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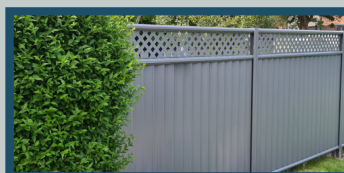
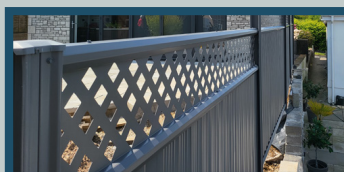
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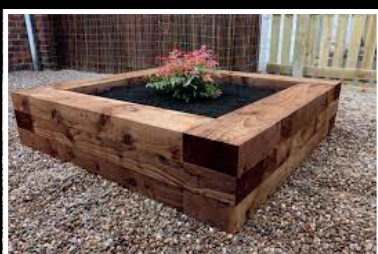
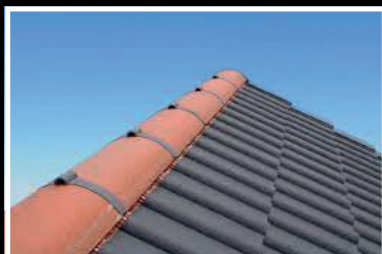
P20

Wednesfield magazine

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OPENING TIMES - Monday to Friday 7.45am –16.00pm Saturday & Sunday – Closed



Wednesfield magazine

Part of West Midlands Magazines Ltd
Company No. 10452329
Registered office;
39 High Street,
Wednesfield,
Wolverhampton, WV11 1ST

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Send to; Wednesfield Magazine
16 Holberg Grove
Wednesfield, WV11 3LE

Magazine designed and produced by
Magazine Design UK
4 Wishart Drive, Fradley WS13 8GZ
nicola@magazinedesignuk.com

Printed by **Buxton Press Limited**
Palace Road, Buxton,
Derbyshire SK17 6AE

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Dear Reader,

Welcome to the August/September issue of the Wednesfield Magazine.

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 of you think these things are down to the councils and while they often 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 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 WEDNESFIELD MAGAZINE!

The next issue will cover October and November (doesn't time fly!) and will be out on 8th September, so if you want to be in it, please contact me by 29th September.

Enjoy your read!

Simon



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News In Brief

Roundabout decorated for NHS's 75th birthday

A roundabout in Wednesfield has had a makeover to celebrate the NHS's 75th birthday – thanks to a generous-spirited pub landlord.

Wayne Parkes, 59, licensee of The New Pheasant and wife Janet, 51, has used his skills as a former builder to transform the traffic feature into a tribute to the NHS to mark the occasion.



The decorated roundabout with the NHS 75 sign and cake, from left, Amie Rogers, RWT Charity Fundraising and Lead Digital Engagement Officer, Janet Parkes, Wayne Parkes, Amanda Winwood, Jane Stevenson MP, Lindsey Goodall, Community and Events Fundraising Officer.

He has created three feet high stand-up NHS 75 lettering in mdf, made a cake in the middle and displayed four banners saying 'Happy Birthday NHS' courtesy of DIS Graphics to decorate Wood End roundabout at the junction of Wood End Road and Prestwood Road West opposite his pub.

Wayne's NHS handiwork has already been viewed on the pub's Facebook page more than 33,500 times since being posted at the weekend.

His latest pieces of work cost him £420 and took two weeks to make, but it's a labour of love for Wayne. "It's an honour to do it because of what the NHS does for everyone and to try to put something back," said the father of two. "I make templates, draw them and cut the pieces to shape, then paint them." The roundabout is only several stones' throws from the hospital and the artwork seems to have gone down well, with other shops on the island parading blue NHS flags.

Janet lost mum Gwendoline Evans to an unexpected heart attack recently, and was full of praise for the way the Swan Suite supported the couple with the bereavement.

New Prayer Garden for Corpus Christi Primary



Headteacher, Mrs Wardle, said, "The prayer garden has been a long project - plans were discussed before Covid. We wanted an area outside where the children can have quiet reflection time to prayer on their own, in small groups and whole classes. We started by asking the children and families to draw designs and say what they would like to include, even the type of plants we would use. The prayer leaders had the final say in the design. We used local recyclable materials where possible and we were helped along the way by family and friends of the Corpus community.

Mr Hindley provided recycled wood for the central cross and helped to plant the olive tree which is an important symbol for the St Francis and St Clare MAC. Mr Wardle laid the slabs in the shape of a cross and the benches were made using recycled wood by a local company Wood Saints

Mrs Wardle added, "Chair of Governors, Miss Walker did an amazing job with the planting including plants that were donated by the children and parents.

The Rising Youth of the church of the Latter-Day Saints spent a day cleaning the area, moving planters and laying bark. The Corpus Christi prayer leaders ran a movie night in school to raise the money to pay for the statue of Our Lady.

Mrs Wardle concluded, "We are extremely grateful for all the help and support we had to achieve this project.

The Prayer Garden was officially blessed by Bishop Stephen Wright and we look forward to using this beautiful area of the school and watching it develop and grow."

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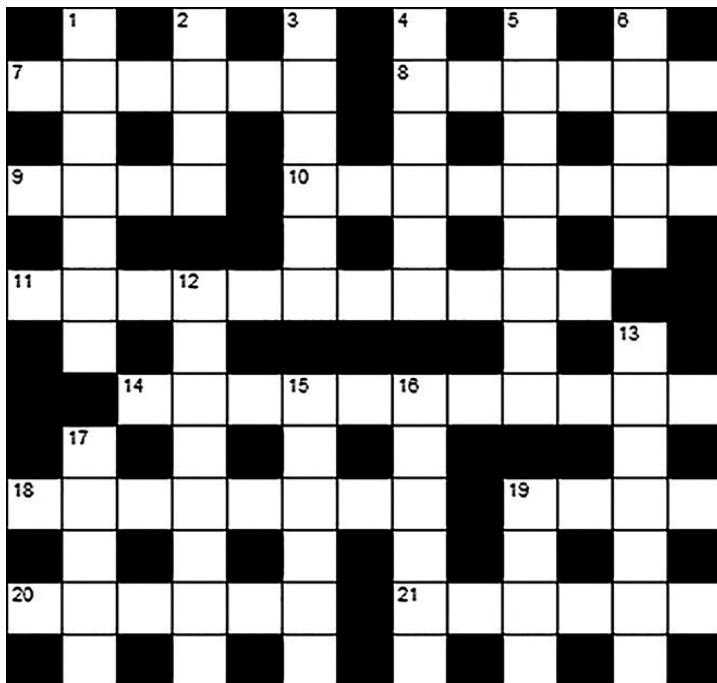
Sat 09:00-15:00

Sun Closed



Crossword

Please see answers on page 47



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, soothe (6)
- 17 Plait, weave (5)
- 19 Vivacity, zeal (4)

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Wednesfield in Bloom News

By Julie Banner

Judging day arrived, Friday 7th of July and as usual we had bright warm sunshine to welcome the judges.

I don't think anyone who frequents the village and Ashmore Park could have missed our volunteers in the run up to judging day tackling graffiti, weeding, cleaning and sweeping trying to show the village at its best for the Heart of England judges. The weather was stunning and as our head judge Paul remarked, "Its always sunny when we visit Wednesfield."

The local primary schools had done us proud, and their scarecrows all made with recycled materials were set around the village, Ashmore Park and in the amphitheatre.

It was lovely to see people of all generations having their photographs taken next to Mickey, Minnie and Paddington Bear on their benches, not to mention Humpty and Recycled Michael in the church grounds.

Then on Sunday 9th July Black Country Brass played in the amphitheatre and although storm clouds were gathering, we made it through until 4:00pm. Refreshments and cake were provided free as usual and quite a crowd gathered to sit and enjoy the music in the sunshine a wonderful afternoon was enjoyed by all.

Results day is the 5th of October so keep your fingers crossed we can make it gold again, as usual we end with a plea for more volunteers, as the saying goes many hands make light work.

Although you are giving your time and effort for free you get so much back in return, making new friends, gaining new skills and helping remain physically active.

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Summer Fun at Wednesfield High

On Saturday 15th July, Wednesfield Academy hosted its first summer fayre organised by our dedicated team of parents and staff called 'Wednesfield Friends'.

We welcomed stall holders from the local community and beyond who stocked a wide range of goods to be enjoyed by our visitors. These included clothing garments, jewellery, cakes and of course a tombola! With visits from our service people, we had a fire engine on site and the local police attended to support too.

The school also opened the school kitchen offering visitors the opportunity to revisit their school days with chocolate concrete cake and shortbread. There was also a remarkable chilli enjoyed by many. All this, while the DJ and

vocalist had music playing for us throughout the day. At midday we were fortunate to experience performances from a marching band who were superb and included some of our own current and previous pupils.

Almost 400 people visited the fair and the Wednesfield Friends group raised over £800 which will be used to support us in offering further opportunities and experiences to our pupils. It was amazing to see pupils old and new attend the event accompanied by their families. It was also a pleasure to welcome so many members of the local community through our doors to show them just what Wednesfield Academy is all about!

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CRY (Cardiac Arrest in the Young) Screening at Heath Park School



Almost 100 students at Heath Park School were screened for underlying heart conditions at an event in July.

The event was in the honour of my son Pardeep Nagra, who we lost to Sudden Cardiac Arrest at the age of 26 years on 12 April 2008. Pardeep was a loving healthy, fit young man who played hockey for Staffordshire and Finchfield. He was very bubbly would light up any room he walked into.



To keep Pardeep's name alive, our family and supporters have raised funds to enable us to carry out FREE Heart Screening for youngsters between the ages of 14 – 35 years old, to detect any heart abnormalities.

If heart defects are detected, they are referred to GPs for

further investigations. Hopefully, we will have saved someone life and prevent a family going through the heartache of a tragic loss of their loved son, daughter, brother, or sister, no parent should have to see their child gone before them.

To date we have screened 1125 young hearts, hosted 11 screening days in Wolverhampton and Leicester, we have raised over £77,563.00, by organising and taking part on in many fundraising events, which have included Charity Balls, Martial

arts events, Swimming, London Marathons and half marathons, bike riding, sky diving, bake sales and much more. In addition to funding these heart screening events we have installed two defibrillators one at Bentley Bridge, in Wednesfield and the other at Heath Park School for the community to access. We have been informed that these have been used a number of times, hopefully we will have saved some lives.

This year, we organised the heart screening day at Heath Park School, which both Pardeep and his brother Kulbir attended. The cost for the day will be £6,000. The school and Pardeep's family have jointly raised the funds to make this possible.

Pardeep's mum, dad and brothers aim is to save lives and prevent a tragic loss and keep Pardeep's flame alive and strong.

Resham (Pardeep's Mom)

Fiona Welfair, from Heath Park School, said, "We are delighted to host the screening in memory of Pardeep and we will continue to support the family and promote their work as much as we can."





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Do Right by Billy



A group of Wolves fans are mounting a campaign calling on the Football Association to commission a statue of former Wolves and England skipper Billy Wright at Wembley. They are not deterred

by an initial rejection from the FA.

The campaign "Do right by Billy" believes the Wolves legend should be honoured at the home of English football for three reasons:

1. His position in football history is unique – the first player in the world to play in 100 senior internationals.
2. Wembley was where the landmark was reached – against Scotland on April 11, 1959.
3. Next year will be the centenary of Wright's birth. He was born in Ironbridge on February 6, 1924.

The group have now launched an on-line petition calling on the FA to reconsider. To add their name, fans need only go on line and search for "Do right by Billy petition" and that will take them to the petition site.

Group member Steve Gordos, a former sports editor of the Wolverhampton Express & Star, who was born in Bilston and attended Villiers School, said: "This is not just a Wolves thing – it's a football thing. Billy's place in world football history is permanent and what better place to recognise him than Wembley, the home of English football, where he won his hundredth cap?"

Two letters to FA chair Debbie Hewitt by another member of the group, Glenn Aston, did not receive a reply but a third attempt – a letter to chief executive officer Mark Bullingham – saw the idea thrown out. "Our view on recognising individual footballers by way of statues has remained the same since the new Wembley Stadium opening in 2007," said Bullingham in his reply.

"We commissioned one statue at the time at Wembley, which is of 1966 captain Bobby Moore. Bobby was selected to epitomise English football at its best with victory in the World Cup on that site. "We have not changed our position over time and therefore do not have any current plans to commission or install any new statues at Wembley. We are very disappointed with this response," said Steve. "I suppose you have to be my age, 78, to know Billy was not only a great player but a great ambassador for English football.

"I suspect our suggestion has not been put before the full FA council and I believe it should be. I believe they should honour Billy at Wembley. I was fortunate enough to be there to see Billy play his hundredth game for England. That achievement should have been enough to get him knighted. A statue might go a little way to making amends for that omission.

Steve said: "I well remember going to Wembley for Billy's 100th game. There must have been special trains laid on as I caught one at Bilston station. It was a big adventure for a 13-year-old.

The petition to the FA was started by another member of the group, Clive Corbett, author of several books on Wolves. He said: "We hope all football fans will back this."

Wright, who spent 20 years with Wolves, missed only three internationals during his England career and was captain 90 times, a record later equalled by Moore. He also played in 70 successive England games – another record. Wright, who was made a life member of the FA, died in September 1994.





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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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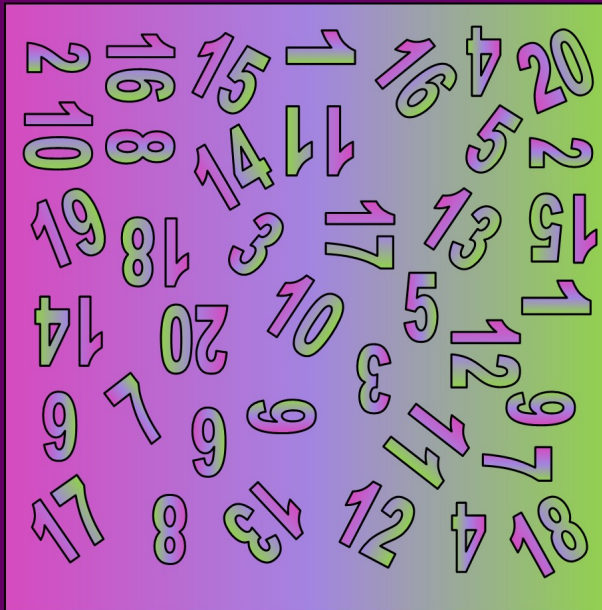


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Kids' Page

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.

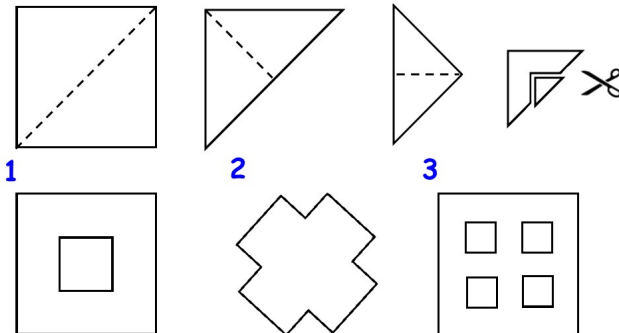


Fascinating Fact

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

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



Cut & Fold Answer - 3

Mixed-Up Missing Number Grid
The number which only appears
once is 19

Wildlife in Wednesfield

Returning through Wednesfield Park around 11pm with friends a few weeks ago, there were a number of bats flying around the lamps catching moths. I haven't seen bats in Wednesfield proper for some years, but that maybe because I don't venture out at night much these days.

Last night, returning on the same route the bats were still there and we heard too, a Tawny Owl, again not something I've heard recently. However, my daughter hears one regularly from her room at the front of our home, whereas I sleep at the back.

So, owls first! The Tawny Owl is our largest native owl, discounting the 1970s nesting of a pair of Snowy owls on Fetlar in Shetland in the 1970s. With around 50,000 pairs it is also the most widely spread of our five native owl species and of course has that very familiar hooting call that we all know. Tawny owls are pretty sedentary birds and rarely move more than a couple of kilometers, so if you see or hear one, you'll likely see or hear it again!



Tawny owl – *Strix aluco*

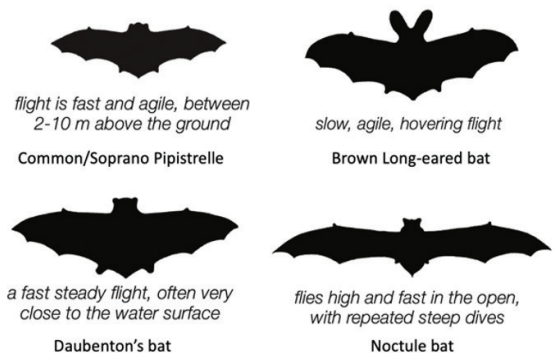
Tawny owls aren't too hard to find during the day, but you have to be very patient and have a good eye; a pair of binoculars helps too. They like to roost in holes, or if not available in amongst the ivy on an old tree, which is where I've found them. They will use the roost regularly as long as they're not too disturbed and it's always a thrill to spot one.

And so to the bats! The bats that we saw in the park were almost certainly a Pipistrelle species, our smallest bats, which weigh roughly the same as a 20p piece. These small predators can consume an amazing 3,000 insects in a single night, which is quite phenomenal! There are actually two species of pipistrelle bats in the UK with the second, the

Soprano Pipistrelle, only identified in the 1990s. They look like and behave in the same way as their Common cousin but have a higher range of echolocation. Not easy for the amateur to tell between them then!

In the UK we have 18 bat species, 17 of which breed and representing almost a quarter of all mammal species in the UK. (Oooh! I've just seen a Comma butterfly in the garden – back in a tick!)

Yes, it was a Comma, my first of the year; now where was I? Yes, bats.



In Wednesfield we can see several bat species. The two pipistrelle species I've already mentioned but walk along the canal and Daubenton's bat is very likely too. Larger than pipistrelles they skim the water and are reminiscent of a small hovercraft.

Noctule bats are one of our largest bats (but still smaller than the palm of your hand) and are readily identified because they tend to fly quite high and are often missed. They are usually the first bat in the sky, even when it's still quite light. Look above the treeline for Noctules with their characteristic steep dives in pursuit of their prey. They have long, relatively slender wings so are quite distinctive. The fields around Essington are good places for these bats, should you happen to find yourself out for a late evening stroll around there.

The last bat that I've seen regularly in Wednesfield, but not very recently is the Brown Long-eared bat. It's hard to mistake this bat for any other species, as its close relative, the Grey Long-eared bat is found mainly on the south coast.

Well, that's it for this issue, so don't forget to look up, look down, look all around and keep enjoying our wildlife.

Dave H – wildlifeinwednesfield@google.com

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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Willenhall Based Will Writer Jim Stanistreet, From BensonWilliams, Highlights Two Issues if You Have Minor Children At Home



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One thing all three have in common is they were too young at the time to inherit money under a Will!

Statutory law doesn't allow a child to inherit money until they are eighteen years of age. Until then any money left to them has to go into a trust on their behalf. The money in that trust is used for the maintenance of the child so the immediate problem for parents here is identifying who exactly will have access to the "cheque book and pen" whilst a child is under eighteen. A second problem is control of how old a child should actually be when they inherit money.

Statutory law says that this is at the age of eighteen, but understandably many parents are uncomfortable with the thought of a child having a vast sum of money at such a young age and would prefer it to be at the age of twenty-one or even older.

Another problem for parents is identifying who are going to be appointed as legal guardians and physically look after a child. Statutory law is largely silent on this issue, and ultimately it can become a court decision. Tragically this can mean periods of foster or residential care for a child whilst decisions are being made, something any parent would want to avoid.

In all of the above cases the straightforward way for parents to achieve control is to make a will. This enables them to appoint trustees of their own choosing to administer a child's money, state the age they wish the child to be before they inherit any money, and appoint legal guardians of their own choosing to physically look after a child.

However recent surveys suggest some quite startling statistics. Only 21% of parents with minor children have made a will. 31% of parents who have made a will failed to appoint guardians for their children in that will.

Altogether a massive 88% of parents have not appointed guardians for their children. Despite this in the UK a child below eighteen loses a parent every 22 minutes.

That's 24,000 deaths per year where a bereaved child is involved.

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Make Mine a Double!

By Chris Smith

Yes, it's double cause for celebration at a blossoming Wolverhampton micropub.

The Keg and Comfort has been named CAMRA's Cider Pub of the Year for the second time - and scooped the city's Pub of the Year as well. And that's not bad going for a place which only opened its doors five years ago.

Nestled on the A449 gateway to the city, the Keg always has an impressive selection of quality real ales and ciders available, plus fruit wines, cocktails and recently 'drams'.

A steady, regular clientele help establish a truly friendly atmosphere who revel in the choice of top quality products.

However, it is anything but smooth sailing for the Keg which, like so many pubs and bars, have felt the hardening pinch of austerity. In fact, owners Louise and John Clive have seriously thought about cutting their losses despite having built up such a healthy trade.

"To say the costs are prohibitive is a massive understatement," said Louise. "I hate sounding like a broken record, but we really do struggle to make ends meet, the same as for many other small independents. We don't want to raise our prices any more than is absolutely necessary because that could be counter-productive. We need to be competitive but don't have that big company behind us soaking up the shortfall. This year we are having to consider options month by month.

"What we will do though is keep positive, think 'outside the box and be willing to try new things, I am sure our regulars appreciate that."



It was reported recently that pubs and bars have had to shoulder an 80% rise in costs which has proved just too much for some.

More than a handful of small breweries from which the Keg bought beer have had to fold, but for the time being they have vowed to soldier on though they will regularly review their financial position.

Enough of the doom and gloom though - it's time for Louise and John to enjoy their double award. Their kind-hearted customers, both old and new, will no doubt give them reasons to be cheerful. Customers have managed to raise over seven thousand pounds for charity and are just about to install a defibrillator outside the premises,

Race nights, jamming sessions, movie nights, bingo and speed quizzes help keep the place busy and vary the entertainment, but the main attraction - as ever - is the excellence of the products available over the bar.



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New Project Helping Veterans Back into Work



A one-stop shop linking ex-military personnel and their families with job opportunities, training courses and other local support has been launched in Wolverhampton.

The Wolverhampton Armed Forces Partnership was formed in January this year with a number of local organisations with expertise in areas like employment, housing, and mental health, coming together to see how they could best serve veterans, reservists, Armed Forces leavers and their families.



Liam Peck, Regional Manager for recruitment specialist Pertemps, which helped set up the initiative, said: "Traditionally 12,000 to 16,000 individuals leave the British Armed Forces each year with the daunting prospect of facing a constantly evolving world, without the support structure that the Armed Forces typically provides.

"We are working with likeminded Gold Award member organisations of the Armed Forces Covenant Employer Recognition Scheme to make readily available a "one stop" support mechanism to help those in the Wolverhampton area smoothly transition into the civilian environment that we all take for granted."

A launch event was held in May of this year, and due to the initial success of this project, the second Veterans Coffee Morning at the Changemakers in Wolverhampton railway station, took place on June 21 – to coincide with National Reservist Day, in honour of the valuable contribution made by Reservists working alongside their full-time military counterparts.

To support this theme, Major Darren Knight, Pertemps HM Forces Liaison Officer, provided an in-depth speech on the contribution of Reservists, and two local Reservist Regiments were present (103rd Regiment Royal Artillery, and 4th Battalion The Mercia Regiment), to showcase the flexibility and exciting opportunities being a Reservist can offer around working a regular job on "civilian street".



The event was once again well attended with expertise on offer from the different agencies, including Wolverhampton City Council and the City of Wolverhampton College, on hand to offer guidance to visitors.

It is expected sessions will be held throughout the year moving forwards, with particular focus on National Remembrance week in November.



5 minutes with...

Name: Cllr Dr Mike Hardacre

Occupation: Mayor of Wolverhampton



Michael was born in 1946 in Blackburn, Lancashire. His mother came of mining and railway stock from the North East of England. Michael trained to be a teacher at St. John's College in York.

He had a varied career in several schools in Bedfordshire and Lancashire as a Head of History, Head of Special Needs and Head of Upper School.

While working at those jobs he was deeply involved in Youth work in Blackburn, as well as his professional association. He also studied for his degree at the University of Lancaster where he gained a 2:1 honours in Education and Philosophy.

He came to Wolverhampton in 1982 as Deputy Head at Moseley Park School. In 1983 he wrote and delivered the multi-million pound Technical and Vocational Initiative. This delivered Records of Achievement for all children, modular interconnected exam courses, pupil mentoring, industrial education, work experience and clear pathways to University and apprenticeships.

Michael went on to become Head of Coppice School, twice a winner of the Government's Charter Mark, an Investor in People and the Schools' Curriculum Award for Community Education. When he left Coppice, it was the most oversubscribed Local authority non-denominational School in Wolverhampton.

He became the first Director of the Wolverhampton Education Action Zone, which became an "Investor in People" and raised attainment in schools across the Bushbury and Low Hill Triangle.

He was then asked to become Interim Head of Northcote School. In one year he lifted the school out of crippling debt and left it with the best results it had ever had at Key Stage 3, GCSE and "A" level.

Michael then was headhunted to take over the Education and Skills department in Britain's worst prison of 2002. Within 6 months it had risen to 13th out of 135 prisons. Michael went on to work in other prisons. In 2011 he became a Councillor in Wolverhampton for Park ward. He is a father of two, a Disc Jockey on local radio (101.8 WCRFM Tuesday midnight for an hour of the best jazz), a gardener and servant of his terrier cross – Emily.

The Mayor is supporting and raising money for three charities, this year; Give us a Break, Wings & Paws and The Haven.

- Age - 77
- Immediate family – two children, Nathan and Rachael, wife Mayoress Lynn Plant
- Favourite film – Casablanca
- Favourite food – Italian, especially seafood
- Favourite holiday destination – Cala Bona
- Most embarrassing moment – referring to a parent as 'grandparent' at a school event.
- What is top of your bucket list – to find a musical instrument I can play – I'm currently trying to master the concertina
- Which four people would you invite to your dream dinner party – Trotsky, Clement Attlee, Barbara Castle, Little Richard
- What's the closest you've come to death – Riding my motorbike and looking straight at the headlights of a lorry and managed to avoid it.
- Pet hate – people who believe themselves to be privileged and behave accordingly at the expense of others.
- Which word or phrase do you most overuse – 'On the other hand.....' or 'At this point in time...'
- Most treasured possession – my wife.
- What is your screensaver – my dog, Emily – a rescue dog from Birmingham Dogs Home.
- Perfect night out – An Italian at Bella or an Italian meal with jazz in the background.
- What song would you like played at your funeral – Tutti Frutti by Little Richard



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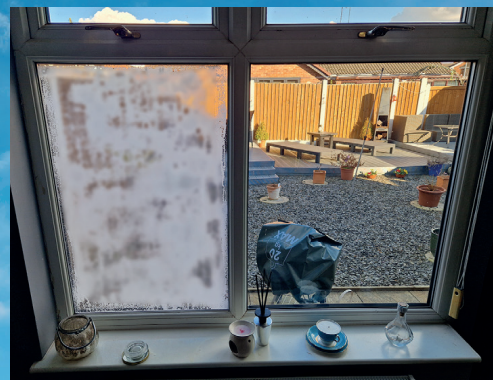


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Memories of Our Wednesfield



Local Historian Ray Fellows looks back at the Battle of Wednesfield and unexplained stories and mysteries of old Wednesfield

There is little doubt that a battle took place here in Wednesfield between the Saxons and the Vikings, the date depicted by Aethelweards Chronicle was the fifth day of August 910. The Mercians were led by Aethelflaed, later known as (Lady of the Mercians) and her husband Aethelred, the West Saxons were led by Edward the Elder.

The Vikings had ravaged the fields of the Mercians on all sides, and deeply, as far as the streams of the Avon, where the boundary of the West Saxons and Mercians begins. Then they were transported across the river Severn into the West country, and there they ravaged great ravagings. But when rejoicing in rich spoil they returned towards home, they were still engaged in crossing to the East side of the river Severn at Bridgnorth, suddenly squadrons of both Mercians and West Saxons, having formed battle order, moved against the opposing force. They joined battle without protracted delay on the field of Wednesfield; the English enjoyed the blessing of victory;

The army of the Danes fled, overcome by armed force. There fell three of their Kings, Healfdene and Eywysl, and Inwaer also hastened to the hall of the infernal one, and so did senior chiefs of theirs, both jarls and other noblemen.

Unexplained stories and mysteries

One story that is perhaps remembered by our older inhabitants' concerns Hart Road. Hart Road was driven through land known as "Hob's Gate". At the bottom end towards the

'Tube', many strange things have been seen here over hundreds of years. It is said to have been a place where elves, goblins, fairies and devils have been seen.

Merrill's Hall was opposite the bottom of Hart Road and people who lived there said how spooky the house could be, especially at night. On one of the walls in the cellar there was a bricked up section and it is said that there was a secret tunnel leading towards Wednesfield village. Merrill's Hall was demolished sometime in the mid 1950's.

The first known reference to Merrill's Hall dates from the 18th century. An archaeology excavation on Merrill's Hall was done in September- October 2022.

Wednesfield National School in Graiseley Lane was built in 1856 on land known as the Shoulder of Mutton piece. William Bentley Flats built in 1966 now stands on the site. The School Master's House was said to be haunted.

St Thomas's Church, it has been said that there was a tunnel in the boiler room of the church that leads to the cellar of the Boat Inn. We have asked about this but to our knowledge no tunnel has been found. You would have to ask why there would be a Tunnel when the Boat is just across the road.

The Dog and Partridge, when the Gregory's kept the pub from the late 1800s, they never let the fire go out come winter or summer until it was sold to Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries in 1963.

In the book *The Church On Wednesfield Green* by Roger Poole, Councillor David Pritchard whilst writing for *St Thomas's* magazine in 1934 asks, was there ever a castle in Wood End? For after all there is a Castle Inn and there are those who remember seeing castle like blocks of stone lying around.

He also tells of the Trumpet Hole, a deep pool in Ashmore Park, into which Charles II is said to have thrown his jewels on the journey from Moseley Old Hall to Bentley Hall.

The Legend of Helmsley Lodge

This story goes back to the early 19th century, a time when superstitions cast much more awesome spells over the Black Country than they do today, Terms which have been used to describe this house, Helmsley Lodge, have ranged from, an ill-fated house, to, it was built with blood money, to, it was built with other men's sweat.

Helmsley Lodge was built reputedly with the proceeds of robberies from country churches. The villains of the peace, two Wednesfield brothers, ended their lives on the scaffold. After the executions, the house was sold and had many tenants during the following century, but it gained the reputation of being an ill-fated, and some said, haunted house.

There were strange occurrences that took place there and people used to cross the road, rather than walk past the house. Helmsley Lodge was demolished between 1952 and 1953.

To win a £20 Sainsbury's gift card, just answer the following question;

Who threw his jewels into the Trumpet Hole in Ashmore Park?

Please send your answers to 24 South Avenue, Wednesfield WV11 1QL. Or email me at: fellows.raymond@yahoo.co.uk

Entries must be received by Monday 21st August.

The winner of the last competition was Joanne Harvey.

If you have any stories or photo's you want to share, just send them to the above address. There is a History Society meeting on Wednesday 16th August at 1.30pm in the lounge of the Vine Inn, all welcome.



The old Castle Inn, do you remember seeing castle like blocks of stone?



The old Pheasant, picture courtesy of the Black country Bugle.



The School Master's House at St Thomas's.

Teams From Barclays Work Their Magic and Turn a Jungle Back to a Garden

After years of enforced lockdown with no maintenance due to COVID and bird flu the only feelings that the sensory garden at Northcote Farm inspired were extreme frustration and despondency. Nature had well and truly taken over. The garden was now a jungle of weeds taller than an average man and well rooted into the ground. Pathways were submerged beneath overarching foliage and our COVID memorial looked sadly neglected and weed infested. The friends of Northcote decided to tackle the problem but could not possibly undertake such a mammoth task alone.

On a couple of extremely hot June days The Friends of Northcote Farm were extremely grateful to welcome visiting teams of volunteers on day release from Barclays Bank. These volunteers expected to have a change from their normal indoor jobs, but I doubt they fully understood the nature of the problem they would be helping to solve. Undaunted they set to work with forks, and loppers. The challenge to extract the deepest-rooted plant invaders was accepted even if digging some particularly tough specimens took over half an hour.

As they chopped and weeded many, many loads of compost were wheelbarrowed away to the designated composting site. Gradually pathways



and flower beds began to emerge. Thanks to Helen's careful tending our COVID memorial is once more sits proudly to honour those we remember - lost during this sad era.

The next day another team arrived to add finesse to the work achieved the day before. After some final tidying and removal of the last few stubborn weeds, the main flower bed was fitted with a metal edging and the newly cleared soil was protected by a layer of mulch.

Although the garden remains closed until a little more work is completed to replace rotten raised beds, a view from afar now once more inspires. It gives promise that a garden will emerge with a little more effort from more volunteers now that Barclays have led the way.

If your team is interested in helping you can email us northcotefarm.friends@gmail.com

The Friends of Northcote Farm are a registered charity dedicated to helping the community to enjoy and care for Northcote Farm as a public open space. We have a variety of events for public entertainment and fund raising planned for the rest of 2023.

Our Fairy Garden will be open once again between 29th July – 1st August and again 5th – 8th August. Opening times are available on our Facebook pages and website.

Our Spooky Halloween Trail will be open for 4 days 28th – 31st October.

Christmas Celebrations begin with the light switch on 2nd December. Appointments to see Santa in his grotto on December weekends can be booked via Eventbrite.



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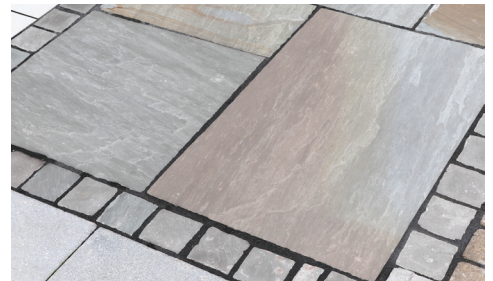
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Wednesfield Rotary Club Donates Equipment To St Johns Academy Essington

Wednesfield Rotary Club along with alumni books4home have donated a little lending library, buddy bench and a first for the club, a mud kitchen along with two hundred and fifty books.

The Rotary Club of Wednesfield and Rotary District 1210's Alumni give these gifts to encourage young children to read and enjoy books and whereas many children do not have a book at home these books can be taken home and kept by the children.

As you can see it looks to be a big hit with the younger children of St. John's Academy Essington.

A big thank you to Mrs Cotterill and the Staff at the Academy for their enthusiastic response to the gifts that have been donated.

"If you would like to learn more about Wednesfield Rotary Club and its work in the community please contact Stan Jukes email: Wednesfield-rotary@outlook.com".



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Wolverhampton Deputy Headteacher to Fight For Labour Target Seat At Next General Election



A deputy headteacher has vowed to be a "strong voice" for Wolverhampton in Westminster after she was named Labour's parliamentary candidate for a key target seat.

Sureena Brackenridge will contest Wolverhampton North East for Sir Keir Starmer's party at the next general election after being selected by local Labour members.

The 47-year-old mother-of-two was born in Wednesfield and is deputy head at Moseley Park School and works across Coppice and Heath Park. She served as mayoress of the city in 2021-22 when her husband, Wednesfield South councillor Greg Brackenridge, was mayor. She said, "I'm honoured to be selected as the Labour Party parliamentary candidate for Wolverhampton North East.

"I'll be a strong voice in Westminster for the people of Wolverhampton and I'll work tirelessly to give us a better and fairer future. "Wolverhampton has much to be proud of but the cost of living is cutting right through our communities.

"I see first-hand the impact that successive Conservative governments have had on our communities. The Tories have crashed the economy, and we are stuck in a high tax, low growth, low wage Tory trap. The only way out, in a way that is both pro-business and pro-worker, is through economic growth. Not just for those at the top – but for everyone."

"So many families feel worse off after 13 years of Conservative choices. Energy bills, food prices and interest rates are through the roof. The most common thing I am being told on the doorstep is that family finances are stretched caused by Britain becoming more and more expensive."

"A Labour government will bring high-paid and high-quality jobs and apprenticeships to the city making it a better place to learn, work and live."

"Wolverhampton can make more, sell more and achieve more under Labour."

Wolverhampton North East was a Labour stronghold for decades until the 2019 general election, when Jane Stevenson won it for the Conservatives by defeating Emma Reynolds with a majority of 4,080.

Ms Stevenson has defended the Government's record on investment in Wolverhampton, highlighting projects including the National Brownfield Institute, the City Learning Quarter and the Levelling Up department's headquarters at the i9 development.

Meanwhile, Labour is understood to have delayed the selection process for Wolverhampton South West until next year in the hope that more women candidates come forward.



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Useful Information & Telephone Numbers

Community Hubs/Centres

Ashmore Park	01902 552490
Long Knowle	01902 552442
Low Hill	01902 552312
Wednesfield	01902 552218

Local Councillors/MP

MP Jane Stevenson	01902 722026
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Wednesfield North

Cllr Mary Bateman.....	01922 403960
Cllr Phillip Bateman	01922 403960
Cllr Rita Potter.....	01902 654599

Wednesfield South

Cllr Greg Brackenridge	07552 211600
Cllr Ciaran Brackenridge	07890 964296
Cllr Jacqui Coogan	07919 626063

Long Knowle

Cllr Steve Evans	01902 861498
Cllr Val Evans.....	01902 861498
Cllr Christopher Burden.....	07971 843811

Emergency Services

Anti Social Behaviour Unit.....	01902 551188
Crime Stoppers (anonymous)	0800 555111
Electrical emergency	0800 328 1111
Flood line.....	0845 9881188
Gas emergency.....	0800 111 999
Police/Fire/Ambulance	999
Police (non emergency).....	101
(Out of hours emergency)	01902 552999
Water emergency	0800 7834444

Health Organisations

Alfred Squire Medical Centre	01902 575000
Alfred Squire Health Centre.....	01902 575000
Dr Libberton & Dr Ram - Cann Rd.....	01902 739973
Heath Town Medical Ctre	01902 456211
Mayfield Medical Centre	01902 351666
New Cross Hospital (switchbrd)	01902 307999
NHS non-emergency number	111
Raynor Road Medical Ctre	0844 3879400
The Surgery, Woden Road.....	0845 0724628
Tudor Medical Ctre	01902 384999

Help Lines/Others

Citizens Advice Bureau	03444 111 444
Childline.....	0800 1111

National Careers Service.....	0800 100900
National Domestic Violence	0808 2000 247
RSPCA	0300 1234 999
RSPB.....	0845 1200501
Samaritans	116 123

Places of Worship

Church of Latter Day Saints	01902 724097
Corpus Christi RC Church.....	01902 732713
Dormition of Her Lady.....	01902 500216
Fallings Park Methodist.....	01902 733574
Gurdwara Sikh Temple	01902 730774
Holy Trinity Church Street	01902 722840
Old Fallings Utd Reformed	01902 861961
Our Ladys Presbytery	01902 731189
St Alban's C of E	01902 732317
St Gregory's C of E	01902 783342
St Patrick's RC Church	01902 736440
St Thomas's C of E	01902 723310
Wednesfield Christian Ctre	01902 689957
W'field Methodist Comm Church	01902 727130

Schools

Ashmore Park Nursery	01902 558116
Coppice Performing Arts.....	01902 558500
Corpus Christi Primary	01902 866840
D'Eyncourt Primary	01902 558778
Edward the Elder Primary	01902 558765
Heath Park High School	01902 556360
Long Knowle	01902 558985
Oak Meadow Primary	01902 558517
Our Lady St Chad's.....	01902 558250
Perry Hall Primary	01902 558538
St Alban's Primary.....	01902 558825
St. Thomas' C of E Primary.....	01902 558963
St Patrick's Primary.....	01902 556451
Wednesfield High School	01902 558222
Wodensfield Primary	01902 556350
Wolverhampton City College.....	01902 836000
Wolverhampton University	01902 321000
Wood End Primary.....	01902 558940

Libraries

Ashmore Park	01902 556296
Long Knowle	01902 556290
Low Hill	01902 556293
Wednesfield	0121 569 4945



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Crossword Answers

From page 10

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