

Darlaston & Wednesbury Life

August / September 2023

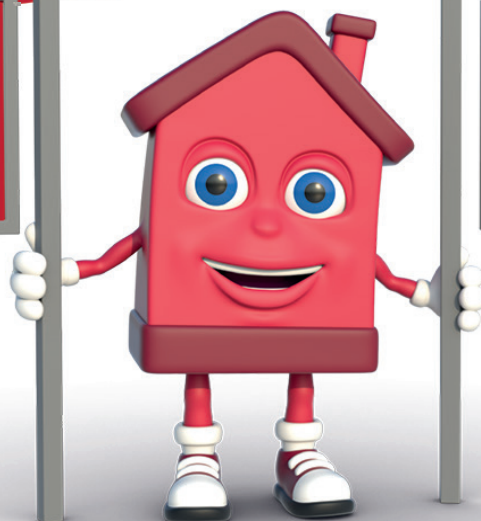
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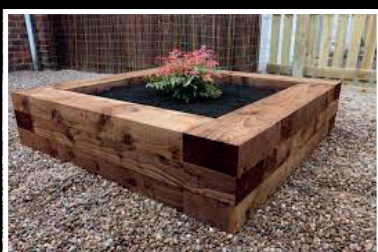
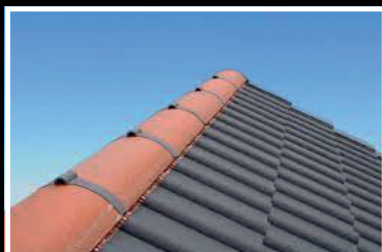
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Darlaston & Wednesbury Life

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Dear Reader,

Welcome to the August/September issue of Darlaston & Wednesbury Life.

It's great to see so much going on locally, with dozens of events taking place throughout the summer months.

As Editor of five local magazines, I attend as many as I'm able to and I always try and thank and congratulate the organisers and helpers who work hard to put these on.

Most people probably don't appreciate the amount of time and effort, not to mention loss of sleep, that is involved in making carnivals, music festivals and suchlike, possible.

With my other hat on, as Bilston Town Centre Manager, I work with my colleague Amy, to put events on, to attract visitors to the town, but our events are quite small compared to the carnivals in Wednesbury and Willenhall.

I'm sure many think these things are down to the councils and while they do provide the venues, the real planning and preparation is done by volunteers, who don't get a penny for their troubles.

The same is true of our community centres (or hubs as some are now known), which are all run by local residents, for no pay. In fact, it would amaze most of you, if you knew the full extent of the work that is done by people across the country, without remuneration – charity trustees, cat rescues, school governors.....the list is huge.

If you want to be a volunteer, ring your local school and ask if they need any governors or pop into a community centre or charity shop or look on the website of the Wolverhampton Voluntary & Community Action website; www.wvca.org.uk/jobs

In other news.....I'm writing a book. The History of Wolverhampton (that name may change!), which I hope to get published by the end of the year. I've seen other books of a similar nature, which are very good, but I'd like to do something a bit different, so watch this space.

Due to the increasing cost of print, more than ever, our advertisers are vitally important to the continuation of this magazine. Please have a look at their adverts and if you do purchase anything from them, PLEASE TELL THEM YOU SAW THE ADVERT IN THE DARLASTON & WEDNESBURY LIFE MAGAZINE!

The next issue will cover October and November (doesn't time fly!) and will be out on 6th October, so if you want to be in it, please contact me by 15th September.

Enjoy your read!

Simon



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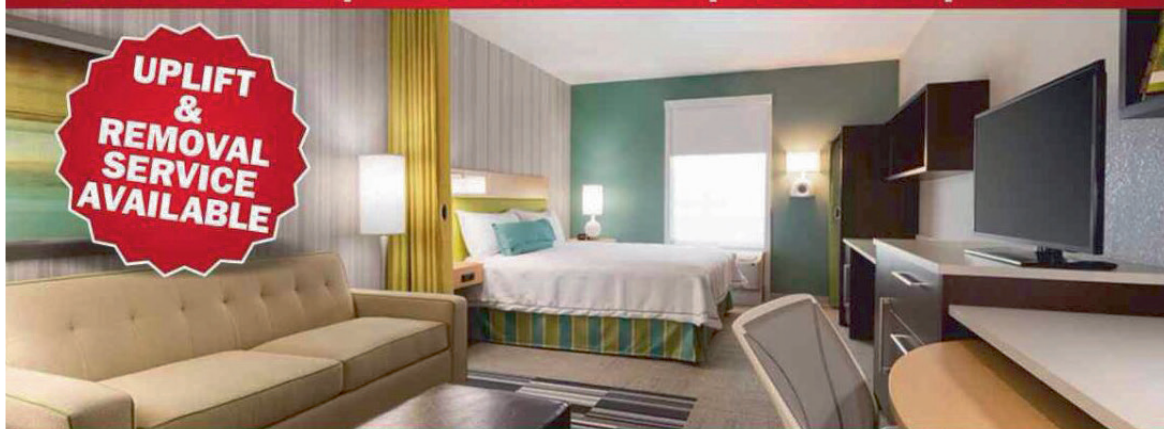


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New Home for Darlaston Boxing Gym

By Simon Archer



Since we last visited them, Darlaston Boxing Gym have grown. In fact, they've increased their numbers to such an extent, that have had to find a new home.

Chief coach and founder, Tony Marshall, with some help, has moved the club and all the equipment to their new base in Willenhall Road, Darlaston (WS10 8JG).

The new gym had a grand opening on Saturday 22nd July, with current members and trainers



being joined by a few well-known local boxers, to wish them well.

The club have a show coming up in September at the Brooklands Banqueting Suite, in Bilston, where their young boxers will compete with other local fighters.



The club was formed in 2015, when Tony was approached by a couple of friends to start a boxing club at the Town Hall, but they have been so successful, they have had to move twice. They train Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at a cost of £3 per night. They have a good mix of boys and girls, split into the juniors, aged 9 to 14 and the seniors, over 14.



As the club has grown, so have the staff, which include; Kenny Humphries, Danny Jones, Luke Whitehouse, Rosie Mason, Vicky Wilkinson (the club's first pro boxer), Kieron Marshall, Darryl Whitehouse, Ant Adams, Paige Ford and Claire Stokes.

As Tony says, "It's a real team effort and great to see so many people giving their time up for the sport we all love."

If you want to join or have a look round, there's no need to book, just turn up between 5.30pm and 8.00pm Monday to Wednesday and ask for Tony.

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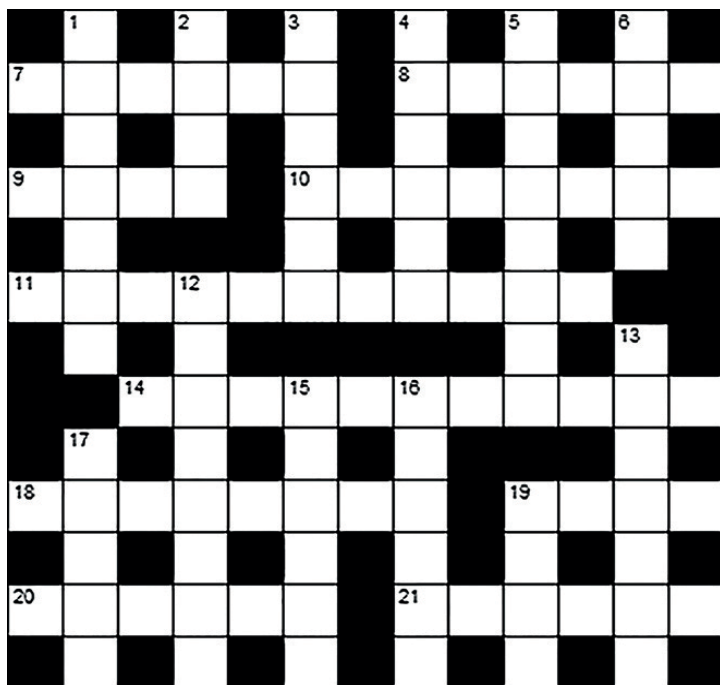
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Crossword

Please see answers
on page 31



Across

- 7 Graceful, drooping tree (6)
- 8 _____ Wisdom (actor) (6)
- 9 Giant, usually evil (4)
- 10 They pull Santa's sleigh! (8)
- 11 British seaside town (11)
- 14 Used to disguise or conceal (5,6)
- 18 Broadcast, relay (8)
- 19 Ruler of Mt. Olympus. (4)
- 20 Apparition, hallucination (6)
- 21 Finally (6)

Down

- 1 Royal realm or province (7)
- 2 Abscond, scarper (4)
- 3 Deviate, sidestep (6)
- 4 Intense blue-purple (6)
- 5 Animal that catches and eats others (8)
- 6 Blanched, washed-out (5)
- 12 Fanciful, impractical (8)
- 13 Mexican alcoholic drink (7)
- 15 Japanese garment (6)
- 16 Appease, sooth (6)
- 17 Plait, weave (5)
- 19 Vivacity, zeal (4)

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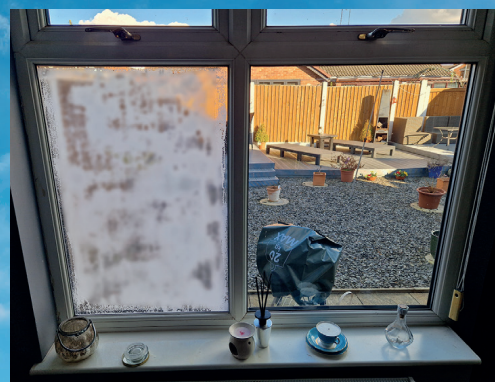


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Rotary Club of Wednesbury

The new Rotary Year began on 1st July 2023 and, at a well-attended Club Meeting, Tony Wigman was inducted as President for 23/24, receiving the Chain of Office from outgoing President Jas Singh, as shown in the photograph.

Tony has been a Rotarian for some years and brings to the Office a wealth of experience, previously having been a leader of TS Legion naval cadets.

An engineer by trade, his disciplinary approach to life, however, has no doubt been nurtured from him having spent the first 17 of his post-school years in the Royal Navy, where he achieved the rank of Leading Marine Engineering Mechanic.

Tony's abilities were put to the immediate test when, less than 48 hours after becoming President, he had to hit the ground running, by opening and presiding over the Wednesbury Carnival and no doubt his seafaring career stood him in good stead, to combat the odd drops of rain,

Despite the inclement weather, deterring some people from attending, those who came along had a thoroughly enjoyable time and, although there were some rain showers, this did not detract from the day being a very happy occasion for all who took part. Carnival in Wednesbury has been established in the fabric of the Town for many years and the ongoing support the Club receives, year on year in organising the event, makes it all worthwhile. We are indebted to all who help, support, and take part, without whom we could not do it – may this continue and long may Carnival last.

A particular thank you must go to the donors of the 24 prizes for the Grand Raffle, the proceeds of which enable it to make a valuable contribution towards the significant costs incurred in staging Carnival.

Needless to say, next year's Carnival is already in our thoughts and will be held on **Saturday 13th July 2024** – please put the date in your diary!

The closing weeks of Past President Jas's year ended on a high, with the successful conclusion of the Club-funded outings by local schools to the West Midland Safari Park. Hundreds of children had a great time and the feedback we have had has been absolutely brilliant and, having received many letters from the children who went, giving graphic descriptions of their experiences, we are sure they will all have lasting memories of their day with the animals,

The annual Variety Concert, for senior citizens will be on Saturday 28th October 2023 at Central Methodist Church Hall, commencing at 1pm. Tickets for this in demand event can be obtained from Malcolm Johnson (Tel: **0121-502 3242**) Our thanks again to the support we enjoy from Riverside Housing and, of course, from Simon Archer, who continues to include our reports in the excellent Darlaston & Wednesbury Life magazine.

Mike Warner, Rotary Club of Wednesbury





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Come and Celebrate the New Home for the Black Country Society

The Black Country Society has moved its meetings venue to Bilston Town Hall.



Black Country Society Chairman, Malcolm Dick said, 'The society has over 1,200 members and this move gives us the opportunity to accommodate attendees of all ages in comfort. Everyone is welcome at all our meetings. Entry is free to members and £4 for non-members. We have a very exciting programme of speakers and events throughout the year.'

Date	Programme
23rd August 7.30	Eldon Street: The history of Victorian Darlaston and the Black Country told through the lives of ordinary people. Speaker: Keith Robinson
27th September 7.30	Black Country Dialect across time and space: an introduction. Speaker: Esther Asprey
25th October 7.30	Lost Pioneers: A History of Wolverhampton's Victorian Jewish Community Speaker: Andy Sloane
2nd November 7.30	The President's Entertainment Evening: The Rotundas: A Black Country Folk trio
13th December 7.30	A Black Country Christmas Speaker: Ian Bott

There are lifts available for those who have difficulty managing stairs. There is ample free parking near the Town Hall which is also easily accessible by public transport.

The Black Country Society was founded in 1967 to promote and stimulate interest in the past, present and future of the area. It meets on the fourth Wednesday of every month at 7.30 pm and as well as hosting talks, arranges walks and visits in the locality and holds virtual meetings for those who live further afield.

For information on how to join go to **www.blackcountryandsociety.com**

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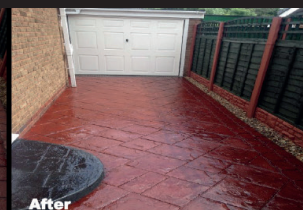
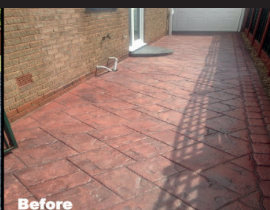
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Windrush Scandal Explained

Who are the Windrush generation?

The 'Windrush' generation are those who arrived in the UK from Caribbean countries between 1948 and 1973. Many took up jobs in the NHS and other sectors affected by Britain's post-war labour shortage. The name 'Windrush' derives from the 'HMT Empire Windrush' ship which brought one of the first large groups of Caribbean people to the UK in 1948. As the Caribbean was, at the time, a part of the British commonwealth, those who arrived were automatically British subjects and free to permanently live and work in the UK.

What is the Windrush scandal?

The Windrush scandal began to surface in 2017 after it emerged that hundreds of Commonwealth citizens, many of whom were from the 'Windrush' generation, had been wrongly detained, deported and denied legal rights. As these shocking stories hit the headlines, Caribbean leaders took the issue up with then-prime minister, Theresa May. There was widespread shock and outrage at the fact that so many Black Britons had had their lives devastated by Britain's deeply flawed and discriminatory immigration system.

Why did the Windrush scandal happen?

Commonwealth citizens were affected by the government's 'Hostile Environment' legislation - a policy announced in 2012 which tasked the NHS, landlords, banks, employers and many others with enforcing immigration controls. It aimed to make the UK unliveable for undocumented migrants and ultimately push them to leave.

Because many of the Windrush generation arrived as children on their parents' passports, and the Home Office destroyed thousands of landing cards



and other records, many lacked the documentation to prove their right to remain in the UK. The Home Office also placed the burden of proof on individuals to prove their residency predated 1973. The Home Office demanded at least one official document from every year they had lived here. Attempting to find documents from decades ago created a huge, and in many cases, impossible burden on people who had done nothing wrong.

Falsely deemed as 'illegal immigrants' / 'undocumented migrants' they began to lose their access to housing, healthcare, bank accounts and driving licenses. Many were placed in immigration detention, prevented from travelling abroad and threatened with forcible removal, while others were deported to countries they hadn't seen since they were children.

Their harmful and unjust treatment provoked widespread condemnation of government's failings on the matter, with calls being made for radical reform of the Home Office and the UK's immigration policy. In response to these demands, then Home Secretary, Sajid Javid announced in May 2018 that the Home Office would commission a 'Windrush Lessons Learned Review'.

The scandal is far from over.

For those who have been affected by the Windrush scandal, justice has still not been done. There is a huge backlog of cases still to be resolved. The Windrush compensation scheme is a failure - it is complex to navigate, there is a lack of free legal advice, claims take months to process, and compensation offers are insultingly small.

We must continue to fight for justice for the Windrush Generation and hold the Home Secretary to her promise to 'right the wrongs' which led to this scandal.



Windrush Event Invitation

Dear Windrush Guest,

Would you like to deepen your understanding of who can claim, why they can claim and how to claim?

If so, you are invited to The Windrush Experience & Windrush Compensation Scheme Seminar.

This event is being organised by Sian Computers CIC on Wednesday 6th September 2023 at Grand Station, Sun St, Wolverhampton WV10 0BF.

You are encouraged to invite family, friends and neighbours, who may have been affected by the wrongdoings of the Windrush Scandal.

The Windrush Scandal was a British political wrongdoing that began in 2017 concerning people who were wrongly detained, denied legal rights, threatened with deportation and much more and in at least 83 cases people were wrongly deported from the UK by the Home Office.

Despite a Compensation Scheme being announced in December 2018, by November 2021, only an estimated 5% of victims had received any compensation and 23 of those eligible had died before receiving payments.

The purpose of holding this seminar is to raise awareness of the Windrush Experience and the Compensation Scheme set up by the UK Government. The UK Home Office is supporting this event and a Home Office official alongside a team will be in attendance at the event to provide clarity and transparency about the Windrush Compensation Scheme. We want to get this information out to as many as possible and encourage people to apply if they, a family member or anyone they know may have been affected by the Windrush Experience.

Please secure your FREE early bird ticket via Eventbrite NOW to save disappointment. Visit **www.eventbrite.co.uk** and search for 'Windrush'

Thank you

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Ways to eat healthily during the Summer

- Start the day by drinking a glass of water and then aiming to drinking 1-2 litres of water per day by drinking water regularly. It is important that children and the elderly are kept well hydrated, especially on hot days. Dehydration can manifest as headaches, dizziness, and dry skin, mouth, or lips. Watch out for the signs.
- Limit the amount of sugary/fizzy energy drinks that you and your children consume as they contain very high amounts of sugar, caffeine and lots of other “unhealthy” ingredients.
- Make fruit ice cream with little or no added sugar. Hot weather screams ice cream, but not all ice creams are good options. Milk and chocolate ice creams are dense in calories and fats and poor in other important nutrients. Make your own with mashed fruit and yogurt ice creams, using appropriate freezer shapes. Making homemade fruit ice creams are also a fun family activity tip – all kids will love being the Chefs.



- Have light and frequent meals. Hot weather can cause a certain loss of appetite, and it can be easy to accidentally skip meals. A solution is to have more frequent lighter/smaller meals.
- Eat plenty of fruit and vegetables (raw or frozen is fine) in salads, using fruits and vegetables of the season. And while at home, keep chopped up fruit and veg in the fridge to encourage kids to eat healthier snacks.
- Aim for wholegrains. Choose wholegrain bread, breakfast cereals, pasta, and rice instead of their refined counterparts. Wholegrain foods retain a good part of the nutrients, in particular

fibre, unlike refined cereals which means wholegrains help balance blood sugar levels, increase calorie burn and help maintain a healthy weight.

- Avoid or reduce alcohol consumption. Alcoholic drinks contain lots of “hidden” calories, have low nutritional value and contribute to dehydration because they are diuretic.
- If you drink alcohol, do so in moderation and always alternate with water or an infusion without sugar or caffeine, since it is also diuretic.
- Make healthy snacks for picnics and beach days. Preparing your own snacks for days out will save you money and mean you don’t have to rely on what’s available at your destination – which are often fast food joints selling unhealthy sugary and fat-rich snacks.
- Fruits, veggies, wholegrain pasta or quinoa salads, veggie sandwiches, and raw vegetables (carrot sticks, cucumber slices, tomato salad, etc.) are good choices to bring in outings.



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Founder and Head Coach
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Sharon 07909 627736

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71 Edison Road, Beechdale WS2 7EZ

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Woods Methodist Church, Coronation Rd.
Wednesbury WS10 0TT

Lauren 07415 277950

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Mr Consistency

Why Dermot O'Leary is one of light entertainment's heaviest commodities.

Dermot O'Leary, by his own admission, encounters his fair share of criticism. Some accuse him of playing a little too much guitar music on his Radio 2 weekend show, and in the past the Twitterati have suggested his presenting voice can be a touch monotone. However, such observations are both unfair and untrue. Rather, the popular entertainment fraternity should be thanking the 50-year-old for delivering a healthy dose of sanity to a TV and radio ratings clamour that becomes all the more farcical with every new reality series or sensationalist podcast.

Dermot has lived through well over two decades of the madness, and emerges to tell the tale. "Certainly, as a competitive environment it's much crazier than it ever was," he begins. "There are so many different options for viewers and listeners these



days, but I like to think I have always sided myself with projects that are tasteful, interesting and, more than anything else, entertaining.

"I've always had a lot of fun doing live TV and radio, and when it stops being that way, I look for something else to do.

"Variation is key. Like most people, I'm interested in so many different things, and I never lose sight of the fact I'm lucky enough to explore these in the public domain."

Sean Dermot Fintan O'Leary Jr was born and raised in Colchester. His parents, Seán and Maria, had landed on these shores from Ireland. After feeling his way through the education system he attended Middlesex University, where he graduated in Media Studies and Politics.

Returning to his home county to work at BBC Radio Essex, that calling was clearly in the entertainment industry, and he quickly progressed from DJ tasks to TV school runner and Channel 4 presenter, working, notably, on Big Brother's Little Brother before switching to ITV.

"I think most people know me for Big Brother and X Factor, and they've been a massive

part of my life, but as in most things, you know when the time is right to give stuff up, and it became important for me to pursue other projects."

His switch to hosting the Saturday morning breakfast show on Radio 2 is perhaps a nod to future ambitions, and undoubtedly Dermot has the style, humility and confidence to make a genuine assault on larger commitments on the airwaves.

"I think radio is an incredible medium and it has always excited me. It's a very different creature to TV... I don't have to dress up, for a start!"



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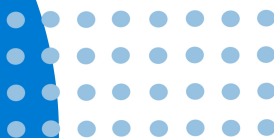
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Willow Rose is a home with one aim in mind – to look after you in a warm, compassionate, safe and friendly environment. Everyone at Willow

Rose is dedicated to making sure that your welfare and personal happiness is at the forefront of everything we do.

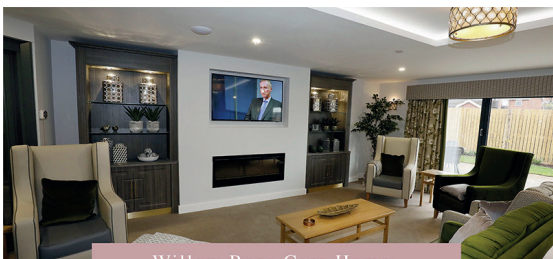
Our Manager

Shelly Trotman is the Manager of Willow Rose and is a dedicated nurse with over thirty years' experience in the care sector. She has previously worked with many large healthcare companies in the UK and so she brings a wealth of knowledge to her new role.

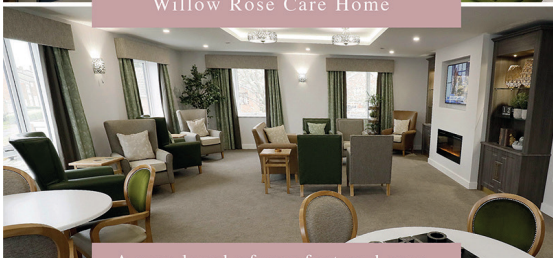
Shelly is really excited about the amenities and opportunities that Willow Rose will provide to its residents. She says..

'Willow Rose is a purpose designed quality home, offering the very latest facilities for everyone. We will be able to offer a level of choice and comfort that I believe will be unrivalled in the local area. We can offer dignity and independence to everyone in surroundings that will be the benchmark for all other homes. I am determined that the level of care that we provide will, in every respect, match the beauty of the home's environment'.

If you would like to contact Shelly to talk about care for a loved one, or to arrange a visit to see what the home can offer you, then please do so using the details below.



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Events at Willow Rose

Staff at Willow Rose Care Home are committed to looking after their residents' mental well-being, as well as their physical health. The events team regularly organise activities and visits to stimulate the minds of those in their care.

Leanne Whitehouse, activities coordinator at Willow Rose, said, "At our care home, we try our very best to make wishes come true. This is our resident Keith Love and his one wish was to go back to Wolves FC's stadium, the Molineux.

They kindly, invited him to do the tour and Keith loved it. He was escorted by Nikki and Lorraine

our senior carers and enjoyed every moment. Keith was very emotional as he thought he would never go back but they were tears of joy. He is hoping one day he will get to watch his favourite team play once more.

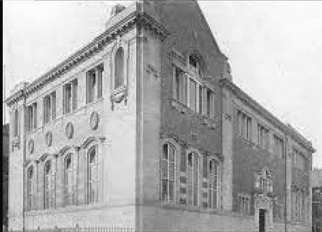
We also had the alpacas come and visit us, which is great mental stimulation for the residents. They were so shocked to see them walk in but were happy to get a cheeky kiss off one of them and have plenty of cuddles.



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WEDNESBURY

BLACK COUNTRY TOURING




Local History

Poetry Walk- Ian Bott & Heather Wastie

Start Wednesbury Library, Finish at Art Gallery?

Date: Monday 11th September 2023
Venue: Wednesbury Library
Time: 2.00pm

Bookings : FREE EVENT
 Telephone: 0121 569 4945
 Email: wednesbury_library@sandwell.gov.uk
 Or scan QR code



A leisurely stroll around Wednesbury with local historian Ian Bott and poet Heather Wastie. Once the muscles and memories are flowing enjoy a cuppa back at the library where you will be invited to help create a poem from the walk.

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WEDNESBURY

BLACK COUNTRY TOURING



Theatre

aKa Dance Theatre

A Real Fiction

Fasten your seatbelts, A Real Fiction is coming and it is filled with fun, funk and foam bananas! A Real Fiction has been whipping up a storm and collecting memories on the way through! Loaded with current affairs, childhood nostalgias and one hit wonders, this work has been co-created with the community, for the community.

Get ready for a hyperactive mix of dance, theatre, meme and pop culture. You can expect the unexpected as you lose yourself in other people's memories, and we guarantee you'll have an unforgettable time!

Date: Friday 15th September 23
Venue: Wednesbury Library
Time: 7.00pm

Bookings : FREE EVENT
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WEDNESBURY

BLACK COUNTRY TOURING



Brendan Hawthorn

Join award winning Black Country poet and writer Brendan Hawthorne & guests for an evening of Black Country banter in song, sketches and verse.

Have a bostin night out listening to songs and stories of and from the region in authentic voices.

Brendan says, "Some on ett will be comic, some on ett darn right tragic!
 Have a loff at the Literature Festival, goo on spoil yer selves!
 Keep aert th'oss road an see thee there!"

Date: Saturday 16th September
Venue: Wednesbury Library
Time: 6.00pm



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WEDNESBURY

BLACK COUNTRY TOURING



Illustrator & Author

Steve Smallman

Fun interactive drawing Workshop

Steve Smallman has been illustrating children's books for 20 years and started writing for children 10 years ago. He is the winner of the 2009 Sheffield Children's Book award for his book *Smelly Peter: The Great Pea Eater*.

Date: Friday 8th September
Venue: Wednesbury Library
Time: 10.00am

Free Event
 Telephone: 0121 569 4945

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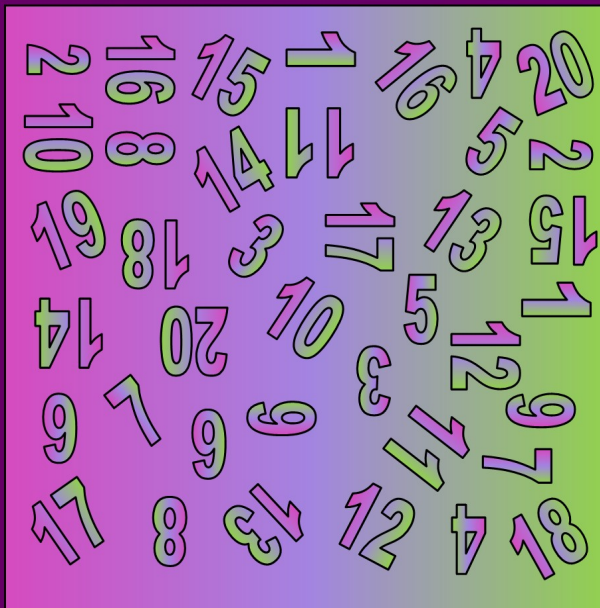
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Kids' Page

Mixed-Up Missing Number Grid

All the numbers from 1 to 20 appear twice in the grid except one. Can you find which number only appears once?



Twist Your Tongue!

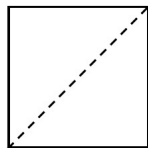
Try reading our tricky tongue-twister as fast as you can

ONE-ONE WAS a raceHORSE.
TWO-TWO WAS one, too.
WHEN ONE-ONE WON one race,
TWO-TWO WON one, too.

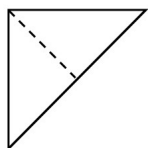
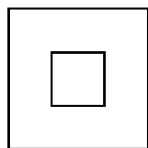


Cut & Fold

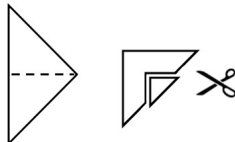
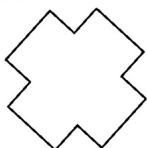
WHICH OF THE THREE PATTERNS BELOW IS created by FOLDING and CUTTING a Square of paper AS SHOWN?



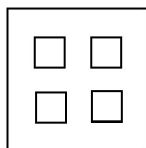
1



2



3



Fascinating Fact

The month of August was named after Roman emperor Augustus Caesar. Before this the Romans called it sextilis as it was the sixth month in their calendar.

Cut & Fold Answer - 3
The number which only appears once is 19



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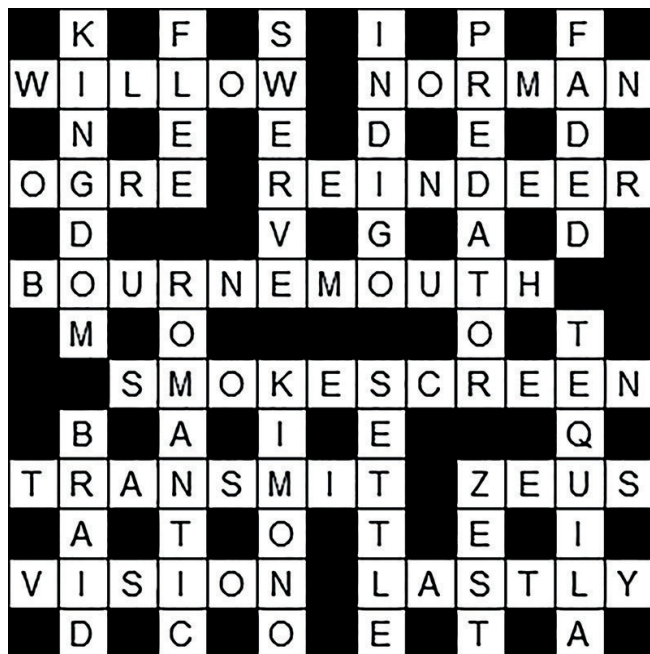
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Crossword Answers

From page 10



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