



VANGUARD
ROOFCARE LTD



10% OFF

WITH THE ADVERT INSIDE THE MAGAZINE

Roof 'MOT' inspection from £50

Full roof renovation from £599

Find and repair leaks from £199

Spray foam removal from £995

Moss removal from £299

Call us on 01384 906254 or 07307 048343

vanguardroofcareltd@mail.co.uk | www.vanguardroofcareltd.co.uk



Proud members of
Checkatrade.com
Where reputation matters

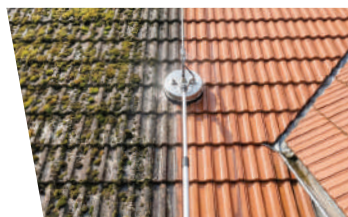
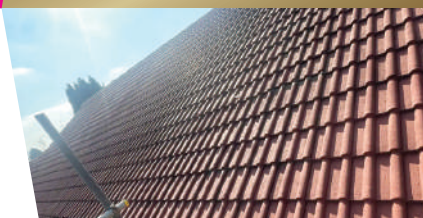


**YOUR TRUSTED
ROOFING SPECIALISTS**

VANGUARD
ROOFCARE LTD

We specialise in

- Finding and repairing leaks
- Flat roof repairs and installations
- Valleys and gable end repointing
- Chimney repointing and lead-work
- Spray foam removal
- Roof replacements
- Roof 'MOTs'



OFFERS

Roof 'MOT' inspection from £50

Find and repair leaks from £199

Moss removal from £299

Full roof renovation from £599

Spray foam removal from £995

Prevent
rather than
replace!



SCAN ME

10% OFF
WITH THIS ADVERT



Call us on 01384 906254 or 07307 048343

vanguardroofcareltd@mail.co.uk • www.vanguardroofcareltd.co.uk

Featured

- 5 Stourbridge Carnival Draws the Crowds**
for a Brilliant Day of Family Fun

- 6 Local Football Heroes Celebrated**
in New Quinton Mural

- 8 Mary Stevens Hospice**
and the crucial work they do locally

- 13 This Months**
Local Lowdown, Quirky Tales & Local Lore

Regular

- 16 Cousins Furniture**
Celebrating 41 Years

- 19 MP Update**
Cat Eccles Member of Parliament
for Stourbridge

- 22 One Year On: The Boutique**
By KEMP Hospice

- 24 Interiors**
Boutique Hotel Bedroom, Japanese Anemone in
this months Garden & The Vegetable Garden

- 36 Health & Wellbeing**
National Wellness Month and the Hidden
Benefits of Walking

- 42 Food & Drink**
Make the Most of Blackberry Season and
Blackberry and Apple Loaf Recipe

- 46 Whats On**
Mark Kingswood at Stourbridge Town Hall, Kiki Dee
Returns to Stourbridge Live at Katie Fitzgerald's & ABBA
Tribute Swede Dreamz At The River Rooms

- 52 Motoring**
Renault 5 E-Tech: The Electric Car



THIS MAGAZINE IS
FREE & PRODUCED
INDEPENDENTLY

Advertising Contact:

Andy Preece
07948 720973

Editorial Contact:

info@stourbridgematters.co.uk

Disclaimer: All adverts delivered by Stourbridge 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.



Stourbridge Carnival Draws the Crowds for a Brilliant Day of Family Fun

Hundreds of people flocked to Stourbridge town centre as the much-loved Stourbridge Carnival made a welcome return, bringing a packed programme of entertainment, classic vehicles, live music and family attractions. The popular event transformed the town on Sunday, July 5, with visitors enjoying everything from vintage cars and artisan markets to fairground rides and

live performances spread across several locations.

One of the biggest attractions was the impressive display of vintage and classic vehicles, with members of the Stourbridge Pre-War Car Club and the Black Country Classic Car Club showcasing an array of beautifully restored cars. Enthusiasts and families alike spent time admir-

ing the vehicles, chatting with owners and taking photographs throughout the day.

Music also played a central role in the celebrations, creating a lively atmosphere across the town centre. Performances took place on the One Heart One Way Stage in Crown Square, the Community Stage in Ryemarket Square and the Black Country Festival Stage on Duke Street, giving local musicians and performers the opportunity to entertain crowds throughout the afternoon.

Shoppers were treated to an extensive selection of market stalls offering everything from handmade crafts and gifts to local produce and street food. Inside the Ryemarket, the Midlands Maker Market showcased talented independent traders, providing visitors with plenty of opportunities to support local businesses while picking up unique items.



Families were equally well catered for, with traditional fairground rides including a Ferris wheel and carousel proving particularly popular with younger visitors.

The attractions, combined with the sunny weather and bustling atmosphere, made for a memorable day out for people of all ages.

To encourage as many people as possible to attend, organisers also provided free parking at Birmingham Street, Church Street, Coventry Street and the Ryemarket multi-storey car parks, helping visitors travel into the town with ease.

Among those enjoying the festivities was Caley Ashman, Reform UK councillor for Cradley North and Wollescote on Dudley Council, who praised the event after spending part of his

weekend there. He said: "I went to the Stourbridge Carnival today. It was brilliant with lots of cool old motors on display. I don't get many weekends off work, so I'm glad to spend my time supporting local events."

The carnival once again highlighted the strong community spirit that exists across Stourbridge, with local organisations, performers, traders and volunteers all playing their part in delivering a successful event. Throughout the day the town centre remained busy, with residents and visitors enjoying the chance to come together and celebrate everything the area has to offer.

Events such as the Stourbridge Carnival continue to play an important role in supporting the local economy by bringing people into the town centre and encouraging them to visit

independent shops, cafés and businesses alongside the attractions on offer.

Following another successful year, many will already be looking forward to the carnival's return in 2027, with this year's event once again proving why it remains one of Stourbridge's favourite community celebrations.



Local Football Heroes Celebrated in New Quinton Mural



Two of the West Midlands' biggest football stars are now the centrepiece of a striking new mural celebrating local pride, talent and success.

A colourful artwork featuring England internationals Jude Bellingham and Morgan Rogers has appeared on the side of the Classic Fryer on Hagley Road West in Quinton, quickly attracting attention from football fans across the region. The mural shows the pair sharing a portion of chips – a light-hearted nod to their Black Country roots.

The artwork was created by Dudley artist Dion Kitson, who shared the project on social media with the caption "2 star boys" as he completed the finishing touches. For readers in Stourbridge, the mural holds extra significance. Jude Bellingham was born in

Stourbridge and has become one of the world's most recognisable footballers since beginning his career with Birmingham City before moving to Borussia Dortmund and then Spanish giants Real Madrid. His remarkable rise has made him one of the area's greatest sporting success stories.

Alongside him is Morgan Rogers, who grew up in nearby Halesowen and has established himself as one of England's brightest attacking talents. The pair have progressed from local youngsters with big dreams to representing their country on the international stage.

The mural was unveiled ahead of England's World Cup quarter-final victory over Norway, in which Bellingham scored both goals to secure a dramatic 2-1 win after extra time and send the Three Li-

ons into the semi-finals. It provided the perfect backdrop for supporters celebrating another memorable night for English football.

Public artwork celebrating local heroes has become increasingly popular across the Midlands, helping communities recognise the achievements of people who have never forgotten where they came from.

For young footballers across Stourbridge, Halesowen and the wider Black Country, the mural is a reminder that world-class talent can emerge from local parks, grassroots clubs and school playing fields.

Whether you're a football supporter or simply proud of the area's achievements, the new mural is another fantastic tribute to two players who continue to inspire the next generation both on and off the pitch.

5 REASONS TO REVIEW YOUR WILL

**£49
OFF
NEW
WILLS**

- ✓ Who are your Executors?
Are they family, or someone else..
- ✓ Are your wishes up to date?
- ✓ Have you built in "What if" clauses?
- ✓ Are you up to date with the changes in legislation?
- ✓ Where is your original Will?



**Home
Visits
Available**

5 STAR Google
Reviews ★★★★★

Tel: 01384 310705

DON'T KEEP PUTTING THIS OFF:

Protect your loved ones and your Home. Writing Wills for over 30 years: we are genuine local people with £2.5 million of professional indemnity insurance. We also offer Trust, Power of attorney and Probate services.



The Will Partners

SME UK Legal
news Awards 2026

11 Kidderminster Road, Bromsgrove, B61 7JJ

www.thewillpartners.co.uk



Caring for Our Community, Every Day

The Mary Stevens Hospice

Every day, people across the Dudley Borough and surrounding areas face the reality of living with a life-limiting illness. At these moments, compassionate, specialist palliative and end of life care can make all the difference, not only for patients, but for those who love and care for them.

Stevens Hospice provides free, specialist palliative and end of life care for adults living with life-limiting illnesses. Every person is treated with care, compassion and kindness, ensuring that they receive the right care at the right time, while those closest to them are supported throughout their journey.

10-bed In-Patient Unit, where patients receive expert nursing and medical care 24 hours a day. Some people are admitted for specialist symptom management, others for end of life care or treatment to help stabilise their condition before returning home. Behind every patient is a dedicated multidisciplinary team of doctors, nurses, social workers, counsellors, complementary therapists, spiritual care staff and physiotherapists all working together to provide holistic care.

Support extends far beyond the In-Patient Unit. The hospice's Day Service Unit enables people to access a comprehensive programme of care and support to address physical, emotional, psychosocial and spiritual needs through sessions such as Fatigue, Anxiety and Breathlessness (FAB), Neurological Wellbeing, Mindfulness, Exercise, Creative Wellbeing, Musings and a Motor Neurone Disease Support Group. Patients can also access complementary therapy, physiotherapy, hypnotherapy,



Based in Stourbridge, The Mary

At the heart of the hospice is its



art therapy and a weekly doctor-led symptom control clinic, helping them maintain independence, improve their wellbeing and continue living as fully as possible.

The Mary Stevens Hospice also recognises that a serious illness affects the whole family. Loved ones are offered practical advice, emotional support, counselling and guidance on care planning and available benefits. Following a bereavement, support continues through one-to-one counselling, children's and young people's services, Bereavement Hubs and com-

munity information points, ensuring that no one has to face grief alone.

While many people know the hospice for the exceptional care it provides, fewer realise the scale of support needed to keep these vital services available. It costs £4.2 million each year to provide hospice care, with only 13% of funding coming from the NHS. The remaining income must be raised through the generosity of local people, businesses and supporters.

From shopping in one of the hospice's charity shops, joining

the weekly Lottery, taking part in fundraising events, making a donation, becoming a corporate partner or leaving a gift in a Will, every contribution helps ensure local people continue to receive specialist palliative and end of care when they need it most.

The Mary Stevens Hospice has been at the heart of the community for more than 30 years, and its future depends on that same community continuing to stand beside it.

To support The Mary Stevens Hospice, you can make a donation here: www.marystevenshospice.co.uk/support-us/donate/

The Mary Stevens Hospice Lottery

Playing together,
caring together

Together, our lottery players help us continue to provide free palliative and end-of-life care for people living with life-limiting illnesses.

To sign up, scan, call or visit our website

for just **£1.00** per week!

Win up to **£10,000!**

BeGambleAware®





www.marystevenshospice.co.uk/lottery | 01384 860 011

ABFAB
A TRIBUTE TO ABBA

JAZZ, FUNK, SOUL & MOTOWN
TRIBUTE

THE SABRINA
TRIBUTE SHOW

At the Festival

SUMMER FAYRE

A FUN-FILLED DAY FOR ALL THE FAMILY

SATURDAY 22ND AUGUST

11AM - 4PM STREET PARADE AT 10:30AM

The Mary Stevens Hospice, Oldswinford, DY8 2JR

SINATRA AND THE RAT PACK
TRIBUTE

DOLLY PARTON
TRIBUTE

THE ULTIMATE SOLO TRIBUTE TO UB40





www.marystevenshospice.co.uk | Charity Reg No. 517656

Book your tickets by scanning the QR code:

Make a Splash This Summer with a Family Kayaking Adventure!



Looking for a fun way to keep the children entertained during the school holidays? Why not swap screens for the great outdoors and enjoy a family kayaking adventure with Bear Creek Adventures at Kinver or explore the beautiful River Severn with River Severn Canoes?

Just a short drive from Stourbridge, Bear Creek Adventures offers a fantastic introduction to kayaking on the peaceful Kinver Canal. Setting off from The Vine Inn, families can enjoy a gentle 90-minute paddle along a picturesque 2.8km stretch of canal before returning to relax in the pub's canalside garden. It's an ideal activity for beginners, with stable sit-on-top kayaks that are easy to use and suitable for all ages.

The calm waters make it perfect for younger paddlers, while parents can enjoy spotting wildlife

and taking in the beautiful countryside. Better still, it's dog-friendly too, so even your four-legged family member can come along for the ride.

Children aged 5 to 9 share a kayak with an adult, while those aged 10 and over can paddle their own kayak provided an adult is nearby. Sessions run daily throughout the summer holidays as well as every weekend until October, with several launch times available each day.

If you're looking for something a little more adventurous, River Severn Canoes offers the chance to explore one of the country's most iconic rivers. Their canoe and kayak hire gives families the opportunity to drift through stunning Worcestershire countryside at their own pace, enjoying peaceful scenery, wildlife and plenty of fresh air along the way.

Whether you choose a gentle canal paddle or a memorable trip along the River Severn, kayaking is a brilliant way to get active together, build confidence on the water and create lasting family memories.

After your Kinver adventure, why not reward yourselves with a delicious wood-fired pizza and refreshing drink at The Vine Inn – the perfect way to round off a fantastic day out.

With the long summer holidays ahead, it's an affordable, healthy and exciting activity that the whole family can enjoy. So grab your sun cream, pack a change of clothes and get ready to make a splash this summer!

Book here:
www.bearcreekadventures.co.uk/kayak-hire-kinver



Foster A Brighter Future
with **phoenix**
fostering

ACCESS TO A
FAMILY SUPPORT WORKER

ONGOING TRAINING,
GUIDANCE & SUPPORT

ACCESS TO A BEHAVIOUR
SUPPORT SPECIALIST

24 HR ON CALL SUPPORT

14 DAYS PAID RESPITE

FAMILY FUN DAYS

ACCESS TO A
DDP THERAPIST

THERAPEUTIC
SUPPORT
THAT MAKES A
DIFFERENCE

COME AND MEET US!

St George's Hall, Bewdley
10am - 2pm 08 OCT

Worcester Show, Pitch Croft
09 AUG

Costa, Weavers Wharf, Kidderminster
10am - 2pm 13 AUG & 10 SEP

We provide safe, nurturing homes where children and young people feel heard, valued and supported to thrive.

Children need foster carers from all walks of life, different backgrounds, shared values, one goal - brighter futures.

**FOSTER CARERS
NEEDED**

HEREFORDSHIRE, WORCESTERSHIRE & BEYOND

Could you change a life?
LET'S TALK

07930 157901

info@phoenixfostering.co.uk
www.phoenixfostering.co.uk



THIS MONTHS

Local Lowdown Quirky Tales & Local Lore

*The Clock That Ran Five
Minutes Fast!*

For years, locals in Stourbridge joked that one of the town's old public clocks always seemed to be five minutes ahead. Shopkeepers claimed it was deliberately left fast to stop workers arriving late, while others believed it simply had a mind of its own. Generations of residents remember checking their watches against it and wondering which time was actually correct.



*The Stambermill Viaduct Ghost
Light!*

A long-standing tale in Stourbridge tells of a mysterious lantern-like glow occasionally seen near the old bridge on misty evenings. Older residents claimed it was the spirit of a ferryman guiding travellers home, while others insisted it was simply moonlight reflecting on the River. Whatever the explanation, the story still adds an extra touch of mystery to riverside walks after dark.

*The Stourbridge Ice Cream Queue
Record!*

In the summer of 1976, during one of Britain's hottest heatwaves, locals say an ice cream queue in Mary Stevens Park stretched almost the entire length of the Park. Families waited patiently in the blazing sunshine, determined not to miss out on a cone. Whether the queue was really quite that long may have been exaggerated over the years, but it remains one of the town's favourite summer stories.



*The Owl That Became a Village
Celebrity!*

Residents in Wollaston Village still talk about a tawny owl that regularly perched outside a local post office during the early mornings. The bird became so well known that people would adjust their walks to see if it had returned. Some even nicknamed it "Percy the Post Owl," and its appearances became a source of great local excitement.



COUSINS
FURNITURE

Life is a story,
we'll help to furnish it.

WHICHEVER CHAPTER YOU'RE ON

DINING



BEDROOM



FLOORING



Interest
free credit
available

CELEBRATING
41
YEARS

BIRMINGHAM • DUDLEY • NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME • SHREWSBURY

Celebrating 41 years of furnishing local homes.

Anniversary Offers On Now!
EXCLUSIVE ANNIVERSARY PRICES ACROSS ALL STORES

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.



Celebrating 41 Years of Furnishing Homes for Every Chapter of Life

After celebrating a monumental 40th anniversary last year, Cousins Furniture is proving that some things never go out of style as it marks its 41st anniversary.

Since 1985, Cousins has been helping customers create homes they love, building a reputation founded on quality furniture, honest value and family ser-

vice. As a family business, family has always been at the heart of everything Cousins does understanding how homes change, how lifestyles evolve and how furniture plays an important role in everyday life.

While anniversaries offer an opportunity to reflect, this year's celebration is focused firmly on the future continuing to earn the

trust of customers and helping furnish homes for the next 40 years and beyond.

Looking Ahead to the Next Chapter

Homes evolve as life changes, and at Cousins, the belief has always been that great furniture should adapt to every stage of life. From first homes to family homes, downsizing to retirement, every chapter deserves furniture that combines comfort, style and practicality.

The values that have guided Cousins for more than four decades remain unchanged: Quality furniture. Honest value. Family service. Creating homes you'll love for years to come.

First Homes, Lasting Impressions

For first-time buyers, value and versatility remain key. Compact sofas, stylish dining sets and furniture designed for modern living help make smaller homes and new-build properties feel welcoming without compromising on quality.



Whether furnishing a first apartment or a growing home, Cousins understands the importance of finding furniture that offers lasting value while fitting perfectly into modern spaces.

Furniture for Family Life

As families grow, so do the demands placed on the home. Spacious corner sofas create room for everyone to relax together, while practical ceramic dining tables stand up to the demands of everyday family life.

Open-plan kitchens and dining spaces continue to be at the heart of modern living, creating places to gather, entertain and spend time together. As a family business, Cousins un-

derstands these moments and offers furniture that works beautifully while standing up to busy lifestyles.

Comfort for Every Chapter

For downsizers and empty nesters, comfort and support often become the priority. Compact furniture designed to maximise space, supportive recliners and thoughtfully designed seating offer the perfect balance of practicality and relaxation.

These collections help ensure that homes remain comfortable, stylish and easy to enjoy for years to come.

Celebrating with Exceptional Savings

As part of the 41st anniversary

celebrations, customers can enjoy exceptional savings both in-store and online. Discover special anniversary offers across sofas, dining furniture, beds and much more, making it the perfect time to invest in furniture designed to stand the test of time.

For Every Home. For Every Chapter of Life.

While styles may evolve and homes may change, the values that have guided Cousins since 1985 remain the same: quality products, trusted advice and genuine value.

Forty-one years on, Cousins Furniture continues to help customers create homes they'll love for years to come and looks forward to furnishing homes for many more years to come.

Join Ramsay Movers at West Midlands Hospital



Looking to stay active or regain confidence in your movement?

Our friendly exercise classes focus on **building strength, improving balance and enhancing everyday function.**

If you're interested in joining one of our classes or would like more information, please call 01384 632 646 today.

westmidlandshospital.co.uk

West Midlands Hospital, Colman Hill, Halesowen, B63 2AH



West Midlands Hospital
Part of Ramsay Health Care



Cat Eccles Member of Parliament for Stourbridge

It has been another busy month both here in the constituency and in Parliament. One of the highlights was welcoming Skills Minister Baroness Jacqui Smith to Dudley College's Black Country Skills Shop. It was a fantastic opportunity to showcase the incredible work taking place locally to support people into employment, connecting local employers with people with the skills they're looking for. We also discussed the Government's new Youth Guarantee, which aims to ensure every young person has access to work, education or training, and how we can make sure local people benefit from these opportunities.

In Westminster, I have continued to make the case for the industries that have shaped our communities for generations. During debates on steel, I raised concerns directly with Ministers about the impact that proposed quotas

could have on the Downstream Steel industry in the Black Country. Many businesses here rely on specialist steel products, and it is vital that Government policy supports not only steelmaking itself, but also the manufacturers who transform that steel into world class products. I was so pleased to see amendments to proposed quotas and tariffs reflecting these conversations.

I also spoke during a debate on climate change, advocating that protecting our environment and protecting jobs must go hand in hand. The climate crisis is already affecting our communities through more frequent extreme weather and growing pressures on food security, but the transition to a greener future must work for industrial towns like ours. It was also great to attend a showing of the National Emergency Briefing in Stourbridge,

thank you to those who invited me. I'd encourage everyone to watch this film if they can!

Improving transport has also remained a priority. During the Railways Bill, I tabled amendments to strengthen protections for ticket offices and ensure passengers continue to have access to staffed stations and face to face support. Reliable, accessible public transport is essential, particularly for disabled passengers, older people and those who need extra assistance when travelling.

Animal welfare has also featured prominently this month. I was pleased to meet with Cats Protection in Parliament to discuss stronger protections for cats, including action on irresponsible breeding practices, tougher regulation of online sales and the need to ban electric shock collars. As a nation of animal lovers, we have a responsibility to ensure our laws keep pace with modern animal welfare standards.

Alongside my parliamentary work, my team and I continue to support residents every day with issues ranging from housing and benefits to immigration, pensions, health-care and local services. Every week we help constituents navigate complicated problems, and if you need assistance, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

You can contact Cat via email, telephone or online:

Email:
cat.eccles.mp@parliament.uk

Phone:
01384 881 095

Website: www.cateccles.co.uk



PATCHWORK CARPETS & FLOORING

*Beautiful Flooring, Expertly Chosen
+ Perfectly Fitted.*



WHAT WE OFFER

We supply and fit all types of carpet & flooring ensuring you'll find the perfect fit for your home, including:

- Luxury Vinyl Tiles (LVT)
- Carpet
- Carpet Tiles
- Laminate
- Engineered Wood
- Vinyl
- Artificial grass
- Commercial flooring

A family business built on trust.

We're a husband and wife team who genuinely care about helping you get the right floor for your home and your lifestyle.

But we're not just the two of us – we have an amazing team of fitters and sales professionals who are the face of Patchwork. Their skill, experience, and dedication is what makes everything we do possible.

*Thank you for supporting
our family business.*

Find us just off the Stourbridge ring
road
Bradley road, Queens Road DY81BX



Good advice, honest prices, and a floor you'll be proud of

If you need fitting, our experienced teams have the knowledge to get the job done properly. We also carry out subfloor preparation using high-quality materials, making sure your new flooring is fitted on a solid, long-lasting base. Whether you're buying to take away or looking for a full supply and fit service, we offer reliable workmanship at the right price. We also do commercial flooring and work alongside businesses, so no matter the size of the job, we've got it covered.

Visit our website to book online
www.patchworkflooring.co.uk

Our Showroom Van Comes to You!

Booking your FREE home measure & Showvan visit is quick and easy on our website.

- ✓ We measure up
- ✓ You browse all your chosen samples
- ✓ We offer expert advice
- ✓ You get a no-obligation quote



Wide range of samples brought directly to you!

Simple. Convenient. Stress-free.



EXPLORE ALL YOUR CARPETS & FLOORING OPTIONS

Our Showvan is stocked with a wide range of high-quality carpets & flooring, so you can take your time choosing what's right for you.

					
CARPETS A huge choice of colours, textures and styles.	VINYL Practical, durable and easy to maintain.	LVT Stylish, waterproof and perfect for busy homes.	ENGINEERED WOOD Real wood beauty with added strength and stability.	LAMINATE Hard-wearing, affordable and easy to maintain.	CARPET TILES Practical, versatile and ideal for many spaces.

See the colours in your natural light

What looks perfect in-store can look different at home. That's why we bring the samples to you, so you can see exactly how they work with your space, your lighting, and your decor.



Ready to get started?

Visit us in store or Book your FREE home measure
& Showvan visit today on our website.
01384882886
sales@patchworkflooring.co.uk

SCAN QR



BOOK NOW



Let us bring the showroom to you and help you find the perfect floor.



One Year On: The Boutique by KEMP Hospice Celebrates a Remarkable First Year in Hagley

The Retail Team at KEMP Hospice are celebrating the first anniversary of The Boutique by KEMP Hospice, a unique style of charity shop located in the heart of Hagley.

Since opening its doors on 3rd July 2025, the shop has welcomed customers, received donations from across the community, and generated essential

income to help KEMP Hospice continue its vital work supporting people living with life-limiting illness and bereavement.

What began as a vision to create a stylish, new shopping experience for KEMP Hospice supporters, has quickly become a much-loved part of Hagley's high street. Combining carefully curated designer fashion, home-

ware, gifts and unique finds, the shop has attracted regular customers from across the region while providing an environmentally conscious alternative to buying new.

Over the past 12 months, the shop has achieved several significant milestones including to date:

- Over 7,529 items sold in the shop with an average customer spend of £18.05.
- 243 new Gift Aid registrations with 56% of items sold eligible to claim Gift Aid.
- A team of 8 volunteers have worked over 819 hours in the shop.
- 1,071 bags and boxes have been donated to the shop.

Getting off to an incredible start and generating over £3,000 of income in the first three days, the success of The Boutique by KEMP Hospice has been made possible by the generosity of local donors, dedicated volunteers and loyal customers who have embraced the concept from day



one.

Gary Barnes, Head of Retail at KEMP Hospice said "When we opened the shop a year ago, we hoped it would become a valued part of the community.

The response has exceeded all expectations. Every donation made, every item purchased and every hour volunteered has helped us raise vital funds while giving pre-loved items a new lease of life."

As it enters its second year, the team is looking forward to building on its success, welcoming new supporters and continuing to make a positive difference both locally and through the wider work of the charity. "We

are incredibly grateful to everyone who has supported us over the past year," added Gary "and we're excited to see what we can achieve together in the years ahead."

To find out more about KEMP Hospice and the amazing work they do supporting patients and families across the Wyre Forest and surrounding areas, visit www.kemphospice.org.uk.

From specialist hospice care and bereavement support to fund-raising events and volunteering opportunities, there are many ways to get involved and help ensure these vital services continue for local people





Creating a Boutique Hotel Bedroom Upgrades bring luxury into your home

Boutique hotels are designed to feel comfortable, stylish and relaxing, and many of the same principles can be applied to a bedroom at home without undertaking a major renovation.

One of the most noticeable features of a hotel bedroom is high-quality bedding. Crisp cotton sheets, a supportive duvet and multiple layers of pillows instantly create a more luxurious feel. Adding a textured throw at the foot of the bed introduces warmth and visual interest.

Lighting is equally important. Rather than relying on a single ceiling light, boutique hotels use layered lighting to create atmosphere. Bedside lamps, wall lights and soft accent lighting allow the room to adapt to different

times of day and moods.

A statement headboard can dramatically change the appearance of a bedroom. Upholstered designs remain particularly popular, adding texture and creating a focal point behind the bed. Even a simple fabric-covered headboard can elevate the entire space.

Hotels are also experts at controlling clutter. Matching bedside tables, concealed storage and carefully chosen accessories help create a calm and organised environment. Limiting decorative items often results in a more sophisticated appearance. Colour choices tend to be subtle and timeless. Warm neutrals, soft greys, taupe and muted greens are commonly used because they promote relaxa-

tion while providing a luxurious backdrop.

Mirrors can help reflect light and make a room feel larger. A well-positioned full-length mirror or decorative wall mirror adds both practicality and style.

Finally, attention to small details can make a significant difference. Matching bedside lamps, quality curtains and coordinated cushions help create a cohesive look that feels thoughtfully designed.

By focusing on comfort, lighting and simplicity, homeowners can achieve the elegant atmosphere associated with boutique hotels while creating a bedroom that feels both practical and indulgent.


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

FREE
Delivery
DY10,11

 2 bags £19.50 4 bags £38 75 ltr bag	 2 bags £17 3 bags £24.90 50 ltr bag	 2 bags £15 4 bags £28 50 ltr bag	 5+ bags Only £5.99 ea.
--	--	---	--

www.paulsgardensupplies.co.uk

Call Paul on: 01562 741820 Mob: 07704 346506



Established for
over 35 years

NJK Plumbing & Heating

Plumbing and heating services throughout
the Wyre Forest



**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

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



★ DOMESTIC CLEANERS ★ BASED IN STOURBRIDGE

What we offer

Weekly/Fortnightly Cleaning

Adhoc/One Off Cleaning

Moving/Tenancy Cleaning

Deep Cleaning

We cover Stourbridge and the surrounding areas

Tel No : 07854 517799

Email : dustfairy14@yahoo.com



Plant of the Month Japanese Anemone

As August arrives and many summer-flowering plants begin to slow down, the Japanese Anemone takes centre stage. This elegant perennial is one of the stars of the late-summer garden, producing masses of delicate blooms from August through to October and sometimes even later if conditions remain mild. Its ability to provide colour when many other plants are fading makes it a favourite among gardeners looking to extend the season.

Despite its name, the Japanese Anemone actually originates from China, although it became widely cultivated in Japan and has long been associated with traditional Japanese gardens. Today it is a popular choice in British gardens thanks to its hardiness, graceful appearance and reliable performance.

The flowers are available in shades ranging from pure white to soft pink and deeper rose tones. Held on tall, slender stems above attractive dark green foliage, they appear to dance in the slightest breeze, adding movement and a sense of lightness to borders. The simple, open flowers are also highly attractive to bees and other pollinating insects, making them a valuable addition to wildlife-friendly gardens.

Japanese Anemones thrive in moist but well-drained soil and are happiest in partial shade, although they will tolerate full sun if they receive sufficient water during dry periods. Once established, they are remarkably resilient and require very little maintenance beyond occasional watering during prolonged dry spells.

These versatile plants work beautifully in cottage gardens, mixed borders and woodland-style planting schemes. They combine particularly well with ornamental grasses, asters, sedums and late-flowering salvias, helping to create colourful displays that carry gardens through into autumn.

Another benefit is their longevity. Japanese Anemones are perennial plants that return year after year, gradually forming larger clumps and producing even more flowers as they mature. They also make excellent cut flowers, bringing their understated elegance indoors.

For gardeners seeking dependable late-season colour, the Japanese Anemone is difficult to beat. Beautiful, hardy and easy to grow, it provides a stunning display just when many gardens need it most, proving that the gardening season is far from over once summer draws to a close.

Carters
BED CITY

SUMMER SALE



• Upgrade Your Sleep Huge choice • Hundreds in stock • Great value prices




Harrison Spinks
The True Bedmakers

HYPNOS
THE MOST COMFORTABLE BEDS IN THE WORLD
VISPRING
Luxury Beds - London 1901



kaymed
When you go to bed, we go to work

Sleepeeze
ESTABLISHED 1974

TEMPUR
A mattress like no other

SOMNUS
SLEEP. DESIGNED.

EH
ENCHANTED HOUSE BEDS

Silentnight

New Rd, Kidderminster DY10 1AQ Tel: 01562 66396 Open Mon - Sat 9am-5:30pm

www.cartersfurnitureonline.co.uk



**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



Helping Your Child Build Confidence and Self-Belief

Every child experiences moments of self-doubt. Whether it's worrying about schoolwork, making friends, trying a new sport or facing a challenge, confidence plays a vital role in helping young people reach their potential.

True confidence isn't about believing you'll always succeed. It's about knowing you can keep trying, learn from mistakes and improve over time.

As a parent, one of the most valuable things you can do is praise effort rather than simply the results. Children who understand that improvement comes through practice are far more likely to persevere when life becomes difficult.

Encourage your child to take on small challenges that stretch them just beyond their comfort zone. Each success, however small, helps build resilience and self-belief for the next challenge. Avoid comparing your child with

brothers, sisters, classmates or friends. Every young person develops at their own pace, with different strengths and talents. Help them focus on becoming the best version of themselves.

Spend time listening to your child. Sometimes they don't need solutions—they simply need to know that someone believes in them. Your calm encouragement can make a lasting difference.

Finally, remember that children often copy what they see. When they observe parents remaining positive, learning from setbacks and approaching challenges with determination, they are far more likely to develop those same attitudes themselves.

Confidence grows one small step at a time and, with consistent encouragement at home, every child can develop the belief that they are capable of achieving far more than they may currently imagine.

Cotent provided by:
Dennis J. Smith, M.Ed
Founder, Sport Study Success UK
Supporting children aged 7-16 and their families with confidence, motivation, study habits, wellbeing and positive development through education and sport.

Website:
<https://sites.google.com/view/sportstudysuccessuk>





August in The Vegetable Garden

Plant now for delicious autumn harvests

August is often seen as a month of harvesting, but it is also one of the most important times in the gardening calendar for sowing crops that will keep your kitchen supplied well into autumn and winter. As summer vegetables reach their peak, empty spaces begin to appear in vegetable beds, creating the perfect opportunity for a second round of planting.

Leafy crops are particularly well suited to August sowing. Lettuce varieties can still be planted and will produce fresh leaves for salads well into the autumn months. Rocket is another fast-growing favourite, often ready to harvest within a few weeks and ideal for adding a peppery kick to sandwiches and salads.

For gardeners looking for something a little different, mizuna and mustard leaf are excellent choices. These oriental greens

are easy to grow, cope well with cooler temperatures and provide colourful, flavourful leaves that can be eaten raw or lightly cooked. Lamb's lettuce, sometimes known as corn salad, is another reliable crop that thrives as temperatures begin to fall and can often be harvested throughout winter.

Radishes remain one of the quickest and most rewarding vegetables to grow. Sown in August, many varieties can be ready to pick in as little as four weeks. Spring onions are another excellent option, providing a steady supply of fresh, mild-flavoured onions for salads and cooking.

Looking further ahead, August is the ideal time to plant overwintering onion sets. These establish strong roots before winter and can produce an earlier crop the following summer compared

with spring-planted onions.

Chicory is another worthwhile addition to the vegetable plot. Its crisp leaves are perfect for autumn salads, while some varieties can be forced later in the year to produce tender, blanched shoots.

With warm soil and generally reliable growing conditions, August offers gardeners the chance to keep harvesting long after summer has ended. A little planting now can provide fresh produce for many months to come.



Wyre Tree Services & Gardens






- Fully Equipped and Certified
- All aspects of Tree Surgery covered
- Hedge Cutting
- Garden Works

wyretreeservices@gmail.com

Stefan - 07527787125







Before
After

Why choose us?

Worcestershires first choice for

professional carpet & upholstery cleaning

Make an appointment
Get Your free quote today

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

07930890885 | www.ajvcarpetcare.co.uk



30 YEARS ESTABLISHED • FAMILY RUN BUSINESS

tws

NOMINATED
INSTALLER AWARDS 2026
for 2 awards

"the finish is immaculate, the house is so much warmer" ★★★★★

"friendly staff who couldn't of helped more, got exactly what we wanted" ★★★★★

SHOWROOM

WINDOWS • DOORS • CONSERVATORIES • LANTERNS

uPVC & Aluminium

www.twswindowsanddoors.co.uk | 01562822855

Unit 5, Lupin Works, Worcester Road, Kidderminster, DY10 1JR

Monday to Friday • 8am-5pm Saturdays • 9am-4pm

"Returned to TWS for a second time (...) still find the product and service ★★★★★ excellent"

The Return of Wallpaper

Bold patterns, texture and personality



Wallpaper has made a significant comeback in recent years, with homeowners increasingly using it to add character and individuality to their interiors. While painted walls remain popular, wallpaper offers an opportunity to introduce colour, texture and pattern in a way that paint simply cannot.

One of the biggest trends for 2026 is the use of oversized botanical prints. Large-scale leaves, flowers and nature-inspired designs can create a striking focal point in living rooms, dining areas and bedrooms. Murals are also proving popular, turning a single wall into a dramatic design feature. Textured wallpapers are another growing trend. Grasscloth-

style finishes, linen effects and subtle embossed designs add depth and interest without overwhelming a space. These are particularly effective in hallways and lounges where homeowners want a sophisticated look.

Feature walls remain the most practical way to use bold wallpaper. Applying a statement design behind a bed, sofa or dining table creates impact while keeping the rest of the room balanced. This approach works particularly well with darker colours and more intricate patterns.

For smaller rooms, lighter wallpapers with delicate patterns can help create a sense of space while still adding personality. Vertical stripes remain a

favourite choice for hallways and rooms with lower ceilings as they can make walls appear taller.

When choosing wallpaper, it is important to consider the room's natural light. Dark designs can look stunning in bright spaces but may feel heavy in rooms with limited daylight. Ordering samples and viewing them at different times of day can help avoid costly mistakes.

Rather than covering every wall, today's approach to wallpaper is often about creating carefully chosen focal points. Used thoughtfully, it can transform an ordinary room into a space that feels stylish, welcoming and uniquely personal.

The Hidden Health Benefits of Walking

Benefits Are Not Just Limited To Physical Health



It is often overlooked in favour of gyms, fitness classes and high-intensity workouts, but walking remains one of the simplest and most effective ways to improve overall health. Accessible to almost everyone and requiring no special equipment, a regular walk can deliver significant physical and mental benefits.

Research has consistently shown that walking helps strengthen the heart, improve circulation and reduce the risk of conditions such as high blood pressure, heart disease and type 2 diabetes. Even a brisk 30-minute walk on most days of the week can contribute to better cardiovascular health and improved The

benefits are not limited to physical health fitness levels.

Walking has also been linked to reduced stress, improved mood and better mental wellbeing. Spending time outdoors, particularly in green spaces such as parks, woodlands and nature reserves, can help lower anxiety levels and provide an important break from the demands of daily life.

Walking can also aid weight management by increasing calorie expenditure while being gentler on the joints than many other forms of exercise. This makes it an excellent option for people returning to fitness after injury or those looking for a

sustainable long-term activity.

One of the greatest advantages of walking is how easily it can be incorporated into everyday routines. Choosing the stairs instead of the lift, parking further away from a destination or taking a stroll during a lunch break can all help increase daily activity levels.

With longer summer days still offering plenty of opportunities to get outdoors, August is the perfect time to lace up a pair of comfortable shoes and get moving. A simple walk each day could be one of the easiest investments you make in your long-term health.



Ready to feel amazing?

Contact us to find your ideal membership

SlimmingWorld

feel *real* good

CAROLINE
07969 497085

EVERY TUESDAY
8.00am, 9.00am & 11.00am

The Scout Hut, Norton
Kempton Way off Heath Farm Road
DY8 3AP

EVERY WEDNESDAY
5:30pm & 7:00pm

The Ruskin Glass Centre, Wollaston
Rd, Amblecote, DY8 4HE

JOANNE
07725 987340

EVERY FRIDAY
8.00am & 9.30am

The Bonded Warehouse, Canal St,
Stourbridge,
DY8 4L

EVERY SATURDAY
7:30am, 9am & 10:30am

Oakfield Community Centre, Brettell Ln,
Amblecote, DY5 3LT

 FOLLOW US ON facebook Slimming World in Stourbridge with Caroline
  FOLLOW US ON facebook Slimming World in Stourbridge with Jo

National Wellness Month

Small Changes, Big Benefits

August is National Wellness Month, a month-long global initiative encouraging people to focus on their physical, mental and emotional wellbeing. In a world where busy schedules, constant notifications and everyday pressures can often leave us feeling overwhelmed, National Wellness Month serves as a timely reminder that looking after ourselves should never be considered a luxury – it is essential.

The concept is simple: dedicate time throughout August to building healthier habits, reducing stress and making positive lifestyle changes that can have lasting benefits long after the month has ended. Importantly, wellness is not about drastic diets, punishing fitness regimes or striving for perfection. Instead, it focuses on sustainable changes that help people feel happier, healthier

and more balanced.

One of the key themes of National Wellness Month is self-care. While the phrase is often associated with spa days and pampering, genuine self-care is much broader. It includes getting enough sleep, eating nutritious meals, staying hydrated, taking regular breaks and making time for activities that bring joy and relaxation. Even setting aside just 15 minutes a day to read, walk, meditate or enjoy a hobby can make a noticeable difference to overall wellbeing.

Stress management is another major focus. Modern life can place significant demands on our time and energy, and prolonged stress can affect both physical and mental health. Simple techniques such as deep breathing exercises, mindfulness, spending time

outdoors and connecting with friends or family can all help reduce stress levels.

Research consistently shows that regular physical activity is also one of the most effective ways to boost mood and improve mental resilience.

National Wellness Month also encourages people to review their daily routines. Small adjustments can often produce significant results. Going to bed at the same time each night, taking a short walk during lunch breaks, reducing screen time before sleep or preparing healthier meals are all achievable goals that can improve wellbeing over time.

The month provides an excellent opportunity to explore local resources too. Across the region there are numerous opportunities to support a healthier lifestyle, from fitness classes and walking groups to yoga sessions, wellbeing workshops and community activities.

Participating in local events can not only improve physical health but also help strengthen social connections, which play a vital role in overall happiness and wellbeing.

Perhaps the most important message behind National Wellness Month is that wellness looks different for everyone. What works for one person

may not work for another, and that's perfectly fine. The aim is not to compare ourselves with others but to identify the habits and routines that help us feel our best.

As August unfolds, why not use National Wellness Month as an opportunity to check in with yourself?

Whether it's committing to a daily walk, drinking more water, prioritising sleep or simply taking a little more time to relax, small positive changes made today could lead to a healthier, happier future. After all, investing in your wellbeing is one of the most valuable commitments you can make.





AESTHETIC PROCEDURES TO NATURALLY ENHANCE YOUR APPEARANCE AND CREATE A YOUTHFUL LOOK

Lindsey has been in nursing for over 30 years, currently working as an Advanced Nurse Practitioner.

Lindsey takes pride in treating people as individuals and working with them to achieve realistic goals and help them make informed decisions about their treatment.



TREATMENTS INCLUDE

Anti wrinkle | Dermal fillers | Body sculpting | Skin analysis

Minor surgery for lumps and bumps | Mole analysis | Laser hair removal

Tattoo removal | Radio frequency microneedling | CO2 fractional laser | Chemical peels



GET IN TOUCH!

BOOK A CONSULTATION TODAY

☎ 07743 118 137 ✉ info@ellejayaesthetics.co.uk

www.ellejayaesthetics.co.uk

5-7 Lombard Street, Stourport-on-Severn, Wrocs DY13 8DP

The Hidden Health Benefits of Walking Benefits Are Not Just Limited To Physical Health

It is often overlooked in favour of gyms, fitness classes and high-intensity workouts, but walking remains one of the simplest and most effective ways to improve overall health. Accessible to almost everyone and requiring no special equipment, a regular walk can deliver significant physical and mental benefits.

Research has consistently shown that walking helps strengthen the heart, improve circulation and reduce the risk of conditions such as high blood pressure, heart disease and type 2 diabetes. Even a brisk 30-minute walk on most days of the week can contribute to better cardio-

vascular health and improved The benefits are not limited to physical health fitness levels.

Walking has also been linked to reduced stress, improved mood and better mental wellbeing. Spending time outdoors, particularly in green spaces such as parks, woodlands and nature reserves, can help lower anxiety levels and provide an important break from the demands of daily life.

Walking can also aid weight management by increasing calorie expenditure while being gentler on the joints than many other forms of exercise. This makes it an excellent option for people returning to fitness after injury or those

looking for a sustainable long-term activity.

One of the greatest advantages of walking is how easily it can be incorporated into everyday routines. Choosing the stairs instead of the lift, parking further away from a destination or taking a stroll during a lunch break can all help increase daily activity levels.

With longer summer days still offering plenty of opportunities to get outdoors, August is the perfect time to lace up a pair of comfortable shoes and get moving. A simple walk each day could be one of the easiest investments you make in your long-term health.

KIDDERMINSTER MEMORIALS

Award Winning Monumental Stonemasons

**£750
PRICE INCLUDES:**

- UNLIMITED CARVED LETTERING
- SIMPLE ARTWORK DESIGN
- FLOWER HOLES & CONTAINERS
- FITTING



MAIN OFFICE AND SHOWROOM (By appointment only)
LISLE AVENUE, KIDDERMINSTER, DY11 7DN - 01562 751375
WWW.KIDDYMEMORIALS.COM OR FIND US ON FACEBOOK





THE FOX INN

CHADDESLEY CORBETT

2 Course

PROPER CARVERY

STARTER OR DESSERT



PAYING CASH

£10



PAYING CARD

£11



PLEASE NOTE: THERE IS A
£1 DISCOUNT WHEN PAYING BY CASH.



**BOOKING
STRONGLY
RECOMMENDED**



CALL TO BOOK

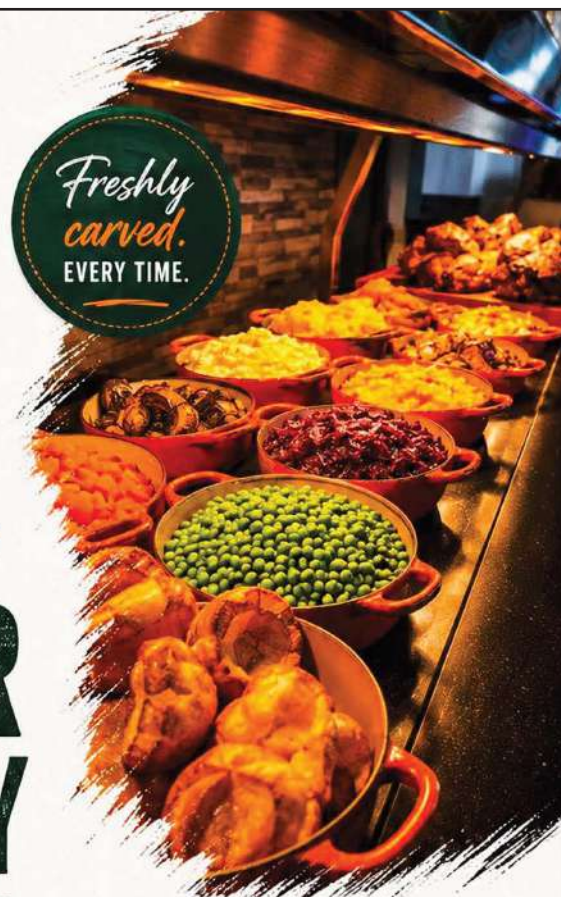
01562 777247



GREAT FOOD

WARM WELCOME

LOCAL & PROUD



Make the Most of Blackberry Season

Blackberries are at their best in August

There's something wonderfully nostalgic about blackberry season.

As summer begins to fade and autumn edges closer, hedgerows across Worcestershire burst into life with clusters of ripe, juicy blackberries just waiting to be picked. From country lanes and canal paths to local parks and countryside walks, this is the perfect time of year to enjoy one of nature's tastiest free treats.

Blackberries are typically at their best from late August through to September, making now the ideal opportunity to get outdoors and enjoy a spot of foraging. Not only is blackberry picking a great family activity, but it's also a fantastic way to connect with the local countryside while gathering ingredients for a variety of delicious homemade dishes.

Packed with vitamin C, fibre and

antioxidants, blackberries are as nutritious as they are versatile. Their sweet yet slightly tart flavour works beautifully in both sweet and savoury recipes. Traditional favourites such as blackberry crumble remain popular for good reason, especially when served warm with custard or ice cream. They can also be transformed into jams, jellies and chutneys, or added to smoothies for a healthy breakfast boost.

For those looking to experiment, blackberries pair exceptionally well with apples, pears and plums. They can be baked into muffins, folded through cakes, used to top cheesecakes or stirred into porridge. A handful of fresh berries can even elevate a simple summer salad when combined with goat's cheese and walnuts.

If you do head out blackberry

picking, remember a few simple rules. Only pick from areas away from busy roads, avoid taking more than you need, and leave plenty behind for wildlife. Birds, insects and small mammals all rely on hedgerow fruits as an important food source as the seasons change.

One of our favourite ways to celebrate the season is with a homemade Blackberry & Apple Loaf. Combining the sweetness of fresh apples with the rich flavour of ripe blackberries, it's a simple bake that perfectly captures the taste of late summer and early autumn.

Turn the page for our delicious Blackberry & Apple Loaf recipe and bring a little taste of the Worcestershire countryside into your kitchen.

Eat, drink & celebrate.

PAISLEY *at* NO.106



INDOOR & OUTDOOR SEATING
SUMMER MENUS • COCKTAILS • DJS
LIVE MUSIC • EVENTS



Christmas at 106

Too early? Not for the best dates.

Festive dining, party nights, Santa events and NYE celebrations are coming soon. Scan to see what's on.

www.paisleyat106.co.uk
106 Minster Road,
Stourport, DY13 8AB



Blackberry & apple loaf

Make the most of late-season fruit



Ingredients

- 250g self-raising flour
- 175g butter
- 175g light muscovado sugar
- ½ tsp cinnamon
- 2 rounded tbsp demerara sugar
- 1 small eating apple, quartered
- 2 large eggs beaten
- 1 orange finely grated zest
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 225g blackberry

Method

Step 1

Preheat the oven to 180C/gas 4/fan 160C. Butter and line the bottom of a 1.7 litre loaf tin (see tip below). In a large bowl, rub the flour, butter and muscovado sugar together with your fingers to make

fine crumbs. Measure out 5 level tbsp of this mixture into a small bowl for the topping, and mix in to it the cinnamon and demerara sugar. Set aside.

Step 2

Coarsely grate the apple down to the core and mix in with the eggs and the zest. Stir the baking powder into the rubbed-in mixture in the large bowl, then quickly and lightly stir in the egg mixture until it drops lightly from the spoon. Don't overmix.

Step 3

Gently fold in three quarters of the berries with a metal spoon, trying not to break them up. Spoon into the tin and level. Scatter the rest

of the berries on top. Sprinkle over the topping and bake for 1¼ -1 hour 20 minutes. Check after 50 minutes and cover loosely with foil if it is browning too much. When done the cake will feel firm, but test with a skewer.

Step 4

Leave in the tin for 30 minutes before turning out, then cool on a wire rack. Peel off the paper before cutting. Will keep wrapped in foil or in a tin for up to 2 days.



26-27 PROGRAMME

THE ROSE THEATRE

THE NONENTITIES Society

Season Launch

Tickets on sale 01.07.26

21-26 th September 2026	2:22 A Ghost Story by Danny Robins
26-31 st October 2026	Marjorie Prime by Jordan Harrison
16-21 st November 2026	Murder Inn by Howard Voland & Keith McGregor
15-18 th December 2026	Christmas Entertainment presented by the Nonentities and Friends
25-30 th January 2027	Funny Money by Ray Cooney
22-27 th February 2027	Edith in the Dark by Philip Meeks
12-17 th April 2027	The Last Quiz Night on Earth by Alison Carr
17-22 nd May 2027	Lilies on the Land by the Lions Part
14-19 th June 2027	Last of the Summer Wine by Roy Clarke

THE ROSE THEATRE

NODA For every stage



Mark Kingswood at Stourbridge Town Hall

Music fans are invited to experience an unforgettable evening of timeless songs and outstanding vocals when Mark Kingswood performs live at Stourbridge Town Hall on Friday 18 September 2026.

A favourite with BBC Radio 2 listeners, Kingswood has earned widespread acclaim for his rich, soulful voice and captivating stage presence. Accompanied by a live pianist and orchestral backing, this intimate performance showcases one of the UK's most distinctive vocal talents in a setting designed to put every note, lyric and emotion centre stage.

The show will take audiences

on a journey through some of the greatest songs ever written, from the classic sounds of Frank Sinatra and the golden age of crooners to swing, jazz-pop and modern favourites. Kingswood also brings his own unique interpretations to songs by artists including George Michael and R.E.M., blending timeless standards with contemporary classics. Alongside these celebrated covers, the evening will feature original material that has helped establish Kingswood as a respected singer-songwriter in his own right. His self-penned songs have enjoyed extensive BBC Radio 2 support and helped fuel a completely sold-out debut tour, earning him a loyal following across the UK and beyond.

Known for his effortless phrasing, powerful delivery and warm connection with audiences, Kingswood creates performances that are both sophisticated and deeply personal.

Whether you're a fan of classic swing, contemporary songwriting or simply exceptional live music, this promises to be a memorable night.

Mark Kingswood Live: An Intimate Evening
Friday 18 September 2026, 7.30pm
Stourbridge Town Hall
Tickets available now.
www.boroughhalls.co.uk/mark-kingswood

THE

CORNISH

PASTY

BOX



FROZEN & UNBAKED

Proper Cornish. Made for You.



LARGE TRADITIONAL CORNISH STEAK PASTY

£3.80 each
12+ **£3.55 each**

SOUTH CROFTY RANGE

£3.55 each
12+ **£3.30 each**

- Medium Traditional Steak 350g
- Lamb & Mint 300g
- Chicken 300g
- Steak & Stilton 300g
- Steak & Ale 300g
- Chicken & Chorizo 300g
- "Porky Blinder" 283g
- Peppery Steak 300g
- Peppery Steak & Gravy 283g
- Creamy Chicken & Leek 283g
- Chilli Con Carne 283g
- Chicken & Bacon 283g
- Cauliflower Cheese & Broccoli (v) 300g
- Spinach & Ricotta (v) 283g
- Vegetable Red Thai (ve) 283g

GEEVOR RANGE

£3.30 each
12+ **£2.95 each**

- Cheese & Onion (vegetarian) 300g
- Country Vegetable (vegan) 300g
- Bombay Potato (vegan) 300g
- Apple & Blackcurrant (vegan) 283g
- Rhubarb & Custard (vegetarian) 283g
- Apple, Cinnamon, Sultanas & Custard (vegetarian) 283g

GIANT TRADITIONAL CORNISH STEAK PASTY 900g

£9.00 each
(individually boxed)

GOURMET SAUSAGE ROLLS

£2.40 each

- Pork, Herb & Black Pepper
- Pork, Honey & Mustard
- Pork, Cheese & Red Onion Chutney
- Pork & Apple Cider
- Onion Bhaji with Roasted Cauliflower (vegan)

GLUTEN FREE PASTIES

£6.30 each

- Traditional Cornish Steak
- Cheese & Onion



7 INCH VEGAN "SAUSAGE" ROLLS

£1.90 each

COCKTAIL PASTIES

£1.90 each

- Traditional Cornish 160g
- Cheese & Onion 160g

CHEESE & BACON TURNOVER

£2.20 each



Make sure to follow us on Facebook, Instagram & TikTok for exclusive promotions & offers which are not available on our website

ORDER ONLINE


cornishpastybox.co.uk

	Frozen Unbaked	Freshly Baked Hot Pasties
Monday	10:00am – 4:00pm	10:00am – 3:00pm
Tuesday	10:00am – 4:00pm	10:00am – 3:00pm
Wednesday	10:00am – 4:00pm	10:00am – 3:00pm
Thursday	10:00am – 4:00pm	10:00am – 3:00pm
Friday	10:00am – 4:00pm	10:00am – 3:00pm
Saturday	10:00am – 2:00pm	10:00am – 1:45pm
Sunday	CLOSED	CLOSED

Genuine pasties handmade in Cornwall

Kiki Dee Returns to Stourbridge Live at Katie Fitzgerald's

Music lovers are set for a memorable evening this September as legendary singer Kiki Dee and acclaimed guitarist Carmelo Luggeri bring their much-loved acoustic show to Katie Fitzgerald's in Stourbridge.

Taking place on Saturday 12 September, The Long Ride Home Tour showcases a musical partnership that has captivated audiences across the UK and Europe for more than 25 years. Performing in an intimate acoustic setting, the duo create a warm and engaging atmosphere that allows their exceptional musicianship and songwriting talents to shine.

Kiki Dee remains one of Britain's most respected vocalists, having recently celebrated an incredible 55 years in the music industry. Best known for classic hits including Don't Go Breaking My Heart, her chart-topping duet with Elton John, she continues to evolve as an artist through her creative partnership with Luggeri, who co-writes and produces their music.

The evening will feature songs from their critically acclaimed album The Long Ride Home, alongside audience favourites from across Kiki's remarkable career. Fans can also look forward to unique interpretations of songs by artists including

Kate Bush and Frank Sinatra, as well as beloved hits such as I Got The Music In Me, Loving & Free and Amoureuse. Combining outstanding vocals, masterful guitar playing and engaging storytelling, the performance promises an intimate journey through songs, memories and musical influences.

Kiki Dee & Carmelo Luggeri
The Long Ride Home Tour

Saturday 12 September 2026
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge
Doors: 6.30pm | Show: 8.15pm
Tickets: £35.80
18+ event
www.katiessecretgarden.com/

The Wyre Forest's Home Improvement Specialist...

**Flexible
Finance
Options**

**SPRING
SAVINGS**
NOW ON

Windows | Doors | Conservatories | Orangeries

Kidderminster & Worcester showrooms open 7 days a week

www.5starwindows.co.uk 01562 814757



Thank You For The Music with ABBA Tribute Swede Dreamz At The River Rooms

Fans of ABBA are in for a treat this August as acclaimed tribute show Swede Dreamz brings the music, glamour and energy of the Swedish supergroup to The River Rooms.

Taking place on Saturday 8 August, this spectacular live show recreates the magic of one of the world's most successful pop acts, performing a packed setlist of ABBA classics that continue to fill dancefloors and delight audiences decades after their release.

From the opening chords of Waterloo to the emotional finale of

Thank You For The Music, audiences can expect hit after hit, including Dancing Queen, Mamma Mia, Fernando, SOS, Chiquitita, Take A Chance On Me, Knowing Me, Knowing You, Money, Money, Money and many more.

Swede Dreamz has built a strong reputation for delivering an authentic ABBA experience, featuring outstanding live vocals, impressive harmonies and stunning replica costumes. With as many as seven costume changes during the performance, the show captures the style, colour and excitement that made ABBA a global phenomenon.

Audience participation is encouraged throughout, making it the perfect night out for dedicated fans and anyone who simply loves great pop music. Whether you're singing along to your favourite hits or dancing the night away, this promises to be an evening packed with nostalgia and feel-good entertainment.

Doors open at 7.30pm, with the show starting at 9.30pm. The event is strictly for those aged 18 and over.

Swede Dreamz ABBA Tribute Show
Saturday 8 August

The River Rooms - Tickets: £13
www.theriverrooms.com

**BOOK AN EPIC LASER
TAG BIRTHDAY PARTY!**

\$4F



OUTDOOR ACTION & FUN FOR KIDS!

CALL MARK TREVERTON **01527 575141**
mark@shooting4fun.co.uk



Oaklands Outdoor Activity Centre, Hanbury, B60 4HS

The Wyre Forest's Home Improvement Specialist...

**Flexible
Finance
Options**

**SPRING
SAVINGS**
NOW ON

Windows | Doors | Conservatories | Orangeries

Kidderminster & Worcester showrooms open 7 days a week

www.5starwindows.co.uk 01562 814757





Renault 5 E-Tech: The Electric Car Everyone's Talking About

Few new cars have generated as much excitement in 2026 as the Renault 5 E-Tech. Bringing back one of the most recognisable names in motoring history, Renault has successfully combined retro styling with modern electric technology to create a car that feels both nostalgic and futuristic.

The original Renault 5 was a common sight on British roads throughout the 1970s and 1980s, becoming known for its practicality, affordability and quirky French charm. Fast forward to today and Renault has revived the iconic badge for a new generation of drivers, this time with a fully electric powertrain.

At first glance, the resemblance to the classic model is obvious. The square headlights, distinctive silhouette and bold colours all pay tribute to the original, yet the new

version looks thoroughly modern. It stands out in a market where many electric vehicles have become increasingly similar in appearance.

The Renault 5 E-Tech is available with battery options offering up to 250 miles of range, making it practical for everyday use as well as longer journeys. Rapid charging can take the battery from 15 to 80 per cent in around 30 minutes, helping to reduce range anxiety for motorists considering the switch to electric.

Inside, the car features a digital dashboard, modern infotainment system and a surprisingly spacious cabin for a compact hatchback. Renault has focused on making the car enjoyable to drive too, with responsive handling and a low

centre of gravity thanks to the battery placement. Reviewers across the motoring industry have praised its combination of value, style and driving enjoyment.

Perhaps most importantly, the Renault 5 proves that electric cars do not have to be boring. While many manufacturers focus solely on efficiency and technology, Renault has created a vehicle with genuine character.

It appeals not only to environmentally conscious drivers but also to those who simply want a car that makes them smile every time they see it on the driveway. For many motorists, the Renault 5 E-Tech could be the car that finally makes the move to electric feel exciting.

BYD **N0.1** Global Leader in Electric & Plug-In-Hybrid Vehicle Sales

BYD ATTO 2

£329	£329	0%
DEPOSIT	PER MONTH	APR

Retail Sales Only. Subject to availability at participating retailers only on vehicle orders from 01/04/2025 to 30/06/26. 0% APR available on 49 month Personal Contract Purchase on all BYD ATTO 2 Boost Models. At the end of the agreement there are 3 options: (i) Pay the Optional Final Payment to own the vehicle, (ii) Return the vehicle, (iii) Part exchange the vehicle where equity is available. Prices correct at the time of being published and are subject to change without notice. Further charges may be made subject to the condition or mileage of the vehicle. Finance subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 or over. Guarantee may be required. Santander Consumer Finance RH11SR.



Glassboys Aim to Push Forward In the 2026/27 Season

As Stourbridge FC prepare for the 2026/27 season, there is cautious optimism around the War Memorial Ground that the Glassboys can improve on last year's campaign and mount a serious challenge in the Southern League Premier Central.

The club enters the new season under manager Leon Broadhurst, who continues to build a squad capable of competing with some of the division's strongest sides. With a mixture of experienced players and emerging talent, supporters will be hoping to see Stourbridge establish themselves among the league's leading contenders.

One of the biggest challenges facing the Glassboys is the quality of opposition throughout the division. Clubs such as AFC Telford United, Halesowen Town, Kettering Town and Stratford Town have all invested heavily in recent years and regularly attract

some of the largest crowds in non-league football. Competing with those clubs requires consistency over a demanding 42-game season.

Home form could prove crucial. The War Memorial Ground remains one of non-league football's most distinctive venues, and Stourbridge's supporters have a reputation for creating a passionate atmosphere that can make life difficult for visiting teams. Turning home performances into regular victories will be key if the Glassboys are to challenge in the upper reaches of the table.

There is also excitement about the prospect of local derbies throughout the season. Matches against nearby rivals always generate extra interest and often produce some of the biggest attendances of the year. Those occasions provide a welcome boost both on the

pitch and within the local community.

Beyond results, Stourbridge FC continues to play an important role in the town. The club's strong links with local schools, grassroots football and community groups help ensure the Glassboys remain at the heart of sporting life across the area.

With pre-season preparations complete and a new campaign on the horizon, supporters will be eager to see whether this can be the year Stourbridge takes the next step forward. If the squad can find consistency and perform against the division's leading sides, there is every reason to believe the Glassboys can enjoy a successful season.

After all, football in Stourbridge is built on ambition, and a new season always brings fresh opportunities.

The Gaunt family have been providing first class, unrivalled and affordable funeral services since 1900 through six generations. We have the ability to adapt arrangements to suit any special request and make every funeral meaningful, unique and personal

WE OFFER A RANGE OF SERVICES INCLUDING:

**24hr Professional Services · Bespoke Funeral Arrangements · Local Direct Cremations
Exclusive Modern Funeral Homes & Vehicles · Complimentary Bereavement Counselling
Memorials Stones · Floristry · Pre Paid Funeral Plans**



9 High Street, Wollaston, Stourbridge, DY8 4NH

01384 444 188

www.wollastonfunerals.co.uk





DREAM DOORS®
NEW LIFE FOR OLD KITCHENS



THE UK'S #1 KITCHEN MAKEOVER COMPANY

**Find Your
Perfect Fit**
in our showroom

**Up to
50% less**

than a new fitted kitchen
by simply replacing
the doors and worktops



QUICK INSTALLATION
IN 2-3 DAYS



FULLY INSTALLED BY
LOCAL PROFESSIONALS



TRUSTED FOR OVER
25 YEARS

Mon – Fri 9-5pm, Sat 9-3pm

01384 956119 | 01562 541208

Checkatrade 9.92

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