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KIDDERMINSTER, STOURPORT, BEWDLEY & SURROUNDING AREAS

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200 Years of Sweet Tradition: Teddy Grays of Dudley & Bewdley



For nearly two centuries, Edward Grays of Dudley – better known locally as Teddy Grays – has been synonymous with traditional sweets and Black Country heritage. Founded in 1826 by John Gray in Dudley, the family-run business is approaching an incredible 200 years of producing classic confectionery using methods that have changed very little over time.

The story began when John Gray travelled around the area by horse and cart buying homemade sweets and selling them to local retailers. Before long, he realised that making his own sweets could be even more successful. From those humble beginnings, the business grew steadily, with each generation helping to shape what would become one of the region's most recognisable confectionery makers.

It was John's son, Edward – affectionately known as "Teddy" – who helped establish the company's reputation. Under his guidance, the business expanded and developed many of the sweets that would become firm favourites across the Midlands. Today, five

generations of the Gray family have worked in the business, continuing a proud tradition of family craftsmanship and keeping traditional sweet-making alive.

Sweets are still produced using traditional techniques, with sugar, water and glucose boiled and carefully worked to create the classic flavours many people remember from childhood. It is this commitment to heritage and craftsmanship that has helped Teddy Grays remain a beloved name throughout the Midlands.

While the heart of the business remains in Dudley, locals in Worcestershire will also recognise the

charming Teddy Grays sweet shop on Load Street in Bewdley. Packed with colourful jars of traditional sweets and nostalgic favourites, the shop has become a popular stop for visitors and residents alike looking to relive the magic of an old-fashioned sweet shop.

As the company celebrates nearly two centuries of sweet making, Teddy Grays continues to prove that some traditions never go out of style. From its historic roots in Dudley to the much-loved shop in Bewdley, the family business remains a proud part of the region's heritage and a reminder of the simple joy of a traditional sweet.



Walking, Talking and Supporting Each Other - Mens Health



Sometimes the simplest ideas can have the biggest impact. Men Walking and Talking is built on that very principle – getting men outdoors, walking together, and creating a space where conversation can happen naturally.

Phil Jones first discovered the group in December 2021 when he joined a walk in Stourport while dealing with work-related stress and anxiety. After only a few weeks, he began to notice the positive effect it was having not only on himself, but also on the men around him. Inspired by the difference the group made, Phil spoke with the organisation's founder and decided to bring the idea to Kidderminster.

On 19 January 2022, Kidderminster Men Walking and Talking held its very first meetup. Just four people attended that first walk, but the group has grown

steadily ever since. Now celebrating its fourth anniversary, the community continues to go from strength to strength with new members joining regularly.

Men attend the walks for many different reasons. Some may feel isolated after working from home, while others simply want to meet new people, make friends, or enjoy a bit of gentle exercise. For some, the walks provide an important outlet to cope with the stresses of everyday life or to talk about their mental health.

What makes the group special is the relaxed and welcoming environment it creates. There is no pressure and no expectations. It is simply a safe space where men can be themselves – no bravado, no judgement. Some people talk openly, while others just enjoy the walk and the company. There is something particularly

powerful about walking side-by-side. Being outdoors, getting fresh air and moving together often makes it easier to open up about things that might otherwise stay unsaid.

The Kidderminster group meets every Wednesday at 7pm at the gates of Brinton's Park, off Sutton Road. Those interested can find more information by searching for Kidderminster Men Walking and Talking on Facebook or visiting menwalkingandtalking.co.uk.

Sometimes, a walk and a conversation can make all the difference.



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West Mercia Police Donate Life-Saving Bleed Kit to The Stourport Civic Hall

West Mercia Police Donate Life-Saving Bleed Kit to The Civic Hall in Stourport.

The Civic Hall welcomed representatives from West Mercia Police today, as PC Mark Bennett and PC Sam Maher formally presented a public access Bleed Kit to the venue.

The Bleed Kit was received by Caroline Caldwell, Operational Manager, and Sally Eastwood, Trustee and Volunteer. The kit will be installed alongside the existing external defibrillator at

The Civic Hall, further strengthening the venue's emergency response resources.

The Bleed Kit has been generously donated by the Daniel Baird Foundation, established following the tragic loss of Daniel Baird to knife crime. Since its inception, the Foundation has worked tirelessly to raise awareness and funds to place Bleed Kits in communities nationwide, with the aim of preventing other families from experiencing similar loss.

Sally Eastwood explained that the Bleed Kit will be registered on the national Bleed Map, ensuring that, in an emergency, members of the public and emergency services can be directed quickly to its location—potentially saving lives when every second counts.

As a community venue, The Civic Hall is honoured to house this vital piece of equipment. While it is hoped the kit will never be needed, its presence reflects the importance of preparedness and community resilience in today's society.



The Civic Hall will also be exploring training opportunities to ensure that all volunteers are confident and competent in the use of both the Bleed Kit and the defibrillator. Anyone interested in taking part in this training is encouraged to contact Caroline Caldwell at the venue to be added to the training list ahead of dates being arranged.



It's Never Too Late to Dance: Chloe May's Dance Academy opens its doors to adult beginners and beyond

There's a moment most of us know well watching a dance performance, or catching a glimpse of a ballet class through a studio window when a small voice whispers: I wish I could do that. If that voice has ever spoken to you, Chloe May's Dance Academy on Worcester Street wants you to know: it's not too late. Not even close.

Right here in the heart of Kidderminster town centre, Chloe May's Dance Academy has been quietly building something rather wonderful a thriving adult programme designed for real people, with real lives, who simply love to move. Whether you're stepping into a dance studio for the very first time or you danced as a child and are ready to redis-

cover that joy, there is a class here with your name on it.

Find Your Perfect Class

Candlelight Stretch is the perfect place to begin if you're looking for something gentle, restorative, and deeply relaxing. Held in a beautifully atmospheric setting, this class focuses on flexibility, mindful movement, and releasing the tension that daily life so generously provides. It's the kind of class you'll look forward to all week.

Beginner Adult Ballet is for those who've always been drawn to the elegance and poise of classical dance. No experience is needed just a willingness to learn and a sense of fun. Under expert guidance, you'll discover the joy of barre work, basic technique, and the quiet confidence that comes with learning something truly beautiful.

Adult Tap is where things get really exciting. The Academy runs tap classes across three levels Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced so wherever you are in



your journey, you'll find a group that fits. Tap is joyful, rhythmic, and wonderfully sociable; once you start, you'll wonder how you ever lived without it.

And there's exciting news: a brand new *Complete Beginner Adult Tap class is launching on Friday evenings*. This is a fresh start, with fresh faces, learning together from absolute scratch. If you've ever tapped your feet along to a tune and thought "I'd love to do that" this Friday class was made for you.

The Academy's adult classes are more than just dance lessons. They're an hour or two each week that belongs entirely to you away from work emails, family commitments, and the endless scroll of daily demands. Students regularly speak of the friendships formed, the confidence gained, and the simple,

uncomplicated happiness of moving to music with other like-minded adults.

Chloe May's Dance Academy is conveniently located on Worcester Street in Kidderminster town centre, making it easy to reach whether you're coming straight from work or popping in from nearby. Parking and public transport links are close at hand.

So go on give that small voice an answer.

Visit us online: www.chloemaysdanceacademy.co.uk to find out more about adult class timetables and to book a trial class.

Your dancing life is waiting. Chloe May's Dance Academy, 18-19 Worcester Street, Kidderminster Town Centre



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THIS MONTHS

Local Lowdown Quirky Tales & Local Lore

The Bell That Saved Bewdley!

Wyre Forest is full of fascinating history, but one of the more unusual local tales comes from the riverside town of Bewdley. Long before modern flood warnings and weather apps, the town relied on something far simpler – a church bell.

According to local lore, when the River Sever began to rise dangerously, a watchman would keep an eye on the water levels during heavy rain. If the river threatened to burst its banks, he would rush to ring the bell at St Anne's Church to warn residents.

The sound would echo through the narrow streets, giving people precious time to move belongings upstairs, secure boats, and prepare for flooding. For a town that has lived alongside the Sever for centuries, this simple warning system was once a lifeline.

While modern flood defences and monitoring systems now help protect the area, the story of the warning bell remains part of Bewdley's local folklore. Many long-time residents still talk about the town's historic relationship with the river – one of respect, resilience, and community spirit.

It's a reminder that sometimes the simplest solutions, like the ringing of a bell, once played a vital role in keeping a whole town safe.



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A Decade of Telling Local Stories: Mim Celebrates 10 Years in Business

Worcestershire media consultant Miriam Cunliffe is celebrating a major milestone as her business, Miriam Cunliffe Media, marks ten years of helping small businesses share their stories.

Over the past decade, Miriam has supported entrepreneurs across the county by helping them gain visibility through media coverage, photography and strategic publicity. Drawing on her background as a press photographer, she has also con-

nected business owners with photographers, copywriters and reporters – helping their stories reach a wider audience.

To celebrate the anniversary, Miriam recently teamed up with fellow female entrepreneur and photographer Karina O'Neill for a special photoshoot and podcast recording around International Women's Day. The collaboration celebrated the power of women supporting women in business, with the pair first con-

necting through the Women Who Business community.

The recording will feature on Miriam's podcast, Mim's Moments, where the two discuss the importance of community, resilience and storytelling in business.

Miriam said: "Reaching ten years in business is a dream come true. It's been an incredible journey of growth, connection and impact. From my early days focusing on photography to workshops and media advice, my little business has become a big part of my life."

Since launching in 2016, Miriam Cunliffe Media has helped small businesses gain local media exposure through press release writing, photography and storytelling support, alongside workshops and Media Cafés designed to make media more accessible.

To find out more, visit Karina's website at: www.karinaoneillphoto.co.uk or listen to the Mim's Moments podcast on Spotify. Miriam can also be contacted directly at: mcunliffemedia@outlook.com.



Karina O'Neill and Miriam Cunliffe

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Jigsaw Jam Brings Puzzling Fun to Kidderminster in Aid of Kemp Hospice

Kemp Hospice and St Chads Community Café Community Café are hosting a Jigsaw Jam event, Friday 19 June at St Chad's Community Hall, Kidderminster an evening dedicated to jigsaw puzzle lovers, or anyone who fancies a fun and sociable night out.

All proceeds raised will go to Kemp Hospice. There will be a bar, along with soft drinks, jigsaw swop and cake available throughout the evening.

Jigsaw Jam is one of many events taking place as part of SustFest 2026. Tickets are available via Eventbrite or can be purchased at St Chad's Café

This year's SustFest runs from 30 May to 28 June, with events happening across the Wyre Forest, plus special headline activities in Kidderminster, Stourport and Bewdley.

The programme includes talks, workshops, walks, performances and more each linked to at least

one of the ten One Planet Principles, from zero carbon and local food to culture, health and happiness. Most events are free and open to all - visit <https://www.sustfestwyreforest.org.uk> for more information.



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The Community Cafe

Our community café is temporarily closed for refurbishment while we carry out some improvements to the space. This will help us create an even more welcoming and comfortable place for everyone in our community. We look forward to reopening and welcoming you back very soon.



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Mark Garnier Member of Parliament for Wyre Forest

Last month saw the spring statement. Readers will remember that we used to have a budget every spring, but this was changed a few years ago. None the less, the spring statement was an unusually dour affair, with the Chancellor working hard to get in the usual buzzwords.

Obviously, we had the “£20 billion black hole”, denied by every single economic commentator except the Chancellor. We had the “catastrophe of the Liz Truss government”, but I am slightly surprised Reeves still uses that as she and Keir Starmer have lower poll ratings than at the worse point of Truss’s leadership. And Reeves got bond rates to a new

high after Truss. We had “I’ve brought down inflation”, without pointing out that her policies increased supply side inflation to twice what she inherited in 2024, and inflation is still higher than the target level. But it was her reference to “inflation under the Tories of 11%” that gave me real concern.

Reeves claimed to have spent a decade at the Bank of England (untrue, as it turns out), but the Bank did send her to the LSE to do a masters in economics. This is important, because it means that Reeves should understand the reasons why we had high inflation. It was because of the energy price shock after the in-

vasion of Ukraine in 2022. This was classic supply side inflation, and all will remember the measures the government took to help shield people from steep rises.

This seems like a strange topic to attack on. The current war in the Gulf is leading to a similar spike in energy prices. And it’s a far more serious one than back in 2022. A bigger proportion of the world’s energy comes from the Persian Gulf than from Russia, and we have seen massive shipment problems of this energy – oil and gas – through the Strait of Hormuz due to the war. Energy production has been cut by as much as 75% as storage facilities fill up, with oil prices close to double their January levels.

So what is Reeves up to? Is she gas-lighting us all, pretending that nothing can wrong under her watch? Or is she utterly incompetent, completely unaware of the impending crisis? Conservatives got rid of Liz Truss when she messed up. Why is Labour sticking with this lamentable chancellor and dismal prime minister?

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

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The Pros and Cons of Non-attended Cremation - By Kate Spohrer of Attwood Funerals

Recently I have read a lot about how bad non-attended cremations are for the next of kin and mourners.

I've also spoken to people who think they are the best thing since sliced bread and relish the opportunity to dispose of the worn-out shell and celebrate the life of the person in a different way.

Within any sphere of life there are a range of ways to do things. We see this with weddings: registry office with only witnesses, right through to church and huge country weddings. Some weddings cost a fortune, others very little. At a private registry office wedding guests left out may feel disgruntled for a while but usually get over it. It is after

all their ego calling for attention.

Sometimes I feel it can be a bit similar with the non-attended cremation. There is no need for anyone to be there, no need for a new outfit, or to feed people who haven't been to see the deceased in years. No need to agree over hymns, music, prayers, tributes.

Covid and the lockdown broke the back of the funeral tradition. Attendance was strictly limited to the point that the non-attended cremation with an event at a later time for invitees to get together, became an acceptable, even desirable thing to do.

The flood gates have now opened and 30% of cremations are non-attended. The cost is

much less than a standard attended cremation, but people are not always choosing on cost grounds. It is a positive choice to do things differently.

Some people just don't like what they call 'fuss' and the thought of not having to go through a funeral process makes them feel relieved. Many people are opting for a non-attended cremation for themselves and buying a funeral plan to cover costs when the time comes. Relatives can always add on extra bits if they want to but in my experience some people are very happy to follow the wishes of the deceased, others not so. It's all a case of personal preference. Problems can arise when families don't agree, that's why making it clear what you want when you die is important – although not legally binding it certainly give those left behind a steer. Only time will tell if the non-attended cremation is here to stay and if we as a society will get used to the lack of a funeral to say our goodbyes. We may have to come up with our own personal ways of honouring the dead if a funeral isn't an option.

Maybe it's time to 'think out of the box' on the subject of cremation?

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Kate and Sharon of Attwood Funerals at Waseley Hills Crematorium showing how a non-attended cremation using a cardboard coffin can be dignified and respectful as well as environmentally sensitive



£20 Million “Pride in Place” Funding for Wyre Forest

Wyre Forest has been awarded £20 million in long-term funding through the Government’s new “Pride in Place” programme, aimed at supporting community-led investment and tackling inequality in local areas.

The funding will be held in trust by Wyre Forest District Council, with decisions on how the money is spent to be made by local residents through a neighbourhood board, rather than by the council itself. The scheme is designed to give communities a stronger voice in shaping local priorities and investment.

“Pride in Place” provides funding over a ten-year period and focuses on areas facing the greatest health and economic challenges.

In Wyre Forest, this includes neighbourhoods such as Birchen Coppice and the Rifle Range, with the aim of supporting projects that help these communities thrive and become better places to live and work.

The programme is intended to allow more flexibility than traditional funding models, which are often restricted to specific statutory purposes. By placing decision-making at a neighbourhood level, the scheme seeks to ensure that investment reflects local needs and priorities.

Local residents will be invited to get involved in the process, including the formation of the neighbourhood board. One of the first steps will be the recruitment

of an independent chair, who will be responsible for supporting engagement with the community and helping guide long-term investment decisions.

Wyre Forest District Council is expected to share further information in the coming weeks on how residents can participate, put forward ideas, or apply to be part of the board.

National guidance on the “Pride in Place” programme was published in December 2025 and is available via GOV.UK.

Information for this article was submitted by Wyre Forest Labour.

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KEMP Hospice: Caring for the Wyre Forest Community

KEMP Hospice is based in the heart of the Wyre Forest and offers care and support services to people across the region. But do you know what KEMP Hospice does? The team at the Kidderminster hospice hear a lot of assumptions about who they are and what they do, so the team have put together a short myth-buster to help you learn more about who they are and how they support the community...

Think you know KEMP Hospice?
At KEMP Hospice, it's our mission to provide free holistic palliative care and support to people

living with a progressive life-limiting illness. Providing support to adults, children and young people affected by bereavement... but what does that mean? If you've never had the need to experience hospice care or our bereavement support, we understand that you might not be familiar with who we are or what we do. Below are some of the common myths we hear and the truth behind the myth...

Myth - "KEMP is a Hospice, so it's funded by the NHS."
The truth: As a hospice, we must raise around 80% of the funds

needed to continue to provide our services each year. That's around £1.9m. These funds come from your kind donations, applications for grants, trusts and philanthropists, people who take part in our events and fundraise, and through sales in our shops. The remaining 20% is from government funding which we apply for each year and is never guaranteed.

Myth - "I recently experienced a bereavement, but I can't get counselling at KEMP Hospice because the person who died didn't attend KEMP Day Hospice."

The truth: Bereavement support including counselling for Adults and Young People, and Emotional Support for Children is available to anyone in the Wyre Forest who has experienced a bereavement in the last 3 years. You do not need an existing connection to KEMP Hospice. You can be referred by your health professional, or you can make a referral for yourself via our website.

Myth - "KEMP Hospice can only help people who are in the final few days of their life."

The truth: It's a common misconception that KEMP (or any hospice) is a place you go to die. Our Care Services team help people to live as well as they can for as long as they can. They will do everything they can to provide support, whether that's activities in our Day Hospice, li-



aising with your GP or accessing adaptations for your home. Many of our patients tell us when they come to KEMP Hospice, they can be themselves. Walking through the door to the hospice means they can leave everything behind, even just for a little while. Our specialist care is led by highly skilled trained nurses, specialist therapists and practitioners who provide support through one-to-one clinics and in groups settings.

Myth - "You have to pay for services at KEMP Hospice."

The truth: We never charge a penny for our services. This includes KEMP Day Hospice, Hospice at Home, Counselling and Emotional Support and Welfare & Financial Advice.

So that's our hospice care, but what about our shops.

We have seven retail outlets around the Wyre Forest and in 2025 we had 28,025 boxes and/or bags generously donated to KEMP Hospice shops. This is incredible and helps us raise the funds we need each year to continue to offer our services free of charge. But what are some of the common misconceptions we hear about our charity shops:

Myth - "It's a charity shop, if you reduce your prices, you will sell more."

The truth: We have a responsibility to the donor to raise as much as possible from their donations. They want us to make money for the hospice and will give their items to other charities if the items are sold too cheap. We have a responsibility to our patients and clients to raise as much from the donations as possible to be able to deliver our services at no cost to them.

Myth - "My items are not in very good condition, but somebody will buy it."

The truth: Poor quality and worn out/damaged or dirty donations can't be sold. Any clothing we cannot sell becomes commercial waste and is a cost to KEMP Hospice to dispose of. When you're thinking of donating your pre-loved items remember, "If you would buy it, we can sell it."

So now you understand more about who we and what we do, we want you to know that at KEMP we understand, we care and when life changes, we are here.

If you'd like to learn more about KEMP Hospice, how they could support you or how you could support them, visit their website:

www.kemphospice.org.uk.
You can also call the team on 01562 756000
or email info@kemphospice.org.uk.





KEMP Hospice

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We are here for people in the Wyre Forest



www.kemphospice.org.uk

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Walking the Worcestershire Way for Men's Mental Health

A group of five friends will be taking on an inspiring challenge along the Worcestershire Way to raise awareness of men's mental health and support a local charity. The friends plan to walk the full 31-mile route from Bewdley to Malvern over the Easter bank holiday weekend while carrying a heavy wooden log weighing 85kg.

The challenge, titled "Carrying the Weight Together," symbolises the emotional weight many men carry but often struggle to talk about. The 85kg log represents the average weight of a man and highlights the idea

that mental health struggles can feel like a heavy burden when faced alone.

The group – Alex Gibbs, Jamie Willis, brothers Jack and Ben Thompson, and Jordan Powell – have been close friends for many years and say the challenge is deeply personal. They hope their effort will encourage more men to open up about their mental health and reduce the stigma that still surrounds these conversations.

Funds raised during the walk will go to Mind Worcestershire, helping to support local ser-

vices for people experiencing mental health difficulties. By tackling the demanding route together, the friends hope to send a powerful message: no one should have to carry the weight of mental health struggles alone.



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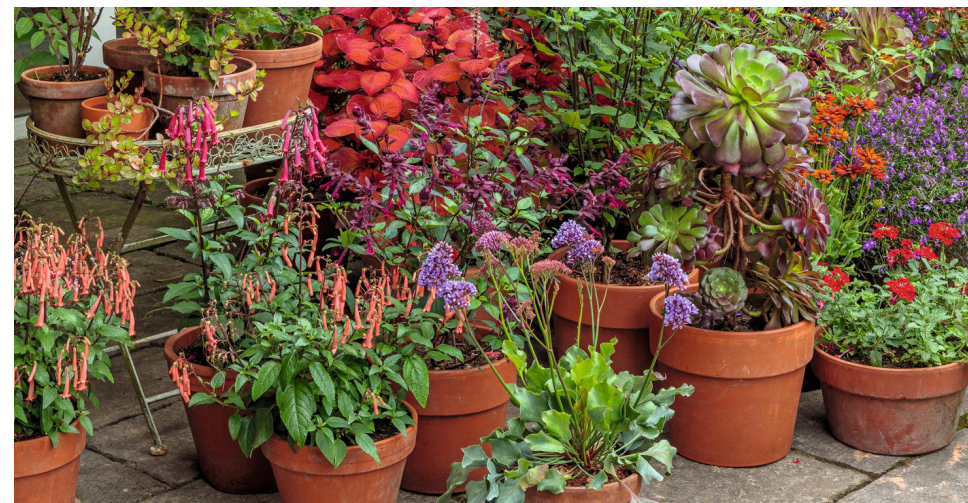
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Back to Nature: Styling your garden with Terracotta and woven planters



As gardens begin to wake up in April, it is often the containers we choose that make the biggest visual difference. While brightly coloured plastics have their place, there is something timeless and grounding about using natural planters such as woven baskets or terracotta pots. They soften a space instantly and help plants feel truly at home.

Terracotta has been used for centuries, dating back to ancient Mediterranean gardens. The warm, earthy tones sit beautifully against fresh green foliage and spring blooms. Whether filled with trailing ivy, cheerful pansies or fragrant herbs, a classic terracotta pot brings texture and authenticity to patios, doorsteps and windowsills. It also has practical benefits. The porous nature of terracotta allows air and mois-

ture to move through the clay, helping to prevent overwatering and encouraging healthy root systems. In our often damp British climate, that natural drainage can be a real advantage.

Woven baskets offer a different but equally appealing look. Perfect for softening hard landscaping such as decking or paving, they introduce a relaxed, cottage garden feel. Lined properly with horticultural plastic or coco fibre, baskets can hold everything from spring bulbs to small shrubs. They are particularly effective for seasonal displays near front doors, where a mix of daffodils, primroses and trailing greenery creates a welcoming entrance.

Natural materials also blend effortlessly with the wider land-

scape. In gardens surrounded by trees, lawns and borders, plastic can sometimes jar with the environment. Terracotta and wicker, by contrast, echo the colours and textures already present outdoors. They weather gracefully too, developing character over time rather than looking tired or faded.

For those looking to refresh their garden this season, swapping out a few synthetic containers for natural alternatives is a simple but impactful change. Group pots in varying sizes for visual interest, mix upright plants with trailing varieties, and allow the materials themselves to become part of the display. Sometimes, it is not just what you plant that matters, but what you plant it in.

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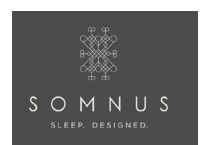
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FREE Skills Bootcamps: Building Worcestershire's future workforce

by SBC Officer Peter Hutchison

SKILLS BOOTCAMPS SPECIAL FEATURE



Skills Bootcamps are free, flexible courses for people aged 19+ and are designed to help residents across Worcestershire gain #SkillsForLife.

They're free for individuals to take part in, they don't affect benefit claims, plus local businesses can benefit too, with bespoke Skills Bootcamps created for your business needs.

Skills Bootcamps give people the opportunity to develop sector-specific skills, whether to progress in their current role or build the confidence and skills needed to move in a new career direction.

They are funded by DWP and managed by Worcestershire County Council through its Careers Worcestershire service.

Working with education and training providers, alongside local employers, a wide range of Skills Bootcamps are delivered at training provider locations and education settings throughout Worcestershire

Skills gained through a Skills Bootcamp can provide a strong foundation for further learning or help boost your career prospects.

They can improve employment opportunities, open doors to future training, or give you the skills and confidence needed to change career direction.

Skills Bootcamps are free to take part in and, on completion, offer a fast-track interview with a local employer.

A wide range of Skills Bootcamps are available, including Construction, Cyber Security & Data, Plumbing, Welding, Project Management, Warehouse, Early Years, Marketing, Welding, Health & Social Care, plus many many more.

Skills Bootcamps cover a variety of industries and bespoke Bootcamps can also be developed for employers across the county looking to upskill their workforce. Call 0300 666 3 66 or visit www.careersworcs.co.uk/skillsbootcamps



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Worcestershire Businesses: Unlock Your Staff's Potential



Skills Bootcamps offer businesses across Worcestershire a flexible and cost-effective way to upskill their workforce and develop the specialist skills needed to support growth.

Delivered through Worcestershire County Council's Careers Worcestershire service and funded by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), Skills Bootcamps are short, sector-focused training programmes designed to help people aged 19+ gain the practical skills that Worcestershire employers need.

by SBC Project Manager Abigail Jones

Local businesses can benefit directly by enrolling existing staff onto Skills Bootcamps or by working with training providers to develop tailored programmes that address specific workforce needs.

Employers receive significant financial support towards the cost of training. Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) contribute just 10% of the training cost, with 90% funded through the programme. Larger employers contribute 30%, with 70% of the training cost supported through Skills Bootcamps. Training is flexible and delivered in partnership with local education and training providers at locations across the whole of Worcestershire, making it accessible for both employers and employees alike.

SKILLS BOOTCAMPS BUSINESS FEATURE

A wide range of sector-specific Bootcamps are available including Construction, Cyber Security and Data, Plumbing, Welding, Project Management, Warehousing, Early Years, Marketing, Health and Social Care and many more. Bespoke Bootcamps can also be developed for employers looking to address particular skills gaps within their organisation.

One Worcestershire employer said: *"Skills Bootcamps gave us a practical way to invest in our staff without the full cost burden. The training was flexible around our business needs and our team came back with new skills they could apply immediately. It has been a real benefit for both our employees and the business."*

To find out how your business could benefit from Skills Bootcamps, please contact 0300 666 3 666 (option 3) or search 'Skills Bootcamps' online.

Skills Bootcamps across Worcestershire are provided by GLP Training, Kidderminster College, Herefordshire & Worcestershire Group Training Association, Parenta, TDM, Workpays & more!

Benefits of Skills Bootcamps...

For individuals...

- Upskill yourself and gain new abilities that make you attractive to employers looking for skilled people.
- It is an opportunity to learn something new and possibly assist you in changing career direction.
- Fast track to a job interview with a local employer.
- Use Skills Bootcamp as a starting point for progression to further-learning, such as an apprenticeship.

For employers...

- Futureproof your business in a rapidly changing labour market.
- Develop a loyal and talented workforce with the skills you need quickly to help improve productivity.
- Recruit staff with the right training and skills from the outset.



Programme Manager Abigail Jones with Skills Bootcamps provider GLP & Spellar Metcalfe

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Why you should do a

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SKILLS BOOTCAMPS

"I was really impressed with my Skills Bootcamp. At first I was nervous because I've been trying for a job for ages. I learned a lot of new skills and it's helped me to secure a full-time job!" - Sam
Construction Skills Bootcamp

"It gave me really good, hands on experience in learning different welds." - Alex
W3 Welding Skills Bootcamp

Skills Bootcamps are free*, hands-on courses for anyone aged 19+, and they can be completed in less than 16 weeks, with training providers right here in Worcestershire.

Skills Bootcamps are designed to give people the opportunity to gain skills to help them find jobs in a range of growing sectors, plus they can help local employers to close skills gaps.



upskill re-skill new skills

"The skills bootcamp was very helpful as while I've worked in marketing previously there's a lot I hadn't had the chance to cover, and it helped fill in the gaps, and eventually led to the apprenticeship I have just accepted." - Anan
TDM Marketing Skills Bootcamp

Employers can also work with training providers to develop bespoke Skills Bootcamps to help fill skill shortage vacancies specific to their industry needs.

*SME's only pay 10% of training costs - Large employers pay 30% of training costs

The Skills Bootcamp programme is funded by the UK Government and is developed and delivered locally by Worcestershire County Council, working alongside local employers and training providers.

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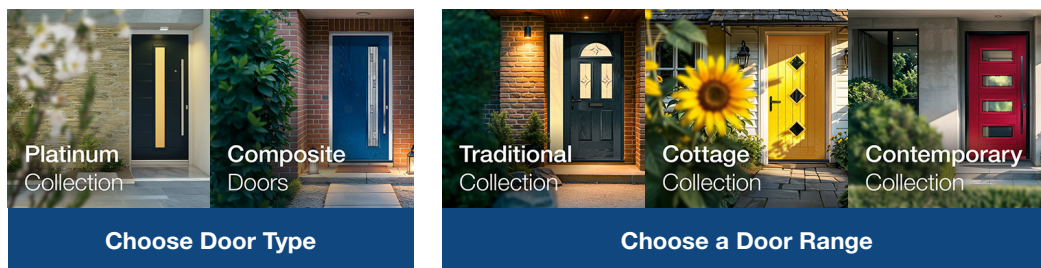
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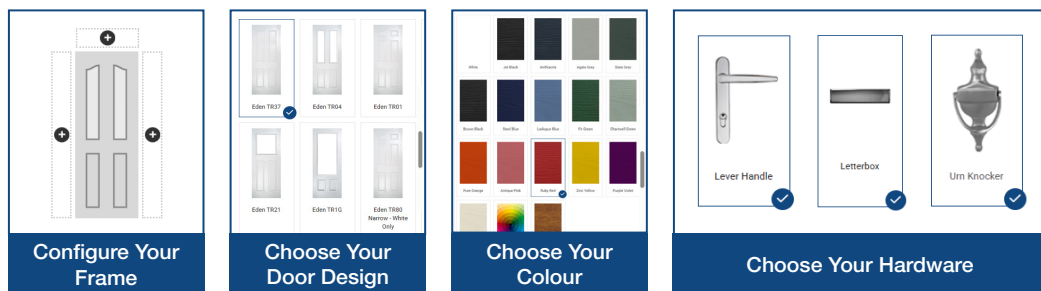
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Why Our Homes Matter More Than Ever!

There has been a quiet shift happening behind our front doors.

Our homes are no longer just places we return to at the end of a busy day. They have become offices, sanctuaries, classrooms, gyms, creative studios and places of deep rest. And as life continues to evolve, so too does the way we think about the spaces we live in.

Interior design is no longer simply about what looks good. It is about how a space makes us feel.

Walk into a thoughtfully designed room and you sense it immediately. The light feels softer. The layout flows. Colours soothe rather than shout. There is a balance between practicality and personality. Good design is not about chasing trends; it is about creating environments that support the way we truly

live. In recent years we have seen a growing appreciation for natural textures and materials. Wood, stone, linen and wool bring warmth and grounding energy into a home. Houseplants are no longer accessories but essentials, reconnecting us with nature in an increasingly digital world. Earthy palettes of clay, sage and warm neutrals are replacing stark greys, reflecting a collective desire for comfort and calm.

Yet alongside this softness sits a renewed confidence. Bold feature walls, statement lighting and individually sourced vintage pieces are helping homeowners express identity. Our interiors are becoming more personal, less showroom, more story. Functionality remains at the heart of every successful space. Storage has become design's quiet hero. Hidden cabinetry, multifunctional furniture and

clever zoning allow rooms to adapt as life changes. Open plan living has matured; instead of vast empty expanses, we now see defined areas created through rugs, lighting and subtle level changes. It is about flexibility without losing intimacy.





Why Our Homes Matter More Than Ever!

Sustainability is no longer a niche consideration but a central pillar of modern interior thinking. Clients are asking where materials come from, how furniture is made and whether products are built to last. Investing in fewer, better pieces has replaced the culture of fast furnishings. Quality craftsmanship, timeless design and repairability are shaping buying decisions.

Lighting too has taken centre stage. Layered lighting schemes combining ambient, task and accent lighting transform a room from morning brightness to evening warmth. A well placed pendant or sculptural lamp can elevate even the simplest scheme. The glow of warm bulbs at dusk creates atmosphere that no paint colour alone can achieve.

Perhaps the most significant change is the recognition that homes should support wellbeing. Dedicated quiet corners for reading. Bedrooms designed for genuine rest rather than screen

time. Bathrooms that feel spa like rather than purely functional. Even small shifts, such as decluttering surfaces or rearranging furniture to improve flow, can have a profound effect on mental clarity.

Technology continues to integrate seamlessly into our interiors. Smart heating, discreet speakers and hidden charging stations mean convenience no longer compromises aesthetics. The key is subtlety. The best tech enhanced homes are those where innovation sits quietly in the background.

For many, renovating or refreshing a space can feel overwhelming. Budgets, timelines and endless choices can cloud the original vision. That is where considered planning becomes invaluable. Beginning with how you want a room to feel rather than how you want it to look often leads to more authentic outcomes. Mood boards, fabric samples and scaled drawings are not luxuries; they are tools

that bring clarity and prevent costly mistakes.

Importantly, great interior design is not reserved for large properties or unlimited budgets. Creativity thrives within constraints. A small apartment can feel expansive with clever mirrors and thoughtful storage. A dated kitchen can be transformed with new handles, lighting and a carefully chosen splashback. Sometimes it is not about starting again but about seeing what already exists with fresh perspective.

As we look ahead, interiors will continue to evolve alongside the way we live. Homes will become more adaptable, more sustainable and more deeply personal. Trends will come and go, but the underlying principle remains constant: our surroundings shape our experience of daily life.

At its best, interior design is an investment in wellbeing. It is about creating spaces that restore us, inspire us and reflect who we are. When we get our interiors right, everything else feels just that little bit easier.

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Sleep Lighter & Refresh Your Bedroom with a Light Duvet Cover



As winter fades and brighter mornings return, the bedroom deserves a seasonal update just as much as the rest of the home. One of the simplest yet most effective changes you can make is swapping out a heavy winter bedding set for a light duvet cover. It is a small switch that can completely transform both the look and feel of your space. During the colder months, we naturally gravitate towards darker tones, thick fabrics and layered textures. While cosy, these can start to feel heavy and out of place once spring arrives. A lighter duvet cover in breathable cotton or linen instantly lifts the room, creating a fresher and more inviting atmosphere.

Colour plays a key role. Soft neutrals such as warm white, oat-

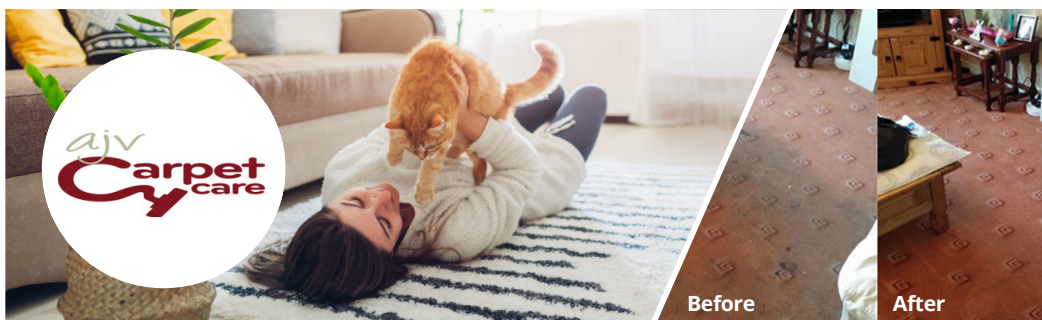
meal or pale grey create a calm foundation, while gentle pastels like sage green, blush pink or powder blue introduce subtle seasonal colour. Even a delicate floral or fine stripe can bring in a hint of spring without overpowering the room. The goal is to reflect the lighter mood of the season.

Fabric choice matters too. Natural materials such as cotton percale or linen are ideal for this time of year. They are breathable, helping to regulate temperature as nights become milder, and they offer that crisp, hotel-style finish many of us love. Linen in particular brings a relaxed, slightly textured look that works beautifully in both contemporary and traditional homes.

Styling can be simple. Pair your light duvet cover with a couple of coordinating cushions and perhaps a lightweight throw folded at the end of the bed for cooler evenings. Avoid over-layering; spring is about space and airiness rather than bulk.

Beyond aesthetics, changing your bedding can positively impact sleep. A lighter cover helps prevent overheating and encourages a more comfortable night's rest as temperatures fluctuate.

Refreshing your duvet cover may seem like a modest update, but it sets the tone for the entire bedroom. This spring, embrace lighter fabrics and softer shades, and let your sleep space breathe again.



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Crystal Clear Style: Decorating with Glass Accents

As the days grow longer and natural light begins to flood our homes once again, April is the perfect time to embrace clear glass accessories. Simple, elegant and endlessly versatile, pieces such as vases, bowls and hurricane lamps can transform a room without overwhelming it. One of the greatest strengths of clear glass is its ability to reflect and amplify light. Positioned on a windowsill, coffee table or dining setting, glass catches the sunshine and subtly brightens the surrounding space. Unlike heavier materials, it feels airy and uncluttered ideal for spring interiors where the aim is to create freshness and flow after the darker winter months.

Glass vases are perhaps the easiest way to introduce the look. A tall cylindrical vase filled with tulips or blossom branches creates instant impact, while a smaller bud vase with a single

stem offers understated charm. Because the material is transparent, you can see the full structure of the plant, from stem to bloom, which adds a natural, organic quality to your décor. Glass bowls are equally adaptable. On a kitchen island, they can be filled with lemons or limes for a burst of colour. In a hallway, they make an elegant catch-all for keys and essentials. Left empty, a beautifully shaped bowl still acts as a sculptural feature in its own right.

Hurricane lamps bring warmth as well as style. Grouped together at varying heights, they create a relaxed yet polished centrepiece. In the evenings, candle-light flickers through the glass, adding softness and atmosphere perfect for spring dinners or quiet nights in.

Another benefit of clear glass is how effortlessly it blends with

any interior style. Whether your home leans modern, rustic or classic, glass complements rather than competes. It layers beautifully with natural textures such as wood, linen and woven materials.



This season, consider swapping heavier decorative pieces for clear glass alternatives. Sometimes, the simplest additions are the ones that make the biggest difference.

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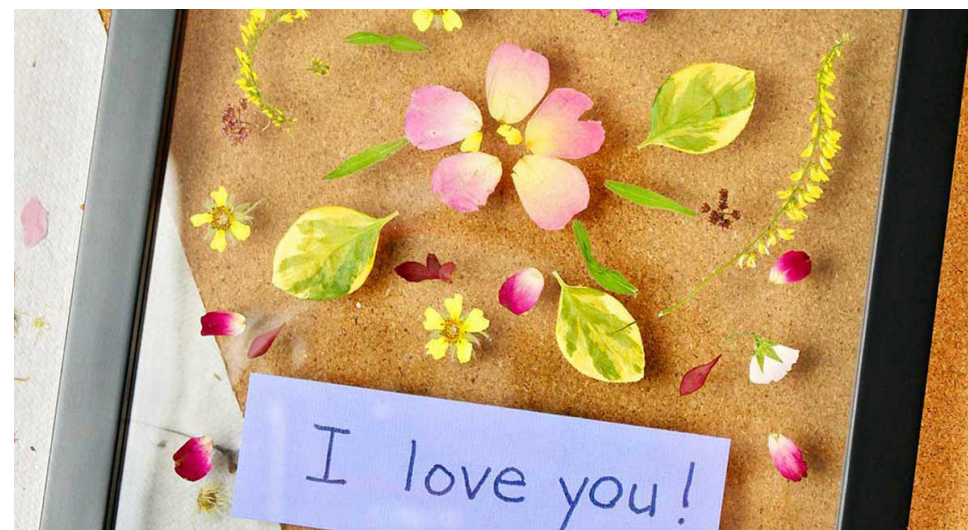
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Bring the Outside In DIY Pressed Flower Frame Art



As spring unfolds and gardens burst into colour, it is the perfect time to capture a little of that seasonal beauty and bring it indoors. DIY pressed flower frame art is a simple, affordable way to add personality and softness to your interiors, while celebrating the natural world just beyond your door.

Pressed flowers have a delicate, almost timeless quality. Whether you collect wildflowers from a countryside walk or trim a few stems from your own garden, each piece tells a story. Daisies, forget-me-nots, ferns and even blossom petals work beautifully. The key is to press them flat between sheets of parchment paper inside a heavy book for a couple of weeks, ensuring they dry completely while retaining their colour.

Once ready, arranging them is where creativity takes over. Choose simple glass frames for a clean, contemporary look, or opt for vintage-style frames if your home leans more traditional. Floating glass frames are particularly effective, allowing light to shine through the petals and creating an almost botanical illustration effect. You can position a single stem for a minimalist statement or create a more detailed composition by layering different shapes and textures.

Pressed flower art works wonderfully in hallways, bedrooms or above a dressing table, adding a gentle nod to the season without overwhelming the space. A trio of small frames hung together can form an elegant gallery feature, while one larger piece can act as a subtle focal point in

a neutral room. Beyond aesthetics, there is something mindful about the process itself. Slowing down to select, press and arrange flowers encourages you to appreciate small details often overlooked. It is also a lovely activity to share with children or friends.

In a world of mass-produced prints, handmade botanical artwork feels refreshingly personal. This spring, instead of buying new wall décor, consider creating something unique that reflects both the season and your own creativity.



Spring Reset: Simple Ways to Boost Your Health This Season



As the days grow longer and the weather begins to warm up, spring offers the perfect opportunity to reset your health and wellbeing. After months of darker mornings, heavier meals and less time outdoors, many of us feel ready for a fresh start.

One of the simplest ways to embrace a spring health reset is by getting outside more. Natural daylight helps regulate our sleep wake cycle, improves mood and supports vitamin D production. A brisk walk around your local park, canal path or woodland trail can boost cardiovascular health, reduce stress and increase energy levels. Even 20 to 30 minutes a day can make a noticeable difference.

Spring is also an ideal time to refresh your diet. Seasonal produce such as asparagus, spinach, spring greens and radishes are packed with vitamins, minerals and fibre. Lighter meals with plenty of colourful vegetables can support digestion and help you feel less sluggish. Hydration is equally important as temperatures rise, so aim to drink water regularly throughout the day.

Many people use spring as a time to declutter their homes, but it can also be beneficial to declutter your habits. Reducing screen time before bed, setting a consistent sleep routine and limiting ultra processed foods can have a powerful impact on both physical and mental health.

Small, sustainable changes are often more effective than extreme overhauls.

Allergy sufferers may need to take extra care during spring due to rising pollen levels. Keeping windows closed during high pollen counts, showering after spending time outdoors and seeking appropriate treatment can help manage symptoms effectively.

Spring symbolises growth and renewal. By making gentle, positive adjustments to your routine, you can improve your energy, strengthen your immune system and support your overall wellbeing setting a healthy foundation for the months ahead.

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Lisa 07906 989728

KIDDERMINSTER 5.30pm & 7pm
Kidderminster Baptist church
Franche 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

WEDNESDAY

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

KIDDERMINSTER
9am & 10.30am, 5pm & 7pm
St. George's Social Club Radford
Avenue Kidderminster Net
07989598589

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

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

THURSDAY

KIDDERMINSTER
9.30am & 11am
Kidderminster Carolinas R.F.C
Marlpool Lane Kidderminster
Paula 07926192600

KIDDERMINSTER 6.00pm
Foley Park Methodist Church
Off Brinton Close
Kidderminster
Rachel 07907033347

STOURPORT
5pm & 7pm
The Severns Club
Lickhill Road, Stourport
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KIDDERMINSTER
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Kidderminster Carolinas R.F.C
Marlpool Lane
Paula 07926192600

SATURDAY

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

STOURPORT 8am & 9.30am
The Cornerstone Rooms
(part of the Stourport Baptist
Church)
Minster Road, Stourport
Paula 07926192600

STEP

Confidently Into Spring

& warmer months with Healthy Feet!

As we step into the warmer months and sandals come back out of the wardrobe, our feet suddenly take centre stage. After a long winter hidden away in boots and thick socks, it is common to notice problems that may have been easy to ignore. At Elle Jay Aesthetics we often see a rise in foot concerns during spring and summer, particularly fungal nail infections, ingrowing toenails and verrucas.

Healthy feet are not just about appearance. They are essential for comfort, mobility and confidence. Addressing issues

early can prevent discomfort and more complex treatment later on.

Fungal nail infections are one of the most common concerns. They often begin as a small discolouration at the edge of the nail, gradually thickening, becoming brittle or lifting away from the nail bed. Warm, moist environments such as gyms, communal showers and tight footwear can increase the risk. Unfortunately, over the counter treatments can be slow and inconsistent, and many people feel embarrassed to seek advice.

Laser treatment offers a modern, effective approach. The laser targets the fungal infection within the nail without damaging the surrounding tissue. It is a quick procedure, requires no downtime and allows the new, healthy nail to grow through over time. Early intervention gives the best results, particularly before the infection spreads to other nails.

Ingrowing toenails are another frequent issue, especially during sandal season when trimming and shaping nails becomes more common. Cutting nails too short or rounding the edges can

cause the nail to grow into the surrounding skin. This may lead to redness, swelling, pain and sometimes infection.

Mild cases can often be managed conservatively, but when the nail repeatedly pierces the skin or becomes infected, professional treatment is important. Addressing an ingrowing nail promptly prevents ongoing discomfort and reduces the risk of more invasive procedures later.

Verrucas, caused by the human papillomavirus (HPV), are also more prevalent in summer. They

commonly develop on the soles of the feet and may appear as small, rough lesions with tiny black dots. While some verrucas resolve naturally, others can persist for months or even years, particularly if the immune system struggles to clear the virus.

At Elle Jay we offer Hyfreator treatment for verrucas. This technique uses a controlled electrical current to precisely target and treat the affected tissue. It is a safe and effective option, particularly for stubborn or painful verrucas that have not responded to topical



treatments. Most clients tolerate the procedure well, and aftercare advice is provided to support healing.

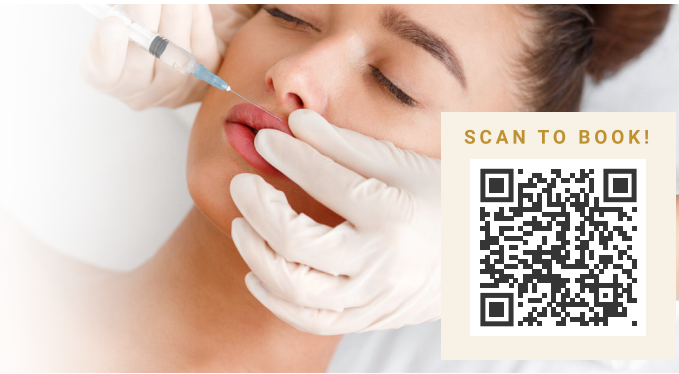
Looking after your feet during summer is simple but important. Keep feet clean and dry, change socks regularly, avoid sharing footwear, and wear protective flip flops in communal areas. Trim nails straight across rather than rounding the edges, and seek professional advice if you notice persistent changes in colour, thickness, pain or skin lesions.

Healthy feet allow you to enjoy long walks, holidays and garden gatherings without discomfort. If you are concerned about your nails or skin, early assessment can make all the difference. With the right treatment and preventative care, you can step confidently into summer.



To find out more you can visit www.ellejayaesthetics.co.uk,

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The Sweet Health Benefits of Strawberries

As spring unfolds across the Wyre Forest, strawberries begin to make a welcome return to our shops and markets. These bright red berries are not only delicious but packed with impressive health benefits.

Strawberries are an excellent source of vitamin C, with a single serving providing more than your daily requirement. Vitamin C supports the immune system, helps the body absorb iron and contributes to healthy skin by aiding collagen production. As we move through the changing seasons, keeping immunity strong is particularly important. They are also rich in antioxidants, including anthocyanins,

which give strawberries their vibrant colour. Antioxidants help protect the body's cells from damage caused by free radicals, which are linked to ageing and various long term health conditions. Including antioxidant rich foods in your diet can support heart health and overall wellbeing.

Strawberries are naturally low in calories yet high in fibre, making them a great choice for those looking to maintain a healthy weight. Fibre supports digestion, promotes gut health and helps you feel fuller for longer, reducing the temptation to snack on less nutritious options.

There is also growing evidence

that strawberries may help support heart health. Their combination of fibre, potassium and antioxidants can contribute to healthy blood pressure and cholesterol levels when enjoyed as part of a balanced diet.

Whether added to porridge, blended into smoothies or simply enjoyed on their own, strawberries are a simple, seasonal way to boost your health this spring.



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www.bewdleyrotary.uk

For over 10 Years Bewdley Rotary have organised a photograph competition at The Bewdley School, with this year being better and bigger than ever.

The pupils were to submit photographs based on the theme "Happiness in Nature". There were over 200 entries, the standard was so high, the Judges had an extremely difficult task in selecting the winners and runners up. The competition was split into intermediate and senior categories.

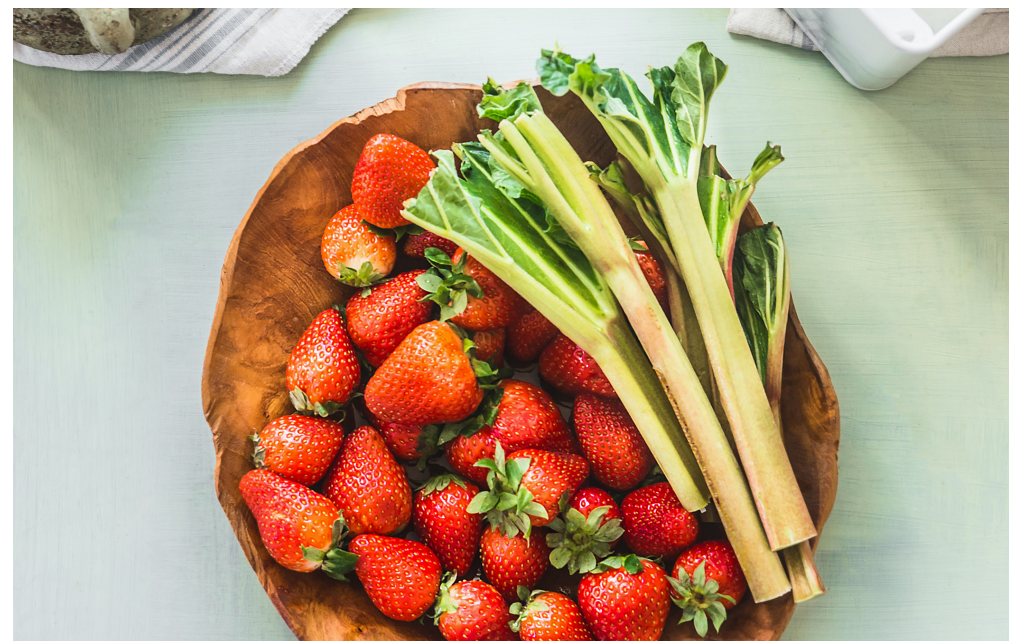


On Thursday 5th March, the presentation at The Bewdley School was attended by parents and pupils. The parents were in awe of the quality of the photos and agreed with the judges that it must have been hard to select the winners and runners up. Due to the amount of superb entries, the Head Teacher decided to award two special prizes; a superb photo book to each.

After a short speech about Rotary from Rotarian David Rees, informing the audience Bewdley Rotary had raised over £30,000 mainly for local Charities, the prizes were handed out. Each winner received a book on photography and gift vouchers for £40, with the runners up also receiving the book and £20 in gift vouchers.

The winners were senior, Gracie D and intermediate, Paige C and the runners up being Emmiah R, Freya W and Jessie. All entrants received a certificate and highly commended pupils received an Easter egg also. Bewdley Rotary must give thanks to the Judges; Bob Hill, Colin Hill and Shirley Bonas and to the Art department at Bewdley School.

Bewdley Rotary are pleased and proud to support this superb annual event .



Seasonal Spotlight Rhubarb and Strawberries

April is the month when British produce truly begins to wake up, and two of the stars of the season are rhubarb and strawberries. While they often end up together in a crumble, they each bring something very different to the table.

Rhubarb is technically a vegetable, though most of us treat it as a fruit. In the UK, forced rhubarb is at its best in early spring, famously grown in the "Rhubarb Triangle" of West Yorkshire. Its bright pink stalks offer a sharp, tangy flavour that cuts beautifully through

sweet dishes.

April rhubarb is tender and vibrant, perfect for crumbles, compotes and tarts. It also works surprisingly well in savoury recipes – think rhubarb chutney served with pork, or a sticky rhubarb glaze over roasted chicken.

Nutritionally, rhubarb is a quiet achiever. It is low in calories and a good source of fibre and vitamin K, supporting digestion and bone health. Just remember that the leaves should never be eaten, as they are toxic. Strawberries, meanwhile,

signal the sweeter days to come. While the very first British strawberries begin appearing in April, the season truly gathers pace as we move towards late spring and early summer. Nothing compares to the flavour of homegrown British strawberries – juicy, fragrant and naturally sweet. Imported berries are available year round, but waiting for local fruit makes all the difference.

Strawberries are packed with vitamin C, antioxidants and manganese, making them as

nutritious as they are delicious. Enjoy them simply with a dollop of cream, layered into an Eton mess, or sliced into a fresh spring salad with mint and soft cheese.

Together, rhubarb and strawberries are a classic pairing. The tartness of rhubarb balances the sweetness of strawberries perfectly, creating a combination that feels nostalgic and comforting. As April unfolds, keep an eye out for these seasonal favourites and make the most of Britain's early harvest.

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Rhubarb & Strawberry Crumble

The perfect recipe for April



Ingredients

For the Filling

1 x Roasted rhubarb
250g strawberries

For the crumble

85g plain flour
50g golden caster sugar
25g ground almond
50g butter
finely grated zest 1 small orange
2 handfuls pine nuts
Custard

Method

Step 1

Heat oven to 200C/fan 180C/gas 6. Prepare the roasted rhubarb adding the halved strawberries after 15 mins of cooking. Cook, uncovered, for a further 5 mins until the rhubarb is tender and the strawberries slightly softened. Tip into a shallow dish, about 25 x 18 x 5cm,

with enough of the syrupy juices to keep the fruit juicy. (Any leftover can be served with the crumble.)



Step 2

While the fruits are roasting, prepare the crumble. Mix the flour, sugar and ground almonds, then add the butter and rub together to make coarse crumbs. Stir in the orange zest.



Step 3

Spoon the crumble loosely over the fruit, then scatter with the pine nuts. Bake straight away for 25 mins until golden and bubbly. Cool a little before serving with custard and any remaining syrup.



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Harmony Returns to Bewdley with Stream of Sound

Music lovers in the Wyre Forest area are in for a treat this April as the talented a cappella choir Stream of Sound returns to St George's Hall in Bewdley for an evening of rich harmonies and uplifting folk music.

Taking place on Saturday 11 April at 7.30pm, the concert promises a captivating mix of traditional and contemporary folk songs performed entirely without instrumental accompaniment. Stream of Sound has built a strong reputation for their beautifully blended voices, inventive arrangements and engaging stage presence, creating performances that are both powerful and intimate.

Based in nearby Stourbridge, the choir is made up of passionate singers who share a love of vocal harmony and storytelling

through song. Their repertoire spans the breadth of English folk traditions, exploring themes of love, loss, protest and remembrance, while also drawing inspiration from musical traditions from around the world.

The group previously performed at St George's Hall last July, attracting an enthusiastic audience of nearly 100 people. Following that successful evening, they are delighted to be returning to Bewdley with a refreshed programme that includes plenty of new material alongside some of their much-loved favourites.

As well as enjoying a memorable evening of live music, attendees will also be supporting an important local venue. Stream of Sound is proud to be helping raise funds for St George's Hall, recognising the vital role inde-

pendent community spaces play in bringing arts and culture to towns like Bewdley.

Part of the proceeds will also help subsidise choir members' participation at the renowned Sidmouth Folk Festival, ensuring that more singers have the opportunity to take part in one of the UK's best-loved celebrations of folk music.

For anyone who enjoys folk music, beautiful vocal harmonies and supporting local arts, this promises to be a warm and uplifting evening in the heart of Bewdley.


Tickets are just £8 and are available now online from St George's Hall.

www.tickets.thehall-bewdley.org.uk

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Beatles Complete A Night of Beatlemania

Fans of the Fab Four are in for a treat as Beatles Complete bring an electrifying night of Beatlemania to the stage. Packed with massive hits from The Beatles, the show celebrates the music of the most influential band of all time.

Direct from the world-famous The Cavern Club in Liverpool, this talented Liverpool-based 'beat combo' has already performed more than 200 shows at the iconic venue. Remarkably, the group aged between 18 and 22 – became the youngest ever Beatles band to gain a residency at the Cavern Club, where they still perform regularly on Thursdays and selected Saturdays.

While they may not be able to recreate the screaming crowds

and tears of the 1960s, Beatles Complete deliver something just as special: the unbridled joy, energy and sound that made the early Beatles such a sensation. Expect a host of timeless classics, expertly performed by a band rapidly gaining recognition in the Beatle tribute world.

The group have also built a strong reputation internationally. They have appeared at International Beatleweek for the last four consecutive years and have already been invited back for 2025. Alongside touring theatres across the UK with their extended show, the band have also appeared on the BBC and on television in both Japan and the Netherlands.

With impressive musical ability, boundless energy and a touch

of classic Liverpool wit, Beatles Complete are fast becoming one of the most exciting Beatles tributes around.

As the Cavern Club itself said: "One of the most exciting Beatles tributes around."

Date: Saturday 18 April 2026
Start Time: 7.30pm
Tickets: £23
(Adults & Concessions)

Book tickets online:
<https://www.thecivicstourport.co.uk/event/beatles-complete>

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Simply Dylan Live at Kidderminster Town Hall

Fans of legendary singer-songwriter Bob Dylan can look forward to an unforgettable evening as Simply Dylan comes to Kidderminster Town Hall on Saturday 25 April at 8:00pm.

Simply Dylan delivers the iconic songs of Bob Dylan with authenticity and passion, but without attempting to imitate or impersonate the prodigious songwriter himself. Instead, the band focuses on bringing Dylan's legendary lyrics and masterful storytelling to life with a vibrant, energetic sound that captures the spirit of the originals while adding their own musical flair. What began as a modest pro-

ject quickly gathered momentum, selling out the world-famous The Cavern Club six times. Since then, Simply Dylan have continued to win over audiences across the UK and beyond, earning glowing reviews from the Spanish press and building a strong following among dedicated Dylan fans.

Expect an evening of unforgettable music featuring some of Dylan's greatest songs, delivered with energy, respect and a real love for the material.

Tickets: Available online via the Kidderminster Town Hall website: www.kidderminstertownhall.org.uk



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April Motoring Fresh Season, Fresh Start For Your Car

April is a turning point for motorists. The darker mornings begin to fade, the roads feel a little less hostile, and there is a sense that both car and driver can finally breathe after the long winter months. But while spring brings brighter journeys, it also brings responsibility.

Winter leaves its mark. Potholes seem to multiply overnight, tyres have taken a battering from cold temperatures, and batteries that struggled through frosty mornings may now be on borrowed time. April is the perfect opportunity for a seasonal reset. A simple vehicle health check, tyres, fluids, lights and brakes can prevent minor issues becoming expensive problems later in the year.

The change in weather also alters

driving conditions. Sudden April showers create greasy road surfaces as oil rises after dry spells, catching out the unwary. Glare from low spring sunshine can be just as dangerous as ice, particularly during early morning or early evening commutes. Clean windscreens and topped-up screen wash are small details that make a big difference.

This is also the month when many families start planning Easter trips, weekend breaks and the first longer drives of the year. If your car has mainly done short, local runs through winter, a longer journey places different demands on the engine and cooling system. Checking coolant levels and ensuring your air conditioning

system is working properly can make those early road trips far more comfortable.

April often brings changes in vehicle tax, insurance renewals and new registration plates, making it a key month financially too. Reviewing policies, comparing cover and budgeting for annual motoring costs can help avoid surprises.

Motoring is about freedom, but it works best when preparation meets opportunity. As the countryside begins to look greener and the days stretch out before us, April offers the chance to drive forward with confidence. A little attention now ensures that the months ahead are smoother, safer and far more enjoyable on the open road.



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Kidderminster Harriers April Diary

April is shaping up to be a defining month for Kidderminster Harriers as the National League North season heads towards its conclusion. With promotion ambitions still alive, every point matters and Aggborough will have a huge role to play.

The action begins on Friday 3 April when Hereford visit Aggborough for a 3pm kick off. It is always a lively encounter and the home support will be looking to set the tone for the month under the lights. Just three days later, on Monday 6 April, Harriers make the short trip to AFC Telford United. Easter fixtures often carry extra edge and this derby clash promises intensity from the first whistle. Back at home on Saturday 11 April, King's Lynn

Town are the visitors for a traditional 3pm kick off. With the season entering its final weeks, these home fixtures could prove decisive in the push for a strong league finish. The Reds then travel to Leamington on Saturday 18 April for another 3pm start, a test away from Aggborough against a side always capable of causing problems on their own turf.

April concludes with a crucial home fixture on Saturday 25 April, as South Shields arrive for a 12.30pm kick off. By then, the league table will be taking shape and the stakes could hardly be higher. With five important fixtures packed into the month, April could define the Harriers' season.

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- > 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

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