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Wolverhampton Celebrates Fairtrade Fortnight



Party on 3rd October 2025 at Wellington Road Campus Bilston."

"The catering students will be baking Fairtrade cakes for guests in the presence of The Mayor Of Wolverhampton Cllr Craig Collingswood"

"Wolverhampton is a very proud Fairtrade City and this year we have been celebrating our 21st year anniversary of being a certified Fairtrade City which included a special celebration at the Mayors Parlour back in March in front of distinguished guests."

"As the Fairtrade Foundation states: We live in a world where fairness isn't a given, but the power to get there is in our hands. Together, our actions can have a positive impact on real people's lives. Fairer pay. Fairer treatment. Fairer futures. That's Fairtrade. It's not just a label – it's a movement. So, whatever you do, and however you do it: Do it Fair."

"The difference is something we can all make when we choose Fairtrade and campaign as part of a UK-wide movement calling for a fairer system behind the things we consume every day."

"As Chair can I say a personal thank you to everyone who supports Fairtrade across our great city and continues to support the work we all do on the Partnership." Together we are making a difference.

Fairtrade Fortnight 2025 will take place from September 22 to October 5, focusing on promoting fair trade practices and supporting farmers and workers globally and Wolverhampton City Fairtrade Partnership will be celebrating with a very special College Tea Party.

Julia Farrell - Chair of Wolverhampton City Fairtrade Partnership says, *"Fairtrade Fortnight is a special time in the campaigning calendar whereby all supporters and campaigners across the UK raise awareness of trading fairly"*

"We are especially delighted to announce that we have a new partnership with City of Wolverhampton College and there are exciting plans ahead for the future - starting with a fabulous Tea



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Wolverhampton City Life

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PART OF WEST MIDLANDS MAGAZINES LTD

Company No. 10452329

Registered office:

39 High Street

Wednesfield

Wolverhampton

WV11 1ST

PUBLISHER/EDITOR

Simon Archer

Tel. 07534 603662

EMAIL

simon@westmidlandsmagazines.com

LETTERS/NOSTALGIA

Send to:

Wolverhampton City Life

16 Holberg Grove

Wolverhampton

WV11 3LE

MAGAZINE DESIGN BY

Ed Wilde

Studio 28

studio@s28.co.uk

PRINTED BY

Buxton Press Limited

Palace Road

Buxton

Derbyshire

SK17 6AE

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Dear Reader,

Welcome to the Oct/Nov issue of Wolverhampton City Life.

I must start off by saying a massive well done and thank you to all those who volunteer around this area.

You would be amazed at how many people do something for nothing (no pay and often very little praise) in our community.

I'm not even going to attempt to mention them all, but if you know one of them (school governors, litter pickers, music festival and event organisers, Rotary and Lions members, Scout and Guides leaders, neighbours who put peoples' bins out etc) maybe just tell them they're appreciated.

The world would be a lot worse off without them.

Anyway, I have some big news... drum roll...

I've launched a new website – WestMidsLife.com – which went live on 1st September. There are several reasons for doing this;

Firstly, I usually don't have enough space in the magazines to satisfy the demand from people who send in articles and features and I don't like disappointing them. Now, I can put their piece online or maybe put part of it in the magazine and rest on the website, as there's no limitations on space.

Secondly, more and more of my advertisers are asking for digital options and previously, I couldn't help them with that.

Also, I can give them a far bigger audience – there are 6.8 million people in the West Midlands!

Finally, although people tell me they love the magazines, there will come a time (not yet!) when printed magazines are past their sell by date. I need something in place for when that day comes.

I do need to stress, it's not an online magazine, but there will be elements of what you enjoy in the magazines, on there.

There will also be an extensive 'What's On section' so if you have an event coming up that you'd like to promote. Please email me the details.

I hope you like it. Check it out now WestMidsLife.com

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

The next issue will cover December and January and will be out on 25th November so if you want to be in it, please contact me by 7th November.

Enjoy your read!

Simon



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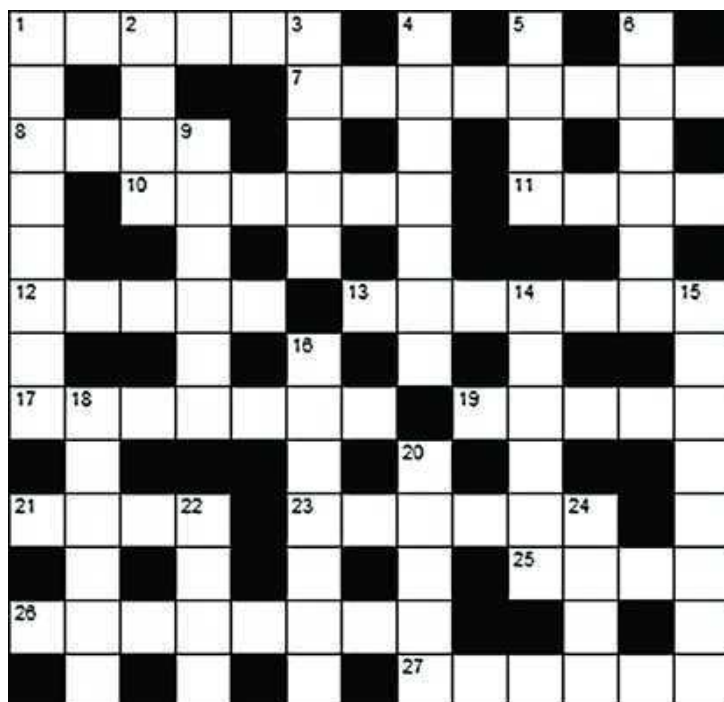
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Crossword

Please see answers
on page 31



Across

- 1 Motionless (6)
- 7 Leftover (8)
- 8 Partiality (4)
- 10 Dried grape (6)
- 11 Pin, tack (4)
- 12 Head of a monastery (5)
- 13 Highly contagious viral disease (7)
- 17 Stress (7)
- 19 Lightweight wood (5)
- 21 Clasp, clench (4)
- 23 Kitchen appliance (6)
- 25 Duty, function (4)
- 26 Camouflage (8)
- 27 Alcove (6)

Down

- 1 Deduct (8)
- 2 Slightly open (4)
- 3 Fresh, chilly (5)
- 4 Disjoined, apart (7)
- 5 Norse god (4)
- 6 Extreme scarcity of food (6)
- 9 Hairdressing establishments (6)
- 14 Ice dancer (6)
- 15 Lurch, reel (8)
- 16 Egotism, arrogance (7)
- 18 Insect with pincers (6)
- 20 Influence, authority (5)
- 22 Piece of paper, leaf (4)
- 24 Prickly plant with flowers (4)



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News In Brief

Manders Photo – More Names!

In our Aug/Sept issue, we printed a photo of workers from Manders Brothers, asking if anyone recognised anyone.

Mavis Littleford writes; Thank you for publishing this photo. My father-in-law, Walter Littleford is seated on the second row, second from the right. His daughter commented that he is the only one with sleeves rolled up, but that was how he always worked.

We also recognise Doreen Griffiths on the third row, fifth from the right, the tiny lady in the centre.

On the second row third from the left is Ken Bird. Ken and Walter were neighbours who lived in Cavendish Road. The 2nd lady from the left was Valerie Edwards. The man far left 2nd row down, could have been Harry Dando

Joan Monckton (nee Rogers) says, I have been sent a photo of the above Paint Warehouse Staff at Manders. I worked there 1963 – 1969 and I recognise some of the people in the photo.

Back Row; Arthur Breakwell, George Brown, Kenny Hall, Lenny Cunningham.

2nd Row; Doreen Griffiths, Nellie Draper, Glenda?

3rd Row; Arthur Eagle, Kenny Bird, Mr Capstick (a Director), George Cox (Warehouse Manager), Bob Knight, John Sweeney

Bottom Row: Eddie? Denis Corfield, Martin Corfield, Draper

Niki Corfield adds, *“You have named my late grandad front row, third left in the pic who is Dennis Corfield. My late Dad, Martin Corfield is front row second right.”*

Thanks to everyone for their contributions.

Wolverhampton Woman's Poker Success

A local retiree and keen poker player from Wolverhampton has triumphantly won £3,150 after making the final table in a major women's poker festival in London.

Val Morris, who was proudly the oldest player at the final table, won her seat to the PokerStars



Women's Summer Festival in an online qualifier tournament on PokerStars. She claimed 8th place out of the 193 entry field which featured professional players from all over the world including Chess Grandmaster and PokerStars Ambassador Jennifer Shahade who won the Main Event for £22,200.

Val has been playing on PokerStars for 20 years. While technically retired, she is very active in the grassroots poker scene centred around voyageinpoker.com, the poker forum that she founded 20 years ago that now boasts over 1,100 members, and she wants to encourage more players back into the game.

The PokerStars Women's Summer Festival took place from August 12-17 at The Clermont Hotel and was designed to encourage more women, who currently make up approximately just 3% of tournament poker fields, to play the game by creating a dynamic, inclusive space to elevate female competitors.



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Charity Football Competition Notches up a Century

by Steve Gordos

When industrialist John William Hunt came up with the idea of a football competition to raise funds for the local blind, little did he know it would be still going strong a century later.

The J W Hunt Cup has embarked on its centenary season, having raised nearly £450,000 for the Wolverhampton, Dudley and Districts Institution for the Blind which later became the Beacon Centre. His love of football and a desire to help the community led to the competition which bears his name.



A superb trophy was commissioned with handles in the shape of crocodiles, the crocodile being the symbol Chillington had adopted to go on all its products.

Sadly, Hunt died on December 10, 1925, before the first J W Hunt Cup was staged. He was 82 when he died at his home, Maycroft, Ash Hill, Compton, Wolverhampton after being taken ill. He had retired as Chillington chairman three years earlier.

Out of respect, plans for the cup to be played in the 1925-6 season were shelved, so the inaugural meeting was held on Thursday, September 16, 1926, at the Molineux Hotel. The hotel building, now extended and housing the city's archives, has on it a blue plaque to mark the historic meeting.

Wolverhampton Wanderers were represented at that meeting and from the beginning have been stalwart supporters of the J W Hunt Cup. By coincidence the old blind institution was in Waterloo Road, just a short distance from Molineux.

The first 13 finals were staged at Molineux, beginning with a 2-0 win by Short Heath United over Cannon Iron in 1927. Short Heath won three more finals and

their total of four triumphs has never been equalled. Wolves continue to allow Molineux to be used and, in all, it has been the final venue on 56 occasions.

The J W Hunt Cup president Alex Hamil is a former top-flight ref. "It's a great competition," says Hamil, "and it may now be unique as it is open to clubs from different leagues." Hamil added: "We have had great support from the clubs and local companies over the years." Hamil was in 2013 awarded the MBE for services to football and the visually impaired.



A dinner will be held at Molineux, in September next year on the anniversary of the founding meeting and a book charting the history of the cup will be published. Written by committee men John Hughes and Steve Gordos, J W Hunt Cup Centenary will contain details and photos for every final as well as a history of the cup and the figures who have served it well.

It also features the historic occasion in October, 2021, when a J W Hunt Cup first-round tie between Old Wulfrunians and Bloxwich side Lane Head saw an English record for the most kicks in a penalty shoot-out. There were 44, Old Wulfs winning it 19-18 after the game had ended 3-3.

Another great industrialist and benefactor, the late Sir Jack Hayward, once said of the cup "It's part of Wolverhampton's history."

He was spot on with that verdict and Alex Hamil adds: "We have a great committee who ensure the competition runs smoothly." Clearly, the J W Hunt Cup's future is in safe hands.

To read the full article and to see more photos, visit www.westmidslife.com or use the QR Code.



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Wolverhampton Estate's Centenary Celebrated with Special Exhibition



A special exhibition will go on show next month to celebrate the centenary of Low Hill Estate.

The exhibition at Low Hill Library will trace the life of the estate through photos, maps and personal recollections and mark around 100 years since the first homes were built on the estate.

It is the result of a memories group set up at Low Hill Library as part of the wider Know Your Neighbourhood project, and thanks to the support of the Friends of Wolverhampton Archives.

The Mayor of Wolverhampton Councillor Craig Collingswood will be attending the launch event taking place on Wednesday 1 October from 2pm-6pm, featuring an interactive art workshop led by Charlotte Webb. There will be a talk by the Friends of Wolverhampton Archives tracing the estate's development at 3pm, followed by a poetry reading by Emma Purshouse. Entry is free and all are welcome.

The exhibition will remain on display at Low Hill Library until early next year, with visitors invited to explore the collection and immerse themselves in memories of working at Goodyear and Guy Motors, socialising at the Bushbury Arms, enjoying shows at the Clifton Cinema and the Penny Bike Park,

shopping in Showell Circus, and attending local schools and churches.

Jen Lees, project lead for Know Your Neighbourhood at Wolverhampton Libraries, said: "We've amassed a fascinating archive of material thanks to the generosity of local people. This centenary display is an opportunity to share their stories and to celebrate the Low Hill community."



The Know Your Neighbourhood project involves funding of up to £30 million and is designed to widen participation in volunteering and tackle loneliness in 27 disadvantaged areas across England. The

funding comes from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and has been distributed by Arts Council England (ACE) in partnership with national charity Libraries Connected.

Wolverhampton Libraries was awarded £86,000 which has been used to create a range of social activities in libraries across the city including bereavement social groups, walking groups, arts and crafts sessions, menopause cafes, Diwali celebrations, and several local history groups focusing on distinct areas of the city, such as Low Hill.



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Rogue Patrol

Preview of a New Book by Local Author Ray Palmer

It has been quite a long time ago now, but back in the summer of 1971, I was a Parachute Regiment soldier serving in Belfast.

I had left my hometown of Wolverhampton, in 1968, aged just 15, and now, my new home consisted of barracks in Aldershot.

In 1969, the unrest in Northern Ireland had prompted the government to send troops there. It was only a matter of time that I would be sent there, but first, I had a 12 month course in London to attend.

Belfast '71: I was one of the youngest soldiers in the unit, and after my constant grumbling of being stuck inside, my superiors finally agreed that



I could go out on an evening patrol. I was fed up of being cooped up in the mill (our lovely accommodation) and missing out on all the action, but the boss had my best interest at heart as I was the youngest, although I didn't agree with him.

Finally, on my very first patrol after about an hour just off the

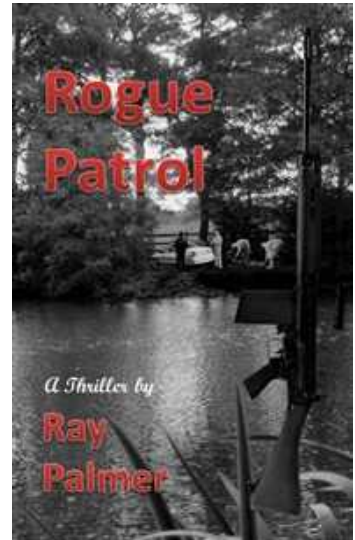
Falls Road, a shot was fired by the patrol commander. He gave a warning before he fired, and the round never hit the commander's target. That was the baptism of my first patrol, and now many years later that true incident has now inspired me to write the following story. I pondered on a 'What if'... What if a patrol made a serious error? ... What could happen if it was covered up? ... And what would happen when the police discover a body years later?

The story 'Rogue Patrol' reflects such a scenario, resulting in a can of worms being opened of huge proportions and someone is trying to put a lid on it; suppressing it at all costs. The investigation spreads further afield, when the police in the UK mainland are dragged into it, culminating in a dramatic conclusion.

Full of twists and turns, I hope you the reader, will enjoy my mystery thriller.

I would like to acknowledge the following for the help they have given me in writing my novel. Maureen Harrison, Georgina Garbett, John Donnelly and Dee Palmer, former member of Jethro Tull.

That really explains a few things. It's not a war book, far from it. The ending comes as a total shock, I love twists at the end of thrillers, and this has a good one. The book does feature Wednesfield and New Cross Hospital and also Hilton Park service station.



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Can you find all the spooky words hidden in the grid?



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ghost
pumpkin
scary
skeleton
spider
sweets
treat
trick
witch
wizard



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New Website Launched for the West Midlands

At the start of September, a new website was launched with the aim of bringing the people of the West Midlands closer together.



WestMidsLife.com will have a comprehensive What's On section, along with pages on Food & Drink, Homes & Gardens, Finance, Education, Occasions, Entertainment, Health & Beauty, Business, Travel, News, Property, Charities and Motoring.

The news and articles will be about people, places and organisations from across the whole of the West Midlands, so advertisers will now have a potential audience of 6.8 million people.

Editor, Simon Archer says, *"I do need to stress, it's not an online magazine, but there will be elements of what you enjoy in the magazines, on there. Although the magazines remain strong, this will take us on to the next level with a far greater reach, more flexibility and more options."*

"The advantages of the new website are enormous, for instance, I usually don't have enough space in the magazines to satisfy the demand from people who send in articles and features and I don't like disappointing them. Now, I can put their piece online or maybe put part of it in the magazine and rest on the website, as there's no limitations on space."

"Secondly, more and more of my advertisers are asking for digital options and

previously, I couldn't help them with that. Also, I can give them a far bigger audience – there are 6.8 million people in the West Midlands!"

The 'What's On' section is designed so readers can see at a glance what events are taking place using the Calendar.

This saves people having to visit each venues' website to see what shows are on.

WestMidsLife.com is launching with a huge social media campaign and a series of radio adverts to drive visitors to the site.



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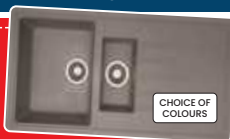
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shields the insulation layer from rain, UV exposure, and damage, extending its lifespan. Certain renders even enhance fire resistance, offering added peace of mind. With texture and colour options ranging from traditional mineral to sleek silicone or brick-effect finishes, rendering also enables homeowners to tailor their property's curb appeal.



Energy Efficiency & Comfort

Proper thermal insulation significantly slows heat transfer through walls, reducing heating bills in winter and cooling demands in summer. In the UK, uninsulated walls can account for up to 25% of a home's heat loss—making insulation a vital investment. Modern systems—such as External Wall Insulation (EWI)—combine insulation with a protective render. This envelope retains warmth, reduces energy use, and enhances comfort. Additionally, insulation mitigates condensation and mould by keeping interior wall temperatures above dew point, safeguarding both building and occupant health.



Durability & Weather Protection

Render acts as more than a decorative finish—it

Added Value & Sustainability

Well-insulated, rendered homes often command higher resale values. They reduce reliance on heating systems, lowering carbon emissions and supporting the UK's net-zero goals. Together, these features contribute to high-performance buildings—spaces that are energy-efficient, thermally sound, and more sustainable in operation.

Community Spotlight: Ecotex Contracts Ltd in Bilston

Local expertise matters—and in Bilston, residents are fortunate to have **Ecotex Contracts Ltd**, a family-run specialist with over 25–30 years of experience providing affordable rendering and solid-wall insulation for both domestic and commercial properties across the West Midlands. Based at **43 Broad Street, Bilston**, their team has completed more than 10,000 projects, earning excellent reviews for their craftsmanship and reliability.

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Willenhall Man Crowned Winner of Britain's Best Pub Shed

Glen Gandy, 51, spent around two years and £20k, constructing the incredible DIY man-cave from scratch at his home in Willenhall.



The local tradesman built his Wolves-inspired bar in his garden, complete with DJ booth with decks and jacuzzi.

The boozer, called Cognitos, also boast a Space Invaders arcade machine, juke box, its own beer garden, a jacuzzi and even a toilet/shower room. Decked out in Wolverhampton Wanderers FC memorabilia, the footy-themed bar has now beat off 1,000 other entries to be named Pub Shed of the Year.



Glen says "I wanted to create a warm and welcoming space for family and friends to come and enjoy and make great memories."

Delighted dad-of-two Glen, who is a builder, said: "I was just honoured to get down to the final three really, I never expected to win at all."

"We had a big party to celebrate, which is exactly what this pub was made for in the first place. It feels brilliant to win - especially beating a Baggies fan. Funnily enough I know him and I plastered his home, so I'll be sure to give him a bit of stick."

Glen's stunning creation was built with the help of friends beginning in June 2023 after he started planning the project during lockdown.

After sourcing materials from local builders merchants, he then spent 24 months on the build, which also has umbrellas and benches outside along with a barbecue and seating area. The bar has signed Wolves shirts decorating the walls, a fridge fully-stocked with beer and a large screen TV.

He has since hosted many parties and get-togethers with friends and family - including his daughter's recent 18th birthday with more than 100 guests.

Twofatblokes.co.uk and Ngage Radio run the annual competition for beer-loving 'sheddies' to enter the converted Pub Shed of The Year.

Ashley Turner, from Two Fat Blokes Bar Sign Emporium, said: "This is our fifth year running the competition, the quality of the entries makes judging harder every year.

"The winner Cognitos is a well deserved first place, What an amazing pub feel."

The winner was announced live on Ngage Radio on August 23.

To read the full article and see more photos, visit **www.westmidslife.com** or use the **QR Code.**





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Crossword Answers

From page 10



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