SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2026

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My Village Voice

Issue Number Ninety One - September & October 2026

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November / December edition out Nov 5th
Editorial Copy Deadline - October 23rd
Ad Booking Deadline - October 26th

recycle

Once you've read My Village Voice recycle it, by giving it to a friend!

My cucumbers look more like bananas!

So much has happened since the last edition.

England finished Third in the World Cup, smashing France 6-4, why didn't we play like that against Argentina? Then we've had another new Prime Minister, *"King of the North"* Andy Burnham has come to save us all, and the country, *I do hope so.*

The four heatwaves were relentless throughout July and August pushing the UK to its hottest summer on record, and the driest July recorded in England and Wales since records began in 1836, until next year!

My tomatoes, onions and beetroot did ok, however my cucumbers look more like bananas, they are thick at one end, thin in the middle, and then go thick again, they're bright yellow too, *I don't think I will be eating them!*

There's lots of events coming up in the months ahead, with Acton Trussell Comedy Club bringing some well known hilarious comedians to the village, they are also hosting their Autumn quiz night, which is always a great night out.

Derrington Social Club are hosting a Psychic Show, this is a new event for the village, offering something different, as we move into the darker nights.

The club have also started a second darts team, organised by captain Jayden, the team consists of all ages, ***giving a unique opportunity for youngsters to play professionally,*** *will they create the next Luke Littler?*

The National Trust Staffordshire Centre have some interesting talks coming to Walton Village Hall, with Rodney Paul presenting *Passionate About Penguins,* guiding us through the different breeds of penguin, their habitats and personalities.

Then Dean Nixon presents *The Magic Of Pantomime,* explaining the traditions associated with pantomime, such as gender switching, the inclusion of animals, audience participation, the tried and tested pantomime jokes and specific characters. *Oh no he won't I hear you cry!*

Brocton Village Hall are holding their famous Rummage Sale in September, it's still just 20p to get in, and find yourself a bargain!

Stafford Film Theatre are back with twelve Tuesday evenings of outstanding cinema from Britain and around the world.

Plus much more inside...

Dan Mitchell 6/09/26

Get in Touch

5,400 copies are hand-delivered free to homes and businesses in ***Acton Trussell, Bednall, Bradley, Brocton, Church Eaton, Colwich, Coppenhall, Derrington, Dunston, Haughton, The Haywoods, Hyde Lea, Milford, Seighford & Walton on the Hill***

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At Newcastle-under-Lyme School, we understand that being confident in your child's education is something you need to be sure about. At NULS, we take the time to truly understand every child: building a full and complete picture of who they are, so they can thrive with us.

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MP, Sir Gavin Williamson taking notes on his walkaround

2026 Parish Scarecrow And Hanging Basket Competition

Acton Trussell, Bednall and Teddesley Hay Community Centre Trust have great pleasure in announcing the results of the 2026 Parish Scarecrow and Hanging Basket Competitions.

Thanks to all those who entered the spirit of the competitions with some brilliant and humorous entries making it exceptionally difficult to select a winner.

The Hanging Baskets were particularly difficult to find a winner as the number and quality of them were exceptional.

Local MP, Sir Gavin Williamson, popped into Bednall's Place of Welcome to announce the winners of this year's Scarecrow competition.

Sir Gavin and a group of work experience youngsters walked the village to see all our scarecrows. He gave a speech on how judging scarecrow competitions is close in difficulty, and responsibility, as judging best in class of the local dog shows.

The results of the 2026 Scarecrow Competition

Winner of Best Scarecrow: was awarded to Mrs Helen Turner-Peachey and Theo with the Julia Donaldson Inspired ***"Scarecrow Wedding"***

Highly Commended were ***Little Bo Peep, The Lady Gardener and The Farmer & Wife***

Hanging Basket Competition

Organised by the Community Centre Trust, trustee and head judge Alan Webster thanked all the many entrants for their creativity and brightening-up the villages during the summer.

In the hanging basket competition, ***first prize went to Mr and Mrs Terry Love*** of 5 Ivy Court, Acton Trussell whilst ***highly commended was awarded to Mr. Andrew Lynham*** of 4 Meadow Lane, Acton Trussell.

Each prize winner received a framed certificate and an M&S Voucher of £25 for the winners and £15 for those highly commended.

Formal certificates and prizes were distributed to all of the above.

Village Voice
Acton & Bednall
NEWS IN BRIEF

Autumn Quiz Night

There will be an Autumn Quiz on **Friday 9th October**, at the community centre. Quentin and Yvette return to lead another fun evening, including our traditional Fish&Chip Supper.

Funds split between Friends of Bednall and All Saints Church. Contact David Primrose via email at primrose01@talktalk.net to enter.

Bednall Car Park

Bore holes have been made to determine position of gas pipe.It does look as if the gas pipe meets the Highways specification but Highways are still thinking of further work at the entrance to the carpark, and also at the entrance to the affordable housing.

The Parish Council feels it should now start the maintenance of the carpark although it has not been taken over yet. Ditton Services have been asked to add this to their schedule of works in the villages.

Neighbourhood Plan

A meeting was held on 14th July to discuss Highways and the Neighbourhood Plan.

Public meetings will be held every 4 - 6 weeks with the working group meeting before them to prepare for the meeting.

The Highways Department representatives were subject to intensive questioning. The next meeting is in September.

All Saints – Place of Welcome

Everyone is welcome to All Saints Community room on **Tuesday's 2-4pm**.

Just come to this Place of Welcome to enjoy a bit of company, a good chat and some refreshments. *We look forward to seeing you there.*

Green Bednall

Over fifty people gathered in the Community Centre on 13th July to watch our screening of the People's Emergency Briefing, which provided a fact-based presentation of the urgency of the climate crisis, and a challenge to respond both locally and nationally.

This stimulated a lively response amongst those present.

Green Bednall is hosting a follow-on Open Meeting in All Saints Church Community Room on **Monday 14th September, 7.15pm for 7.30pm-9pm** to discuss what more we can do at a local level.

Everyone is welcome. For further information, do contact Toni Castle, Dave Barrow, Alex Thompson or David Primrose.

Tolkien's Middle Earth Returns To Great Haywood

Colwich and the Haywoods held an exhibition about JRR Tolkien's time in Staffordshire. For a weekend in July, Great Haywood became Tolkien's village of Tavrobel with elves and even the wizard Gandalf walking the streets.

Staffordshire and, in particular, Great Haywood, was seminal in the development of Tolkien's wonderful imaginary worlds – ideas which he started writing down while he lived in the village after his experiences at the Western Front during the First World War.

Gandalf approaching the Grey Bridge of Tavrobel

As well as local people, visitors to the Exhibition came from all over Staffordshire and the UK, and from Indonesia, China, USA, Germany (*including Gandalf*) and Hungary.

The much admired map showing walks in the footsteps of JRR Tolkien is by artist Hannah Reynolds (*pic below*) is on permanent display in the Square in Great Haywood.

A booklet of walks is still available in local shops and cafes, ***so come and walk in the footsteps of JRR Tolkien!***

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Stafford Flower Club Move To New Venue

This is an exciting month for us at Stafford Flower Club as we moving to Stafford North End Community Centre, our days and timings are just the same as they have always been. Unfortunately our past venue is closing but we are looking forward to a fresh new start in the North End.

On **Wednesday 23rd September,** starting at 2.15 pm, we will be welcoming Louise Jones as our guest arranger bringing to us a theme of "*Back to the Future*" in flowers, a very apt subject considering we are starting afresh.

To ease everyone into coming to our new venue we are making a **Special Offer of charging only £5.00** per person entrance fee for members and visitors alike, *this is for September only* and includes light refreshments.

We just want to welcome everyone to our new venue and our meetings.

Louise Jones

Louise, is a judge, demonstrator and teacher and has been a member of NAFAS *(National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies*) for 34 years. She is a member of 3 flower clubs and began demonstrating several years ago.

She does both traditional and modern arrangements and loves sharing practical skills, mechanics and design ideas with club members.

All the flowers that Louise arranges will be offered as prizes for the raffle so, the more tickets you buy the more chances you have of your ticket number being drawn, and you will be able to take one of the arrangements home with you.

Come and watch the art of flower arranging, you may learn a few things about it as well as hearing Louise's story of Back to the Future.

Then on **Wednesday 28th October 2026,** starting at 2.15 pm, we welcome Gill Mills as Guest Flower Arranger with a theme of *"The Music of Flowers".*

Gill became a NAFAS Area Demonstrator in 2009, living in Stapleford, Notts, she is currently Secretary/ Programme Secretary for Stapleford Flower Club, an active member of Breaston & District Flower Circle and is the Flower Arranger Magazine Representative for her Area.

Gill Mills - Musical flowers

Flower arranging since her teens, Gill takes part in local flower festivals and joined teams representing Breaston Flower Circle at Nottingham's St. Barnabas Cathedral, Chatsworth and Southwell Minster Flower Festivals. Gill became an independent teacher through the NAFAS Leisure Initiative in 2011 leading courses and one day workshops. Since retiring from teaching in 2006, she has completed a Contemporary Design Course, C & G Level 1 and 2 in Flower Arranging and also Floral Styling.

October is subscription month for SFC. If you would like to become a member, giving free entry to our club meetings and light refreshments for the months of October to February 2027 the membership fee is £28. Perks of the membership include affiliation to NAFAS (*National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies*) and their events and workshops (*offered only to members*) and a discounted annual subscription to the Flower Arranging magazine.

Come and see how Gill encourages her flowers to work in harmony with each other.

Meeting at Stafford North End Community Centre, Thorpe Hall, Holmcroft Road, Stafford. ST16 1JG at 2.15 pm. Easy to find, huge car park and near regular bus routes and level access into the Hall. Visitors always welcome - £8. Doors open from 1.45pm.

If you would like further information, please contact us: Email Margaret at: staffordflowerclub@gmail.com or ring Ros on: 07985 602287

We are also on Facebook where you can see photos of past flower arrangements.

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Brocton Village Hall News

It's been a quiet couple of months here at Brocton Village Hall but we've been busy preparing for the '*ber*' months!

In September we are holding our ever popular **Rummage Sale on Saturday 19th 1pm-3pm.**

It's just 20p to join us so do come along and grab yourself a bargain!

Saturday October 10th is Quiz Night down at the hall. We have a licenced bar and light refreshments are served. *Everyone welcome!*

November and December are our busiest months of the year at the hall with our **Family Christmas Fayre on Saturday 19th November**, our **Wreath-Making Workshops on Sunday 29th November** and our **Christmas Party on Saturday 5th December.**

We're busy putting final details to these events so check our website **www.broctonvillagehall.org.uk** for details or follow us on Facebook - Brocton Village Hall.

To finish off the year we are always delighted to serve mulled wine, hot drinks and mince pies after the **Annual Carols on the Green organised by Brocton Parish Council on Sunday 5th December.**

Don't forget we also have regular clubs/classes who meet on a weekly basis such as the ***WI, Brownies, Yoga, Pilates, Line Dancing and GKY Dance*** and we also offer private hire for functions.

email hall-booking@brocton villagehall.org.uk for all enquiries

The Local Vocals Community Choir in full voice at its Showtunes & Scones summer concert - a packed house enjoyed songs from the musicals and cream teas.

Local Vocals Summer Concert Raises Over £1,000 For Charities

Showtunes & Scones on 19th July held at Acton Trussell Community Centre proved to be a resounding success, with a packed hall, favourite songs from the musicals, delicious refreshments and, above all, a wonderful sense of community. It was a delight to see so many people singing along, smiling and enjoying an afternoon of music, laughter and friendship.

Acton Trussell Community Centre all set up and ready to go!

We are absolutely delighted that, thanks to the generosity of our audience and supporters, the event raised just over £1,000. This fantastic amount will be shared equally between two local charities supporting people living with Parkinson's and Dementia, together with their families and carers. Every ticket purchased, raffle ticket bought and donation made contributed towards this amazing total, so thank you all for your kindness and generosity.

A very special thank you goes to Grete, whose beautifully baked scones were the perfect accompaniment to the afternoon tea. They were enjoyed by everyone and received many well-deserved compliments.

Our grateful thanks also go to Nick for his invaluable help in setting up the venue and providing his expertise with the sound system. His support behind the scenes played a huge part in ensuring the afternoon ran so smoothly.

Finally, thank you to all the members of Local Vocals for their hard work, enthusiasm and dedication in preparing the programme. We thoroughly enjoyed performing for such an appreciative audience and hope everyone who came along enjoyed the afternoon as much as we did.

The mixed voice choir, under the guidance of Sue Searle, continues to go from strength to strength and increasing popularity, presenting frequent concerts at their Community Centre rehearsal base and in various venues throughout the region.

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Derrington News and Events

The fantastic summer weather, made for a lovely evening for the annual Village BBQ and Music Evening, with a great turnout from villagers, music followers and the wider community.

The evening brings together volunteers from both Derrington Village Hall and Derrington Social Club committees, Kev and Karen Trustees from the Village Hall working with Sarah and Will from the Social Club, between them they organised wonderful food and entertainment.

Nigel who attends the Social Club on the **3rd Tuesday of each month** along with various musicians, organised the musicians for the BBQ event. The dance floor was full most of the evening. *Derrington residents are music followers, and really do love to dance!*

Monthly Whist Drives continue to be well supported, and we are proud to be named the friendliest whist drive in the area. Please look out for the next whist drive, if you have never played, pop along and someone will help you.

Youngsters leading the way

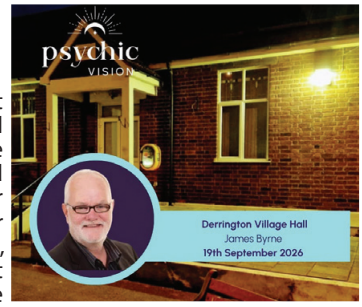
Derrington Social club has a second darts team, Jayden who is born and bred in Derrington, has stepped up and organised the team, he is also the captain. **The team consists of all ages**, *which is a unique quality here in Derrington.*

We wish Jay and the team the best of luck in the league, and thank Jay for leading the way.

If anyone has any ideas of any clubs, teams that they would like to pursue at the village hall or Social club please get in touch, you will be given our full support. Sarah who runs the bar is always a good point of contact.

Upcoming Events

Saturday 19th September - Psychic Show



This is a new event for the village hall to host, please see the posters around the village hall or pop into the bar for more details, something different as we move into the darker nights.

Saturday 10th November - Elvis tribute

Elvis will entertain a packed out audience, the tickets sold very quickly, however if you have missed out, Elvis will be back with his friend Buddy Holly next year, please watch out for those tickets going on sale.

Saturday 14th November - Quiz Night

Syd and Rosemary will be back to do there annual quiz, Rosemary really puts lots of time and effort into this quiz beforehand and then she passes over to Syd to be the quizmaster, great team effort from this lovely couple, we thank them for there continued support. Tickets will be on sale early October from the bar.

Saturday 21st November - Darts Knockout

New event Darts knock out, this will be held in the village hall and social club, we are hoping for a good turn out young and old to see who is crowned champion of the Dart board, not that keen on darts? Still come along and support this new event.

Saturday 12th December
Serenity Singers Christmas Concert

This really is a great way to start the festive period off, more details to follow.

Also look out for regular ***Whist Drives, Bingo, Films, Table Tennis, return of Indoor Bowls, and many more,*** we truly believe there is something for everyone, come and see for yourself.

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Bednall Messy Church

Messy Church is a monthly programme of activities for children, run by St James church, Acton Trussell and All Saints church, Bednall.

On Saturday 4th July they met in All Saints, with the theme of fishing, the story of Jesus calling the fishermen to follow him and lots of fishy craft activities were enjoyed.

The session ended with a snack – cakes decorated with fishing rods and little fish!

Messy Church now returns from its break in August, with lots of monthly sessions to look forward to from September up to December. The next session will be on **12th September *'Messy Church on the Chase'*** and will involve a family picnic.

Then on **3rd October** Messy Harvest, **31st October** Pumpkin Praise, **5th December** Messy Christmas Countdown, **24th December** Christingle at St James.

To book a place for any of these free sessions, or to find out more, please contact: Ali aliwebb55@yahoo.com or WhatsApp 07811 196836 Alison aprimrose@talktalk.net or WhatsApp 07794 515142.

Unless indicated otherwise, we meet in All Saints Church in Bednall on the **first Saturday of each month, from 2 - 4 pm.**

All ages welcome – children to be accompanied by an adult. Each session ends with a drink and a teatime snack for the children.

We ask you to let us know if you'd like to attend a session so that we can prepare sufficient resources etc.

Sandon History Walk

There will be a guided History Walk in Sandon on **Sunday 4th October**. There is no need to book, just turn up on the day, in suitable footwear and clothing.

The walk will meet at Sandon Church **at 1.45pm for the 2pm walk.**

The walk is approximately 2 miles, which is followed by tea and cake afterwards, there is £5 per person donation in aid of the *"Time for Tea Fund"* at All Saints Church.

National Trust Staffordshire Centre Talks

The Staffordshire Centre's programme of talks at Walton Village Hall in Stafford continues on October 13th.

There is no need to book in advance, just turn up at the door and pay as you go in. However, it would help the organisers if you book your place(s) on our website **https://www.ntstafford.org.uk/** go to Events-Talks - Book a Talk.

All talks start at 2.30 pm and you do not have to be a member of the Centre to attend. Admission is £4.50 for non-members of the Centre and talks are followed by tea and biscuits.

Passionate About Penguins

by Rodney Paul - **13th October**

Rodney Paul has a keen interest in Antarctic history and reading accounts of early expeditions to Antarctica was the catalyst for his desire to experience the unique region himself.

Penguins are adorable birds that are very difficult to see in their natural habitat, but are easily recognised by their distinct characteristics and feature in many everyday products. The majority of penguin breeds are located in the coldest places on earth, but there are some colonies that live in warmer climates. This light-hearted talk will guide you through the different breeds of penguin, their habitats and personalities. We will also look at where these adorable creatures turn up in our daily lives.

The Magic Of Pantomime

A Talk by Dean Nixon – **10th November**

This amusing and informative talk is interspersed with entertaining videos. Pantomime is an amazing part of our

cultural heritage and the script often reflects society and what is happening in the world at a specific moment. It is *'a genre for whole families based on fairy tales, nursery and real-life stories, usually staged at Christmas but not directly referencing Christmas'.*

So where do the stories come from? They come from old, verbal or traditional stories and novels. Many pantomime tales come from Charles Perrault and the Grimm brothers (*Little Red Riding Hood, Cinderella, Puss in Boots*). From the Arabian Nights, we acquired *Aladdin, Ali Baba and the Voyages of Sinbad* and Robinson Crusoe gave us *Dick Whittington*.

There are many traditions associated with pantomime, such as gender switching, the inclusion of animals, audience participation, tried and tested pantomime jokes and specific characters. We will hear about some of the famous men and women who had played principal boy or dame, including Dan Leno, Samuel Simmons, Lucy Vestris, Vesta Tilley and Marie Lloyd.

To keep up with our future events, watch out for us in these pages or check out our Events page at **https://www.ntstafford.org.uk**

Staffs WI's Learn of Fire Safety in the Home

A group of WI members from across Staffordshire visited Stafford Fire Station to learn about fire safety in the home.

The visit was organised by Staffordshire Federation of Women's Institutes and included inspecting a fire appliance to see what equipment might be needed on *'a shout'*.

Firefighter Emily demonstrated the kit that has to be worn and the women marvelled at the weight that was involved. They were impressed that oxygen masks are carried for pet animals, too.

A fire safety talk was conducted by James, Community Safety Officer who explained that the majority of fires at home start in the kitchen. He advocated not leaving appliances such as washing machines and tumble dryers on unsupervised and warned of the dangers of leaving chargers switched on whilst the house is empty - or the occupants are in bed.

Prevention is the watch-word and Staffordshire Fire & Rescue offer a free home safety check to residents. They will provide and install smoke alarms free of charge . Special alarms that vibrate and/or flash a warning light can be fitted where there is a person in the home who is hard of hearing.

James urged residents of Staffordshire to book their free check by ringing 0800 0241 998 to make sure that they had the right protection. He also emphasised that in the event of a fire, you should get out, stay out and call 999.

Karen Sulway, Chair of Staffordshire Federation's Education & Public Affairs, said, '*It was a revelation to learn of the statistics around house fires and to know that free smoke alarms are available by booking a home safety check. I do hope residents will take advantage of this service to keep themselves and their loved ones safe*'.

Staffordshire WI Members with Firefighter Emily at Stafford Fire Station

To find out more about what the Staffordshire Federation of Women's Institutes has to offer, visit **www.sfwi.org** where there is a link to Facebook and Instagram.

Penkridge Inner Wheel - *Down On The Farm*

Members and guests have been '*down on the farm*', and a rather special one at that. Dairy farmer Matthew Weaver of Aston Pool Farm, Stone, invited us to his high welfare, state of the art dairy farm.

Many of us saw for the first time how robotic milking changes dairy farm management. Cows move freely, choosing when to rest, be fed and milked. Cows voluntarily enter a milking stall where the robot system identifies the cow's tag, cleans the udder, attaches the milking unit to the udder and begins milking. Data collection, amongst other criteria, automatically monitors milk quality and the cow's health.

It was an especially informative and impressive visit.

Matthew Weaver with president Catherine Beresford

As part of our commitment to global charities we invited Hannah Moore from Mary's Meals, a charity providing life-changing school meals to some of the world's poorest children. Set up by Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow and his brother Fergus from Argyll. Mary's Meals was born in 2002 when Magnus visited Malawi during a famine and asked a young man what his dreams were in life, he replied simply: *"I want to have enough food to eat and to go to school one day."*

That was the inspiration leading to the founding of Mary's Meals, which began by feeding 200 children in Malawi in 2002 and now works in 16 countries, feeding more than 3 million children a nutritious meal in their place of education, every school day. It was a moving and inspirational talk.

Members and Guests at Aston Pool Farm

Katherine Caine, (second left with her certificate), with Carolyne Lane, Catherine Beresford and Margaret Taylor showing founder member's certificates of those who could not be present.

Margaret Thomas hands a cheque to Hannah Moore from Mary's Meals.

Penkridge Inner Wheel has been raising money for local and international charities since it was founded 43 years ago. Recently, at a Moat House dinner and district meeting, four founder members had their ***Long Service In The Community*** commemorated with certificates.

Katherine Caine was presented with hers, and those for Dawn Cooch, Pauline Holden and Pamela McGauley, who could not be present, were presented at a later date.

For information on Inner Wheel contact Margaret Taylor 01543 769099 or 07791 160648 or you can email margaret_taylor@btinternet.com

Time For Afternoon Tea In Bednall

What a perfect day we had at Church view on the 18th July where 60 of us enjoyed afternoon tea together.

The sun shone, *(but not too much*!), and gentle music played adding to the ambience.

Thank you so much to everyone who helped make the afternoon such a lovely friendly event. Those who made cakes and sandwiches, loaned their crockery, cutlery, tiered cake stands and chairs. Those who made gorgeous table decorations, loaned gazebos and gave generously of their time on the day serving, making tea and clearing up afterwards.

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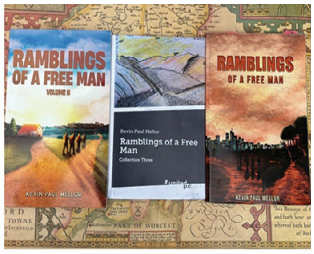

A Staffordshire Odyssey

A Staffordshire Odyssey is a presentation by Kevin Paul Mellor, local historian and author of *Ramblings of a Free Man*.

Join Kevin for a journey home from North to South Staffordshire, calling at towns and villages, highlighting topography, produce, history, people & literary works along the way.

It takes place at Rugeley Library on **Tuesday 20th October from 2:00pm -3.15pm.** Tickets are £2.50 per person (*Booking Essential*) and are available from Rugeley Library on 01889 869063 or you can email rugeley.library@staffordshire.gov.uk

If you'd like to purchase a copy of *Ramblings of a Free Man*, Kevin can send you a copy for £10 including postage, just email your address to him at kevinpmellor@gmail.com

Give Scottish Dancing A Go!

Fancy trying something new? Why not give Scottish Dancing a go! No experience needed, no partners needed and beginners welcome!

It's a great way to socialise and keep active. The Stafford Caledonians meet at North End Community Centre, Holmcroft Road, Stafford ST16 1JG on **Wednesday evenings** and welcome new dancers.

The session for beginners and improvers starts at 7pm to 7.45pm. Then the session for social dancing continues until 9.30pm.

We started back on Wednesday 2nd September. Come along to try it out then or any Wednesday - just bring lightweight trainers and a mug for a drink at break time. £3 a session and a yearly subscription of £10 if you get the Scottish dancing bug!

See all info at the website
www.staffordscottishdancing.danceorg.uk
or phone Gerald on 07904 380760.

A group of Rotary members and friends at the Strawberry and Pimm's event

Rotary Strawberry & Pimms

One of the regular social events in the Stafford Rotary Club's calendar is the Strawberry and Pimm's afternoon, spent in the garden of one of their members.

Being able to shelter under one of the gardens trees and a few umbrellas from the sunshine the afternoon went down well and together with a raffle amongst members and friends the afternoon raised several hundred pounds towards the international projects that the club were supporting.

Rotarys Helen Perren

Eileen and Rev Mike Newman, in whose garden the event took place

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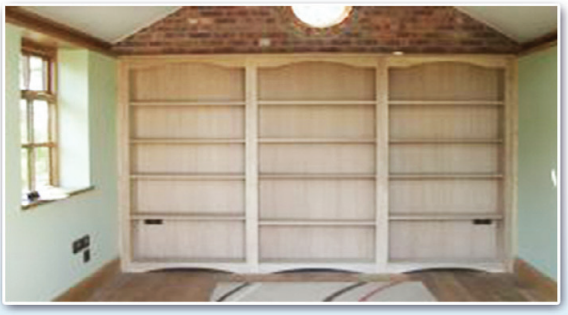

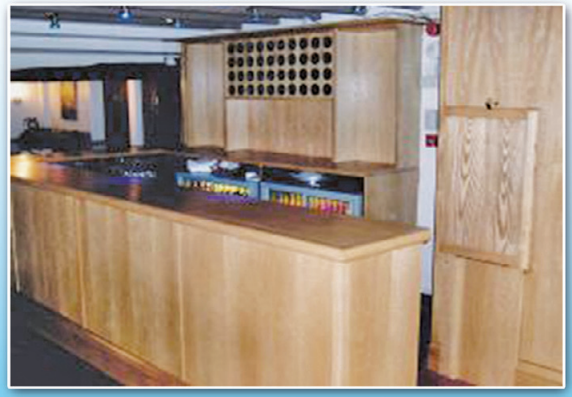

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Image of the year 2026 - Misty Sunrise Lake Bled

Focus, Click, Create: Local Photography Club Welcomes New Members

Our local photography club is inviting people of all ages and abilities to discover the art of photography, develop new skills, and share their passion with like-minded enthusiasts.

Acton Trussell and Penkridge Photographic Society is a friendly and welcoming group of amateur photographers who enjoy capturing everything from stunning landscapes and wildlife, to family memories and creative digital images.

Whether you're using your mobile phone, picking up a camera for the first time, looking to improve your holiday snapshots, or are an experienced photographer keen to challenge yourself, the club offers something for everyone.

Gannett in the colony

Members enjoy a varied programme packed with practical hands-on evenings, inspiring presentations, image critiques, and friendly internal and inter-club competitions for both prints and projected images.

It's a chance not only to improve photographic skills but also to make new friends and exchange ideas in a supportive environment.

Chester Cathedral

The club meets three times a month, at 7:30pm Tuesday evenings at the Community Centre, Acton Hill Road, Acton Trussell, ST17 0RY.

Anyone interested in joining or finding out more about the 2026/27 programme can contact Secretary John Sutton on 07968 115254 or visit **www.atpps.co.uk**

Last resort - Rhino with trimmed horn, South Africa

Rewilding The Village Verges

As the village no longer enters The Best Kept Village competition, nor meets each month to clean up the churchyard, Bednall has not been looking its best.

However, the beautiful wild flowers planted on the soft verge, as you enter the village, are a joy to behold.

I'm sure I speak for many in the village when I say a big 'thank you' to Rob Reece for all his hard work in making the verge look so colourful.

Val Peach

RIP & RECYCLE: Big Knit Workshop

Fast, fun & definitely different!

Tutor Ingrid Wagner will teach you how to rip & recycle unwanted cotton sheets/quilt covers/ curtains/towels to make a fab bathmat or seat cushion. Basic knit stitch will be used.

Learn how to handle Big Knit Needles using multiple strands of cotton yarn & create tassels.

On **Wednesday 28th October** from 10.15am-15.15pm at Upper Moreton Farm ST18 OXD. £15.00 includes refreshments & light lunch, with only 10 places available. For more details & to book: contact Ingrid on 07717 036 213 l or you can email her at ingridwagner976@gmail.com

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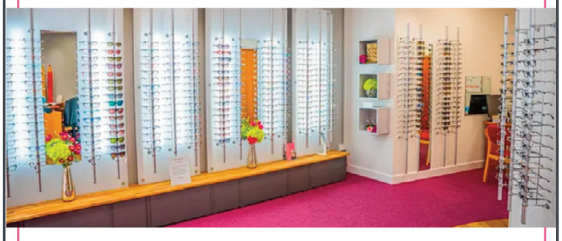

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Tohi Harada Is Coming To Newport

Newport Music Club is thrilled to welcome acclaimed young guitarist, Tohi Harada, in concert on **Saturday, 10 October, 7pm,** at Cosy Hall, Water Lane, Newport TF10 7LD.

Tohi first took up the guitar at the age of 3 and during his childhood in Japan won many competitions before gaining nationwide attention in 2021 when Japanese television broadcast his performance of '*Pictures at an Exhibition*' by Mussorgsky.

Tohi has won many International Competitions including the Aalborg Guitar Competition (Denmark), 2022, the Albania International Guitar Competition and the Veria International Guitar Competition (Greece) in 2023. He won the International Guitar Competition (Croatia), Guitar Art International Competition (Serbia) and the Brussels International Guitar Competition in 2024. And in 2025, was awarded first Prize Ivor Mairants Guitar Award in the United Kingdom.

Tohi has also been recipient of the Julian Bream Trust for three consecutive years, an Award honouring exceptional guitar talent, and where he performed for the legendary guitarist John Williams.

Currently studying towards a Master's in Guitar Performance at the Royal Academy of Music Tohi has been fortunate to attend a number of Masterclasses with distinguished guitarists such as Alvaro Pierri, David Russell, Fabio Zanon, Judicael Perroy and Thibaut Garcia.

Do join us for an evening of superb guitar playing, with compositions by Dowland, Arnold, Myers, Bach, Brouwer and Castelnuovo-Tedesco.

Tickets: Adults £15.00; Children/Students £2.00; payable on the door. To reserve tickets in advance please contact Newport Music Club at chairman@newportmusic club.org or phone 07726 959233.

Visit **www.newportmusicclub.org** for more information.

Newport Music Club's final concert of 2026 presents **Harpist, Becki Luff**, in an afternoon of beautiful music on **Sunday November 15th at 3.00 pm** at Cosy Hall.

Haywoods Repair Cafe

The Haywoods Repair Cafe have a change of venue for September Only.

The Lamb & Flag at Little Haywood is happy to host the Repair Cafe On **Sunday 13th September from 2-5PM**

We repair: Electrical items, Electronics/IT, Clothing (*repairs only*), Toys , Sharpen tools and maybe able to mend other things you have that are broken.

Come for lunch, stay to help save the planet, ***Fix It Don't Ditch It!***

Bradley Fish 'n' Chips Fun Quiz

The village have a fish and chip night, with a quiz, every month at Bradley Village Hall, and you can see from the photos that the August event was well attended, despite the heatwaves!

The evening was great fun, with some quite testing quiz questions to make you really have to think.

Thank you to all those who came and supported the evening, we'll see you at the next one.

From Judith Manners

Photograph L to R - Barbara Riddle with Michelle Daws, President Stafford Soroptimist Club, with Barbara's Support Staffordshire Volunteering Award

Barbara Awarded Staffordshire Volunteering Award

All members of Soroptimist International of Stafford are very proud to have Barbara Riddle as a member of their club, and they recently nominated her for a Support Staffordshire Volunteering Award.

For the last 25 Years Barbara has fundraised to support the work of The Dougie Mac Hospice for Children and Young People (*formerly The Donna Louise*)

With support from her dedicated group of *"Stafford Friends" of The Hospice*, she makes Jams and Chutneys all year and sells them at her own garage sales and other community events.

Local Supporters, including Littywood Farms, have been amazingly generous in providing donations of fruit and vegetables.

Other Fundraising events have included Silent Auctions, Dinners and an Annual Christmas Fair held at Wildwood Community Centre.

Over the years Barbara and her Team have donated £175,000 to support these vital services for children, young people and their families across Staffordshire, a truly great achievement.

The President of Stafford Soroptimist Club, Michelle Daws, said that *"Barbara is in inspiration with all that she has achieved and Club Members are immensely proud of her."*

For more information about the Soroptimist Organisation visit **sigbi.org** or for the Stafford Club please visit **sigbi.org/stafford**

A Thank You From Laura

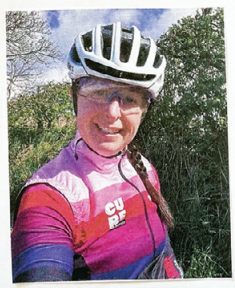
A message from Miles and Theo,

Thank you so much for supporting our Auntie - Laura Ganderton - who took part in the 'Tour De France Femmes'.

Haughton villagers have been so generous and raised the superb amount of £434.55. (This includes the amount of £30.00 people put straight onto the 'Just Giving' page for us. The funds raised will go straight to Cure Leukaemia and will bring hope to families across the U.K.

Thank you

TOUR DE FRANCE FEMMES ROUTE



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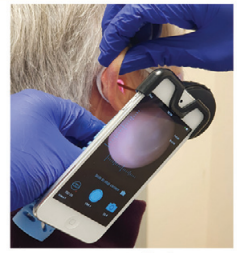

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Incredible Exploding Boxes In Shallowford!

"Today is a Monday like no other Monday..." so declared a political reporter on July 20th this year. It was the day Andy Burnham walked into No.10 as our new Prime Minister.

This momentous event happened to coincide with the eagerly-awaited first day of Shallowford House's annual 3 day Craft Retreat at Norton Bridge.

While Andy had a lot of tricky problems on his plate, it was time for a small group of crafters, (*new and some more-experienced*), to let go of our own everyday concerns and indulge in a few days of spiritual refreshment, good company and pure pleasure.

The incredible exploding boxes (see top *photo*) were just one of several new ventures into creative crafting, including cyanotype sun-photography, natural plant fabric-dyeing, glass mosaics, see-through paper sun-catchers, watercolour painting, etc.

Creative days were followed by convivial evenings of good dinners, silly games, quizzes, treasure hunts and nights at the bar.

There was also quiet time; time to sit and think in the shade of the well-tended gardens, study in the library, pray in the chapel, walk in the woods, listen to the soft call of the collared dove, hear the cool bubbling from the fish pond, and watch the resident Mrs. Peahen diligently guarding her little flock of fluffy peachicks running along beside her.

Bel Crawford in her element, crafting with friends

Time to relax, meditate, refresh and clear the mind. I'm already looking forward to next summer's 'Creative' Retreat at Shallowford House, all are welcome.

From Bel Crawford

For more information contact Shallowford House on 01785 760233, or you can visit their website at **https://shallowfordhouse.org/**

Tuner - Dustin Hoffman and Leo Woodall image courtesy Black Bear

Stafford Film Theatre Autumn 2026 Season

Stafford Film Theatre returns this autumn with twelve **Tuesday evenings** of outstanding cinema from Britain and around the world.

The new season opens on **15th September** with 2026 Oscar-winner ***One Battle After Another,*** launching a programme that combines acclaimed English-language films with some of the best recent international cinema.

Highlights include ***Tuner***, an entertaining blend of drama, suspense and humour starring Dustin Hoffman and Leo Woodall, and ***The Christophers***, featuring Ian McKellen and Michaela Coel. Audiences can also discover highly rated recent films from Spain, Italy, Germany and France.

The Christophers - Ian McKellen and Michaela Coel image courtesy NEON

A particular end-of-season highlight is the spectacular Japanese drama ***Kokuho***, an award-winning exploration of ambition, rivalry and dedication within the extraordinary world of Kabuki theatre.

All twelve films are shown on Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm in the main auditorium of Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, with comfortable theatre seating and Dolby sound providing the full big-screen experience.

Tickets are available for individual films and can be bought on the night at the Gatehouse Box Office, or booked in advance online, by telephone or at the box office. For regular filmgoers, full-season and half-season SFT memberships are also available, offering a discounted average ticket price.

Full details of the films (*with links to trailers*), dates and practical info are available at **filmsinstafford.com**.

With twelve very different films offering drama, humour, suspense and remarkable storytelling, Stafford Film Theatre's autumn season promises another rewarding journey through the best of contemporary cinema.

A Night To Remember: Wolgarston Class Of 2026 Celebrates Spectacular Year 13 Prom

On 2nd July glamour, nostalgia, and high spirits filled the air in Acton Trussell as Wolgarston High School's Year 13 students arrived for their highly anticipated Sixth Form Prom. The annual event was hosted at The Moat House, with its beautiful lakeside venue.

For the Year 13 students in attendance, the evening represented the culmination of an amazing journey that began way back in Year 9, when they all first attended the school. Over the past five years, these young people have grown, learned, and overcome challenges together, forging bonds that promise to stand the test of time. Now, as the final chapter of their secondary education closes, the Class of 2026 stands ready to step out into the world and embark on their exciting new adventures.

"As always it is an honour and a privilege to be able to organise this event for our Year 13 students," said Miss Roberts (Learning Resources Centre Administrator), *"It was a spectacular evening, full of celebration and reminiscing. I would like to thank all of the staff who were in attendance and to the Moat House for their amazing food and hospitality and Party Box in Telford for their amazing decorations."*

Lacey Keenan, Ryan Palmer and Ella Holmes

Wolgarston's team of staff gave up their evening to support the students, including Headteacher Mr. Boden and Assistant Headteacher and Head of Sixth Form Miss Turner. They were joined by Assistant Headteachers Mr. Skinner, Mr. Greenwood and Mrs Watson as well as Mrs Weston, Teacher of English and SENCo.

Following a grand arrival featuring elegant gowns, sharp suits, and impressive cars, the guests sat down to a beautifully curated custom menu. Once dinner was served, the atmosphere shifted from sophisticated dining to pure, unadulterated joy on the dancefloor.

In a moving display of unity, the entire year group came together, arms linked, to belt out a passionate, roof-raising rendition of Oasis's classic anthem, "*Wonderwall*" with student Billy Pope taking charge conducting the group of students as they sang. The sentimentality quickly turned to synchronized fun as the crowd danced enthusiastically to party favourites "*YMCA*" and the "*Macarena*."

As the final song faded and the lights came up, there were tears, hugs, and endless photos. The Wolgarston High School Year 13 Class of 2026 may be moving on to pastures new, but the memories made that evening at The Moat House will undoubtedly last a lifetime.

"It was lovely to see so many of our Year 13 students at their prom event, celebrating their achievements. We wish them all the best for what I am sure will be a very bright future," said Miss Turner.

Ella Zaarour, Harriet McDonald and Ella Cox

Joel Hemming and Scarlett Fullard

Ethan T, Lewis M, Tyler L, Harrison Mac, Luke W, Archie G, Keiron A, Isaac P

Welcome To Stafford Camera Club

Stafford Camera Club is a friendly,inclusive community for photographers of all levels. Whether you are a complete beginner or an experienced enthusiast, you will find plenty of opportunity to grow and share your passion.

The Club (*founded in 1962 and formally known as St Leonards Camera Club*) is a great place to learn and develop your Photography through visiting speakers, workshops, and recommended events like exhibitions and photographic venues. It doesn't matter what sort of Camera you own; it's about the Pictures you take!

The Club **meets every Tuesday evening**, *from September to May*, in the Brian Westhead Pavilion at Stafford Cricket and Hockey Club off Riverway in Stafford.

We have exclusive use of a large and comfortable meeting space with a bar for hot or cold drinks and space for our practical workshops and presentations.

Advanced Class - Printed Image Winner

Each week we have either a Guest Speaker, a Practical Evening or a Competition night.

Entering Club Competitions is entirely optional. There are Competitions for Digitally Projected Images as well as more traditional Printed Images. We spilt our judging into three groups. Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced, so everyone can feel challenged, but nobody feels overwhelmed or outclassed. Sit back and judge the Competition entries yourself or enter an image of your own and see what the Independent Judge thinks. Members are always happy to provide supportive feedback as well and we can usually help with any technical questions or gremlins too!

Practical Evenings events are decided by broad consensus between the members; everyone likes to try out something new or refine efforts from a previous event. Recent Practical Evening themes have included experimenting with Macro photography, Flash Photography, Family Portraits and Painting With Light.

Upcoming Guest Speakers this Autumn include:
Ian Howard on *"The Colourful Side of Life".*

Ian gives us a breakdown of the talks contents and structure and how we are going to turn an aspect of photography that everybody delivers into an interesting and engaging evening.

Tracey Lund: In her talk Tracey shows a selection of Wildlife Photography images from Japan, Finland, Greece, Iceland, France and the UK as well as some stories/ experiences she has encountered.

Pete Smith *'Pura Vida'*; My wildlife highlights of Costa Rica.

'Pura Vida' is a talk showing his many wildlife highlights seen whilst spending a total of nearly 6 weeks across 2 recent trips to the central American country of Costa Rica. His love of wildlife & photography has taken him to some wonderful locations to see fantastic flora & fauna.

Advanced Class - Projected Image Winner

Victoria Proctor *"High Fashion to High Fells.....sort of.....".*

This talk follows Victoria's slightly unexpected journey from the world of fashion design - to the world of capturing the landscapes of the Lake District and Snowdonia.

The Club also does occasional days out for Members who like to take images away from a studio. This year Club Members did Architectural Photography in Liverpool City Centre, Street Theme / Photobook Photography in Digbeth, Birmingham and Landscape Photography in Eryri / Snowdonia.

The Club also has a strong Social Scene, with many Members continuing to meet up informally throughout the Summer.

Members on Club Trip to Snowdonia

Members are encouraged to grow, whether that is learning basic camera skills or gaining recognition through accreditation via UK and International Distinctions. The Club aims to support its members at every stage.

Visitors are welcome to attend for a few weeks to see if the Club is what you are looking for before committing to becoming a member. Membership costs £30 for a year and Door fees are £5 for Members, £6 for Non-members, £2.50 for under 18s. *Fees cover venue hire, guest speakers, competition running costs, and club equipment.*

Our Program of events and more information is available on the website **www.staffordcameraclub.co.uk**

The Club is affiliated with the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain through the Midland Counties Photographic Federation. You can contact the club for any more information at info@staffordcameraclub.co.uk or just to discuss coming along one evening!

Our new 2026/27 seasons begin in September, everyone welcome. *Come along, bring your camera, give us a try!*

LOVE YOURSELF
WELLNESS DAY

A RELAXING DAY JUST FOR WOMEN

Free Wellness Event For All Women

Women across Staffordshire are invited to a free, all-day event at Staffordshire County Showground on ***Saturday 26 September*** in the Members' Pavilion - the Ingestre Suite and adjacent rooms.

The Wellness Day will promote health and wellbeing for women of all ages who will be given the opportunity to take time out of their busy lives to spend on themselves.

The day is being hosted by Staffordshire Federation of Women's Institutes and it is open to all women, both members and non-members.

Various activities will be available to try, such as ***Hand Massages, Mindful Art, Journalling, Chair Yoga and Reiki.*** Experts will lead the activities - all aimed to allow women to take time to be kind to themselves.

There will also be craft demonstrations, health checks by professionals, wellbeing talks as well as trade stalls - and the chance to learn about what the WI has to offer.

The event's brainchild is Helen Newman, Federation Trustee and former Chair. She said, *'In these days of juggling roles and tasks, many women need to consider themselves from time to time and this event will showcase activities that can provide much needed calmness in their hectic lives'.* She added, *'Some activities will be offered in timed slots but mostly they will be drop-in sessions throughout the day, allowing greater attendance and participation'.*

Free tea/coffee/water and biscuits will be available all day - 10am 'til 4pm. There is no need to book, just drop in at any time during the day.

Staffordshire County Showground is on Weston Road, Stafford, ST18 0BD and has free parking.

For more information, visit **sfwi.org** or scan this QR Code

Bradley Bat Rescue

Dear Dan,

This baby bat from my maternity roost landed in my back door.

The wonderful Jane from Staffordshire Bat Group came and collected her.

We tried letting her fly when the others came out but she was not strong enough.

Jane has nursed her and several other babies which will be released as a new little group.

The tiny little bat (it's about the size of a 50p coin) getting some rest with Judith

Staffordshire Bat Group is marvellous, and care for numerous bats particularly during the summer, you can find out more if you visit their website at **https://www.staffsbats.co.uk**

From Judith Manners

Bridge Works Near Busy Junction Continue As People Reminded It's Business As Usual

Work to refurbish a canal bridge on the A51 near Little Haywood is continuing as people are reminded that local businesses are open as usual.

Staffordshire County Council's highways team is carrying out the extensive 24-week refurbishment of the nearby canal bridge which carries the road towards the A513 junction. Works will include a new beam installation, repairing walls and resurfacing – strengthening and protecting it for years to come.

The scheme has been scheduled to take in the school summer holidays to minimise disruption, while temporary traffic lights ensure the road remains open.

A short section of Bishton Lane close to the bridge is closed while work takes place, but Bishton Hall can be accessed via the main junction onto Bellamour Lane as usual.

Bishton Hall, which is located just off the A51 at Wolseley Bridge near Little Haywood, is a thriving hub of independent traders, with picturesque gardens without admission cost and free parking.

The dog-friendly venue includes a tearoom, antique valuer, antique and collectible shop, gift shop, dog groomer, gin distillery and more.

Patrick Allen, Staffordshire County Council's cabinet support member for highways, said: *"We've now started a comprehensive refurbishment of nearby Wolseley canal bridge which is an essential job, but we want to let everyone know that they can access all businesses as usual.*

The project team has placed signs near the works site to inform motorists of this. Our priority is to ensure we have roads maintained to the highest standard for businesses and communities.

We don't want any business, especially those off our main routes, to be impacted by works and so we'd encourage people to support our local businesses.

While some delays are unfortunately inevitable, every effort has been made to minimise disruption by scheduling through the schools summer holidays and traffic management methods. We'd like to thank people for their understanding while work is carried out."

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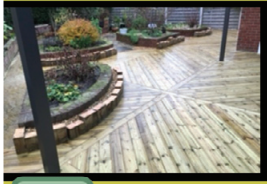

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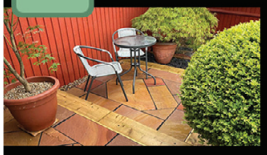

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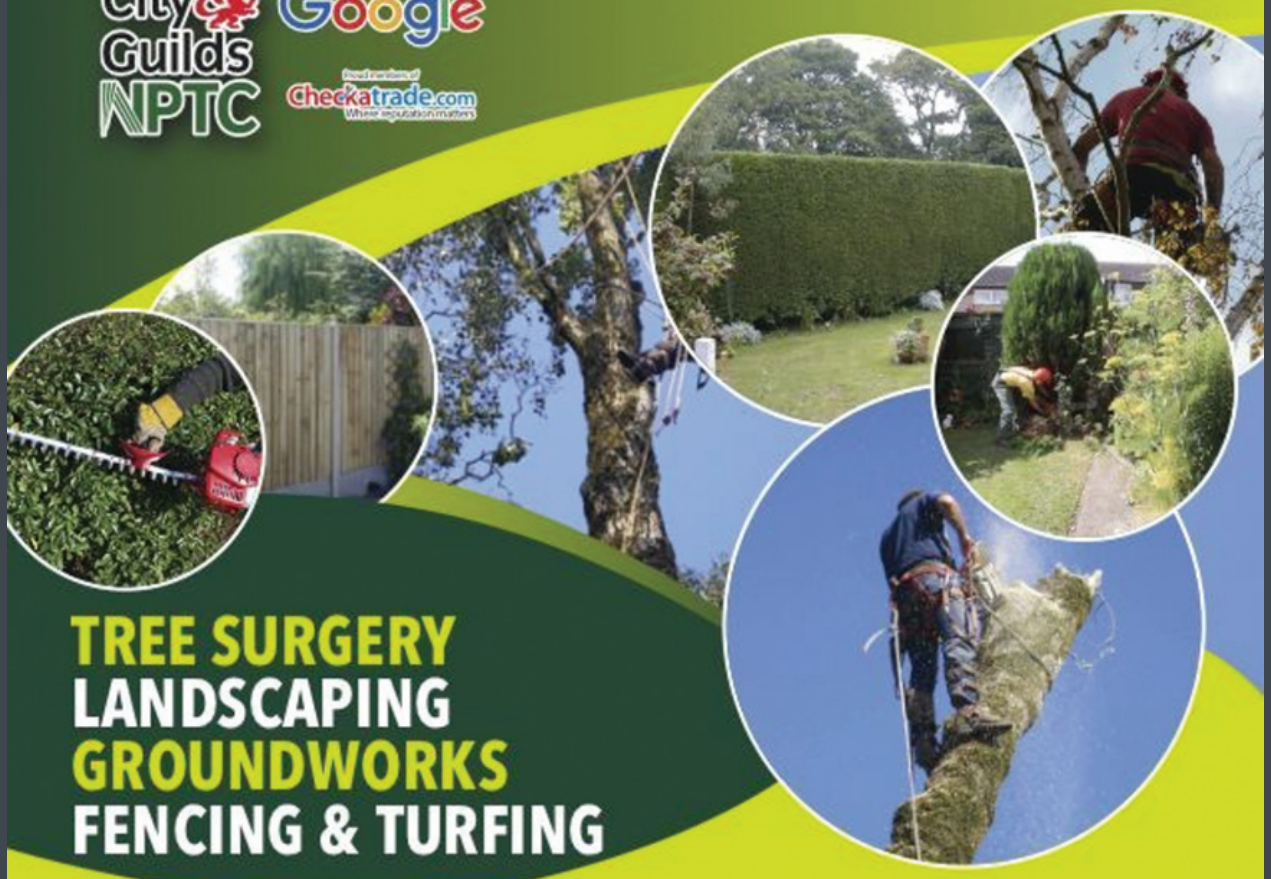

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