

first day at school book & DVD reviews **taking the green challenge** **a day in the life of a school chef** we're in this together **new look website** what's on guide **the rubbish shop** **motorsport leads the way** one stop shop for council services



first day at school

Autumn/Winter 2005



WARWICKSHIRE

view

Warwickshire Children's Information Service

For information on:



- ▶ Childminders
- ▶ Day nurseries
- ▶ Nursery schools/ classes
- ▶ Pre-schools/ playgroups
- ▶ Crèches
- ▶ Nanny agencies
- ▶ Out of school clubs
- ▶ Holiday schemes
- ▶ Toddler groups
- ▶ Youth groups
- ▶ And more

Contact us:

For **FREE** impartial, confidential information on childcare, early years education and family support services.

Helpline: 0845 090 8044 (local rate)

Voice mail for out of office hours

Textphone: 01926 736327

email: earlyyears@warwickshire.gov.uk



p6

Motorsport boost for auto business



p15

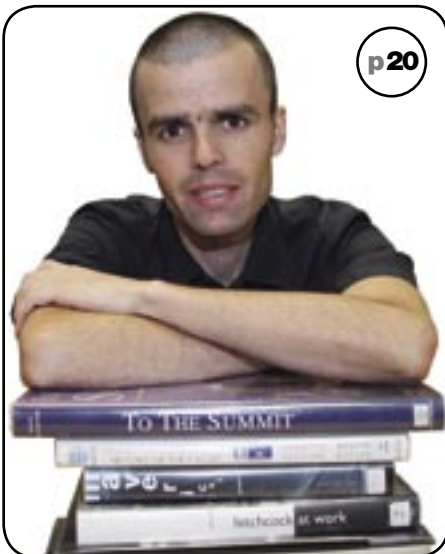
New-look website

view contents



p16

Turning green. Meet the Glass family from Bedworth.



p20

Check out the latest recommendations from library staff.

Warwickshire news	4-5
Motorsport leads the way	6
Traders you can trust	7
Visit the rubbish shop	7
Removing the risk	8
Child protection case studies	
A fresh approach	9-11
Read about a typical day in the life of a school chef	
Off to big school	12-13
Easing the way from primary to secondary school	
We're in this together	14
Pulling together in difficult times	
New look website	15
Re-design offers ease of use	
The green challenge	16-17
A Bedworth family live sustainably for three weeks	
All under one roof	18
Re-furbished Kenilworth library houses a new one-stop shop	
Media review	20-21
Focus on Leamington library	
What's on guide	22-23



p9

Are school dinners really how you remember them?



p12

Cover story

Easing the big step up from primary to secondary school.

SOBS story pays off for Education



Jeff Mann, Director of Resources at WCC Education dept. delivers the SOBS (Save Our Budgets) petition

Plans to change the way schools in Warwickshire are funded are to be reviewed following a national campaign led by Warwickshire County Council.

The Department for Education and Skills is to re-open consultation into its proposals for the new Designated Schools Grant.

The grant would have had the effect of switching money from local education authorities such as Warwickshire, which choose to spend more on education than the government's formula said.

Under the plans, Warwickshire would have stood to lose up to £4.7 million from its budget.

A petition signed by leading education figures in the county was sent to the Department for Education and Skills earlier this month to highlight concern at these changes.

Schools minister Jacqui Smith confirmed in a statement to the House of Commons that authorities such as Warwickshire would stand to lose out. There is now to be further consultation on the formula used to determine school funding.

Cllr Izzi Seccombe, cabinet member for Children's Services, said: "Had

Warwickshire not led the way in raising this important issue, millions could have been lost from the county's budget."



It's time to 'look out for each other'

Each year, as our roads get busier, the risks to all road users increase and the task of reducing road casualties gets harder.

Warwickshire County Council's Road Safety Unit, in partnership with other agencies such as Warwickshire Police, Warwickshire Fire & Rescue and Warwickshire Primary Care Trusts, is committed to reducing the number of people killed or injured on the county's roads. Whilst figures show that we are succeeding, with the help of the public, we can do so much better.

New Chief for the County



Warwickshire County Council have appointed a new Chief Executive. Jim Graham (above) succeeds Ian Caulfield, who held the post for 18 years. The Council's new boss has served as Chief Executive at West Berkshire Council for three and a half years and is recognised as a leading figure in local government circles.

Said Mr Graham: "I'm absolutely thrilled and honoured. It's a great challenge and a great county."

Disabled suffer employment hurdles

The Minimum Wage, benefit payments and lack of support are three reasons adults with learning disabilities are being driven out of the workplace in Warwickshire. These were the findings of a six week investigation conducted by two adults with learning disabilities, Susie Aizpurietis from Nuneaton and Serena Norden from Warwick, pictured right.

Susie explains the problems faced. "There are enough pressures when we try and find work, we don't need extra barriers such as a lack of support from employers."

Their research found that rather than helping, the Minimum Wage and benefits are forcing people out of the workplace.

"Before, an employer might offer a few pounds to do some washing up or sweep a car park" continues Susie "but the Minimum Wage means they now ask an existing employee to do this work."

"The benefit system is also putting people off working." said Serena. "An adult with a learning disability can only work for four hours before the money they earn is taken off their benefits."

The investigation has been backed by Warwickshire Social Services and



co-ordinated by the support team at New Ideas. Warwickshire Social Services Head of Adult Services John Bull said: "We are striving to focus on the abilities rather than the disabilities of our population. Hopefully the issues raised in this report will lead to better employment opportunities for adults with learning disabilities in Warwickshire."

viewbrief

.....
Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Authority is good - that's the official rating from the Audit Commission.

The report praised strong management of an authority which has a clear understanding of its future direction. It also commended its operational success in reducing malicious calls and accidental dwelling fires.

County Fire Officer William Brown said: "We are delighted to achieve a 'Good' rating. This is the first CPA assessment for the service and being rated as 'Good' is a real achievement. We will now use this evaluation to help improve our services. My thanks go to all the officers and staff that have worked hard for this result."

Warwickshire County Council's Acting Chief Executive Eric Wood said:

"This star rating awarded to our Fire and Rescue Service is fully deserved. We have an outstanding service with first class, dedicated officers and staff and excellent leadership from William Brown."



Improvements on hold for Christmas

Work to improve the centre of Leamington is well underway. With the pre-festive season coming to town, we plan to put the work on hold to make sure local businesses don't lose out on the Christmas shopping season.

We also want to thank shoppers for bearing with us whilst the work is underway. It is intended that the work on the main section of the Parade and Victoria Terrace will be completed, on 21st October and further work on the scheme, including the improvement of Bath Street, will be postponed until next year.

The Leamington improvement scheme is designed to improve the look and safety of the town whilst retaining the Regency heritage of Leamington.

The plan is the result of lengthy consultations with residents, traders and other key stakeholders in Leamington. The scheme - which is costing £2.2 million - is partly funded by central Government through a national initiative to make town centres safer for people walking and cycling.



Work in progress on the Parade. Visit www.warwickshire.gov.uk/parade for the latest information.

Despite the uncertainty surrounding mass car manufacturing in the area, new opportunities are arising for businesses linked to the auto industry in Warwickshire.



Motorsport boosts auto business

The collapse of Midlands car manufacturer MG Rover sent shockwaves around the region.

As well as the workers at the Longbridge car plant in Birmingham, there were fears for the beleaguered company's suppliers. With Jaguar transferring production away from Coventry and Peugeot cutting production at Ryton, there were warnings of ominous times for the area.

But Warwickshire is continuing to buck the trend as the future for the automotive industry shines bright. All indications are that the county will continue to thrive despite the recent setbacks suffered by MG Rover.

Representatives of business and industry recently joined Warwickshire county councillors for a seminar to discuss the way forward.

Nick Henry of Motor Sport Associates and Nick Barter of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders reported that the automotive industry is alive and kicking.

Councillor Mick Jones, Chair of the Economic Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee, said: "Of course we are concerned about the impact of the collapse of MG Rover on suppliers based in Warwickshire, and none of us underestimates the impact on families whose main wage earner has lost his or her job.

"Nevertheless, the advice we received from our speakers was that there is a lot going for the automotive industry in Warwickshire and over reliance on Rover has been dramatically reduced since 2000, with many firms diversifying into new products and new markets.

"Importantly, there is now a lot going for the industry in Warwickshire and there is plenty of opportunity for growth, particularly in the motorsport sector.

"Seventy per cent of the world's racing cars are made in England and Warwickshire is in the top ten when it comes to locations for this specialised high tech and world class industry."

"The key message for the council is that we should be confident for the future and in looking forward we will need to think of how we can help provide the right conditions for growth – the right infrastructure and ensuring that the right skills are available in the workforce."

The seminar found that the local economy has continued to adapt well to the changes that were first seen back in the seventies, and that a clear understanding of how the global economy is changing will help businesses and agencies alike plan for the future.

traders you can trust

“ To get on the list, traders are vetted to ensure their standard of work meets the council’s criteria. ”



A pilot scheme aimed at stamping out bogus traders is being launched in two districts with plans to make it countywide if successful.

Tradeline is aimed at people aged over 50 who need work doing at their homes, but are worried about bogus traders. Thanks to the County Council and its partners they can now call Tradeline and a trained advisor will put them in touch with pre-approved tradespeople in their area.

To get on the list, traders are vetted to ensure their standard of work meets the council’s criteria. Feedback will ensure that tradespeople on the list continue to provide a quality service at a competitive price.

Bogus trading is a feature of doorstep crime, where victims are misled into thinking they are letting a genuine worker into their home. This type of crime is most prevalent in Nuneaton and Bedworth and Warwick - the districts where the scheme is being piloted.

For further information on the scheme, or if you would like to be considered as a trader please call

08456 123258

Re-using a great idea

Warwickshire County Council is set to open its second charity shop at a household-waste recycling centre in Leamington. This follows on from the resounding success of the shop at Burton Farm Recycling Centre in Stratford, which raises money for the Shakespeare Hospice. This shop was a national first, pioneered by the Council in 2003 to reduce the amount of waste that goes into landfill while simultaneously raising money for good causes.

The shop is open every day except Christmas Day and New Year’s Day and sells anything from bric-a-brac to bicycles, although not clothes or soft furnishings because of possible dampness during storage.

The Council is confident that the Burton Farm shop success can be repeated at Princes Drive Recycling Centre in Leamington, and is inviting expressions of interest from local charities.

Carole Clarke, Volunteer Services and Shops Manager from the Shakespeare Hospice, says: “We are delighted to have the opportunity to raise funds for the Hospice this way. The scheme has been extremely successful for us. I would encourage any other charity to seize this opportunity with both hands.”



“Household Waste Recycling Centres handle 20% of the household waste generated in Warwickshire. In 2004/05 they recycled an average of 45% with the best site, Burton Farm at Stratford, achieving 62%. These rates could not be achieved without the continued support of the public”

Roy Burton, Waste Management Operations Manager.



There has been an increase of almost 17 per cent in the number of children on Warwickshire's Child Protection Register – rising from 263 children to 316 children this year.

However, this rise does not mean a sudden surge in the number of children being abused in the county – it is instead an indication of the work underway in Warwickshire to identify children in need and rescue them from harm.

A body exists in Warwickshire called the Warwickshire Area Child Protection Committee, drawing together experts from Social Services, Education, the Police and Health, to ensure there is help at hand when a child needs it most.

And far from the popular television image of a Social Worker storming into a home and ripping a child from their surroundings, the work of WACPC is all about removing the risk from the child – rather than simply removing the child from their home.

Chris Hallett is Chairman of WACPC, and Head of Children's Services for Warwickshire Social Services. He said: "As soon as a child is identified as being at risk, whether it's in school or in another environment, things happen very quickly to ensure the best for the child. Within a couple of hours a strategy meeting has been held between Social Services, Health, Police and Education professionals to ensure we are all co-ordinated in our action to protect the child."

removing the risk

*These are real cases from these areas - names have been changed and model images used



Nuneaton and Bedworth

Eleven-year-old Carly's grandparents contacted Social Services after discovering that her mother was in a relationship with a convicted sex offender.

There was no evidence he had harmed Carly, but Police and Social Workers were extremely concerned for her safety. Carly loved her mother and she was well cared for so the Police, Social Services, health and education professionals agreed she should not be removed from her mother.

They agreed Carly should go onto the Child Protection register and her mother was told to end the relationship. Sex abuse professionals worked with the mother, explaining to her how paedophiles operate – how they seek out and manipulate vulnerable people and how they 'groom' children to be abused.

All contact between Carly and the man was banned and this ban was closely monitored. After a year Carly's mother finally broke all ties with him and Carly was taken off the register.

North Warwickshire

Julie was a single mother bringing up three children. She was struggling to cope with her middle child, eight-year-old John, who was violent and defiant both at home and school.

Julie's GP contacted Social Services out of concern for Julie's health and the welfare of her children. Social Services spoke to the GP, the school and other agencies involved with the family.

Social Services felt the Child Protection route could be avoided, but that work needed to be done to stop the family's problems getting any worse.

Julie took part in the Positive Parenting scheme being run by a Social Services Family Support Worker. She was helped to deal with her son's bad behaviour and reward his good behaviour.

The school also became involved writing down good things John had done during the day. Working with John and his mother the support worker focussed on the positive, boosting his self-esteem and confidence.

His behaviour is now great improved and the family is doing well.



Warwick

Julia was 15 when she got pregnant. She decided to keep the baby but found she was struggling to cope with him and trying to do her school work.

She was living at home but her relationship with her parents was very bad. They criticised the way she looked after him. She decided she couldn't cope and asked Social Services to have him adopted. The Social Worker discussed options with Julia.

They agreed to place him in foster care for a short while. They offered Julia support with her parenting skills and suggested the option of a childcare placement. Julia changed her mind and decided she didn't want the baby adopted.

She spent short periods of time with him, at first supervised, and gradually he spent more time with her at home until he came back to live with her full-time. Mother and baby are coping well.

a fresh approach

Your memories of school meals may not be the happiest, but times have changed. Turn the page for a typical day in the life of award-winning school chef, Sam Bates.





watch out for the chocolate swamp frog

*Working for
Warwickshire*

**A typical day in
the life of
award-winning
school chef, Sam Bates**

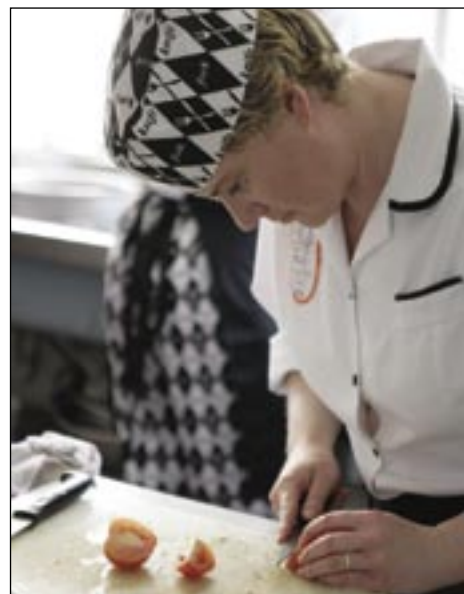


The day starts at 9.30am when I get into the kitchen and make sure all the equipment is sterilised and sanitised. I can start a few general preparation tasks with my small team. Normally I have two Food Service Assistants. We each have our own tasks, and I concentrate on the hot food while they prepare the cold options and make things like the biscuits. By about 10am I have a call telling me how many children are going to be having lunch that day. It varies by which term it is and how many are off ill that day. As well as cooking for my children at my own school, Priors Field in Kenilworth, we also prepare the dinners for Burton Green school, which doesn't have its own kitchen.



That means we have a bit more pressure with our timings, as everything has to be ready to leave our kitchen by 11.30am. We have a very varied menu in Warwickshire. There are four main meal options every day, and they vary on a cycle so there is something different every day for four weeks.

The aim of the menus is to ensure that children have a balanced, healthy meal. Every day they have to choose something from each of the four components: protein (such as meat, fish and poultry), carbohydrates (bread, other cereals and potatoes); fruit or vegetables; puddings



and finally drinks, which have milk and dairy in.



Running a kitchen can be a daunting thing, but I'm quite used to it. I have worked in hospitals and care homes, and have set kitchens up from scratch before. I came to Priors Field because I have two young children and the

hours suit me perfectly. I love it here. You get to know all the children and what they prefer to eat. So if cauliflower cheese is on



children they won't eat it if it's not a shape, but it doesn't mean you can't make it from good healthy food.

At the start of the year I buy some stickers and give them to all the reception class children. If they finish their dinner they get a bigger sticker. I've got them eating things like moussaka, lasagne and broccoli that way – but they like it! It's really pleasing to work in the school hall. The children all know me and often come back for seconds, thirds or even fourths. We cannot keep any leftover food so I'm always pleased to let them have a bit extra.

By about 12.45pm we've finished the service, and we can wind down a little. We wash up and clean the dining hall.

For me then it is time to deal with the

paperwork, make sure I've ordered all the food and have got everything ready for the next day.

I finish at about 2.30pm, which is perfect for me as I can collect the children from school.

Any experimentation



I tend to do is in the evening at home. I entered the School Chef of the Year competition last year, and I spoke to our Year 6 pupils about what they'd like to eat. Predictably, they said burgers, so I put together a healthy option – made out of pork and with pitta bread. They loved it, along with the chocolate swamp frog dessert.

I was lucky enough to win the regional heat and recently took part in the national final. I'm working on some new ideas for next year, now I know what to expect. It was great fun and the whole school really got behind me.

the menu I don't make as many portions of that, but if it is a day with sausages I know that a lot of the children will want it. School dinners have had a lot of attention

in the media lately. I started to watch the Jamie Oliver series, but realised that he wasn't saying anything new. It's great what he is doing, but we've been doing most of it in Warwickshire for years.



We do have chips on the menu, but only once

a week, if that. You won't have seen a turkey twizzler in a Warwickshire kitchen for a long time. The main difference to what Jamie Oliver was doing is that we do use some frozen food, but we only get ingredients that meet high standards. Everything is oven cooked – we don't fry



anything. After the Burton Green food goes in at 10.30am, the food for Priors Field follows. Occasionally something goes wrong and we're getting ready to serve when I realise I've forgotten to put something in. There's no panic, as long as we get it in the oven before the children come into for their lunch we can get it together in time.

I love lunch time. The children enjoy their food and aren't as fussy as you might expect. I do take time and effort to make sure they aren't frightened to try something different. With the younger



“ I started to watch the Jamie Oliver series, but realised that he wasn't saying anything new. It's great what he is doing, but we've been doing most of it in Warwickshire for years. ”

Typical Menu

Pure Organics
Pork Grill & Gravy

*

Cheesy Broccoli Bake

*

Chicken Pie

*

Egg Mayonnaise Platter

*

Carrot & Orange Muffin

Children can also choose from

Potatoes, Rice, Pasta or
Breads

*

Vegetables, Salads
or Crudites & Dips

*

Own Recipe Biscuits

*

Cheese and Crackers

*

Fresh Fruit Platter
or Dried Fruit

*

Choice of Drinks

Further information

Visit:

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/schoolmeals



taking the big step

Making the jump from primary to secondary school can seem like a very daunting prospect.

All sorts of urban myths surround those first few days at 'the big school'. The reality however is somewhat friendlier, with a host of initiatives to ease the way.

with all sorts of horror stories circulating, the start of the new term when 11-year-olds start their new school can be a nervous time.

Some look forward to the new experience. They are ready to move on, having outgrown primary school.

But for others, the prospect of being the small fish in a big pond, is terrifying.

To help children make the switch, schools make an effort to roll out the welcome mat. Induction sessions took place in the summer term, and Warwickshire County Council also runs a number of projects aimed at making transition easier.

Cynthia Mills, of the council's Education Social Work Service, said one of the big fears children have is not knowing anyone at their new school.

A day of activities was organised for the entire intake of some schools in Rugby, where children from primary schools can be spread across the town.

The Year 6 children met existing pupils and teachers, as well as their future classmates, and they were put in groups for a number of 'It's a Knockout' challenges.

Cynthia said: "The new Year 7s were given badges and t-shirts and membership of a special club. It helped



them feel part of a larger group, and made them more comfortable.

“At the end of the day their parents came into the school to see what had been going on and they were given refreshments. It was a relaxed feel and helped everyone get to grips with the new school.”

The switch can be a worrying time for parents too, as they are concerned about the effect transition will have on their child.

“Generally, it might seem a bit daunting, but most children settle down within a couple of weeks,” Cynthia said.

“Schools are used to taking on a new

intake every year, and they are well-accustomed to introducing the children to new things gradually. Some schools have peer support programmes and are generally very good at making the induction process a smooth one.

“A lot of children’s fears are myths, and our projects have used children a year older to put some of those to rest.”

Children will find that they have more skills to deal with problems than they might think.

Almost a third of primary schools currently take part in a peer mediation scheme, where they learn how to resolve their own conflicts, and other schools have similar programmes.

Peter Timms, who runs the scheme, said: “We train Year 5 and Year 6 children in how to handle conflict with a solution-focused approach. They mediate over their own playground disputes – they follow a process, ask questions and guide people to the answer without making a judgement.

“The children will take these skills with them to secondary school and it will benefit them.”

So what should parents do should their child fail to settle?

“Always contact the school in the first instance,” said Cynthia Mills.

“These problems are nearly always best resolved in situ. If a child has a particular difficulty then the school will know who to contact if they need extra help.”

Worried about bullying?

What is the school’s responsibility to deal with bullying?

All schools should have an anti-bullying policy that explains how they will manage any incidents of bullying. When your child joins a school, it might be useful to ask for a copy of the policy and identify if there is a lead teacher who deals with bullying within the school.

What is bullying?

The DfES defines bullying as a deliberate hurtful act repeated over a period of time, such as:

- physical bullying (hitting or kicking);
- verbal bullying (name-calling and making offensive remarks); and
- indirect bullying (spreading rumours or excluding someone from a group).

What do I do if I think my child is being bullied?

- Firstly talk and listen to your child and assure them that they will be safe after ‘telling’. Try to record everything that has happened.
- Talk to your child’s teacher, explaining what has happened.
- Check regularly with your child to see if things have improved. If not, continue recording all incidents of bullying and discuss this with your child.
- If you are still unhappy, make an appointment with the headteacher and give them what you have recorded.
- If you are still not happy, you can write to the school’s board of governors.
- Finally, if you are unhappy with the board of governor’s response, you can contact the LEA complaints department on 01926 412001.
- Don’t forget the text2talk anti-bullying service on 07786 200 999.

For more information please refer to www.warwickshire.gov.uk/bullying

Date to remember

Closing date for applications for 4+ children starting Infant & Primary school in 2006 is **21 October 2005** for children born between: **1 Sept. 2001 and 31 August 2002**

Forms and more information are available from: **Admissions Service, Education Dept., 22 Northgate St. Warwick CV34 4SP**
Tel. 01926 412143 or 412852
email. admissions@warwickshire.gov.uk

Main worries

- **Too much homework**
- **Having lots of different teachers**
- **Getting lost**
- **Bigger, older pupils**
- **Being bullied**

Don’t forget

- **Others are going through it too**
- **Older pupils know what it’s like**
- **There is always someone you can talk to**
- **Talk to your parents about it**
- **Teachers are very experienced at helping new pupils settle**
- **Most pupils settle down quickly and enjoy their new school**



we're in this together

Work is continuing on a number of fronts to ensure that Warwickshire is a safe place for people of all backgrounds to live.

A 'community cohesion' conference is being planned to bring together agencies and community groups to discuss the ways in which the county can maintain its proud record of racial and religious harmony in the wake of the recent events in London.

A similar conference 18 months ago helped organisations such as Warwickshire County Council, Warwickshire Police and the health

authorities to embed good practice in their daily activities.

One of the outcomes of the conference was the development of the new Warwickshire Race Equality Partnership, currently being formed to provide a regular forum for all religious and community groups to air their concerns and for information and good practice to be shared around the county.

Eric Wood, Acting Chief Executive of Warwickshire County Council, said: "We are looking to this community cohesion conference as a way of taking stock of the current situation and examining what

we need to do in practical terms to keep things in Warwickshire stable.

"This will be done in partnership with other agencies and community groups, as this is the best way that we can combat prejudice and ensure that innocent people are not targeted because of the actions of fringe elements in society."

There is no reason for people from any ethnic or religious group to worry about Warwickshire's commitment to ensuring that the safety and well-being of all citizens in the county are both maintained and improved."

"Warwickshire has a tremendous record for race relations and excellent community relations, and we will continue to build on this."



Cllr Alan Farnell
Leader of the Council

"We must not be complacent. So far we have been fortunate in that there have been very few incidents of reprisals in Warwickshire following the London attacks in July."



Cllr June Tandy
Leader of the Labour Group

"We must continue to work together to ensure that the spirit of community remains strong across all religious and racial groups."



Cllr Jerry Roodhouse
Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group

Getting more from your website

Your Warwickshire County Council website has been given a facelift to make it easier for you to find what you need.

Following an extensive online survey and other feedback from users of the site, we've come up with a fresh new design to make it simpler and faster for you to reach the vast amount of information at your fingertips.

We've added a 'quick links' drop down menu to give quick access to the most popular features of the site and given more prominence to the Jobs section - Warwickshire County Council is the county's biggest employer - as feedback shows that this is a hugely popular section. The Events section also features prominently, listing a host of forthcoming events and giving you the opportunity to add any of your own you may be involved in.

The News section continues to provide a daily update of the latest information from around the county and if you need to find out information about your local councillor, it's all here 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

You'll be surprised at the range of useful services you can access.

Here's just a sample of what you can find at:



www.warwickshire.gov.uk

Find a job

Warwickshire County Council is the county's biggest employer - check all our job vacancies around the county.

Find your way

Need to find somewhere in Warwickshire? Search the maps by postcode or street name.

Renew books

You can renew your library books and search for others as well as DVDs, CDs and talking books.

Recycle stuff

Find out where your nearest recycling points are and pick up tips on how to live a more sustainable life.

Get married

Find out all the info you need about civil and church ceremonies in Warwickshire to help you plan your big day.

Spot the scam

Find out the latest information from Trading Standards about scams and fraudulent schemes to be wary of.

Fire safety

Check if you're eligible for a free home fire safety check and find extensive fire safety tips.

Find a school

All you need to know about schools in Warwickshire including a 'Parents' Zone' for more specific help.

Catch a bus

Check the bus timetables for all bus services throughout the county, by place name, route or bus number.

Meet the Glass family from Bedworth. They bravely decided to try and live sustainably for three weeks. How did they get on with a new 'green' lifestyle?

taking the green challenge

The Glass family, left to right: Mum Lesley, Dad Gordon, Jodie 10, Ryan 12, Daniel & Chris (not pictured)





The family being filmed for BBC Midlands Today.

Jodie's Diary

Hello, just updating my diary. I have really enjoyed doing this challenge. I like the organic vegetables and the salads. People at my school are having more healthier lunch boxes and fetch in more fruit.

We are also trying to save energy. The boys are turning off the lights more but Dan leaves the shower

running still. We're doing fine with recycling and composting. My Dad likes using the compost bin and if he grew a beard and wore sandals I would find it funny!

Jodie Glass, 10.



Here's an extract from 10 year old Jodie Glass's diary, written during the family's three week challenge. Read more at: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/the challenge

ge

One intrepid Bedworth family took up the challenge of living sustainably for three weeks in the run up to the Council's Sustainability Day for Schools held in May. The Glass family put their shopping, eating, recycling, energy use and travelling habits under the microscope for BBC Midlands Today.

The family - Mum Lesley, Dad Gordon, children Daniel, Chris, Ryan and Jodie - were given a video camera to record their progress and the edited highlights were later shown on television. The family were also provided with a range of sustainable products to trial, including environmentally friendly cleaning and laundry products, Co-op Fair Trade items, organic fruit and vegetables delivered to the door, eco shampoo and deodorant, energy efficient light bulbs and a compost bin.

Gordon said, "I have to admit, at the start I wasn't too keen on the whole thing. We had reservations because we had never recycled. We'd just never thought of it. We recycled newspapers for the pets but everything else went straight into the bin. It's surprising how easy it was to make a difference."

"It didn't take a great change in our lives - we just wash the cans and bottles and put them in the red box. The wheelie-bin used to be overflowing every week, now it's only half full when the binmen come. There's plenty of room. The experience has changed my view completely. We will definitely keep it up now."

Youngsters Daniel, Ryan and Chris found things a little tougher. Daniel explained, "People were taking the mickey out of me at school for being on TV, but it could have been worse. And one of my friends got an exam question on recycling, so that was handy. We've been trying really hard to remember to switch off the lights and not leave the taps and shower running, but it's difficult. But I think we've definitely got better."

Lesley added, "Yes, I'm hoping the electricity bill will be less than usual. We shall have to wait and see. To be honest, we thought it was going to be a lot harder to be sustainable, but really it's not been difficult at all. And we never expected so many people to be interested in how we've been doing - when the lady in the chip shop saw me

she exclaimed, "You're her!" She thought we were very brave to go on TV. At the start I wondered what we'd let ourselves in for, but now I'm really glad we've done it. It's been a great experience and I would challenge everyone else to try it."

For further information on the Challenge and where to find your nearest recycling centre, visit www.warwickshire.gov.uk/thechallenge or contact Gillian Rutledge, Environmental Design, Warwickshire County Council. Tel: 01926 418036.



Your one-stop shop

Residents of Kenilworth may be wondering what has been happening to their library over the last two months. All is about to be revealed.

Warwickshire County Council and Warwick District Council are piloting an innovative and exciting joint venture to enable residents to obtain information and advice on a variety of Council services from a single point of access – Kenilworth Library. If the pilot is successful, it may be rolled out to other sites across the county.

The transformation, which will mean a single point of contact for all Kenilworth residents, incorporating the Library, Kenilworth Connection and Tourist Information, is almost complete and will be open to the public by the end of September. Residents will soon be able to borrow library books, make housing benefit and council tax enquiries and access a range of other District and County services all in one place. Noel Hunter, Director of Libraries, Heritage and Trading Standards, Warwickshire County Council said:

“We welcome this exciting new project in partnership with the District Council. As key front facing public services, libraries are perfectly placed to be the one location for providing a range of advice and information. The completely refurbished building will be a fantastic new facility for Kenilworth.”

In this new facility, the front desk will aim to deal with 80% of all enquiries at first point of contact. Staff will be trained to provide information on both County Council and Warwick District Council services as well as perform regular library tasks such as book renewals and library membership. Dedicated desks and confidential booths will be available for more complex and sensitive enquiries.

The integrated team is in place and comprises District staff from Kenilworth Connection and staff from the Library and Information Service. The team have received extensive training to ensure that residents get the best possible response to their enquiries at the first contact.

Fiona Clark, Project Manager, Warwick

District Council, said

“Warwick District Council has run a One Stop Shop for some years, but has always had a longer term ambition of providing joint services with the County Council. Together we can provide a better and more integrated service for the public.”

County and District Services all in one place ... at new look Kenilworth library

Renew and return library books • Pay council tax • Housing benefit enquiries • Other County Council & District Council enquiries handled



Under-18 competition winners



“ **Duran Duran Astronaut CD**
Duran Duran are back in their original line up with this newly released album and it is a recommended rental to all!



Since their success in the eighties Duran Duran have released more than ten albums and in my opinion this is their very best to date. Simon Le Bon's unique voice (which seems to

portray all emotions with ease) improves the fantastic lyrics even more, and each of the twelve songs has a meaning and a story behind it. There are a wide variety of musical sounds that suit any mood and feeling, from the hilarious and addictive Bedroom Toys to the haunting Chains. You can listen to this album again and again and each time hear something new. The band's style of music has barely changed and this new variety of sounds will soon become as cherished as the old firm favourites such as Rio and Wild Boys.

So, whether you have been a fan forever or a new listener open to opportunities, this is a must for anyone who appreciates brilliant, well performed music. It is definitely worth the library's economic fee for one week's rental. ”

Megan Whiteman, 15.

Library review competition results

In the Spring issue of Warwickshire View we asked for reviews of books, CDs, DVDs or videos loaned from your local library. We've picked the best three and printed the winner (left). Second place went to Nicola Henney, 15, for her review of the Disney DVD 'Holes' and third place went to Megan Timothy aged 11 for her review of 'The Suitcase Kid by Jacqueline Wilson. The winners receive loan credits at their library of £25, £15 and £10 respectively.

warwickshire life

The calibre of entries to our last competition asking; 'What's the best thing about living in Warwickshire?' was so high we're featuring another entry.

“ Warwickshire has a beautiful touch from nature and at the same time, a river of culture and history. I like to live here because I'm in the middle of nature, with gorgeous trees and flowers, horses, sheep and owls; literally as my neighbours. In just a few minutes by car, I can be in many places with history to tell. A good example is Stratford, with lovely places surrounded by culture. A legacy of our bard Shakespeare! How about Warwick? Wow! It's like going back in time, experiencing history in every street. And of course Warwick Castle: the secrets of the battles and their knights; the wonderful view from the tower and simply the beauty of the Castle beside the river....It's magic for the eyes! But the picture that is always with me is my walk, close to home, along the road or across the fields, watching the cottage houses, the sheep, with a lovely sunset, full of pink, gold, and blue. I can even have the company of seagulls, surfing in the wind over the endless fields that meet the sky...

Warwickshire's everlasting impression: a mix that touches the heart.

Maria Cristina Euthymiou, Rugby. ”





**Staff
Choice**

*Working for
Warwickshire*

Nigel Jones, (left) Senior Library Assistant from Leamington Library picks some non-fiction gems, whilst his colleagues offer a selection of personal reviews of books and film.

Nigel's choices:

Stargazing

by Peter Hill

The Man Who Counted

by Malba Tahan

Waterlog

by Roger Deakin

library focus on leamington spa

There are more and more non-fiction titles that are real good reads and not just browsing or information material. Here is a selection of narrative non-fiction across a range of subjects from lighthouses to mathematics to swimming.

In Peter Hill's **Stargazing** we hear his memoirs of working as an assistant lighthouse keeper in the summer of

Also recommended

A life stripped bare by Leo

Hickman. How far are one man and his family willing to go to live a more ethical and green life?

B***s to Alton Towers: uncommonly British days out.**

An alternative guide to Britain's small and quirky attractions.

It's not about the bike: my journey back to life by Lance Armstrong.

You don't have to like cycling or Texans to find this book inspirational.

1973. With his head full of Kerouac, Frank Zappa and Coronation Street, he enters a world now long forgotten.

This is a fascinating look at what it was like to work on a lighthouse - now completely automated - especially seen through the eyes of a nineteen year old fuelled by Vietnam and Watergate. He works on three of Scotland's lighthouses, and meets an array of characters, learns the ropes, and eats a lot of food! I found this book difficult to put down, and the only disappointment was when it ended.

A lot of people seem to have an aversion to maths, but through the storytelling of Malba Tahan **The man who counted** gives us a different perspective on this subject. It is the story of Beremiz Samir, who was able to solve arguments, dilemmas and tribulations,

found on his travels in ancient Arabia, by using his mathematical skills. He soon becomes reknowned for his wisdom and is summoned to the royal palace to advise the King himself, eventually finding fame and fortune. It's a bit like Arabian Nights by numbers. Originally aimed at children, it does make an interesting read for adults - just imagine Derren Brown in ancient Arabia!

Some people like to swim the channel, or even dive to the depths of Wookey Hole; but in **Waterlog** Roger Deakin tells us of his quest to swim across Britain. From lakes, lochs, rock pools and rivers he takes us to the most bizarre and beautiful locations for a swim. You could say that it's a travel book, but there is far more to it. He gives an insight into the history of how some of these places came about, a look at how clean the waters are, but most of all it is his personal journey that is the captivating part. I'm not sure if we'll all be swimming down the River Leam in the near future though.

Contact Info

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/libraries
or call **(01926) 410410**

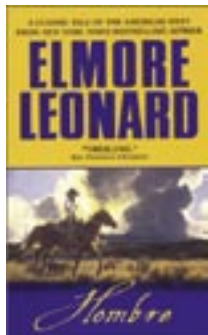
5 more books to look out for at the Library



Lawrence Block
All the flowers are dying

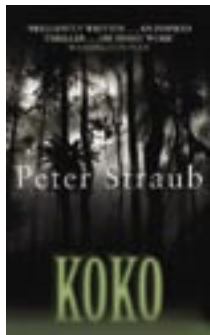
The latest in the Matt Scudder series. A psychopath returns from the past to settle unfinished business, bodies accumulate and Scudder, his own life in danger, eventually saves the day. But Block is always interested, and interesting, in writing about things other than crime. Convoluted, grisly, witty, clever, this is a gripping chunk of New York life.

These 5 reviews by
Robert Knight



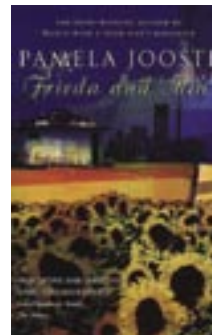
Elmore Leonard
Hombre

Who reads Westerns nowadays? But this is Elmore Leonard and he would make a shopping list entertaining. This one's a re-issue from 1961, but the theme of doing the right thing is timeless. A man raised by the Apaches must enter the world of white outlaws on a journey out in the middle of nowhere and kill or be killed. *Hombre* is spare, moral, full of the quirky dialogue and toughness that is essential Leonard.



Peter Straub
Koko

Full of ghosts and horror, but worlds away from your usual gore-fest. The Vietnam War is over, but four friends still bear the scars of a terrible moment in the war. Then the murders begin and they must go in search of the buddy they believe is committing them. But all is not as it seems as the story moves from America to the Far East and back again. Dark, powerful, thrilling.



Pamela Jooste
Frieda and Min

Until black South African writers tell their stories of apartheid and reach an international audience, then we must look to people like Jooste. *Frieda and Min* is about two friends, meeting as girls and forming a powerful bond in adulthood, who become embroiled in the conflicts and grief of the Verwoed years. Simply but beautifully written, very funny and very sad.



Richard Condon
The Manchurian Candidate

Seen the movies? Now read the book! Written, amazingly, over forty five years ago, this book still has points to make about torture, terrorism, nationalistic paranoia and political chicanery. An ex-prisoner of war returns a hero, unaware that he has been programmed to target a candidate for the American presidency. The tension mounts as the truth is revealed. Wonderful chewy stuff, but don't let your mother you read it - she might get ideas.



DVD & Video to look out for at the Library

Constantine

'Constantine' the film is based on Alan Moore's highly acclaimed comic-book series 'Hellblazer', about the tribulations of supernatural vigilante, John Constantine. The story concerns itself with the coming of Satan's son, and the hell on earth that he will wreak if he gets to earth. If you like supernatural romps then this will do the trick with it's eerie vibe, quirky pace and action set pieces, but steer well clear if you are a fan of the comic series.

Chris Kelly, Library Assistant

New Arrivals

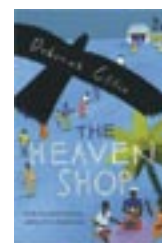
Hitch, Hostage, Constantine, Miss Congeniality 2, Tracy Beaker the movie of me, Kinsey, Head in the clouds, Chorus

Children's Books

The heaven shop • **Deborah Ellis** (for ages 12+)

The story takes place in the African country of Malawi, where a huge number of the population are dying of AIDS. The story follows Binti from being a special child and radio star to becoming just another AIDS orphan. Deborah Ellis has created a very moving picture of what it is like to be a child who has lost her parents to AIDS. She expertly deals with the sense of loss, shame and bewilderment that follows Binti and her brother and sister, while looking at the total ignorance which surrounds AIDS, the HIV virus and how to protect yourself.

Liz Bonney, Library Assistant



what's on

september

10 Sept - 8 Oct

Byways of Warwickshire

Stunning photographs of lesser-known corners of Warwickshire, by local artist and photographer Alan Tyers - Market Hall Museum, Warwick.

11 2005 George Eliot Country Classic Transport Run

Leaves 11am from Nuneaton Town Centre, finishes at Bosworth Water park at 1pm. 024 7637 6447 for more information.

13 Walking for Health

Nuneaton heritage information walk. 10.30 - 11.30
Meet at Nuneaton Museum & Art Gallery

14 Nappuccino

Free coffee morning – find out about using modern cotton nappies. Benn Hall, Rugby 10.00 - 12.00

17 Canal Boat trip from Nuneaton to Bedworth

10.30 - 12.30 and 14:00 - 16:00
Call 024 7637 6490 to book.

17 Atherstone Book Fair

Memorial Hall, Long Street, Atherstone.
Call 01827 722158 for further details.

18 Travelwise Warwick Cycle Races

Warwick Town Centre, 12.00 - 17.30

21 The Universe in a Nutshell - Evening Talk

Activity Centre, St.John's House Museum, Warwick
7.30pm - 9.00pm. Call 01926 412034 to book

28 Nappuccino

Holy Trinity Parish Centre, Stratford
10.00 - 12.00

29 Sept - 1 Oct

Stratford-upon-Avon Food Festival

Food theatre and cookery demos
Market Square & The Aga Shop, Stratford,
9.00 - 17.30

30 Nappuccino

Warwick Gates Community Centre
10.00 - 12.00

october

6-9 Warwick Words

Festival of literature and the spoken word
Various locations around Warwick.
See local press for details

9 Apple Day

Apples galore, talks, identification and tasting
Ryton Organic Gardens.
10.00 - 17.00 Call 024 7630 8211.

12 Stratford's riverside trees & wildlife walk

2.00pm - 4.00pm. To book call 01926 412034.

15 Oct - 19 Nov

Sculpture by Debra Scaldwell Moody

Debra's sculptures of human forms and animals.
Market Hall Museum, Warwick.

19 Nappuccino

Benn Hall, Rugby, 10.00 - 12.00

28 Saxon Splendour - Half Term activity

Polesworth Library
10.30 - 12.30. Call 01926 412034 for more details.

30 Pumpkin Day

Carve a lantern, tasting and pumpkins to buy.
Ryton Organic Gardens, 10.00 - 17.00

november

18 Bedworth Continental market

Contact Alan Ottey 024 7637 6597

18 South Warwickshire opportunities for older people (SWOOP)

Stratford Racecourse. Displays, advice & info.

19 Nuneaton Continental market

Contact Alan Ottey 024 7637 6597

25-27 Bedworth Folk Festival

Weekend multi-venue and indoor folk festival.

26-27 Rugby History Fair

Explore family & local history with the experts
Rugby Library. Call 01788 533250 for details.

26 Nov - 7 Jan

Association of Midland Artists

Market Hall Museum, Warwick.

december/january

5 Dec A practical introduction to the County Record Office
County Record Office, Priory Park, Warwick
2.30pm - 4.00pm. Call 01926 738959 to book.

23 Jan
Family history for beginners
County Record Office, Priory Park, Warwick
2.30pm - 4.00pm. Call 01926 738959 to book.

26 Jan
Finds Identification Day
Market Hall Museum, Warwick.
1.30pm - 3.00pm. Call 01926 412034 for details.

farmers' markets

Warwickshire Farmers' Markets: 9am- 2pm (unless stated)
Call 01608 664659 for more information.

3 & 17 Sept, 1 & 15 Oct, 5 & 19 November
Stratford upon Avon, Rother Street

10 Sept, 8 Oct, 12 Nov Southam, Market Hill

10 Sept, 8 Oct, 12 Nov Kenilworth, Abbey End

16 Sept, 21 Oct, 18 Nov Warwick, Market Square

24 Sept, 22 Oct, 26 Nov Leamington Spa, Pump Rooms Gardens

23 Sept, 28 Oct, 25 Nov (10am start) Coleshill, Church Hill

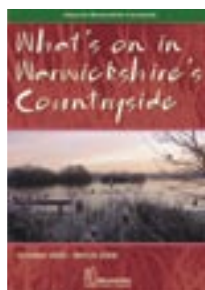
29 Sept, 27 Oct, 24 Nov Rugby, Clock Tower

28 Sept, 26 Oct, 23 Nov Shipston on Stour, Mill Street Car Park

Country Parks Guide

What's on in Warwickshire's Countryside

Your FREE guide to the Autumn and Winter programme of events at your country parks. For your copy call 01827 872660 or email: parks@warwickshire.gov.uk



Details of dates and times of Council meetings open to the public can be found at www.warwickshire.gov.uk/council or by calling 01926 410410. Information correct at time of going to press. Before making your journey please check that the details have not changed. Some events require you to book in advance and may incur a small charge. For more information on these events contact Warwickshire County Council 01926 410410, Warwickshire County Record Office 01926 738959 (for any events where it states please book through Record Office) Heritage Education 01926 412034, Market Hall Museum 01926 412500.

Warwickshire Social Services

New ways to contact us about Adult Services.

What has changed?

The best way to contact Social Services about adult services is by telephone. Please call **01926 410410** anytime from 8am to 8pm, Monday to Friday, or from 9am to 4pm on Saturday or you can email: **sswebenquiries@warwickshire.gov.uk**

We also have an online facility to help older people check their likely eligibility for services and/or request an assessment from Social Services by filling in a simple online form on the county council website at: **www.warwickshire.gov.uk/vintage** and a dedicated telephone helpline service for people of 50 and over is available to get information about anything including Social Services from 8am until 8pm daily and Saturday mornings on **0845 600 5585**.

Why the change?

All calls about Adult Social Services are now being handled by the County Council Customer Service Centre. When you ring the Social Service office number you will get through to the Customer Service Centre in Warwick. Highly trained Customer Service Advisors will be able to deal with your query, whether you are asking for support for the first time, looking for some information and advice, or you are receiving services and need to let us know of a change in your circumstances. The Centre, with its extended opening hours is just one development amongst a range of others being considered by the County Council to improve services to people in Warwickshire. We'll keep you informed of new developments.



call
01926 410410
or email
sswebenquiries@warwickshire.gov.uk
or call
0845 600 5585
for the dedicated helpline for people aged 50 & over
or visit
www.warwickshire.gov.uk/vintage





what your COUNTY COUNCIL does for you

Adult Education & ICT Learning Centres
 Archaeology
 Archives & Records
 Arts
 Births, Marriages & Deaths Registration
 Business Support
 Childcare Information Services
 Community Safety
 Construction
 Consumer & Business Advice
 Country Parks & Recreation
 County Council Property Maintenance
 County Highways
 County Record Office
 Disability Services
 Early Years' Centres
 Ecology
 Economic Development
 Education
 Emergency Planning
 Employment
 Environmental Design
 Farms & Forestry

Fire & Rescue
 Foster Care
 Grants
 Heritage Education
 Homecare
 Libraries
 Museums
 Nature Conservation
 Parents' Centres
 Planning
 Quality & Environmental Support Systems
 Regeneration Projects
 Residential Homes
 Roads, Footpaths & Rights of Way
 Road Safety
 School Meals
 Social Care & Policy
 Trading Standards
 Transport & Local Bus Services
 Tree Work
 Warwickshire Calibration Services
 Waste Management
 Youth Services



*Working for
Warwickshire*

call 01926 410410
 (minicom 01926 412277)

web www.warwickshire.gov.uk

email vieweditor@warwickshire.gov.uk

write View Editor
 Communications Division
 Chief Executive's Department
 Warwickshire County Council
 P.O. Box 9, Shire Hall
 Warwick CV34 4RR

Contact us

Our normal office hours are **9 - 5.30pm Monday to Thursday & 9 - 5pm on Friday**. However by calling the number on the left you can obtain advice, help or signposting to any of our services from **8am - 8pm weekdays & 9am - 4pm on Saturdays**.

If this information is difficult to understand we can provide it in another format, for example; in Braille, in large print, on audiotape, in another language or by talking with you.
Please contact us on 01926 412758.