our easy, family-friendly recipe for Blackberry & Apple Crumble—a comforting classic that tastes like the very best of early autumn.







# WILD AT HEART.

Wildjac is different.

We are a sustainable distillery committed to producing premium spirits, that bring joy to our customers. We combine the finest foraged botanicals with a serious approach to distillation, and always dedicated to doing good for the planet and the community.

Check out our products and events at [wildjac.co.uk](http://wildjac.co.uk)

**WILDJAC**  
NATURALLY SPIRITED | SUSTAINABLY CRAFTED  
[wildjac.co.uk](http://wildjac.co.uk)

## Blackberry & Apple Crumble Bake using your foraged fruit



### Ingredients

#### For the fruit filling:

- 2 large cooking apples (peeled, cored and chopped)
- 200g fresh blackberries
- 2-3 tbsp soft brown sugar
- ½ tsp ground cinnamon

#### For the crumble topping:

- 100g plain flour
- 75g rolled oats
- 75g cold butter (cut into cubes)
- 75g soft brown sugar

### Method

#### Method

1. Preheat the oven to 180°C (160°C fan) / Gas Mark 4.

2. Prepare the fruit: In a large bowl, mix the chopped apples, blackberries, sugar, and cinnamon. Tip into an ovenproof dish and spread evenly.

3. Make the crumble: In a separate bowl, rub the butter into the flour using your fingertips until it looks like breadcrumbs (kids usually love this part!). Stir in the oats and sugar.

4. Top the fruit: Sprinkle the crumble mixture evenly over the fruit filling.

5. Bake for 35-40 minutes, until the topping is golden and the fruit is bubbling around the edges.

6. Cool slightly, then serve warm with custard, cream, or a scoop of local vanilla ice cream.

#### Top tip for little helpers:

Let them wash the berries, mix the filling, and sprinkle the crumble. Just be prepared for a few to disappear during prep! Local twist: If you have wind-

fall apples from your garden or a neighbour's tree—use them! This recipe is all about simple, seasonal goodness.





# THE KINGSFORD PUB WOLVERLEY

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TUESDAY TRIBUTE  
NIGHT


£6 TICKET





THE ROSE THEATRE

THE NONENTITIES Society



**THE UNFRIEND**  
A COMEDY  
BY STEVEN MOFFAT  
*She's charming, chatty  
and possibly a killer...*  
**8<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> September 2025**  
THE ROSE THEATRE, KIDDERMINSTER  
Box office 01562 743745 / [www.rosetheatre.co.uk](http://www.rosetheatre.co.uk)

FREE EVENT



**OPEN DAY**  
SAT 13TH SEPTEMBER  
10:00AM - 2:00PM  
THE ROSE THEATRE  
THEATRE TOURS  
COME & EXPLORE!

KIDS

NODA for every stage

KIDDERMINSTER OPERATIC AND DRAMATIC SOCIETY PRESENTS

**CURTAIN UP ON MURDER**  
A DRAMATIC COMEDY  
BY BETTINE MANKTELOW  
**17<sup>TH</sup> - 20<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025**  
AT THE ROSE THEATRE  
KIDDERMINSTER  
Box Office 01562 743745  
[WWW.ROSETHEATRE.CO.UK](http://WWW.ROSETHEATRE.CO.UK)  
THIS AMATEUR PRODUCTION OF "CURTAIN UP ON MURDER" IS PRESENTED BY ARRANGEMENT WITH CONCORD THEATRICALS LTD. ON BEHALF OF SAMUEL FRENCH LTD. [WWW.CONCORDTHEATRICALS.CO.UK](http://WWW.CONCORDTHEATRICALS.CO.UK)

THE CLOCKWORK MURDERERS

TWO CLASSIC TALES OF TERROR from W.W. Jacobs

**THE MONKEY'S PAW**

PLUS W.W. Jacobs' **THE GHOST of JERRY BUNDLER**

THE GHOST OF JERRY BUNDLER  
As guests at a small country inn pass the evening telling ghost stories, they discover that the very inn they are staying in, has its own resident ghost, Jerry Bundler, who is known for strangling his victims while they sleep. One of the guests, decides to put them to the test by betting that he can scare them before the night is up.

THE MONKEY'S PAW  
Mr. and Mrs. White are visited by a friend of Mr White's, who served with the British Army in India. He shows them a mummified monkey's paw and tells them that an old fakir placed a spell on it, so that it would grant three separate men three wishes but with hellish consequences for tampering with fate.

FRIDAY OCTOBER 24th  
starts 8.00pm



## Step Into the Spotlight At The Rose Theatre Open Day



Ever fancied treading the boards, working behind the scenes, or simply exploring the magic of your local theatre? Now's your chance. The Rose Theatre in Kidderminster is throwing open its doors this September for a special Open Day, inviting everyone in the community to step inside and discover what goes on both onstage and off.

Whether you're curious about acting, interested in set design, fascinated by lighting and sound, or just want to see what makes this creative space tick, there's something for everyone to enjoy. From backstage tours and

the bustling wardrobe department to the treasure trove that is the props room, visitors are welcome to explore every corner of this beloved community venue.

Perhaps you have a particular skill you'd like to offer — whether it's technical, artistic, or administrative — or maybe you're simply looking for a new hobby to brighten your autumn evenings. The team would love to meet you, answer your questions, and share how you can get involved.

There'll be society members on

hand for a friendly chat, plus a free cup of tea for every visitor. The Box Office will also be open, with tickets available for the exciting new season of performances. So why not pop in between 10am and 2pm on Saturday 13th September?

You might just find your next passion or rediscover a long-lost one.

Find out more at:  
[www.rosetheatre.co.uk](http://www.rosetheatre.co.uk)  
The Rose Theatre, Chester Road  
North, Kidderminster DY10 2RX



**FREE**

# KIDDERMINSTER MUSIC FESTIVAL 2025

SEPTEMBER 26-28TH

## HIGH ST- FRIDAY/SATURDAY

**TINCHY STRYDER**  
**SWEET FEMALE ATTITUDE**  
**MICHELLE PLATNUM**  
**TANYA TANYA**  
**ALICE COLLEY CANNON BEACH CHEATED**  
**PUNKBAND THE CORNISH LARK TIN DRUM**  
**COMPARE**

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**RUB A DUB PUB CLUB FROM THE FIRE**  
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**CARRIGAN EVENTS**  
**KIDDERMINSTER BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT**  
**THE SWAN**  
**MY LOCAL**  
**NU BAR**  
**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**



## Kidderminster Music Festival Bigger, Louder, and Bolder Than Ever

26-28 September 2025

Live Across Kidderminster

Get ready, Kidderminster! The Kidderminster Music Festival 2025 is set to be the biggest yet—three full days of live music, community spirit, and unforgettable energy, taking over the town from Friday 26 to Sunday 28 September.

This year's lineup is nothing short of epic, with three huge headliners bringing the noise across the weekend:

- Tinchy Stryder – UK grime pioneer and chart-topper
- Sweet Female Attitude – Garage icons known for their hit "Flowers"
- Michelle Platnum – Soulful vocals and powerhouse performances.

But that's just the beginning. A packed schedule of rising stars

and local legends will perform across multiple stages and venues, including:

Tanya Tanya • The Dogs • Cantaloop • Chloe Mogg • Tin Drum • Catch the Rain • Alice Colley • Beat Surrender • Cannon Beach • Erica Jean • Half a Clown • Kringo • Losa UK • Milky & Liv • Rub-a-Dub Pub Club • Ruben Seabright • Sinergie • Split Second • Stride • Sunset Levels • The Cornish Lark • This Summit Fever • Together With Grace • Tom Sivell • Tom South & The Lifeline, and many more still to be announced.

From rock, indie, and acoustic to soul, funk, and reggae, Kidderminster Music Festival promises something for everyone—with music spilling out from the Town Centre Main Stage to buzzing venues like Bear and Wolf, NuBar, The Post House, The

Swan, Weavers Ale House, and Church on Church.

Whether you're following the full weekend lineup or just soaking in the festival atmosphere, expect great music, lively street scenes, friendly crowds, and a showcase of everything that makes Kidderminster a brilliant place to be.

Full venue lineups and set times will be revealed soon, so keep your eyes on festival updates and follow along online.

Don't miss it Kidderminster will be alive with music.

Find out more and get updates at: [www.facebook.com/kidderminstermusicfestival](http://www.facebook.com/kidderminstermusicfestival) or [www.eventbrite.co.uk/kidderminster-music-festival-tickets](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/kidderminster-music-festival-tickets)





# JHAC

JELLEYMANS HERITAGE ARTS CHARITY

## JHAC

Jelleyman's Mill and the surrounding site on Puxton Lane are one of the last remaining vestiges of the industrial heritage of Kidderminster, and here at Jelleyman's Heritage Arts Charity we are devoted to conserving the character of that heritage whilst also bringing the site back to life as a modern, flexible, community asset.

Our aim is to build a sustainable link between the past, present, and future of this beautiful region, engaging local people, groups and businesses to create a thriving hub of activity and opportunity. The site offers offices and function rooms for private hire, spaces for a community group use, a community cafe, a wellbeing craft centre, and work has begun on a community garden.

## The Crafty Jelly

The Crafty Jelly Barn is a Craft Centre, Shop and Workshop, providing a fantastic opportunity to learn new crafts in a unique inspirational relaxed environment, surrounded by woodland and birdsong right next to the River Stour at Jelleyman's Mill. Our Craft Shop also offers an extensive selection of quality handmade goods and funky vibrant gifts for all ages and occasions.

Come along and experience the healing power of nature and art.

## BECOME A VOLUNTEER

Support our vision  
Become a volunteer and make a difference in your local community.

Help us build something beautiful—together. Jelleyman's Heritage Arts Charity is powered by people like you. Volunteers are at the heart of everything we do—from transforming the old mill into a creative hub to running workshops, events, and community cafés.

Whether you've got a few hours a week or want to get stuck into a long-term project, there's a place for you here.

Ways to get involved  
We've always got plenty going on!  
Creative Workshop Support – ceramics, crafts, and more  
Event Crew – gigs, markets, festivals, open mics  
Café Helpers – brewing, baking, and friendly faces  
DIY & Restoration – if you're handy, we've got plenty to fix!  
Media & Marketing – photos, socials, design  
Front-of-House – welcoming guests, answering questions.

Lets chat, Email us: [volunteer@jelleymans.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@jelleymans.org.uk)

## The Bungalow Cafe

The Bungalow Community Cafe offers a warm, safe space in a beautiful, vintage, riverside setting at JHAC. Serving breakfast and lunch, coffee and cake, ice-creams and much more, we aim to become a hub for local groups and services to use as a meeting place and base.

Why not try us out for your next meeting, lunch date, or caffeine fix!

info@jhac.co.uk | 07444 746445

## Hartlebury Castle Antiques & Collectors Fair Saturday 14 September

Whether you're a seasoned collector or simply love the thrill of the hunt, the Antiques & Collectors Fair at Hartlebury Castle is a must-visit this September. Set in the beautiful and historic surroundings of the castle's Carriage Circle, this popular event invites visitors to browse a wide variety of stalls filled with antiques, curiosities, vintage finds and collectables of all kinds.

Presented by Paul and Vicky Rowson, the fair returns for 2025 following several successful years of well-loved events. Friendly traders will be on hand to answer questions and share

their knowledge — and who knows, you might just find the perfect piece to complete your collection or spark a brand-new interest.

Take your time exploring, enjoy a relaxed chat with the stallholders, and soak up the unique atmosphere of one of Worcestershire's most iconic heritage sites.

Saturday 14 September 2025  
11:00am – 5:00pm  
Venue: Hartlebury Castle,  
Carriage Circle  
Entry: £3 on the gate  
(Free for under 16s)



Please note: The Bishop's Palace and Grounds will be closed to general visitors on the day of the fair. However, the Worcestershire County Museum will remain open from 11am–5pm, with Museum Only Entry tickets available separately on the door.

visit [www.hartleburycastle.com](http://www.hartleburycastle.com).



## SEVERN VALLEY RAILWAY

### Bewdley Station

Follow us on Facebook

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The Fund Shop In September. Events on the Railway.

6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> SVR and GB Railfreight weekend.

18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> Autumn Steam Gala.

28<sup>th</sup> Railway 200: The show.

The Shop will be open on all operating days (subject to volunteer availability), and the Beer Hut will be open over the 4-day gala. Please see our Facebook page for operating times.





# September Motoring Ready for the Road Ahead

As the school term begins and the days gradually shorten, September is the perfect time to give your car a little post-summer TLC. Whether you've clocked up the miles on a staycation, commuted through the heat, or simply put off that long-overdue service, now's the time to prepare your vehicle for the wetter, darker months to come.

**End-of-Summer Check-Up**  
After months of dry, dusty roads and air-con overload, your car deserves a full once-over. Tyre pressures and tread depth are a great place to start – they're key for grip and safety in rainy weather. Windscreen wipers often degrade in summer heat, so check for cracks or smears. And don't forget to top up screenwash with a winter-ready formula. If your brakes have been a bit squeaky or spongy, book in for a check before autumn's damp roads make stopping distances

longer. A garage can also inspect your battery, as colder starts tend to highlight weaknesses.

**MOT Reminder**  
September is one of the UK's busiest months for MOTs, especially for vehicles registered in the spring. Beat the rush and book early – many local garages offer a free retest or loyalty discounts if you book ahead.

**New Plate Season**  
September also brings the new '75' registration plates. Whether you're buying or just browsing, now's the time when forecourts are full of deals. Many dealers offer part-exchange incentives and finance packages to make room for the latest arrivals. Even if you're not buying new, this month often sees a flurry of nearly-new cars hitting the

second-hand market at great value.







**Drive Smarter, Not Harder**  
If rising fuel costs are on your radar, consider ways to drive more efficiently. Lighten your load, check tyre inflation weekly, and avoid excessive idling. Even small changes can make a big difference over time – and your wallet will thank you.


**This month's motoring tip:**  
Always carry a torch, high-vis jacket, and basic emergency kit. September is often when road-side conditions change be prepared.

**Need a trusted local garage?**  
Contact  
VRS Midlands:  
Chadwick Farm  
Stourport-on-Severn  
DY13 8QZ  
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