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Bilston magazine

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PUBLISHER/EDITOR

Simon Archer
Tel. 07534 603662

EMAIL

simon@westmidlandsmagazines.com

WEBSITE

www.westmidlandsmagazines.com

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Dear Reader,

Welcome to the Aug/Sept, issue of the Bilston Magazine.

I've just completed a challenge for Pancreatic Cancer UK, which was to walk 60 miles in June – or to do two miles a day.

Two miles doesn't sound a lot, but when you sit down most of the day (yes, I know, it's alright for some!) it's not as easy as it sounds.

I didn't want to just accumulate a number of steps, so I actually did a two mile walk every day – even while on holiday in Croatia. How's that for commitment?

It's amazing how good you feel afterwards, even on the odd day when it rained, there was a feeling of achievement. Not just the walking and getting fit, but knowing you've raised a few quid for a good cause.

Pancreatic Cancer is one of the worst types you can get as there are virtually no symptoms until it's too late.

I know a couple of people who have fallen victim to it, so the thought of them got me off my backside every day and I'll do it again next year. Maybe some of you could join me.

There are a few events coming up in the next few weeks and as someone who helps to organise one of them, I know how much hard work goes on in the background, so please, if you are able, please support them and help to keep them going.

Like most people, I was shocked and saddened by the tragic death of the ex-Wolves player Diogo (not Diego!) Jota.

I never met the guy, but his age, the fact that he had only got married to his childhood sweetheart two weeks before the accident and to leave three young children without a father is just heartbreaking.

My father lost his dad in a farming accident when he was just 8 years old. He also had four younger siblings. There was no Universal Credit, oh and there was a war on. I can't imagine how they managed, but they did and Diogo's family will get through this as they have to, as we all have to in tough times.

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 BILSTON MAGAZINE!

The next issue will cover October and November and will be out on 30th September so if you want to be in it, please contact me by 8th September.

Enjoy your read!

Simon



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ROTARY IN BILSTON TO CLOSE

It is with great sadness that Rotary in Bilston has taken the decision to close and dissolve our Club as of 30th June 2025.



We have been active in Bilston since our inception in 1931 when the Club met at the Villiers Arms in Bilston (yes 94 years ago) and since those early days have raised many thousands of pounds to help those less fortunate within the local area and beyond.

As with all organisations who endeavour to support the local communities with not just fundraising events, but in many other ways, many of our existing members have suffered with the ageing process and health issues, along with a lack of new younger recruits, meaning the extra workload has been put onto the shoulders of the existing shortfall of active members, which unfortunately, we are now no longer able to continue.

Whilst we have in fact had our best year of fundraising this last Rotary year it has proved to be extremely challenging for all concerned.

We initiated the Santa Sleigh procession at the annual Bilston Lights switch on along Bilston High St & Church St some 10 years ago and this has gradually progressed year on year whereby the procession has grown significantly with the support of the Bilston & Wolverhampton Scouts & Guides organisations; Bilston Soroptimists; local schools and local families all joining in, along with the support of local businesses.

We have also used our Santa Grotto (with free entry) to help local children to see Santa (and receive a free present) at the Lights switch on and at Morrisons in Bilston along with loaning it out to Green Park School, Stowlawn School, ASAN and many others. We have also supported the following organisations: Bilston Football Club; Bilston Swimming Club; Scouts & Guides local groups; BSN Community shop; Good Shepherd (Relief in Need); Green Park school along with Bilston C of E and Villiers Primary with school trips to the zoo and the pantomime.

We have supplied and handed out Christmas hampers with the help of donations from Excel Church & Howell Rd allotments to many Bilston pensioners along with supporting Emma Bussey Trust with Christmas vouchers also for many Bilston pensioners.

We recently helped Bushfield Court over 55's community with cleaning, repainting, gardening and other

works to their outside spaces.

A little wider in the field we have supported the Ukraine community; Positive Participation; King-swood Centre; Fairtrade; Let Us Play etc.

Whilst we are no longer able to continue this good work we would like to take this opportunity to thank the Bilston community for your on-going support over the years, it has been very much appreciated.

Thank you from all Bilston Rotarians.



On the point of fundraising it has been our pleasure in April to have recently organised a "Bikeathon" in Bilston after which we were able to present to Green Park School a wonderful amount of £3000 to help towards their fundraising to enable a much needed update of their sensory unit.



Presentation by Rotarian Bob Stolz of funds raised for Green Park School

We are aware that the amount required for such a project is not going to be cheap but it is an extremely necessary requirement and we urge everyone to try and support Green Park School in this going forward.

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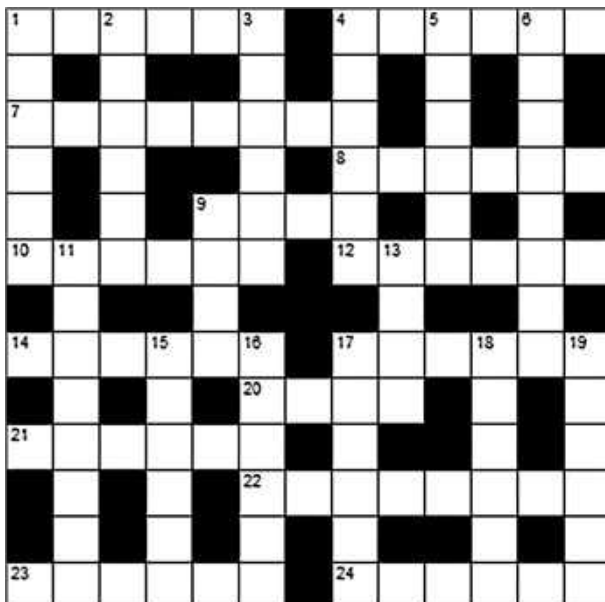
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Crossword

Please see answers
on page 43



Across

- 1 Prejudiced (6)
- 4 Whiten, decolour (6)
- 7 Maritime, used on the ocean (8)
- 8 Rhododendron-like shrub (6)
- 9 Particle (4)
- 10 Shortcrust, flaky or puff _____ (6)
- 12 Every twelve months (6)
- 14 Socially awkward (6)
- 17 Daredevil (6)
- 20 Ruffian, thug (4)
- 21 Ceramic artist (6)
- 22 Items of jewellery (8)
- 23 People who look after others (6)
- 24 Abrupt (6)

Down

- 1 Church official (6)
- 2 Warning devices (6)
- 3 Delicate, fragile (6)
- 4 Married to two people at the same time (6)
- 5 Mistake in print (6)
- 6 Shrub with waxy scented flowers (8)
- 9 Bowed structure (4)
- 11 Large South American snake (8)
- 13 Welsh name (4)
- 15 Oxen and cows (6)
- 16 The act of leaving a place (6)
- 17 _____ dancing, type of folk dancing. (6)
- 18 Stretched out the body or neck to see better (6)
- 19 Toxic substance (6)

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Work Starts on Bilston Market Redevelopment



The multi-million-pound redevelopment of Bilston Market is now under-way.

City of Wolverhampton Council is investing more than £5m in major improvements to the market that will deliver “the absolute best market in the West Midlands” with more modern, more accessible, and more vibrant spaces for traders and the local community.

Works officially began on Wednesday 23 July and will feature better access for pedestrians from the bus and Metro station, a new canopy, new toilets, stall improvements and improved public spaces. It is set to be completed by June 2026.

Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Simkins, said that despite the discovery of difficult ground conditions at the market site, the council was “100% committed” to delivering the full scheme as agreed with traders.

He said: “Delivering a first class, improved and modern market – the absolute best market in the West Midlands - with better access is an absolute

priority for us – and I’m pleased to see work begin so we can deliver for our traders and the people of Bilston.

“Unfortunately, surveys revealed far more challenging ground conditions at the site than we had anticipated, so we have had to re-engineer parts of the project. This has driven up the cost of the scheme - but I can assure traders we will not compromise on our ambition and will deliver the full scheme exactly as agreed with them.”

Council bosses have identified additional contingency funds of up to £2.5m to address the re-engineered scheme and other factors.

The Council also said it will freeze rent costs of the indoor and outdoor market traders and is investing £15,000 in activities and events in and around the indoor market to help drive footfall

Councillor Simkins added: “We promised traders they’d be the first to know once we got the timeline of the works, and I met with them face to face a couple of weeks ago, to talk through the plans and let them know how we’re supporting them while the works take place.”



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Wolverhampton Veterans in the Community: Friendship, Support and Belonging

For many veterans and their families, life after service can sometimes feel isolating. But thanks to the dedicated work of *Wolverhampton Veterans in the Community*, that needn't be the case. Under the leadership of Chair *Roy Hollingsworth*, this remarkable organisation provides a warm and welcoming space for ex-service personnel and their loved ones to meet, chat and support one another.

The group operates across three locations in the city, each offering a weekly drop-in session where camaraderie is at the heart of everything they do. In *Wednesfield*, meetings take place



at the Conservative Club on Neachells Lane every **Monday from 11am to 1pm**, run by *Patricia Radford*. The *Bilston* group is led by *Sue Cummons* and meets **Wednesdays from 2pm to 3pm** at the Lunt Community Centre. The *Wolverhampton* group meets at the RAFA Club on Goldthorn Road every **Tuesday from 2pm to 3pm**, and is led by *Kim Goss*.

These gatherings are more than just social events. For members like *Val and Conrad Astbury*, the sessions provide a valuable reason to get out of the



house and connect with others. “*It gives us a big boost once a week. It’s like an extended family,*” they said. *Mary Edwards*, whose late husband *Joe* served in the forces, says the group brings her comfort and keeps her connected to old friends.

The organisation has been fortunate to receive backing from the local community. The Vine pub in Wednesfield raised an impressive £1,000 through a raffle, and *Bilston Councillor Rashpal Kaur* generously donated £400 from her ward budget. *Sam Axtell* of *Wolverhampton City Council*, who oversees the Armed Forces Covenant, also secured an additional £250 in support. These funds help to cover room hire costs, group trips—including a recent visit to Windsor Castle—and even mobility scooters for members who need assistance.

Now, the groups are reaching out to welcome new faces. Whether you’re a veteran yourself or have a family member who served, you’ll be warmly received. There’s no need to book—just turn up, grab a cuppa, and say hello.

For many, *Wolverhampton Veterans in the Community* is more than a club. It’s a lifeline, a friendship circle, and a place to belong.

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OBITUARY

Diogo José Teixeira da Silva

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It is with profound sorrow that we mourn the tragic loss of Diogo Jota - the cherished Wolves legend - and his brother, André Silva, following a fatal car accident on 3 July 2025 in Zamora, Spain. The football world has lost two exceptional talents; Portuguese football has lost two sons; and Wolverhampton Wanderers has lost a hero.

Diogo's love affair with Wolves began in 2017, when he arrived on loan from Atlético Madrid. He immediately ignited hope at Molineux with his electric pace, relentless work ethic, and clinical finishing. Over three seasons in gold and black, he made 131 appearances, netting 44 goals, and was instrumental in Wolves' return to the Premier League and the long awaited European nights, moments that still glow in the hearts of every Wolves fan.

Big-hearted on and off the field, Diogo was adored by teammates and supporters alike. At Molineux, scarves, shirts, and flowers now surround the Billy Wright statue - a testament to how deeply he touched this club and its people. He remained humble, always remembering his roots in Gondomar and the friends who cheered him on from the terraces. The memory of his sharp runs and mazy dribbles at Wolves will forever be etched in Molineux folklore.

After a £41 million move to Liverpool in 2020, Jota's star kept rising. He scored 65 goals in 182 games, won the 2024-25 Premier League, FA



Cup, and two League Cups, and delivered key performances for Portugal - including helping them retain the UEFA Nations League in 2025.

Tragically, Diogo and André - also a promising pro at Penafiel - were killed when their Lamborghini veered off the A52 motorway following a suspected tyre blowout.

Diogo was just 28, having married long-term love Rute Cardoso on 22 June and was father to their three young children. The brothers were laid to rest in Gondomar on 5 July, surrounded by family, friends and a nation in mourning.

The outpouring of grief has been immense: from ordinary fans, to Cristiano Ronaldo, Jürgen Klopp and many more, all suffering the loss of two "champions".

For Wolves supporters, Jota represented the epitome of our club's spirit - fearless, industrious, and electrifying. He embodied the "Wolves way" and gave us nights of joy and hope during our revival. Molineux will forever echo with his name and his talent. Diogo's memory lives on in every cheer, every chant, and every future gold-and-black hero inspired by his journey.



***Rest in peace, Diogo.
Rest in peace, André.
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News in Brief

Bilston Flats to Get Efficiency Makeover

Plans have been approved for the makeover of three blocks of flats in Bilston to improve their energy efficiency and appearance.

Wolverhampton Homes said the scheme, on Boydon Close, Ettingshall, would add external and cavity-wall insulation, plus new doors and windows.

Forty-five homes will benefit from the improvements, partly funded by the government's Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund.

City of Wolverhampton planners said the scheme would "enhance the character and appearance of the buildings and area".

Planning documents submitted for the scheme, external said that the buildings, off Ettingshall Road, dated back to the 1950s or 60s.

Although the windows had been double-glazed with uPVC units at some point, it was unknown when and the windows were in need of replacement, they added.



Portobello Methodist (Community) Church

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New Boutique Opens in Bilston

Wendy Smylie has just opened Kitty Darling, a boutique in the old frontage of Café Metro, in Church Street and they are open on market days.

They officially launched on 19 July and offer a hand picked collection of 1940s & '50s inspired fashion—from swing dresses to vintage accessories.

Wendy says, "Since relocating from Manchester earlier this year, I've fallen head over heels with Bilston's charm (my partner is a local, so I've got the inside scoop!). The community response so far has been wonderful, but I'd love to see some more new faces who appreciate the unique, heritage inspired style."



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Joy as Ambitious and Caring School Maintains High Standards



Staff and pupils are celebrating after Green Park School was judged to be Good by Ofsted, with inspectors describing it as an 'ambitious and caring' school.

They visited Green Park at the end of April and, in their report published recently, found that staff have 'high expectations and a deep understanding of all pupils'.

The school, which supports learners aged three to 19 with complex physical and medical needs, provides a 'safe and calm' environment, with pupils feeling 'motivated and happy to learn'.

The 'progressive and personalised' curriculum is 'exciting, broad and ambitious', with a breadth of subjects and topics that supports pupils' engagement and attention and which are delivered 'consistently well'.

Through creative approaches to teaching, such as songs, pictures and textured materials, 'pupils engage in their learning' and 'achieve well'.

Work on improving pupils' communication 'is a strength', enabling them to learn well, become more independent and to play an active part in the school community.

The school prepares pupils for adulthood effectively, offering a range of opportunities beyond the classroom including residential visits, horse riding and swimming, all of which help pupils

'develop new skills and confidence as they venture into the wider world'. In sixth form, students benefit from increased opportunities to improve their independence, enjoying work experience and travel training.

Pupils behave well, with the school using a 'range of strategies to promote and reward positive behaviour'. Staff are committed to promoting good attendance, and pupils enjoy 'being in school and attend regularly'.

Leaders are ambitious for all pupils and have created 'a positive culture for learning' which is 'supported effectively' by governors who know what is working well and where to focus for improvement.

Inspectors concluded that the school has a 'committed and passionate staff team that makes Green Park an exciting place where pupils will continue to flourish'. And they confirmed that the school has taken effective action to maintain the standards identified at the previous inspection, when it was judged to be Good.

Headteacher Lorraine Dawney said: "I am so proud of the achievements of our learners; they rise to every new challenge and astound us every day by their progress.

"Our vision is to prepare them for 'Learning for Life' and the inspection recognised that we aspire for all children to reach their full potential each and every day.

"I would like to personally thank all staff; I have such a fabulous team of caring and committed professionals who always give 100% to our learners. I also want to celebrate the partnership with parents, carers and governors as it is their support and dedication that creates a school where children flourish."

Latest data shows that 97% of schools in Wolverhampton are currently rated either Good or Outstanding by Ofsted, the highest ever.

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Celebrations As Loxdale Becomes City's 21st School of Sanctuary

Staff and pupils at Loxdale Primary ended the summer term in celebratory mood after it was named Wolverhampton's 21st 'School of Sanctuary'.

The school showed assessors from the City of Sanctuary UK movement that it celebrates its diverse communities, that the School of Sanctuary ethos of welcome, inclusion and safety for all runs through all aspects of Loxdale Primary, and that it extends a warm welcome to everyone.

Deputy Headteacher Emma Wright-Jones said: "This award has been two years in the making and staff, children and families have worked really hard to ensure that we are as inclusive as possible.

"We are committed to welcoming children to Loxdale and pride ourselves on the welcome they receive. We are pleased to be recognised as kind and that we welcome people of all nationalities into our school without discrimination.

"Being a School of Sanctuary has empowered us to appreciate the richness that celebrating our diverse school community can bring, and we are proud to be a school that stands for inclusion, safety, warmth and kindness — a place where everyone belongs and can truly 'Grow Together'."

Councillor Jacqui Coogan, the City of Wolverhampton Council's Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education, said: "We are delighted that we now have 21 Schools of Sanctuary in Wolverhampton, all of which have demonstrated the lengths they go to ensure they provide a safe and welcoming place for their children and families, and I would like to congratulate everyone at Loxdale Primary School on this achievement."



Other Schools of Sanctuary include Bantock Primary, Dunstall Hill Primary, Goldthorn Park Primary, Graiseley Primary, Rakegate Primary, St Andrews CofE Primary, St Lukes CofE Primary, St Regis CofE Academy, Stowlawn Primary, St Mary's Catholic Primary Academy, Villiers Primary, West Park Primary, Merridale Primary, Wodensfield Primary School, St Michael's CE Primary School, SS Peter and Paul Catholic Primary School, St Teresa's Catholic Primary Academy, The Royal School Wolverhampton Primary, Ormiston NEW Academy and Colton Hills Community School.

The Schools of Sanctuary programme is part of the City of Sanctuary UK movement, committed to building a culture of safety and welcome, especially for refugees seeking sanctuary from war and persecution.

Schools can apply to become a School of Sanctuary by demonstrating to City of Sanctuary UK that they have implemented three key principles – learning and helping people understand what it means to be seeking sanctuary, embedding the concepts of safety, welcome and inclusive culture for everyone, and sharing their values and activities with their local communities. For more information, please visit <https://schools.cityofsanctuary.org/>.



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Growing for the Future

Hydroponics For Beginners

By Simon Archer

In an age of shrinking garden space and growing environmental concerns, hydroponics is emerging as a smarter, cleaner, and more sustainable way to grow fresh produce. By cultivating plants without soil and using a nutrient-rich water solution instead, hydroponics offers a fast, efficient, and surprisingly simple alternative to traditional gardening.



One of the most compelling benefits of hydroponics is its space efficiency. Because plants are grown in controlled systems—stacked vertically or housed in compact grow trays—even urban dwellers with limited outdoor areas can grow everything from herbs and leafy greens to strawberries and tomatoes. For residents of the West Midlands, GIY (Grow It Yourself) in Bilston is leading the way, offering affordable hydroponic kits, nutrients, and expert advice for beginners and seasoned growers alike.

Hydroponic systems also use up to 90% less water than soil-based growing. Water in a hydroponic setup is recycled and reused, making it ideal in areas where water conservation is a priority. At a time when food miles and supermarket packaging are under

increasing scrutiny, growing your own produce not only reduces waste but gives you complete control over what goes into your food—no pesticides, no preservatives, just clean, nutrient-packed crops.

Speed is another key advantage. Because nutrients are delivered directly to the plant roots, growth rates can be up to 50% faster compared to traditional gardening. GIY in Bilston stocks everything needed to create a productive indoor garden—from plug-and-play grow systems to LED lighting and hydro-friendly nutrients tailored to specific plants.

There's also a therapeutic side to hydroponics. As more people look to improve their mental wellbeing, tending to plants—watching them flourish in water—can be both calming and rewarding. GIY often hosts open days and workshops to help people explore the benefits for themselves.

Whether you're a hobbyist looking to supplement your kitchen with fresh basil or a serious grower dreaming of a fully-fledged indoor salad bar, hydroponics offers a sustainable solution with a modern twist. And with local support from businesses like GIY in Bilston, there's never been a better time to grow your own.



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Feel the Beat of the City: Live Grassroots Music

Friday 15th August 2025 | 11:00 – 16:00
Victoria Street, Wolverhampton

This summer, Wolverhampton is turning up the volume on local talent! As part of **Together for Music 2025**, join us at the heart of the city for an exciting **Musical Showcase** in Bell Street Square (Pedestrian Zone) on **Friday 15th August 2025**, from **11:00 to 16:00** — and discover the sound of grassroots music like you've never heard it before.

Hosted by **Kupid the King** – one of Wolverhampton's most influential RNB and Hip Hop artists – the show promises an unforgettable afternoon of music, rhythm and raw talent. With his trademark charisma and deep connection to the local music scene, Kupid will guide audiences through a packed programme of performances that celebrate the city's creative spirit.

Expect an electrifying line-up of **local performers**, featuring the vibrant rhythms of **live dhol drumming**, hard-hitting **rap**, soulful **singing**, and powerful **spoken word**. All the talent on display is homegrown, representing the very best of Wolverhampton's thriving grassroots scene.

Together for Music 2025 shines a spotlight on emerging voices, bringing people together through shared rhythms and real stories. Whether you're taking a break from shopping or planning your afternoon around it, this is the perfect way to experience Wolverhampton's rich cultural heartbeat, right in the city centre.

The event is **free to attend** and open to all. Come along, bring your friends, and support the voices shaping the future of local music. You don't want to miss it!

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The Lord Bilston Challenge

On the 24th July at 5am a team of 36 met at The Newbridge pub, not for a pint or fine food but to embark on a challenge that would see them cover Scotland, Wales as well as a large chunk of England. Not the first time the Lord Bilston Challenge team met at a silly hour to start another testing feat of endurance to raise funds for Compton Care.



This, the sixth event since 2014, was to be the largest in size, the longest in time and the biggest target for the group led by the son of the late Dennis Turner, the former MP for Wolverhampton South East and later Lord Bilston. Brendon Turner started raising funds for Compton Care after his father spent time there before his passing in 2014.

As a “thank you”, Brendon decided to set up a challenge which lasted one day and involved a cycle to Bala Lake. Since the start of the challenges the group have raised over £150,000 for Compton Care.

Some 11 years later 24 cyclists with a support crew of 12 started the long journey to Scotland and the foot of Ben Nevis began. This was to be the start of a journey that would last until Sunday evening with very little sleep and the 5am start time becoming all too familiar to the group.

After scaling Ben Nevis in around 5 hours the group regrouped and rested ahead of the start of day 2. With a little sleep and the early start the team headed off on bike to the Lake District and Scafell Pike, some 260 miles away! The beautiful landscape is not on the teams list of tasks to take in as they battle hills, tiredness and time. On arrival at the

Youth Hostel sat at the base of the highest peak in England there was time just for food and a short prep for the following day.

A clear morning with a chill in the air saw the group enter the day with low batteries but a determination to get it done. Another testing climb was conquered before many people had even had their breakfast, but this was just the start of the journey to the next checkpoint. A 140 miles ride through Kendal, Lancaster, Preston, Wigan, Chester and Betws-y-Coed again tested the Lord Bilston Challenge team. The support team consisted of members that had been with the team for a few years; 4 highly trained paramedics and staff from Compton Care helped guide the cyclists through towns and villages, giving much needed pep talks, food and luckily only the smallest amount of first aid.

The final morning, the last 5am start, found the group in high spirits as they tackled the tricky Snowdon climb. This time a clear summit awaited, and the views were a fitting end to the final climb. Now with a safe descent and a 106 mile ride back to the Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis & Squash Club, each participant had a spring in their step and the turn of pedals became easier as the group slowly rode into familiar territory.



Finally, at 8.10pm on the fourth day, the Lord Bilston Challenge team returned home to a large crowd of supporters and sponsors. The target of £40,000 has been smashed and currently stands at over £46,000 with more donations to be collected. The team would like to thank all the sponsors that have helped supply vehicles, medical equipment and support in other ways to get this challenge completed.



2025/26 MIDLAND FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

FIXTURES



AUG25

SAT 02 SAFFRON DYNAMO H
WED 06 BIRMINGHAM OJM H
SAT 09 LEICESTER ST ANDREWS A
WED 13 SUTTON UNITED H
SAT 16 KIRBY MUXLOE H
TUE 19 GORNAL ATHLETIC A
SAT 23 AFC NORTH KILWORTH A
MON 25 CHELMSLEY TOWN A
SAT 30 COVENTRY COPSEWOOD H

SEP25

WED 03 WEDNESFIELD H
SAT 06 BIRSTALL UNITED A
TUE 09 SUTTON UNITED A
SAT 13 SMETHWICK RANGERS H
TUE 16 AFC BRIDGNORTH A
SAT 20 HEREFORD PEGASUS H FAV 20
SAT 27 AFC NORTH KILWORTH H

OCT25

SAT 04 ALLEXTON & NEW PARKS A
SAT 11 WEDNESFIELD A
SAT 18 NUNEATON GRIFF H
SAT 25 SAFFRON DYNAMO A

NOV25

SAT 01 STAPENHILL A
SAT 08 KNOWLE H
SAT 15 CHELMSLEY TOWN H
SAT 22 KIRBY MUXLOE A
SAT 29 SMETHWICK RANGERS A

DEC25

SAT 06 BIRSTALL UNITED H
SAT 13 INGLES A
SAT 20 LUTTERWORTH ATHLETIC H
FRI 25 CRADLEY TOWN H

JAN26

SAT 03 NUNEATON GRIFF A
SAT 10 GORNAL ATHLETIC H
SAT 24 KNOWLE A
SAT 31 LEICESTER ST ANDREWS H

FEB26

SAT 07 HEATHER ST JOHN'S A
SAT 21 AFC BRIDGNORTH H
SAT 28 BIRMINGHAM OJM A

MAR26

SAT 07 COVENTRY COPESWOOD A
SAT 14 STAPENHILL H
SAT 21 HEATHER ST JOHN'S H

APR26

SAT 04 INGLES H
MON 06 CRADLEY TOWN A
SAT 11 LUTTERWORTH ATHLETIC A
SAT 18 ALLEXTON & NEW PARKS H

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Links to the Past

Black Country History with Tim Hamilton

We're Ever-All Going on a Summer Holiday



Hello, my name is Tim Hamilton and learning about the past is one of my biggest passions. I have worked with museums for over 10 years, helping take care of historic objects and preserving and sharing their

stories. I also volunteer as a Trustee at the British Association for Local History, a national charity which has a wide range of resources and support for anyone interested in Local History

Summer is in full swing, and many of us are thinking about the best ways to spend our days off in the sun. Whether it's a trip to the seaside, a stroll in the countryside, or a visit to a theme park, enjoying the best of what the UK has to offer often means a four-hour drive, the hope of finding decent, affordable parking at the other end, and endless Google searches for things to do once you get there. It wasn't always like this, of course. Back in the postwar decades, holidaying meant something very different — and for many when cars were not as accessible, that meant piling onto a coach with friends or family. Which got me thinking about the golden age of coach trips - where the stress of organising a day or weekend away was all taken care of for you.

After World War II, Britain saw a surge in domestic tourism. By 1950, nearly one million Britons were taking holidays abroad, while many others began enjoying coach travel to seaside resorts and regional attractions. In Wolverhampton, one of the best-known names to ride that wave was Don Everall Travel.



Founded in 1923 by Don Everall of Bilston Road, the company became a staple name in coach and holiday transport in the Midlands. From its base on Bilston Road, the firm started with local coach tours and steadily expanded its operations. By the late 1940s, it was playing a supporting role in public transport: in 1947, Wolverhampton Corporation hired 14 Everall coaches to provide peak-hour relief services. And through the 1950s and 1960s, Don Everall Travel grew into a well-known regional coach operator. Their red and cream-coloured vehicles became a familiar sight, taking families to holiday destinations across the UK like seaside towns and spa resorts. Don Everall Travel was also closely associated with Wolverhampton Wanderers Football Club, providing team and supporter transport to away games, including the 1970 cup final at Wembley Stadium (Pictured here). – It's said that Don Everall himself was at one point linked to the club as a director.

Don Everall opened travel offices across Wolverhampton and the surrounding areas, offering coach tours and holiday packages. Though exact figures aren't confirmed in historical records, contemporary sources describe the company as having a substantial agency network across the Midlands. Travel

Agent's like this remained a familiar sight on the local highstreet, through the 80's and early 90's.



In the early 1970s, Everall sold the coach and holiday division of the business. And in 1974, the entire fleet was acquired by the newly formed National Travel Midlands, part of the National Bus Company. Many of the vehicles were absorbed into the National Express network, and the Everall livery gradually disappeared from roads.

Beyond the road, Don Everall also ventured into aviation. In 1947, he founded Don Everall Aviation at Wolverhampton's Pendeford Airport. During the 1950s and '60s, the aviation division operated joyrides, flight training, and private charters. Aircraft included vintage de Havilland Dragon Rapides and at least two Douglas DC-3 Dakotas. Pendeford Airport itself, opened in 1938, closed at the end of 1970, and Everall's aviation operations ceased shortly thereafter.

In addition to travel and aviation, the Everall business diversified into car sales, operating a Ford dealership on Bilston Road. It was known locally not just for its cars, but also for the Don Everall Driving School — though the longevity of these ventures beyond the 1980s is unclear.

Today, Don Everall is remembered fondly by residents of Wolverhampton and the Black Country. Its legacy lives on in photographs, local history accounts, and the memories of those who once travelled under the Everall banner. According to their Facebook Group former drivers, staff, and enthusiasts still meet monthly as part of the Don Everall Retired Members Club every first Wednesday of the month at the Electric Club in Wolverhampton

where they share stories of the good old days with a camaraderie forged on the road. For many who worked at the company, it wasn't just a job — it was a community, and that bond still holds strong all these years later.

While Everall coaches no longer cruise the motorways, local companies like Pimbley's — with offices in Wolverhampton and Bloxwich continue to offer day trips and weekends to family favourite locations like Brighton, Skegness, Llandudno and everywhere in between, as well as holidays to destinations as far-flung as Inverness, Paris, and even Spain — So why not give it a go, with pick ups on almost every Black Country Highstreet and options with door to door pick up — the adventure of the old-fashioned coach outing awaits!



Share your favourite memory of a coach trip with me on X
@MrTimHamilton

Image credits:

1: Don Everall Coach in Wembley,
@AndrewHAS on Flickr

2: Don Everall Bilston Branch,
Mitchell Jones on Flickr @
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3: Don Everall Aviation, Rober Beaver,
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- **Character**
- **Organisation**
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- **Excellence**

As part of this, we run a CORE curriculum with specific enrichment days, offering an experience that many of our students will never experience.

In our final week of term, our annual CORE visit to a beach occurred with over 200 Year 8 students visiting Brean Sands.

Beach volleyball, cricket, sandcastles and a coastal walk are amongst the activities

on offer to our students, as we aim to give them an experience many have never had.

Unfortunately, the British weather returned, but it was not enough to dampen the spirits of our students and staff.





Ormiston SWB Year 11 Prom 2025



The start of July saw our fantastic Year 11's attend their leavers prom. The Molyneux was the venue and pupils arrived in a multitude of ways. Ferraris, Lamborghinis a fleet of vans and superbikes to name a few.

However, the vehicles were upstaged by the pupils and in particular the girls. After arriv-

ing in style and our prize giving, the dance floor was swamped in true SWB style. We wish this fantastic cohort the very best in their futures and look forward to seeing many of them back in our 6th Form

We now await the results that the students will receive in the summer!

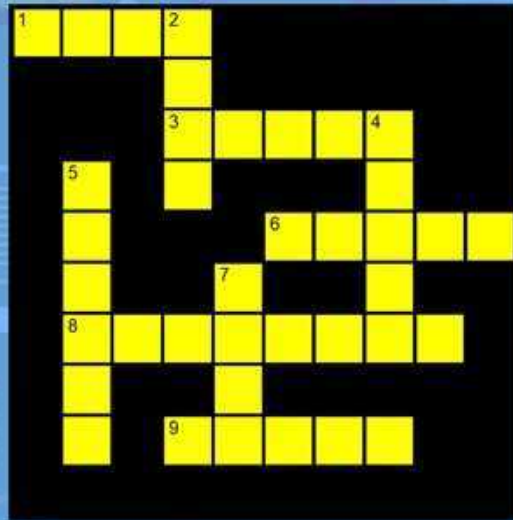


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Schools Recognised for Championing Emotional Wellbeing

Seven Wolverhampton schools have been recognised for their commitment to promoting emotional health and wellbeing, receiving a prestigious ATTUNE award at a special event last week.

The event, held at Fordhouses Cricket Club, marked a significant milestone in Wolverhampton's journey to embed emotional wellbeing and trauma-informed practice at the heart of education through the Wolverhampton ATTUNE Project — a two-year City of Wolverhampton Council-led programme that supports schools in embedding sustainable, trauma-informed practices.

Schools progress through Bronze, Silver, and Gold levels, each recognising deeper integration of the ATTUNE principles – to be attachment-aware and trauma-informed, to build trust and understanding individual needs, to use nurturing and consistent approaches, and to ensure emotional wellbeing is a whole-school priority.

The seven schools – Loxdale Primary, Broadmeadow Special School, Khalsa Academy, St Peter's Collegiate Academy, St Michael's C of E Primary, Christ Church Infant and Junior School, and Low Hill Nursery – were part of the original trauma-informed pilot and have now successfully achieved an ATTUNE award.

Their efforts have led to meaningful changes in school culture, teaching practices, and

student support systems, and each school was invited to receive their award and share stories of transformation, from improved student engagement to stronger staff-pupil relationships.

Councillor Obaida Ahmed, Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing and Community, said: *"We came together to recognise and celebrate the incredible efforts of several local schools*



in achieving the ATTUNE Charter. These schools have shown what it truly means to be attachment-aware, trauma-informed, and nurturing in their approach to education."

Councillor Jacqui Coogan, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education, added: *"This has been a wonderful opportunity to hear first-hand about the positive changes these schools have made. I would encourage schools who are not already part of ATTUNE but would like to be, to register their interest for the next programme beginning in spring 2026."*

To register an interest, schools should please visit:

<http://educationalpsychologywolverhampton.co.uk/schools/attune.html>



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Bilston

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Lower Bradley	01902 552212
Lunt	01902 552324
Portobello	01902 654650

Emergency Services

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

Health Organisations

Arthritis Action.....	0203 781 7120
Bilston Heath Centre	01902 444003
Bilston Sports Injury Clinic	07445 119139
New Cross Hospital (switchbrd)	01902 307999
NHS Non-Emergency	111
Woodcross Health Centre	01902 675588
Wolverhampton City NHS Trust.....	01902 553909

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Bilston South (formerly East)

Gillian Wildman.....	07971 837375
Rashpal Kaur.....	07976 882469
Stephen Simkins	07775 007989

Ettingshall North

Zee Russell	07880 176838
Jeszemma Howl	07816 085166
Jenny Cockayne	07527 388564

Bilston North

Linda Leach.....	07771 836016
Leigh New	07771 836616
Anita Stanley.....	07707 204986

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Nation Domestic Violence	0808 2000 247
RSPCA	0300 1234 999
RSPB.....	0845 1200501
Samaritans	116 123

Places of Worship

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Bilston Methodist Church	01902 402137
Bilston Congregational Church	07704 322807

Bradley Methodist Church.....	01902 402137
Christ Church, Coseley	01902 687283
Church of God of Prophecy	01902 497370
Excel Church	01902 498781
Guru Nanak Gurdwara.....	01902 496135
Holy Spirit Ministries.....	07811 399979
Holy Trinity Oxford St	01902 493459
New Testament Church of God	01902 498861
Shri Durga Wbhawn Hindu	01902 354081
St Chads, Bilston.....	01902 494776
Stowlawn Methodist/Anglican Church ..	01902 402137
St Mary's, Oxford Street	01902 496306
St Leonard's Church	01902 491560
St Martins Church Bradley	01902 546460
The Asian Evangelical Church	01902 353705
Word of Spirit & Life Baptist Church	07976 713716

Schools

Bilston C of E Primary	01902 558690
Christ Church C of E Primary	01384 818375
Field View Primary.....	01902 925701
Green Park School	01902 556429
Holy Trinity Catholic Primary	01902 240901
Hurst Hill Primary.....	01384 818845
Loxdale Primary.....	01902 558570
Manor Primary.....	01902 556460
Moorcroft Wood Primary School.....	01902 495943
Moseley Park Academy.....	01902 553901
Ormiston South W'ton & Bilston Acad ..	01902 493797
Stowlawn Primary	01902 556463
St Martin's C of E Primary	01902 925700
The Rosewood School	01384 816800
Villiers Primary School.....	01902 558993
Wallbrook Primary	01384 818985
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Crossword Answers

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