

WYRE FOREST
Matters
WYRE FOREST

COUSINS
FURNITURE

Celebrating

1985

40
YEARS

2025

OF QUALITY & VALUE

save
40%
OFF
Anniversary
Collections

Bamburgh 3 Str Leather Chesterfield

now £1499

Discover more inside...

BIRMINGHAM • DUDLEY • NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME • SHREWSBURY

**YOUR WYRE FOREST MATTERS IS INSIDE
FULL OF LOCAL NEWS, EVENTS & MORE**



Reliable local heating & plumbing engineers,
domestic & commercial central heating systems,
Gas, Oil & LPG boiler services & plumbing.

- Gas, Oil, LPG boiler installations and repairs
- Boiler servicing
- Central heating installation and repairs
- Heat pumps and renewables
- Power flushing
- Underfloor heating
- LandLords Gas safety certifications
- General plumbing

0% FINANCE



○ CONTACT US NOW
○ 01299 405135
○ www.rnaheating.com



KIDDERMINSTER, STOURPORT, BEWDLEY & SURROUNDING AREAS

Featured

5 Bewdley Carnival 2025

The streets of Bewdley came alive on Saturday 28th June!

8 Crackerjacks

A Local Charity Making a National Difference

10 Cousins Furniture

Cousins Furniture: Celebrate 40 years

15 This Months Lowdown

Local lowdown quirky tales & local lore

Regular

23 MP Update

Mark Garnier Member of Parliament for Wyre Forest

33 Gardening

Looking after your garden in August from planting to wildlife

34 Interiors

Furnishings that make a house a home

39 Interiors

Bringing nature indoors the rise of organic & natural materials

45 Health & Wellbeing

The hidden danger of nasal tanning sprays: what you need to know

48 Food & Drink

Food spotlight, the taste of Elderflower & BBQ Recipe: Chicken & halloumi burgers

54 Whats On

Local events, theatre news, SummerFest 2025 A weekend of food, music & fun in stourport!

66 Motoring

Summer car care keep your motor happy in the heat



THIS MAGAZINE IS
FREE & PRODUCED
INDEPENDENTLY

Advertising Contact:

Andy Preece
07948 720973

Editorial Contact:

wyreforestmatters@gmail.com

Disclaimer: All adverts delivered by Wyre Forest Matters are published in good faith. We do not accept responsibility for the accuracy of such advertisements, nor is any kind of warranty or endorsement expressed or implied by such publication.



TLC Care at Home are a well-established family run, Home Care Provider who have built up an excellent reputation within our local communities

We have recently been rated as **OUTSTANDING** by CQC and this puts TLC Care at Home in the top 3% of providers in England



Professional care and support in your own home

Our dedicated Care Team are here to help support you with 24/7 care provision should it be required. At TLC Care At Home, we are dedicated to supporting people with wide range of needs, including Dementia, Acquired Brain Injury, Physical Disabilities, Learning Disabilities, Sensory Impairments and supporting our aging population.

Depending on your individual needs, we can offer varying degrees of support from young adults to very mature people. TLC Care at Home are here to help anyone who requires care and support to enable them to remain living at home for as long as it is safe to do so.

Comprehensive range of care services

- Domiciliary Care
- Palliative care
- Personal care
- 24 hour care
- Companionship
- Dementia Care
- Overnight Care
- Elderly Care
- Care for young adults
- Supporting younger people
- Domestic services: cleaning, cooking, washing and shopping
- Collections of pensions or prescriptions
- Trips out and about

Please contact us now for more information
Telephone: **01299 272 897**
Email: **wecare@tlccareathome.co.uk**
Website: **www.tlccareathome.com**



BEWDLEY CARNIVAL 2025

A Spectacular Celebration of Community Spirit

The streets of Bewdley came alive on Saturday 28th June!



Hundreds of visitors turned out to enjoy one of the town's most cherished traditions: Bewdley Carnival 2025.

This year's event was a vibrant celebration of local talent, creativity, and community spirit – with colourful floats, an array of local traders, live entertainment, and family-friendly activities drawing record crowds to the town centre.

Opening the Weekend: Friday's Riverside Firework Display Back by popular demand last year, the tradition of opening Carnival weekend with our riverside firework display did not disappoint! Setting off just after sunset, the sky was alight with glorious colour – and there were even some surprises along

the water-level too. We'd like to thank Jubilee Fireworks for their superb display once again. A huge "thank you!" also goes to Richie Heath from Light Ideas LTD for sponsoring the entire display. This sponsorship means more funds can be donated to local causes.

The Main Event: The Parade!

This year's much-anticipated parade featured over 20 fantastic entries from community groups, families and local businesses. Trophy winners were:

- Bewdley Scouts
- Best Community Group
- Bewdley Primary School
- Best Youth Group
- Double D's Woodz
- Best Trader
- Happy Staffie Charity Coffee Shop, Bewdley – Overall Stars of

the Parade!

Entertainment began at 12pm with Bewdley Concert Band keeping the crowds entertained as they waited for the parade to come through and continued throughout the day with live music, food and drink stalls, garden games, and a bustling market of local traders and charities.

Highlights included:

- Over 50 traders joining us this year
- Performances from 16 different acts, across THREE stages – Load Street, QEII Jubilee Gardens and The Riverside Stage on Severn-side South
- The largest (and most creative) parade we've seen in years
- Seeing so many happy faces helping us raise money for local

causes

We were thrilled with the turnout and the atmosphere. The community really came together to make this year's Carnival something special! Thank you to all our volunteers, sponsors, performers, parade entries, stallholders, and everyone who supported the event. We couldn't do it without you. Photos and videos from the day can be found on the Bewdley Carnival Facebook and Instagram pages: @bewdleycarnival

But what's it all for?

As much as we love seeing our town filled with people enjoying themselves, the heart and soul of Bewdley Carnival has always been raising money and awareness for local charities and non-profit organisations.

This year's chosen charities (selected from our charity ballot) are:
•Wyre Community Land Trust

- Bewdley River Birds Volunteers
- Food for Local Causes (supporting Kemp Hospice and Bewdley Dementia Support Group)

Each charity will receive an equal donation from this year's profits. We're still tallying up the totals, but across Friday and Saturday, your generous donations amounted to £2,175.44! We're so thrilled to support such fantastic local causes – thank you to everyone who donated.

Save the Date:
Bewdley Carnival 2026
Saturday 27th June

Planning is already underway for next year, which will mark 100 years since Bewdley's first ever land and river parade. The committee is always looking for new volunteers and supporters join us at our AGM (details below), message us on social media, or

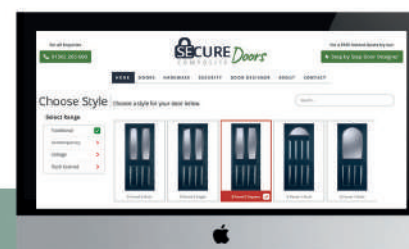
email pr@bewdleycarnival.co.uk
Join Us Bewdley Carnival AGM
Monday 15th September 7pm
Bewdley Bowling Club, Riverside North, DY12 1AB

A Message from our Chairman, Martin Fisher:

"Another successful year for Bewdley Carnival! Hundreds came out in the scorching weather to see our fabulous parade, which grows year on year and is supported by so many wonderful local groups and organisations. We're incredibly grateful to everyone who attends, donating vital funds to support local causes. I'd like to personally thank all the volunteers who helped make the day a major success. We work tirelessly to bring you the carnival Bewdley deserves – thank you all. We hope you enjoyed the fireworks and everything on offer. See you next year!"



DESIGN YOUR NEW FRONT DOOR TODAY
AND GET AN INSTANT PRICE THAT INCLUDES SURVEY, FITTING AND 10 YEAR GUARANTEE



In just a few minutes, design your new front door and even upload a photo of your house to see how it will look!



ALL ENQUIRIES: 01562 265 600
Stourport Road, Kidderminster
www.securecompositedoorsltd.com

SCAN THE QR CODE TO DESIGN YOUR DOOR AND GET AN INSTANT PRICE

www.thefactoryopticians.co.uk
the factory opticians

COMPLETE GLASSES FROM £25



CALL FOR AN EYE TEST



KIDDERMINSTER: 01562 747087 | DROITWICH: 01905 796641

Crackerjacks



Children's Trust

Crackerjacks: A Local Charity Making a National Difference

In the heart of Kidderminster, nestled on Worcester Street, sits a remarkable local charity that quietly changes lives every single day. Crackerjacks Children's Trust may be based here in the Wyre Forest, but its reach extends across the entire UK, offering critical support to children living with disabilities and their families. Founded in 2012, Crackerjacks began with a simple yet powerful idea: every child, regardless of ability, deserves joy, dignity, and the opportunity to par-

ticipate fully in life. Over the years, the charity has become a lifeline for families navigating the financial and emotional pressures that often accompany raising a child with additional needs. The support Crackerjacks offers is both practical and heart-felt. Through a variety of grant schemes, the charity helps fund specialist equipment including adapted wheelchairs, sensory tools, custom made trikes and wet room conversions. These are not luxuries; they are life changing



essentials that help children move more freely, communicate more easily, or simply feel safe and included in their own homes. While grants for sensory toys might total around £200, larger funding awards can reach £3000, a lifeline for families often overlooked by mainstream services.

Crackerjacks also funds respite breaks, offering struggling families precious time to rest and recharge. Whether it is a stay at their dedicated retreat or a family getaway tailored to a child's needs, these breaks are more than holidays. They are acts of emotional restoration.

What makes Crackerjacks

truly special is its commitment to staying community focused while making a national impact. The charity receives no government funding and relies entirely on donations, fundraising, and partnerships. It has become a familiar name in the Wyre Forest Community Lottery, and supporters can often be found rallying behind local events and fundraising challenges to keep its vital work going.

Walk into their offices and you will not find corporate gloss or red tape. You will find a small, passionate team led by people who care. CEO Terry Bull and Treasurer John Bacon work tirelessly alongside volunteers to make sure

every penny goes where it is needed most.

The legacy they are building from Kidderminster is extraordinary. Hundreds of families across the UK now live with greater independence, comfort, and peace of mind thanks to the work of this quiet powerhouse of compassion.

For anyone wondering where to direct their community spirit, Crackerjacks is a shining example of how local action can lead to national change, all starting right here in the Wyre Forest.



To find out more or to support the charity visit: www.crackerjacks.org.uk



Our mission is simple, to treat everyone that uses Riverside as family. To offer the care and attention that we would want for our own mothers, fathers, grandparents and friends. Having support at home can be a hugely positive and life enriching experience.

- PERSONAL CARE • MEALS AND DRINKS ASSISTANCE
- LIGHT DOMESTIC TASKS • MEDICATION SUPPORT
- SHOPPING SUPPORT AND TRIPS
- PHONE CALL CHECKS • HOBBIES AND INTERESTS

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.

A huge part of who we are is the sense of community to where we live - both management and carers live locally, so you can be at ease that we are never far away and always on hand to guide, reassure and support you.



T: 01299 823777 E: enquiries@riversidehomecare.co.uk
www.riversidehomecare.co.uk



Robert (left) on holiday with his Grandfather Bill Cole and other relatives



Robert and Edward Shotton with Faith Brown at the opening of the Tyseley store

This year marks a truly remarkable milestone for Cousins Furniture as they celebrate 40 years of furnishing homes across the Midlands, Shropshire and beyond. They warmly invite you to join them in-store to share in the celebrations, as they reflect on a rich heritage, celebrate the past, the present, and look forward to a bright future.

A Legacy Rooted Since 1921

While Cousins Furniture officially opened its doors in 1985, its roots stretch back over a century to 1921, when founder Bill Cole started 'Coles of Bilston', with a reclamation yard that became a thriving local business complete with its own private

Local News

Cousins Furniture: Celebrate 40 years

The Future Is Bright, The Rest Is History



The Shotton Family

zoo to attract customers! On August 17th 1985, brothers Robert and Edward Shotton, along with their cousin William Cole, carried forward this entrepreneurial spirit by opening the first Cousins store in Tyseley, Birmingham with comedienne Faith Brown, a store that quickly became a furniture destination for families across the region.

A True local Family Business

Following on from the success of the Birmingham store, a second store followed in Dudley in 1996, opened by Jack and Vera of Coronation Street, who bought the town to a standstill! Cousins grew from humble beginnings to become the largest family-run furniture retailer in

the Midlands through hard work, strong values, and the trust of customers who have returned generation after generation. Many customers who once shopped with their parents and grandparents now bring their own families to Cousins, confident in the choice, quality, and service they will receive.

Chairman Robert Shotton and his son John Shotton, who is managing director, remain actively involved, ensuring that the family's passion for quality, value, and excellent service is reflected in every visit, every product, and every delivery. Family members are intimately involved in the selection of all collections, personally visiting factories where

the furniture is crafted. This hands-on approach ensures that every piece of furniture meets the high standards that Cousins is known for.

Expansion and Innovation

In 2020, Cousins expanded into Shropshire and Staffordshire, acquiring the former Alan Ward stores in Shrewsbury and Newcastle-under-Lyme, fulfilling over 1,000 outstanding orders and cementing its position as the region's leading independent furniture retailer. With large distribution centres in Oldbury and Shrewsbury, Cousins now serves homes across the Midlands and into Wales, with extensive ranges of living, dining, and bedroom furniture ready for quick delivery.

40 Years of Trust

A name you can trust, Cousins offers the best from leading British brands such as Parker Knoll, G Plan, Ercol, ViSpring, and Hypnos. These brands have been loyal partners since the opening of the first store. Over 60% of customers are either repeat buyers or have been recommended by family and friends, a testament to Cousins' dedication to exceptional service and furniture that truly lasts.

Always Moving Forward

As lifestyles have evolved, so

too has Cousins. Their Bespoke range lets customers create made-to-order furniture tailored to their exact style and size, with new colours and finishes added regularly. Investment in online shopping and digital marketing ensures customers can browse and buy whenever it suits them, always reflecting the latest trends. In-store, customers can enjoy the popular Deja Brew café, a wide range of accessories, and a successful flooring department, making it easy to furnish an entire home under one roof with the guidance of friendly, experienced staff.

A Bright Road Ahead

After transforming the Shrewsbury showroom, Cousins has now completed the modern new entrance at their Dudley store, with plans to refurbish the Dudley interior next to further enhance the customer shopping experience. A refresh of the Tyseley exterior is also underway, as Cousins continues to enhance its stores, creating inspiring destinations for customers across the region.

Chairman Robert Shotton states, "We continue to enhance the in-store experience because we believe people need to be inspired when shopping for

furniture. We will keep evolving the concept of true destination stores."



Rose Shotton, Robert's mother, with Jack & Vera cutting the ribbon at the opening of the Dudley store

Commitment to Sustainability

Cousins is taking clear steps towards a greener world. They have recycled over 1,000 beds and mattresses, installed solar panels at five sites, and uses low-emission vans while recycling all packaging. EV charging points at three sites support customers and staff switching to electric. Cousins also offers reclaimed furniture using FSC-certified wood and recycled fabrics across many ranges, reflecting its commitment to protecting the environment while furnishing homes responsibly. As Cousins celebrates 40 years of proudly furnishing homes, they remain true to their core values of choice, quality, and value, ready to meet the needs and aspirations of customers for decades to come.

Cousins Furniture warmly invites you to celebrate their milestone 40th anniversary at one of their stores in Birmingham, Dudley, Newcastle-under-Lyme, and Shrewsbury, and discover how they can help you create a home you love.



New modern entrance at the Dudley store

COUSINS
FURNITURE

Celebrating
40
1985 2025
YEARS

OF QUALITY & VALUE

Join In The Celebrations

EVERYTHING REDUCED THROUGHOUT THE STORES

We're celebrating 40 years of Cousins with prize giveaways and charity donations!

PLUS huge discounts across all departments including all the brand names.

Enjoy 4 decades of choice, quality, and value.

CELEBRATIONS START ON 4TH OF AUGUST

Interest
Free Credit
Available

Tyseley Opening

Free
Glass of Bubbly
WHEN YOU VISIT
US IN STORE.

Shotton Family

Dudley Opening



save
40% OFF
Anniversary
Collections

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME • SHREWSBURY

BIRMINGHAM • DUDLEY

COUSINS
FURNITURE

0% APR REPRESENTATIVE: Interest Free Credit available on all orders over £500. REPRESENTATIVE EXAMPLE: Cash price £600. Interest rate 0% fixed. No Deposit, then 12 payments of £50 (0% APR Representative). Total amount payable £600 Subject to status. Written details on request. Offer not available on clearance items, or in store concessions.

CHLOE MAY'S DANCE ACADEMY'S

HOLIDAY CAMPS

newcomers welcome

**18-19 WORCESTER STREET
KIDDERMINSTER**

AUG 5TH

ACRO CAMP

10am - 12.15pm
Beginners/Intermediate

12.45-3.15pm
ADVANCED - Level 3+
Acrobatic Arts or advanced gymnasts only

£15

AUG 11

LILO & STITCH CAMP

10am-3.15pm
Ages 5-11
£30

A fun filled day of Lilo & Stitch themed dance, games and craft

AUG 12

TIKTOK DANCE CAMP

2pm - 4.30pm
£15 Age 7-16

Learn the latest Tiktok dance trends!

AUG 18

MOVIE NIGHT

6pm-8.30pm
£10 Age 6+

Time to chill out with your dance friends and watch a movie. Includes popcorn, sweets and a drink

CHLOEMAYSDANCEACADEMY.CLASS4KIDS.CO.UK/CAMPS



THIS MONTHS

Local Lowdown Quirky Tales & Local Lore

The Day Bewdley's Bear Escaped...

Bewdley is known for its Georgian charm, riverside strolls, and would you believe a rather unusual animal escape that's still whispered about by locals. Back in the late 1980s, the tranquillity of this Worcestershire town was turned upside down when a bear reportedly broke loose from the West Midlands Safari Park.

It wasn't long before local headlines read like something out of a far-fetched children's story: "Bear on the Loose in Bewdley!" For days, townsfolk kept a curious eye on the hedgerows while schools whispered about lockdown drills (although, truthfully, the bear was found swiftly, more puzzled than dangerous). To this day, some locals still joke

about spotting "the Bewdley Bear" on misty mornings.



The Curious Case of the Leaping Stones...

Over in Stourport-on-Severn, there's an old bit of riverside lore involving the 'leaping stones' a cluster of worn rocks in the Severn that, according to legend, were used by smugglers to cross the river under moonlight. The tale goes that if you leap across them at midnight during a full moon, you'll be blessed with good fortune (or a wet pair of socks, depending on your aim).

Did You Know?...

The Wyre Forest, one of the largest ancient woodlands in Britain, was once a designated royal hunting ground, reserved for the monarchy and noble elite. Rich in oak, ash, and hornbeam, it provided not only a source of timber and game but also a secluded escape from courtly life.

Local legend suggests that King Charles II, known for his charm and numerous romantic entanglements, would sometimes slip away from Whitehall and visit a secluded glade near Button Oak to secretly rendezvous with one of his mistresses. While official records remain silent on the matter, oral history passed down through generations hints at this royal affair deep in the woods.

To add to the intrigue, some say there's an old tree—gnarled with age and thick with moss—that bears a faint, time-worn carving: the initials "C.R." (Carolus Rex), supposedly etched by the King himself. Though many have searched, the precise location of the tree remains elusive, hidden among miles of twisting trails and shaded paths.

Whether it's truth or tall tale, the story remains a beloved piece of local lore. So, next time you're wandering near Button Oak, keep your eyes peeled. You never know when you might stumble upon a royal secret lost to time...





Join us for
our next
events

care UK 

Chandler Court care home, Bromsgrove
Hydration in later life
Wednesday 27th August, 2pm - 4pm

**Heart health in later life,
including health checks**
Friday 29th September, 2pm - 4pm

Brook Court care home, Kidderminster
Living well with Parkinson's
Tuesday 22nd October, 12.30pm - 2pm



Trusted to care

To book please call **0330 029 1792**

The Wyre Forest's Home Improvement Specialist...

**Flexible
Finance
Options**

T & C's Apply



Windows | Doors | Conservatories | Orangeries

Kidderminster & Worcester showrooms open 7 days a week

www.5starwindows.co.uk 01562 60800



All Aboard for Fish & Chips on the Severn Valley Railway!



This summer, the Severn Valley Railway is serving up one of Britain's most beloved traditions with a twist. Imagine tucking into freshly prepared fish and chips from a local favourite, all while travelling by steam train through some of Worcestershire's most scenic countryside. Sound good? Then you won't want to miss this delicious day out.

Running on selected dates throughout August, this unique experience combines the nostalgia of heritage rail travel with the unbeatable taste of proper chippy fare. Departing from Kidderminster station, passengers are treated to a golden meal provided by none other than Captain Cod's Fish Bar-

one of Kidderminster's best-loved chip shops.

On arrival at the station, guests are warmly welcomed by Severn Valley Railway staff and guided to collect their freshly boxed meal before boarding the beautifully preserved train. Reserved seating ensures a comfortable, relaxed journey as you settle in to enjoy your fish and chips surrounded by the charm of a vintage carriage.

As the train gently rolls through the stunning Severn Valley landscape, you'll pass riverside views, historic stations, and glimpses of local wildlife making this a feast for the senses in every way. And if you'd like to make it a full dining experience, there's even a "Travel-

ling Tavern" onboard, serving a selection of alcoholic and soft drinks to enjoy during the ride.

Whether you're planning a family treat, a quirky date idea, or a fun outing with friends, this fish and chip train experience is a local gem not to be missed.

Spaces are limited and dates are expected to sell out quickly so early booking is highly recommended. This is more than just a meal and a train ride it's a chance to step back in time, support local businesses, and soak up the very best of what the Wyre Forest and Worcestershire countryside have to offer.

To find out more or to book, visit svr.co.uk.



Regus
Kidderminster

Work your way.

Book Day Office, Meeting Room, and Virtual Office

FROM JUST

Virtual Office – £50/month

Day Office – £8/Hour

Meeting Room – £35/hour

CONTACT US

📍 Stourport Road, Kidderminster, DY11 7QE
☎ 07766 293115 | 🌐 regus.com/kidderminster

Warm Welcome for New Boutique Charity Shop in Hagley

The sun shone on Hagley as the newest addition to the high street officially opened its doors. The grand opening of The Boutique by KEMP Hospice took place on Thursday 3rd July at 10am, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and a warm welcome from staff, volunteers, and local supporters of the Wyre Forest based charity in attendance.

Gary Barnes, Head of Retail at KEMP Hospice said "We're absolutely thrilled to open our new shop in Hagley. The local response has been fantastic, and we're so grateful to the community for their warm welcome. Every purchase, donation and hour volunteered helps us raise essential funds to support our hospice services, so this shop really will make a lasting difference. The Boutique by KEMP Hospice is more than just a place to shop.

Our aim is to establish the store as a vibrant community hub where people can shop sustainably, donate quality items, and get involved as volunteers."

Located in the heart of Hagley, the new shop offers a carefully selected collection of women's clothing, formal wear, premium products and specialist items which have all been pre-loved and kindly donated to help raise vital funds for KEMP Hospice.

KEMP Hospice has been providing free-of-charge care and support to people for over 55 years. Their services include Day Hospice clinical care, exercise & wellbeing, complementary and occupational therapy and creative arts activities for patients and their families living with a life-limiting illness. They also offer counselling and emotional

support to adults, young people and children living with bereavement.

Gary continued "We never charge for the care and support services provided at KEMP Hospice. But each year we need to raise around £1.6million to ensure we can continue to be there for people. Our retail shops - including this new store - play a vital role in helping us to raise those funds. This wouldn't be possible without the wonderful customers who come through our doors each day, and the generosity of those who donate their pre-loved items."

As the shop opens its doors, the team are also keen to hear from people who could volunteer to help establish the store in the local community. Kevin Powell, People & Volunteer Coordinator at KEMP Hospice said "Volunteering is a fantastic way to not only support KEMP Hospice in raising vital funds, but a chance to meet new people, learn new skills or utilise your previous experience. Volunteers are at the very heart of everything we do at KEMP, particularly our retail sites and quite simply we couldn't keep our shop doors open without them." If you're interested in volunteering at The Boutique by KEMP Hospice, would like any further information, or would simply like to look around and pick up a bargain, the shop is now open from Monday to Saturday, 9am to 4.30pm and can be found at 100 Worcester Road, Hagley, DY9 0NJ.

For more information about KEMP Hospice, visit:
www.kemphospice.org.uk



www.THEWASHHOUSE.com

Your leading local retailer of electrical appliances for 40+Years!



More in stock than any local retailer
with collection available 7 days a week!

THE WASH HOUSE

The Baldwin Centre
Wilden lane
Stourport-On-Severn
DY13 9JY

Tel: 01299 822031



BBQ Leftovers: Don't Let the Grill Thrill End!

The sizzle and smoke of your BBQ might be over, but the deliciousness doesn't have to be! Don't let those tasty leftovers become destined for the bin. With a little creativity, your BBQ remnants can transform into sensational new meals!

Think beyond just reheating. Shred leftover chicken or pulled pork for epic sandwiches or loaded nachos. Slice grilled halloumi or veggies into a vibrant salad.

or a hearty breakfast hash. Freezing is also your friend – portion out cooked meats or grilled corn for future speedy meals.

Give your BBQ brilliance a sizzling second act and enjoy the flavour without the waste!

To find out how to be more #FoodSavvy with your leftovers visit www.lets-wasteless.com/foodsavvy for tips, recipes and inspiration.



LET'S WASTE LESS

#FOOD SAVVY

worcestershire
county council

FOREST WASH LAUNDRY

ECO-FRIENDLY DRY CLEANING

READY TO TACKLE THOSE BIGGER JOBS?
LET US TAKE CARE OF IT!

DUVETS &
THROWS



CURTAINS



SLEEPING
BAGS



WEDDING
DRESSES



• OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK • COLLECTION & DELIVERY SERVICE
• FREE PARKING



UNIT 3, LUPIN WORKS WORCESTER ROAD
DY10 1JR TELEPHONE 01562 743000



Mark Garnier Member of Parliament for Wyre Forest

One of the biggest hot topics is the endless illegal migrant boats crossing the English Channel. And in July, we saw this dismal government have a go at dealing with the problem.

President Macron's visit gave the opportunity to strike a landmark deal with France. And the result? A "one in: one out" arrangement where we can swap illegal migrants for legal ones. The maths of this means that fully 94% of illegal migrants will stay in the UK. The new government has an appalling record on this. Their first act (on illegal migration) was to axe the Rwanda scheme. This was set up as a deterrent and before it even came into action, it was driving down migrant numbers. Even the Irish agreed, as they started to

see illegal migration across the border from Northern Ireland as illegal migrants sought sanctuary from potentially being deported to Africa.

Since axing the scheme, illegal migrant arrivals have ballooned, the trade being delighted that Labour's confused approach to tackling the problem emboldened migrants.

Labour's alternative policy – "smashing the gangs" – has failed for blindingly obvious reasons. Smash a gang, and it creates an opportunity for other gangs to fill the newly created void. And it's a simple business model. For up to \$10,000, a migrant will get delivered to the beaches in Kent, where they will be offered free

three-star accommodation for as long as it takes for the free lawyers to come up with a plausible argument for them to claim asylum.

Then they get a council house, a job, and free access to our benefits system and health services. What's not to like?

I did hear a suggestion that whilst failed asylum seekers will get sent back, successful ones should be billed for the costs of access, in a way that every student with a student loan is familiar with. With costs running up to the hundreds of thousands of pounds for each migrant, it seems a reasonable proposal on first inspection, and will certainly make them think twice before coming to the UK. The government has to get a grip on this. It is tackling huge unproductive costs in areas such as welfare and benefits. To be throwing money we simply cannot afford at a problem we can solve is ludicrous. And for many people across the country, it is the unfairness that hurts the most.

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,
of 28A Bewdley Road North,
Stourport-on-Severn,
DY13 8PS



Kidderminster Welcomes 'Inspiration' Train

Marking 200 Years of UK Railways



This July, Kidderminster proudly became the first stop on the national tour of the Inspiration Train, a unique travelling exhibition designed to celebrate 200 years of the railways in the UK. The vibrant, specially designed locomotive rolled into town as part of a summer-long campaign to honour Britain's railway heritage and the countless lives it has connected over two centuries.

The Inspiration Train is part of a national initiative supported by Community Rail Network and partners, aiming to spark imagination and promote the power of rail to bring communities together. The train's colourful carriages and eye-catching

exterior, featuring artwork and stories from communities across the UK, drew plenty of attention from local families, railway enthusiasts, and visitors at Kidderminster station.

The town's historic link with the railway, particularly through the Severn Valley Railway, made it a fitting place to launch the journey. Local schoolchildren, volunteers and councillors gathered to take part in the celebration, with activities, speeches and the chance to explore the decorated train making it a memorable occasion.

Kidderminster's involvement in this national moment highlights both its rich transport heritage

and its continued importance on the railway map. As the Inspiration Train continues its route around the country, it leaves behind a powerful reminder of how rail travel continues to connect people, places, and possibilities – just as it has for 200 years.

To find out more about the UK's railway celebrations and the Inspiration Train journey, visit communityrail.org.uk.

Or better still, pay a visit to the Severn Valley Railway in Kidderminster and experience the region's proud railway heritage for yourself!



HEY THERE WYRE FOREST EMPLOYERS!

WE CAN HELP FILL YOUR VACANCIES!

- **Access job-ready 16-24-year-olds** – Careers Worcs connects businesses with young people actively looking for work and career opportunities.
- **Fill vacancies quickly** – Save time and effort by reaching local candidates who are eager to step into employment.
- **Tailored recruitment support** – Careers Worcs provides businesses with free support to match vacancies with suitable candidates.
- **Support for work experience and apprenticeships** – Careers Worcs can assist in setting up placements that benefit both businesses and young workers.
- **Completely free service** – There are no costs to businesses for using Careers Worcs to find young employees.



CAREERS WORCS

16-24 CAREER HUBS

EMAIL: CAREERSADMIN@WORCESTERSHIRE.GOV.UK CALL: 0300 666 3 666

AGED 16-24? PICK UP CAREERS SUPPORT AT THE POINT @ KIDDERMINSTER COLLEGE




Worcestershire
Local Enterprise Partnership



**CREATING
WORCESTERSHIRE'S
FUTURE WORKFORCE**



worcestershire
county council



First Careers Worcestershire Week To spotlight support for young adults

Young people across Worcestershire can take charge of their future this August during the first-ever Careers Worcestershire Week.

Careers Worcestershire (Careers Worcs) is a free support service from Worcestershire County Council's Skills and Employability team, helping 16 to 24-year-olds take their next steps into work, training, or education. Running from 25 to 31 August 2025, Careers Worcs Week will shine a spotlight on the help available through Careers Worcs' 16-24 Hubs, with a particular focus on those receiving their GCSE or A-Level results.

Career hubs in Worcester, Redditch, Kidderminster, and Bromsgrove provide dedicated spaces for one-to-one support on apprenticeships, CV writing, job applications, interview skills, training options and more.

Throughout the week, young

people are invited to attend Summer Clinics, which offer tailored advice, career talks, and the chance to meet local employers. The sessions will showcase the wide range of opportunities available – from apprenticeships and training courses to Skills Bootcamps and further education.

Councillor Alan Amos, Worcestershire County Council's Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Business and Skills, said: "I'm pleased to announce the first annual Careers Worcs Week. Whether it's apprenticeships, training or employment, our 16-24 Career Hubs are focused on getting young people into real opportunities that benefit both them and our local economy.

This is a clear example of how we are delivering practical, results-driven support for young people across the county. It's part of our ongoing work to strengthen Worcestershire's skills base,

support business growth, and drive long-term economic development."

Charlotte McCaughtrie, Programme Manager for Careers Worcs, added: "We know exam results season can bring a lot of uncertainty, so our 16-24 Career Hubs are here to offer much needed support, tools and encouragement that young people need to move forward. We're opening our doors to everyone to come and see what's available to support our county's future workforce – and that support continues all year round."

To boost engagement, Careers Worcs will also be sharing interactive content across social media throughout the week, offering valuable tools and resources to help young people move forward. Parents and carers are also welcome to visit the hubs to find out more about the support available.

For more information about Careers Worcs and the 16-24 Career Hubs, visit www.careersworcs.co.uk or call 0300 666 3 666 (freephone).

Attwood Funerals

CELEBRATING LIFE

A truly local, independant family business.

We cater for all kinds of funeral services and offer full funeral planning services. Religious and non-religious, cremations, burials, green funerals and more.

Unattended local cremation service starting from only £1195* & Funeral Plans from £1520

More information at:
www.attwoodfunerals.co.uk
 24/7 Phone line: 01562 632081
info@attwoodfunerals.co.uk

Attwood House, 220 Marlpool Lane, Kidderminster, DY11 5DL

*Prices correct as at April 2025 and may change in the future.

Do you suffer from Joint/Muscle Problems, Tension/Anxiety, Sciatica, Sports Injuries, R.S.I. Then I may be able to help.

LUCY POPE

SPORTS THERAPY

Sports/Remedial, Therapeutic and Swedish Massage and Rehabilitation.
Reiki Practitioner.

29, Sebright Road, Wolverley, Kidderminster, DY11 5TZ
 07966 554504 • pintsizepony@yahoo.co.uk

F J BENTLEY RUGS

FAMILY RUN BUSINESS EST 1980

WE SELL A RANGE OF RUGS FROM MODERN TO TRADITIONAL THAT SUIT ANY ROOM

WE CAN EDGE YOUR LEFT-OVER CARPET TO CREATE RUGS, THIS CAN BE DONE WITH A TAPED EDGE OR OVERLOCKED

VISIT US INSTORE TO FIND OUT MORE
UNIT 6, ACORN ENTERPRISE CENTRE, HOO FARM IND EST, KIDDERMINSTER, DY11 7RA

WWW.FJBENTLEYRUGS.CO.UK
01562 755795



History: Stourport: The Canal Town That Changed Everything

While Bewdley was once the region's bustling river port, it was Stourport-on-Severn — a town that barely existed before 1770 — that would become one of the most unique and ambitious transport hubs in Georgian England.

Unlike many neighbouring towns that evolved slowly over centuries, Stourport was built almost overnight. It was designed with a purpose, born from the vision of pioneering engineer James Brindley and the rapid rise of canal transport during the Industrial Revolution. With the construction of the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal, this quiet riverside location was transformed into a critical junction — where ca-

nal met river, and where goods could flow smoothly across the country.

Between 1770 and 1820, Stourport grew at a remarkable pace. Its population exploded, and with it came rows of handsome Georgian houses, thriving inns, warehouses, boatyards, and five interlinked canal basins. Merchants and labourers flocked to the town, and barges loaded with coal, salt, pottery, sugar, and timber became an everyday sight. It was the very definition of a boom town.

What sets Stourport apart is that it remains one of the only canal towns in the entire country built from

scratch to serve this new era of trade and movement. At its height, it rivalled much older and more established towns in both size and economic power. By the early 1800s, more goods passed through Stourport than through Bewdley, despite its centuries of prior trading history.

But like many industrial towns, change came quickly. The arrival of the railway in the 1850s gradually shifted trade away from the canals, and Stourport's importance as a freight hub began to wane. Yet the town adapted. During the late 19th

and early 20th centuries, it reinvented itself as a riverside retreat for day-trippers from Birmingham and the Black Country. Paddle steamers, amusement rides, cafés, and arcades brought joy to thousands. Stourport's spirit of resilience is part of what continues to make it special. The town's story is one of vision, reinvention, and enduring charm. Even today, it maintains a character all its own — a blend of industrial heritage, family-friendly fun, and tranquil waterside living.

Visitors can still stroll beside the original canal basins — many beautifully restored

— and soak in the town's rich industrial heritage. The Tontine Hotel, originally built for canal merchants, still watches over the waterfront, while the locks, towpaths and swing bridges whisper stories of a once-mighty trade route.

Stourport isn't just a picturesque riverside town — it's a living monument to ambition, industry, and ingenuity. A place quite literally built on water, and powered by vision.



PROFESSIONAL HOME ORGANISER

Are you feeling overwhelmed by the amount of 'stuff' in your home?

Are you embarrassed to invite people round?

Do you feel like you waste time each day looking for things, causing yourself unnecessary stress when trying to leave the house for school or work?



INTRODUCING *uncluttered* by dilly

TRAINED & ACCREDITED
BY DILLY CARTER FROM
AWARD-WINNING BBC1
PROGRAMME, SORT YOUR LIFE OUT

CONTACT:

✉ [KATH@UNCLUTTEREDBYKATH.COM](mailto:kath@unclutteredbykath.com)

☎ 07841 597076

♥ SCAN THE QR CODE TO FIND OUT MORE





Quality &
Style in Every
Bathroom

NEW SHOWROOM DISPLAYS

OPEN TUESDAY-SATURDAY 9AM- 5PM (SUNDAY & MONDAY CLOSED)



WE DO HOME VISITS!

BATHROOMS • WETROOMS • EN-SUITES

CLOAKROOMS • TILES • 3D DESIGN SERVICE

TRUSTED INSTALLERS

LOCAL & NATIONAL DELIVERY



New Wave Bathrooms: Bringing Style to Kidderminster



Nestled on Lisle Avenue in Kidderminster, New Wave Bathrooms has been quietly serving the Wyre Forest community since its opening in 1989. Over three transformative decades, this third-generation, family-run business has expanded into one of Worcestershire's largest dedicated bathroom showrooms—offering both elegance and expertise in equal measure.

Stepping inside the showroom, you're greeted with over 80 immersive displays that showcase everything from luxurious freestanding baths and walk-in showers to space-saving basins, tiles, flooring, and even shower-toilets. It's a place where design dreams become real, with everything on display ready for you to touch, feel, and explore eliminating the guesswork that comes from online shopping.

At the core of New Wave's success is their commitment to expert, personalised service. Whether you're starting with a blank canvas or detailed design ideas, the team, led by Managing Director Josh Vale, offers tailored in-house and home visit consultations, complete with 3D CAD visualisations. Working alongside trusted local installers, they manage every stage of the project from initial quote to final aftercare. For anyone feeling overwhelmed by the idea of a bathroom refit, New Wave provides guidance and confidence at every step.

The showroom is thoughtfully curated with products from premium international brands offering such variety ensures both style and quality can coexist, no matter your budget or taste.

Praise from customers reflects the company's strong reputation: reviewers highlight exceptional service, "beautiful and inspiring" displays, prompt delivery, and "meticulous attention to detail".

Thinking of a bathroom upgrade? New Wave Bathrooms combines local roots with design-rich solutions and trusted brands, all backed by expert hands at every turn. To explore their range or begin your design journey, drop in at Unit 1, 19 Lisle Avenue, Kidderminster, or give them a call on 01562 751714.



Unit 1, 19 Lisle Avenue, Kidderminster, Worcestershire DY11 7DF

T 01562 751714 | E info@newwavebathrooms.co.uk

WWW.NEWWAVEBATHROOMS.CO.UK



NJK Plumbing & Heating

Plumbing and heating services throughout the Wyre Forest



We specialise in boiler, heating and bathroom installations as well as plumbing and gas appliance maintenance

Our Gas Safe and OFTEC registered engineers provide professional, reliable, and high-quality service.

Contact: 01562 633516 or 07973914432

Email: sales@njkeating.co.uk Website: www.njkplumbingheating.co.uk

Established for over 35 years

Why choose NJK Plumbing & Heating?

- All domestic services
- Plumbing and heating services
 - Gas safety checks
- Fully trained and qualified
 - Gas Safe registered
 - OFTEC registered
- All work guaranteed
- Free initial consultations
 - Free surveys
 - Free quotations



August in the Garden: Late Summer Jobs & Joys

August is a glorious time in the garden – everything is in full swing, and there's still plenty of colour, warmth and life to enjoy. But while the sun's shining, this is also a month of maintenance, harvesting, and forward planning.

Deadheading is key this time of year. Regularly removing faded blooms from roses, dahlias, cosmos, and other flowering plants encourages them to keep producing right into autumn. Your containers and hanging baskets will also thank you for a good trim and a regular drink – they dry out quickly in summer heat, so keep an eye on moisture levels.

Harvest time is in full flow. Tomatoes are ripening on the vine, runner beans are bursting with pods, and courgettes seem to double in size overnight. Pick regularly to encourage more produce and avoid any gluts turning to marrows! It's also a great time to enjoy homegrown salads, herbs, and berries many

of which are at their peak. Lawn care can't be ignored either. Mow regularly but raise the blade slightly in hot, dry spells to avoid stressing the grass. If we have prolonged dry weather, a good soak once a week is better than little and often.

Looking ahead, August is the perfect time to start thinking about your autumn and spring display. Spring bulbs like daffodils, crocus, and alliums can be ordered now, ready to plant from September onwards. It's also a great month to take softwood cuttings from herbs like rosemary and lavender.

Don't forget the wildlife, either. Keep bird baths topped up with clean water and consider leaving out a shallow dish for hedgehogs too. Pollinators are still active, so let a few flowers go to seed and leave patches of wild growth where you can.

If you're heading away on holiday, ask a neighbour to water your pots or invest in a simple irrigation system – it could make all the difference. And when you're back, the garden offers the perfect place to unwind, reconnect with nature, and make the most of those golden summer evenings.

August may be late summer, but there's still plenty of life left in the garden. With a little care and planning, your outdoor space

will reward you well into the next season.



Garden Supplies Direct

A local company delivering quality products since 2007.



FREE
Delivery
DY10,11

**** Clearance Deals ****
Many Products Less than **HALF PRICE***

Visit: paulsgardensupplies.co.uk

*Click on the Special **SALE BOX** to view **DEALS***

FREE
Delivery
DY10,11



Levington
Dec Bark
75ltr

2 bags
£19.50



Ambassador
Peat Free
Multi 40ltr

3 bags
£24



Levington
Farmyard
Manure
50ltr

2 bags
£14



Star Buy!
50's
Only £6

www.paulsgardensupplies.co.uk

Call Paul on: 01562 741820 Mob: 07704 346506



Furnishings That Make a House a Home

As summer gently begins to shift toward autumn, now is the perfect time to refresh your interiors with furnishings that bring both comfort and style. Whether you're giving a single room a new lease of life or making small seasonal updates, a few well-chosen pieces can completely transform your space.

Soft furnishings are the easiest way to make an instant impact. Swap out light linens and pastels for richer tones and tactile textures. Think velvet cushions in earthy shades, chunky knit throws, and rugs that soften wooden floors. These elements not only add warmth but can subtly shift the mood of a room as the days begin to cool.

In the living room, consider rethinking your layout or investing in a new statement piece. A beautifully upholstered arm-

chair, a rustic coffee table, or a vintage sideboard can act as both a practical item and a talking point. Don't underestimate the power of well-placed lighting either – a floor lamp or dimmable side light adds instant atmosphere, especially as evenings draw in. Adding a few framed prints or wall-mounted shelving can also update tired walls without major renovation.

In the dining space, bench seating is having a real moment, offering both flexibility and a relaxed, communal feel. For a quick update, a new table runner, placemats or centrepiece can elevate everyday meals into something a little more special. Candles or seasonal greenery can also work wonders on even the simplest table.

The bedroom, too, can benefit from small furnishings updates.

Layering is key – mixing textures like cotton, wool and linen adds depth, while a new headboard or bedside table can completely shift the room's character. Storage doesn't have to be dull either – look for woven baskets, ladder shelves or even vintage suitcases to add personality as well as function.

Where possible, shop local – there are some brilliant independent retailers, makers and vintage markets right here in Redditch and Wyre Forest. Supporting small businesses not only helps the local economy, it also gives your home unique pieces with a story.

Furnishings are more than decoration – they reflect your personality, support your lifestyle, and turn empty rooms into spaces that feel like you. So whether you're going bold or keeping it simple, now's a great time to fall back in love with your home.

★★★★★ *Delivering exceptional 5-star service*

DRIVETECH
PATIOS & LANDSCAPING

**WELCOME TO DRIVETECH
PERFECTLY CREATED
OUTDOOR SPACES**

We offer high-quality paving and landscaping services in the West Midlands and Worcestershire, backed by a skilled team with over a decade of experience. Our aim is to create stylish, durable, and functional outdoor spaces tailored to each client's needs.

**Get your
FREE
quote now!**

**YOUR 5-STAR
LOCAL EXPERTS
FULLY INSURED
★★★★★**

20% OFF
WITH THIS
MAGAZINE ADVERT
HUGE SAVINGS!

THE BEST IN THE BUSINESS! CALL US ON 0121 221 2199

Driveways

Landscaping

Fencing

LANDSCAPING & DRIVEWAY EXPERTS

With years of hands-on experience, **our skilled team delivers everything** from bespoke block paving and resin driveways to durable fencing solutions and complete garden makeovers.

Whether it's a small upgrade or a full redesign, we pride ourselves on expert workmanship, attention to detail, and exceptional customer care, serving Kidderminster and the surrounding areas.

- ✓ Driveway Experts
- ✓ Patio & Walkways
- ✓ Artificial Grass
- ✓ Fence Installs & Repairs
- ✓ Garden Walls & Steps

- ✓ 100% Satisfaction
- ✓ Competitive Quotes
- ✓ Fast Response Times
- ✓ FREE Advice and Ideas
- ✓ All Work Fully Insured

Google **bark**
REVIEWS 5.0 ★★★★★

Contact us today!

100% CUSTOMER SATISFACTION GUARANTEE

10+ YEARS EXPERIENCE

SCAN ME

Scan to visit us online

CONTACT US
FOR YOUR FREE NO OBLIGATION QUOTE

Mob: 07411 809 707 Freephone: 0800 191 0584
Web: www.drivtechpatios.co.uk **f Drivtech Patios & Landscaping**



G Plan have made a number of changes since 2014. Over the past 20 years, they have refined their craft, maintaining a focus on quality and value for money and design. These changes have been made to ensure that the quality and value of the products are maintained and the design is kept up to date.

Many of the new and improved features are now available in the G Plan range. The new range of products is designed to be more comfortable and more stylish than ever before.

G Plan is a well known name in the furniture industry. It has a long history of providing high quality furniture for over 100 years. The company is now a part of the G Plan Group, which is a leading manufacturer of furniture in the UK.

Carters
FURNITURE

Bedford Hill, Frome, Somerset BA11 1BN
01388 325252

www.cartersfurniture.co.uk



SAVE UP TO £650 OFF RRP ON SELECTED G PLAN MODELS
when you upgrade to a power recliner for the price of the equivalent manual recliner

GILBERTS BLINDS

*BLINDS, SHUTTERS
CURTAINS & AWNINGS*

Made To Measure Shutters:

- British Made
- Energy Efficient
- 10 Year Guarantee



Your Local Blind & Shutter Experts

As a trusted local family business with over 30 years' experience, we pride ourselves on offering friendly, professional support, expert advice, and no-obligation quotes tailored to your needs.

Whether you're updating one room or your entire home, our team is here to help you find the perfect solution.

Talk to the experts – contact us today and transform your windows with style and confidence!



STOURPORT SHOWROOM

Unit B6, The Baldwin Centre
Wilden Lane
Stourport-on-Severn
(next to The Wash House - Free parking)
01299 879779
sales@gilbertsblinds.co.uk
f GILBERTS BLINDS LTD



Bringing Nature Indoors The Rise of Organic & Natural Materials

There's a calming shift happening in interiors, a move away from synthetic, mass produced pieces and a return to the raw, the rustic, and the real. At the heart of this movement is the rise of organic and natural materials, with wood, stone, rattan, and linen leading the way.

This trend isn't just about style. A raw edged oak coffee table or hand-woven rattan light fitting makes a stunning statement, but it's also about creating spaces that feel grounded, tranquil and connected to the natural world. In an age where many crave simplicity, natural materials bring texture, warmth and authenticity. Wood remains the standout, from chunky reclaimed shelves to exposed beams and rustic furniture. It pairs beautifully with stone accents, like

travertine side tables or slate vases that double as sculpture.

Rattan and cane continue to be popular, showing up in headboards, chairs and baskets. These breathable materials offer a relaxed, timeless aesthetic. Meanwhile, linen in its natural, undyed form is the go to for curtains, cushions and soft furnishings, adding understated elegance.

This trend is defined by neutral tones, layered textures and hand finished details. It's less about perfect polish and more about embracing natural imperfections.

If you're thinking of refreshing your home, start small. A wooden lamp base, linen cushions or a rattan accent piece can instantly add that organic touch. Go natural and let your home exhale.

"I AM SO GLAD I CHOSE LEWIS TO DO MY WORK. I COULD NOT RECOMMEND HIM FROM ANY ENOUGH HE IS SO PROFESSIONAL, METHICAL, AND RELIABLE. AN EXEMPLARY WORK ETHIC. HE HAS TURNED MY HOUSE INTO A HOME. - THANK YOU LEWIS."

★★★★★

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

PROFESSIONAL PAINTING SERVICE

INTERNAL/EXTERNAL
• WALLS • CEILINGS • WOODWORK
• NEAT & RELIABLE FINISH

Silver Fern
Painting and Decorating

TRANSFORM YOUR SPACE WITH HIGH-QUALITY PAINTING & DECORATING

WYRE FOREST & SURROUNDINGS

OVER 15 YEARS' EXPERIENCE FROM A TRUSTED LOCAL TRADESMAN

CALL OR MESSAGE FOR A FREE QUOTE

LEWIS-07436127053
SILVERFERNDDECORATING@OUTLOOK.COM

Kidderminster Memorials

**Award winning
MEMORIAL
STONEMASONS**

Lisle Avenue, Kidderminster,
DY11 7DN
01562 751375

www.kiddymemorials.com





Why choose us?

- Local trusted family business
- DBS Checked
- Deepest clean guaranteed
- Advanced stain removal
- Child & pet friendly products

Call your trusted local specialists for a fast FREE quote!

☎ 07930890885
🌐 www.ajvcarpetcare.co.uk

**Worcestershires
first choice for professional
carpet & upholstery cleaning**




5 STAR GOOGLE REVIEWS



BREATHE EASY!

The Secret to a healthier and fresher home
BY - AJV CARPET CARE

At AJV Carpet Care, we believe that a clean home isn't just about aesthetics—it's about well-being. For over 11 years, we've been transforming homes and businesses across Worcestershire with expert carpet and upholstery cleaning, stain protection, and specialist spot treatments that restore freshness and comfort.

Our state-of-the-art Texatherm cleaning system delivers exceptional results, combining deep-cleaning power with ultra-fast drying times. But beyond the visible transformation, there's an even greater benefit—a healthier living environment for you, your family, and even your pets. More Than Just Clean—It's About Your Health

Think of your carpets as a filter. Over time, they trap dust mites,

pet allergens, bacteria, and pollutants that hitch a ride into your home on shoes, clothing, and even in the air. Without regular deep cleaning, these hidden contaminants can aggravate allergies, worsen asthma, and impact overall indoor air quality. Did you know?

- Dust mites thrive in warm, humid conditions, and their microscopic waste particles can trigger allergic reactions, causing sneezing, coughing, and respiratory discomfort.

- Pet allergens—found in saliva, skin flakes, and fur—become airborne and can exacerbate breathing issues, skin conditions like eczema, and long-term respiratory illnesses.

- Outdoor pollutants such as pollen, car exhaust fumes, and

cigarette smoke get trapped in carpets, making indoor air quality worse over time, affecting sleep and overall health.

A Cleaner, Fresher Home Starts Here Regular vacuuming helps, but it only removes surface dirt. Professional deep cleaning is essential to extract embedded allergens and pollutants, improving not just the look of your carpets but also the air you breathe. At AJV Carpet Care, we're committed to creating healthier, fresher spaces with expert cleaning solutions tailored to your home or business. Our services don't just refresh your carpets—they contribute to a cleaner, safer, and more inviting indoor environment.

Ready to experience the difference? Get in touch today and give your carpets—and your health—the care they deserve.

Visit AJV Carpet Care to learn more! Advert opposite for more details.



Phil Hailes
Domestic Plumbing
30 Years Experience

Small Job Specialist

OUR SERVICES

Leaks, Taps, Overflows,
Toilet Flushes, Immersion
Heaters, Showers.

Replacement and Repair,
Bath and Shower Reseals,
Washing Machine and
Dishwashers Plumbed In,
Stop Taps

PLUS OUTSIDE TAPS!

Award Winning
Plumber

07957 106982



BEN A. HAILES

LANDSCAPE. MAINTENANCE.
FENCING. TREE CARE

- Grass Cutting • Fencing & Gates •
- Paths & Patios • Concrete Bases •
- Decking • Garden Maintenance •
- Mini Digger & Operator for Ground Works •
- Turfing • Graveling • Stump Grinding •
- Tree Surgery & Hedge Management •
- Woodland Management •
- Log Splitting • Decking •
- Wood Chipper & Operator Hire •

City & Guilds
NPTC

LOCAL FRIENDLY RELIABLE SERVICE
NO JOB TOO SMALL

CALL TODAY -07935 278 410

Family Run Business of 30 Years

Visit Our Kidderminster Showroom!



Call Us For A Free No Obligation Quote.

If you would be interested in a free no-obligation quote,
please contact our sales team.

Appointments available upon request.

FOR EXPERT ADVICE

Visit our Showroom - Worcester Road, Kidderminster DY10 1JR | Open 8am-5pm Weekdays | 9am-4pm Saturdays
Products Unique, Service Complete



www.twswindowsanddoors.co.uk | 01562 822855

Discover a Huge Range of Dolemite Porcelain Paving



TG Builders Merchants

Chartwell Park, Stourbridge Rd,
Bridgnorth WV15 6AN
T: 01746 788030

www.tgbuildersmerchants.co.uk

TG Hardwicks
Landscaping & Building Supplies

Wolverley, Kidderminster,
Worcestershire DY10 3RW
T: 01562 850447



*From 3 for £12
on a huge range of
decorative aggregates
buy online
collection and delivery available

Open: Mon-Fri 7:00am-5:00pm, Sat 8:00am-12:00pm, Sun Closed

*On Poly Bags only.

NEURO STRUCTURAL BOWEN THERAPY & SCARWORK

Bowen is a very gentle, versatile, soft tissue osteopathic style therapy.

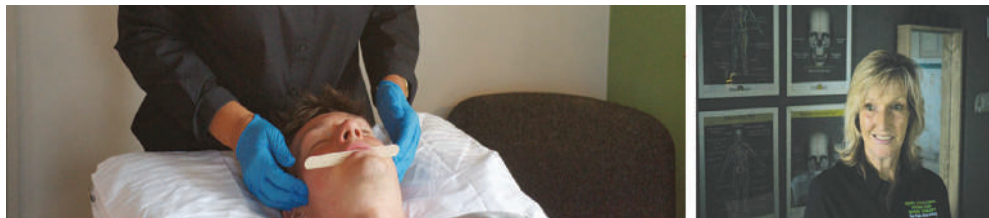
Light moves are made over skin, tendons, muscles and ligaments, sending signals through the nervous system to return the body to a balanced state. With the aid of Neuro Structural Technique the jaw and pelvic alignment is assessed, and put back into balance, if needed.

The therapy can be done through light clothing, and is therefore non-invasive.

Treatment may alleviate the pain associated with Migraines, Back and Shoulder Pain, Arthritis,

Vertigo, Neurological Illnesses (ME, MS, Chronic Fatigue, Parkinson's), Jaw/Face Pain,

Pelvic/Hip Pain and Infant Colic to name a few Bowen can help with most pathologies!



• **NEALS YARD ORGANICS**
• **FOREVER LIVING ALOE VERA PRODUCTS**
(for you and your animals)
• **EPSOM SALTS**
• **SUPPLEMENTS**
• **CBD OIL Vegan friendly and organic**
• **RADISAFE - to stop dangerous EMF (from your gadgets and WI-FI)**

"BOWEN has helped keep my body together despite the bashing it takes. Its a vital support in putting right a whole range of aches and pains, making sure that old injuries don't cause me problems, and, helping fight stress and fatigue," BEAR GRYLLES

"The treatment I've had from Julie on the scar on my ankle has been marvellous. It means that I no longer have any pain in that area, my ankle is now supple & flexible." VALERIE

"Julie and Bowen Therapy have literally changed my life. When I started to see this lovely, friendly lady 2 years ago I was in tremendous pain and discomfort from my jaw. I couldn't eat or speak without my jaw cracking so loudly that I had to apologise to people for the noise. Now 2 years on my jaw is aligned and no longer cracks. Julie also helped with tissue damage after I tore tendons in my wrist after a fall last year. I would definitely recommend Julie and Bowen. It may take time but it works." BECKY

ALSO-Qualified in

- SCARWORK • TMJ (JAW) DYSFUNCTION AND RE-ALIGNMENT
- CRANIO SACRAL THERAPY • LYMPHATIC DRAINAGE
- HOPI EAR CANDLING • EMMETT THERAPY
- MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID AND PTSD • VAGUS NERVE DYSFUNCTION • RED LIGHT THERAPY

NST BOWEN PRACTITIONER

JULIE FARMER ECBS MFHT

07900 398 758

www.juliefarmerbowentherapy.co.uk

Clinic at The Cottage, Lea Lane, Coakley, DY10 3TA



Health: The Hidden Danger of Nasal Tanning Sprays: What You Need to Know

In the age of social media and influencer beauty trends, many people—especially younger generations—are constantly seeking fast, effective ways to enhance their appearance. One such trend gaining popularity is the use of nasal tanning sprays: products that promise a deep, bronzed glow without the need for sun exposure or sunbeds. But beneath the surface of these seemingly harmless sprays lies a very real and alarming health risk—including a possible link to skin cancer.

Nasal tanning sprays typically contain a synthetic peptide known as melanotan II, a chemical that stimulates the production of melanin in the skin. Melanin is the pigment responsible for skin colour, and when increased, it can give the skin a darker, tanned appearance. These sprays are often marketed as a quick fix to achieve a sun-kissed look

without harmful UV exposure. However, melanotan II is not approved by any major health authority, including the UK's Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) or the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). It is an unregulated, unlicensed substance, and its use comes with serious health concerns.

One of the most significant risks associated with melanotan II is its potential to cause abnormal changes in skin cells, increasing the risk of melanoma, the most serious form of skin cancer. Some users have reported a darkening or change in shape of moles, an indicator that skin cells are reacting to the substance in unpredictable and potentially dangerous ways.

Doctors and dermatologists have been sounding the alarm, urging the public to steer clear of these products. Not only are they untested and unregulated, but the way they are administered—via nasal spray—means the chemicals enter the bloodstream quickly and directly. This bypasses the body's natural filtering systems and increases the chance of side effects, which can include nausea, high blood pressure, facial flushing, increased freckles or moles, and even libido changes.

Despite these risks, nasal tanning sprays have seen a surge in popularity, largely due to their promotion by influencers and online sellers. Platforms like TikTok and Instagram are flooded with before-and-after videos and glowing reviews that fail to mention the lack of safety

testing or regulation. This gives users a false sense of security and normalises the use of potentially harmful substances—all in the name of aesthetics. The problem is compounded by the fact that these sprays are often marketed directly to young, image-conscious consumers, many of whom may not fully understand the long-term health consequences. With skin cancer rates rising among younger people, experts fear that products like nasal tanning sprays could be contributing to a dangerous trend.

Organisations such as the British Association of Dermatologists and Cancer Research UK have issued public warnings, stating that melanotan II and similar products should be avoided entirely. They urge consumers to opt for safer, regulated alternatives such as topical self-tanning lotions and sprays, which are widely available and have been tested for safety.

It's important to remember that a tan, whether from the sun or a spray, is not a sign of health—it's a response to skin damage. Chasing a certain look at the cost of your long-term health simply isn't worth it. If you're looking for a bronzed appearance, use reputable, approved self-tanners or consider embracing your natural skin tone.

In a world increasingly driven by online trends and instant results, it's easy to be drawn in by the promise of a quick fix. But when it comes to your health, especially something as serious as cancer risk, it's vital to make informed, cautious choices. Don't be misled by viral videos or influencer endorsements—always do your research and consult a medical professional before using any cosmetic product, especially those not approved for use.

Your health is your greatest asset. Treat it that way.



MONDAY

STOURPORT 7pm
The Severns Club
Lickhill Road, Stourport
Lisa 07908 989728

KIDDERMINSTER 8pm
Offmore Church Hall
Griny Close
Kidderminster
Ally 07719 415278

KIDDERMINSTER 5.30pm & 7pm
Kidderminster Baptist church
Franchise road
Kidderminster
Russ 07742 254410

TUESDAY

KIDDERMINSTER
9.30am & 11am
St Cecilia's Church
Hoo Road
Kidderminster
Jane 07800889768

KIDDERMINSTER
3.30pm 5pm & 7pm
St. George's Social Club Radford Avenue
Kidderminster
Net 07989598589

KIDDERMINSTER
5.30pm & 7pm Kidderminster
Baptist church Franchise road
Kidderminster
Russ 07742 254410

STOURPORT 5.30pm
Stourport Bowling Club
Lickhill Road, Stourport Jane
07800889768

WEDNESDAY

KIDDERMINSTER
9am & 10.30am
St. George's Social Club
Radford Avenue
Kidderminster
Net 07989598589

STOURPORT 9.30am
Stourport Bowling Club
Lickhill Road, Stourport Jane
07800889768

KIDDERMINSTER
5.30pm & 7pm
Foley Park Methodist Church
Off Brinton Close
Kidderminster
Sandra 07772 521129

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 07928192800

KIDDERMINSTER
5pm & 8.30pm
Foley Park Methodist Church
Off Brinton Close
Kidderminster
Ally 07719 415278

STOURPORT 5pm & 7pm
The Severns Club
Lickhill Road, Stourport
Lisa 07908 989728

FRIDAY

STOURPORT 9.30am & 11am
The Severns Club
Lickhill Road, Stourport
Lisa 07908 989728

KIDDERMINSTER 9am & 10.30am
Kidderminster Carolinas R.F.C
Marlpool Lane
Paula 07928192800

SATURDAY

KIDDERMINSTER 7.30am, 9am & 10.30am
St Mary's Church
Churchfields
Kidderminster
Kerry 07935495211

STOURPORT 8am & 9.30am
The Cornerstone Rooms
(part of the Stourport Baptist Church)
Minster Road, Stourport
Paula 07928192800

Slimming
WORLD

building health, changing lives

real food, real support, real results

Food Spotlight - Elderflower

The Taste of Early Summer

If there's one flavour that captures the essence of early summer in the Wyre Forest, it's elderflower. With its frothy white blooms and sweet, floral scent, elderflower dots the hedgerows and woodland edges from mid-June — a fleeting seasonal treat that's as beautiful as it is versatile.

For centuries, elderflower has been prized for its refreshing taste and gentle fragrance. Today, it remains a favourite in both home kitchens and artisan products across the region. Whether you forage your own or pick up a jar of syrup at a local shop, elderflower is a taste of the wild at its best.

What to Make:

•Elderflower Cordial: The clas-

sic. Steep fresh elderflower heads with sugar, lemons, and water for a zesty cordial that's perfect with sparkling water or a splash of prosecco.

•Elderflower Fritters: A simple delight — dip whole flower heads in a light batter, fry until golden, and dust with icing sugar for a crunchy, floral snack.

•Floral Gin Infusion: Drop a few clean blooms into your favourite gin and let them infuse for 48 hours. The result? A subtle, botanical twist ideal for summer sipping.

Local shops and Farm Shops occasionally stock small-batch elderflower syrups, jellies, or liqueurs — great for those not keen to forage.



Elderflower Cordial

Foraging Tips:

Best picking time: Mid-late June, early mornings when blooms are fresh

Where to look: Woodland edges, country lanes, and hedgerows. Always pick away from busy roads and pesticide-sprayed areas.

Just a handful of blooms can add something magical to your kitchen a truly local flavour of summer in every sip or bite.



Elderflower Fritters



THE FOX INN

CHADDESLEY CORBETT



**OUR FAMOUS 3 COURSE MENU ONLY
£12! MON-SAT 12PM-8PM**

Any starter, any main & any dessert

PLUS MAGIC MONDAY 2 COURSE CARVERY £10



ULTIMATE SUNDAY CARVERY

£18.95 Adult £14.95 Child

FREE DESSERT WITH EVERY CARVERY

With a choice of up to 5 meats inc Beef, Pork, Turkey, Lamb, Gammon. Served with a host of fresh seasonal vegetables traditional bakes, pigs in blankets and Yorkshire puddings.

Served 12pm-6pm

ChaddesleyCorbett

Near Kidderminster DY10 4QN

Tel 01562 777247

thefoxinnchaddesley.co.uk

email: thefoxchaddesley@outlook.com

Traditional pub menu also available



Food Served All Day | Monday - Saturday 12-8pm | Sunday 12-6pm

*BOGOF SUNDAY PRICES - Management reserve the right to remove offers  



Looking for a Tasty Midday Treat in the Heart of Stourport?

If you're looking for a relaxed, welcoming place to enjoy a freshly prepared lunch, whether with friends, family or on your own, look no further than Paisley at 106, nestled right in the heart of Stourport-on-Severn.

Every Tuesday to Friday, from 12pm to 3pm, Paisley at 106 serves up a delicious 2-course hot lunch for just £20 per person, perfect for those who want something warm, tasty,

and made with love. The menu changes regularly to reflect the best of seasonal produce, and meals are crafted using fresh ingredients – so you know you're getting wholesome food that's full of flavour.

Whether it's a hearty cottage pie with garden vegetables followed by a classic apple crumble, or a warming casserole and a comforting pudding, every dish is served with a smile. But it's not

just about the food. At Paisley at 106, it's also about the people and the experience. The dining space has become a regular meeting spot for many local residents who enjoy a friendly chat, a catch-up over lunch, or simply the chance to be out and about in great company.

And whilst the 2-course lunch is a firm favourite, it's just one part of what Paisley has to offer. The venue is all about creating a complete dining experience, with a weekly calendar that includes Brunch, Lunch, Evening Dining and a much-loved Sunday Roast. Each menu is thoughtfully prepared, beautifully presented, and served in a setting that feels like a home away from home.

So, whether you're planning a regular lunch date or you simply fancy getting out of the house for some great food, the 2-course lunch at Paisley at 106 is the perfect midweek treat.

Booking is recommended, as tables fill up fast – simply head to:
www.paisleyat106.co.uk
to reserve your spot.



Dining at Paisley 106 



Looking for a Tasty Midday Treat?

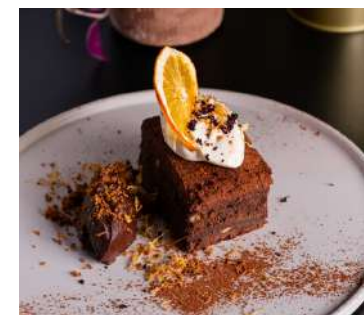
Available in the heart of Stourport, enjoy a freshly prepared 2-course hot lunch with a delicious main and dessert in a warm and welcoming setting.

Perfect for catching up with friends, family – or simply treating yourself!

- **Every Tuesday to Friday, 12pm to 3pm**
- **Fresh, Home-Grown Ingredients**
- **Seasonal Menus Crafted with Care**

Book a table via our website or simply pop in for a bite to eat (subject to availability)!

www.paisleyat106.co.uk



ENQUIRE WITH US TODAY!

E: bookings@paisleyat106.co.uk

T: 01299 333 337

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





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

WILDJAC
NATURALLY SPIRITED | SUSTAINABLY CRAFTED
wildjac.co.uk

BBQ Recipe: Chicken & halloumi burgers



Ingredients

2 skinless chicken breasts
1 tbsp oil
4 tbsp piri-piri sauce
or other mild chilli sauce
½ lemon juiced
burger buns split in half
250g block lighter halloumi
sliced into 8 pieces
¼ small white cabbage
finely sliced
2 tbsp mayonnaise
4 tbsp hummus
tzatziki
handful of rocket
2 large roasted red peppers

Method

1. To make the grilled chicken
Put the chicken breasts between two pieces of baking parchment and use a rolling pin to gently bash them until they are approximately 1cm thick. Cut each

chicken breast into two even pieces.

2. If you're using a frying pan, heat two frying pans over medium-high heat, with one of them containing oil. Fry the chicken in the oiled pan for 3-4 mins on each side until they are cooked through. Season the chicken, reduce the heat, drizzle in the chilli sauce and half of the lemon juice, and cook for an additional 1-2 mins until the sauce is reduced. Remove the chicken from the heat.

3. If you're using an air-fryer, preheat it to 180C for 4 mins. Add the chicken to the air-fryer and cook for 12 mins. Drizzle over the chilli sauce and half the lemon juice and cook for an additional 1-2 mins until the chicken is cooked through and the sauce is reduced. Remove the chicken and keep it warm.

4. While the chicken is cooking, toast the buns in the dry frying pan for 30 seconds. Transfer them to a plate. If you're using an air fryer, put the buns in the air fryer for 1-2 mins until they are warm. Increase the air fryer temperature to 200C. Add the halloumi to the air fryer basket and cook for 10 mins, turning halfway through, until it's golden. Toss the cabbage with the mayo and the remaining lemon juice.

5. Spoon the hummus (or dip of your choice) into the toasted buns, then top with the rocket, chilli chicken, halloumi, and peppers. Drizzle with a little more chilli sauce, spoon over the cabbage, season with black pepper, and top with the bun lids. Serve with any extra cabbage on the side or a green salad.

THE KINGSFORD PUB WOLVERLEY



Kingsford Caravan Park, Sladd Lane, Wolverley DY11 5TA

Telephone: 01562916219 / 07817464577 Email: hickys@aol.com

AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY



SATURDAY 2 AUGUST

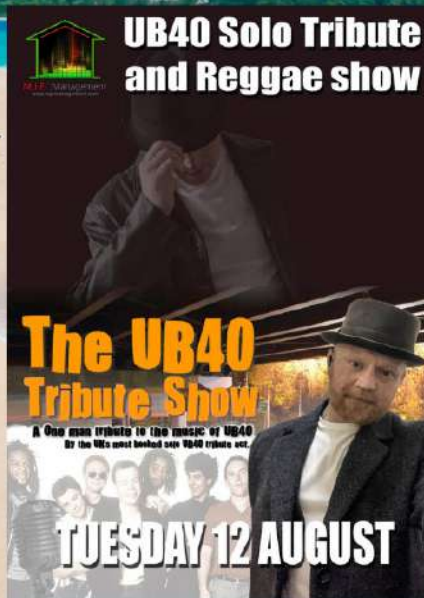


FRIDAY 8TH AUGUST

COME AND JOIN US
FOR A FUN FILLED
KARAOKE NIGHT



SATURDAY 9 AUGUST



SATURDAY 16 AUGUST



SATURDAY 23
AUGUST



SUNDAY 24 AUGUST
3-5PM
COUNTRY AND
WESTERN SINGER
CHANCE TO DRESS UP



Shaun Clifford
SATURDAY 30
AUGUST

FAR FOREST VILLAGE HALL
presents



ABBA
party

TICKETS £10 WITH PERFORMANCES FROM
EX 'BJORN AGAIN'S' AGNETHA & FRIDA
plus A SPECIAL 80'S SET

SATURDAY 20TH SEPT 2025
DOORS OPEN 7:30PM

Adults only. Licensed bar - bring your own nibbles.
Grab your tickets now via Lorraine 07724 582302
or buy online at www.farforestvillagehall.com

FAR FOREST VILLAGE HALL

BARN DANCE

7:30PM SAT 30TH AUG 2025 £7.50



OVER 18S ONLY

THE CATS WHISKERS BAND

FULLY LICENSED BAR - BRING YOUR OWN NIBBLES
TICKETS FROM LORRAINE 07724 582302
OR WWW.FARFORESTVILLAGEHALL.COM

GOLFING FUN FOR EVERYONE - BASED IN WOLVERLEY
SITUATED NEXT TO THE LOCK PUBLIC INN

18 HOLE MINI PRO GOLF COURSE
ALL EQUIPMENT PROVIDED



MINIPROGOLFPARKS.COM

**EVERYONE WELCOME
MINI-GOLFING
FUN FOR
THE
WHOLE
FAMILY**

OPEN 10 AM - 6PM FRI, SAT & SUN & DAILY DURING ALL SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

  **CALL US ON: 07830259766 VISIT US ONLINE @ MINIPROGOLFPARKS.COM**



WILDJAC DISTILLEY

Naturally Spirited, Sustainably Crafted

Nestled in the heart of the Wyre Forest, Wildjac Distillery is an independent, eco-conscious distillery producing exceptional gin, vodka, and rum—all made using locally sourced botanicals and ingredients. Sustainability is at the core of what we do, ensuring every sip of our naturally spirited drinks supports a greener future.

We're committed to reducing our environmental footprint, from using eco-friendly packaging to cutting down

on carbon emissions. As proud members of the 1% for the Planet programme, we donate a portion of every sale to environmental causes. Plus, we're leading the way in sustainable packaging innovation, being one of the first distilleries to use frugal bottles—a revolutionary paper-based bottle that's five times lighter and requires six times less carbon to produce than glass.

For those who love exploring the world of craft spirits, we offer

distillery tours and exclusive tasting events. Join us for a behind-the-scenes experience, discover how our spirits are made, and enjoy a guided tasting of our unique range.

We're also making sustainable choices with our miniature 5cl bottles, now available in lightweight, recyclable aluminium—perfect for on-the-go tastings, gifting, or trying something new without waste.

And if you share our passion for nature, well-

ness, and craft drinks, don't miss our quarterly lifestyle magazine, *Naturally Spirited*. Packed with features on sustainable living, outdoor adventures, and cocktail inspiration, it's the perfect read for those who love a greener, more mindful way of life.

Come and experience Wildjac for yourself where great taste meets great sustainability. Visit www.wildjac.co.uk to find out more or book a tour today!



A Summer Day to Remember

Hartlebury Street Food & Music Festival 2025



Mark your calendars – Saturday 2nd August promises to be one of the most exciting days of the summer as the Hartlebury Street Food & Music Festival returns in full force! Taking place from 12pm to 9pm in the stunning grounds of Hartlebury Castle, Kidderminster (DY11 7XZ), this is set to be a feel-good celebration packed with flavour, music and community spirit.

This full-day event is all about bringing people together for a vibrant mix of street food, live music, drinks, dancing, and plenty of fun in the sun. Whether you're bringing the family for a relaxed afternoon or gathering your mates for a festival-style blowout, there'll be something

for everyone.

You can look forward to a buzzing Street Food Village with everything from juicy burgers to global bites that'll have your taste buds cheering. There will be cocktail and prosecco bars serving up fruity, fizzy perfection, alongside an impressive range of craft beers, ciders, and draught lagers – perfect for sipping throughout the day.

For families, there'll be fairground rides and entertainment to keep all ages smiling. Meanwhile, the festival stage will come alive with a full line-up of the region's best live music, tribute acts, bands and DJs, keeping the energy high from start to finish.

Whether you're planning a family day out, heading there for the music, or just going for the street food and good vibes, this is shaping up to be a highlight of the local summer calendar.

Tickets are on sale now – and they're expected to go fast. Don't miss your chance to be part of one of the Midlands' most exciting summer events.

For more info and tickets, visit: Facebook

Eat. Drink. Dance. Vibe. Together. Hartlebury's biggest street food and music festival is calling – are you in?

JHAC

JELLEYMANS HERITAGE ARTS CHARITY

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.

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 community group use, a community cafe, a wellbeing craft centre, and work has begun on a community garden.

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!

Events

August 4th - Brew Monday
A coffee morning open to all offering a chance to meet, chat and enjoy fabulous FREE coffee and cake donated by the community.

August 9th - Lifesigns LIVE!
As part of their 2025 tour, a 3-piece Lifesigns will be performing here at Jelleyman's Mill!
Tickets: www.lifesignsmusic.co.uk

August 5th & 19th - Messy Play with Little Mess!
Suitable for 6 months to 5 years old. Includes paint station and water play as part of these themed events - Under the Sea & Dino Day!
Tickets: kidderminster.thelittlelensory.co

August 31st - Sunday Club Presents... Solstice & Ebony Buckle
We are delighted to be the brand new host of Sunday Club Presents, featuring live music on the last Sunday of every month!
Tickets: www.thesundayclub.net

September 1st - Brew Monday
A coffee morning open to all offering a chance to meet, chat and enjoy fabulous FREE coffee and cake donated by the community.

info@jhac.co.uk | 07444 746445

THE ROSE THEATRE

Home of

THE NONENTITIES Society

NEW SEASON 2025-26

Sep 08-13	THE UNFRIEND by Steven Moffat
Nov 3-8 <i>(Studio)</i>	THE BIRDS by Conor McPherson From the book by Daphne du Maurier
Nov 24-29	THE MIRROR CRACK'D by Agatha Christie Adapted by Rachel Wagstaff
Dec 16-19	CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINMENT
Jan 26-31	ONE FOR THE ROAD by Willy Russell
Feb 23-28	THE BALLAD OF MARIA MARTEN by Beth Flintoff
Apr 13-18 <i>(Studio)</i>	CABIN PRESSURE by John Finnemore
May 18-23	ACCIDENTAL DEATH OF AN ANARCHIST by Dario Fo and Franca Rame Adapted by Tom Basden
Jun 15-20	TONS OF MONEY by Evans and Valentine Revised by Alan Ayckbourn

TICKETS ON SALE 1st JULY 2025

THE ROSE THEATRE

Tickets on sale by calling
Box Office 01562 743745 or
via the website

Home of

THE NONENTITIES Society



SummerFest 2025 A Weekend of Food, Music & Fun in Stourport!

SummerFest is back and bigger than ever! Following the fantastic success of Groove on the Green and SummerFest 2024, this year's event promises an unforgettable weekend of live music, mouthwatering food, and family fun at the beautiful Stourport Manor Hotel.

Taking place on Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th August 2025, from 2pm to 10pm, SummerFest 2025 is set to be a full-on two-day celebration of everything we love about summer – music, street food, and great local company, all in a stunning outdoor setting.

With families in mind, this year's event includes fun fair rides, a huge selection of beers, ciders, gin, and a global range of street food stalls to suit every taste. Local traders and foodies will be serving up everything from wood-fired pizza to sweet treats and sizzling BBQ. Live bands and DJs will be performing across both days, creating an electric festival atmosphere throughout the weekend.

Saturday's line-up includes performances from Kyle Finn, Ellie Jones & The Giants, a Becky Hill Tribute, and the brilliant Two Tone Revolution, with more acts to be announced.

Sunday brings crowd-pleasing tribute acts including Ed Sheeran and P!nk, plus more live performances still to be confirmed. Expect singalongs, dancing, and a brilliant community vibe. Entry is free, and whether you're coming for the music, food, or family-friendly fun, SummerFest at Stourport Manor promises to be a local highlight of the summer.

Planning to stay over? Limited bedrooms are available for just £75 per night, exclusively through stourportmanor.com using a special booking code. To receive the code, email: special-events@stourportmanor.com.

Got a campervan? Overnight parking is available for £35 per night, which includes access to the hotel's leisure centre, with use of showers, gym, pool, jacuzzi and lounge areas during opening hours. Email special-events@stourportmanor.com to book your pitch.

For more details or general enquiries, contact the team at special-events@stourportmanor.com or call 01299 289955.

FUTURIST CINEMA

Kidderminster's independent cinema,
one of the last in the Midlands
showing latest releases and much more

- CINEMA KIOSK** Enjoy all your favourite cinema snacks: popcorn, nachos, slushies, sweets, hot and cold drinks and more.
- BAR** Craft beers, wines, prosecco and spirits—plus alcoholic slushies served in our bar that's cosy, quirky and full of character.
- EVENTS** Stay in the loop—check out socials for upcoming events!
- PRIVATE HIRE** Hire one of our screens and enjoy a private cinema experience. Various packages available.

FUTURISTCINEMA.UK

GREEN STREET, KIDDERMINSTER DY10 1JF
01562 219042



FUTURIST CINEMA

SUMMER SPECIAL OFFER

WHATEVER THE WEATHER,
HAVE A DRINK ON US!

FREE DRINK WITH EVERY TICKET ALL DAY EVERY WEDNESDAY



TS&CS APPLY. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR FULL DETAILS.

FUTURISTCINEMA.UK

GREEN STREET, KIDDERMINSTER DY10 1JF 01562 219042



CONNECT.
COLLABORATE.
CELEBRATE.



Are you a local creative looking for
a welcoming space to meet like-
minded people, find inspiration
and be supported?

JOIN US

Monthly - Every Second Tuesday
7pm (Bar Open from 6:30pm)

Futurist Cinema, Green Street, Kidderminster, DY10 1JF

POWERED BY
KIDDERMINSTER
BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Wolverley Carnival 2025

A Community Celebration to Remember!

Wolverley Carnival returned with a burst of colour and community spirit on Saturday, July 5th, bringing hundreds of families, friends, and local visitors together for a joyful afternoon.

The procession began at the village green, featuring dazzling floats crafted by local clubs, businesses, and schools. Highlights included the Scouts' vibrant "eco-themed" float, celebrating environmental awareness, and the Wolverley Primary School's energetic dance troupe, which had the crowd cheering along.

further enhanced by a lively music stage featuring performances from the Wolverley Ukulele Club and local singer-songwriters, alongside upbeat sets from the in-house DJ.

A delightful selection of food and drink stalls offered everything from traditional ice creams and wood-fired pizzas to locally brewed ales and artisan teas, catering to all tastes. Children enjoyed garden games, face painting, and a centenary-style "tug o' war," while adults relaxed with a stroll through the craft fair under the summer sunshine.

The carnival atmosphere was

Organiser Linda Harris empha-



sised the event's mission: "Our aim is to bring everyone together—to celebrate community, creativity, and fun." With funds raised going to support the village's youth clubs and community garden, Wolverley Carnival 2025 delighted all, and plans are already underway for an even bigger celebration next year.

Follow us on Facebook

Support us through
easyfundraising

The Fund Shop In August.

Events happening this month on the Railway.

- 2/3 Brick weekend
- 9/10 Vintage Extravaganza
- 16/17 Singin' on the train
- 23/24 Art & Craft Fayre
- 23/24/25 Bank Holiday Weekend.

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

Yee-Haw! Country & Western Night

Night Returns to The Civic



Saddle up, Stourport – the Country & Western night is back! Dust off your boots and get ready for a toe-tapping, hat-tilting night of live music and good old-fashioned fun at The Civic in Stourport-on-Severn.

Taking place on Saturday 23rd August 2025, from 7:30pm to 11:00pm, this popular night of country entertainment promises another brilliant evening of

dancing, singing, and top-notch entertainment. Whether you're a seasoned line dancer or just love a good country tune, this is a night you won't want to miss.

This time around, the stage will be lit up by Bee Smith, an outstanding live country vocalist known for her energy, charm and heartfelt performances. From classic country ballads to modern favourites, Bee brings

Nashville vibes right to Worcestershire.

Backing up the live music will be the ever-popular DJ Matt, spinning all your country favourites throughout the night. Expect a playlist packed with sing-alongs, honky-tonk floor-fillers, and everything in between.

The Civic's Country & Western nights have become a firm favourite on the local live music calendar – drawing in cowboys and cowgirls from across the region for a night of friendly fun and great music. With themed decor, friendly faces and a floor perfect for dancing, it's an atmosphere you won't forget.

The bar will be open, the atmosphere lively, and the dress code? Boots and hats optional – but highly encouraged! Bring your best line-dancing moves and country attitude – it's going to be a wild one.

Tickets are on sale now, and as always, this is an 18+ event. So grab your friends, grab your stetson, and join us for a boot-scootin' night to remember. For more details or ticket links, head to The Civic's website or follow them on social media.



SQUEAKY CLEAN SERVICES

ROOF CLEANING



CALL OR TEXT DAVE

07956 222348

www.squeakycleandave@gmail.com



Summer Car Care Keep Your Motor Happy in the Heat

As temperatures rise and summer arrives in full force, it's the ideal time to show your vehicle a little seasonal care. Whether you're heading off on a family staycation or just driving locally around Wyre Forest, a few easy checks can help keep you safe, comfortable and breakdown-free.

Start with the tyres. Hot roads and higher temperatures can affect tyre pressure and wear. Make sure yours are properly inflated and check for any signs of cracking or damage – don't forget the spare!

Next, fluids. Your engine works harder in warmer weather, so keeping an eye on coolant, oil, brake fluid and washer fluid levels is vital. Low coolant is one of the most common causes of overheating in summer. If your air conditioning isn't as cool as it should be, consider a

regas – you'll appreciate it in traffic on a hot afternoon. Many garages can carry this out quickly and affordably. Summer's also a great excuse to give your car a clean. Dust, tree sap, and bird mess can damage your paintwork, so a thorough wash and wax can go a long way. Inside, vacuum carpets, wipe down surfaces and freshen things up for the months ahead.

And if you're planning longer journeys, make a quick emergency kit check – water, torch, first aid, charger, and a few snacks can be lifesavers in a pinch.

Local Spotlight: VRS Midlands Stourport

If you need trusted, professional help getting your car summer-ready, look no further than VRS Midlands, your

friendly local vehicle repair shop in Stourport-on-Severn. With over 5,000 five-star Google reviews, VRS Midlands has built a strong reputation for outstanding customer service, transparent pricing, and fast, reliable repairs. Whether you need routine servicing, air con regassing, diagnostics, MOTs, or emergency repairs – their experienced team has you covered. They're the go-to garage for many in the Wyre Forest area and pride themselves on honest advice and quality work.

Contact VRS Midlands:
Unit 16, Sandy Ln Industrial Estate, Stourport-on-Severn
DY13 9QB
01299 877888
www.vrsmidlands.co.uk

Give your car the care it deserves and support a brilliant local business in the process!



Call Us: 07957 441277 / 01299 544123
Email: Service@vrsmidlands.co.uk

VRS MIDLANDS OFFERS CAR REPAIRS & SERVICING IN STOURPORT

WHAT WE OFFER

 SERVICE	 SALES	 REPAIRS
 MOT	 DIAGNOSTICS	 STORAGE

ABOUT US

While we specialise in VW Group vehicles, we also service all **makes and models**, providing exceptional maintenance and repairs. Our skilled technicians offer full servicing and general repairs, all **backed by a 12-month/12,000-mile guarantee**. With a focus on quality, precision, and transparency, we offer competitive pricing and use advanced manufacturer-level equipment for software updates and programming. **Your vehicle is in expert hands at VRS Midlands.**

OUR LOCATION

VRS Midlands
Chadwick Farm
Stourport-on-Severn
Worcestershire
DY13 9QZ

OPENING TIMES

Monday 08:00 - 18:00
Tuesday 08:00 - 18:00
Wednesday 08:00 - 18:00
Thursday 08:00 - 18:00
Friday 08:00 - 18:00
Saturday Appointment Only
Sunday Closed

VISIT THE WEBSITE



Bewdley Rotary



Bewdley Rotary is a member of Rotary International, a global service organisation with over 1.2 million members in over 200 countries, committed to 'Doing Good in the World'

BEWDLEY CARNIVAL

On a very hot June day, members of the club, both legacy and corporate, turned out to support our float in the Bewdley Carnival, the theme chosen was Frozen (from the film), a little ironic considering the temperature! Our entry was well received and as it passed along the procession route all the children sang along to the songs being played - they knew the words by heart. This was the first time in a number of years that the club has entered a float in the parade, normally we have just helped out with marshalling. Well done to incoming President Phil and his team for organising our entry. On this occasion, Tony took a "backseat" in as much that he occupied the passenger seat in the float alongside driver Robbie. Many thanks to the two young ladies who volunteered to be the Princesses.



Our float en-route



The absolutely splendid crew



Nice work Gents

AJF Electrical
LIMITED
Electrical Contractors And Engineers

THE GREEN COBBLER

GAUNTS
of KIDDERMINSTER
THE FAMILY FISHBAR, KIDDERMINSTER



TWS

Cheshires
LASER MAIL

Well done to everyone who participated, being dressed up in Elf suits in the heat of the day must have been a very real challenge.

All of the Bewdley Rotary members will be supporting the sleigh at various locations throughout the Wyre Forest in December. Please do keep an eye out for our website and Facebook to find out more including where Santa will be on what dates, what charities will benefit from the donations as well our Santa Tracker.

THE WASH HOUSE



PM PAT 24/7 MAN

Cook's
Garden Centre

HILLS FORD
HILLSFORD.CO.UK

WHEN AND WHERE DO WE MEET:

The next monthly meeting will be on 31st July at Bewdley Pines Golf Club, Bewdley. The corporate members will be in attendance as well as members from other Rotary clubs and local charities that are being supported by Bewdley Rotary.



HYPNOS
THE MOST COMFORTABLE BEDS IN THE WORLD

SUPERKING FOR KING & KING FOR DOUBLE ON HYPNOS



Harrison Spinks

SOMNUS
SLEEP. DESIGNED.

20% OFF
SOMNUS & HARRISON SPINKS



Carters, New Road, Kidderminster, DY10 1AQ
rterfurnitureonline.co.uk | Large FREE car p
01562 66396

Open: Mon - Sat 9.00am - 5.30pm | Sun 10.00am - 4.00pm



Harriers Ready for Kick-Off: Fresh Start for Kidderminster's 2025–26 Season

Kidderminster Harriers are set to kick off their 2025–26 season at Aggborough Stadium on Saturday 9th August against Scarborough Athletic. Under new manager Adam Murray, the team is looking to bounce back strong with renewed energy and a fresh tactical approach.

A packed pre-season schedule included matches against Halesowen Town, Solihull Moors, Droitwich Spa, and Worcester City, offering fans a glimpse of what's to come.

With season ticket prices frozen once again and several new signings expected to feature, excitement is building in the Harriers' camp. Supporters will be hoping for a strong start and a push for promotion.

With the community fully behind this new chapter, Murray has spoken about building a side that reflects the spirit and hard-working ethos of the town. Harriers fans across Wyre Forest will no doubt be watching closely as the opening whistle of the new season draws near.

The Wyre Forest's Home Improvement Specialist...

**Flexible
Finance
Options**

T & C's Apply



Windows | Doors | Conservatories | Orangeries

Kidderminster & Worcester showrooms open 7 days a week

www.5starwindows.co.uk 01562 60800



GAUNTS
*of Kidderminster
& Stourport*



Family Funeral Directors
SERVING THE WYRE FOREST

Whatever your funeral wishes, we can help you.

At Gaunts Funeral Directors we pride ourselves on traditional values with a contemporary approach.

Our family has been arranging unique and personalised funerals across the Black Country since 1900 and we are now extremely proud to offer our services to families in the Wyre Forest from our beautiful new Kidderminster funeral home.

www.gauntsofkidderminster.co.uk

01562 541 062

www.gauntsofstourport.co.uk

01299 879 090



**1 Lupin Works, Worcester Road,
Kidderminster, DY10 1JR**

**107 The Birches,
Stourport-on-Severn DY13 9NR**

DREAM DOORS®

NEW LIFE FOR OLD KITCHENS

QUALITY KITCHEN MAKEOVERS

by simply replacing the doors and worktops



BEFORE



AFTER



MODERN

CLASSIC

TRADITIONAL

CONTEMPORARY

- › Up to 50% less than a fully fitted kitchen
- › Replacement kitchen doors
- › Cost effective made to measure solution
- › Worktops and appliances
- › Quick installation in 2-3 days by local professionals

86 Lawnswood Road,
Wordsley, DY8 5NA
dudley@dreamdoors.co.uk

Call us now for a free estimate:

01384 956119

01562 541208

Checkatrade.com
Where reputation matters

9.8/10

dreamdoors.co.uk

THE UK'S #1 KITCHEN MAKEOVER COMPANY