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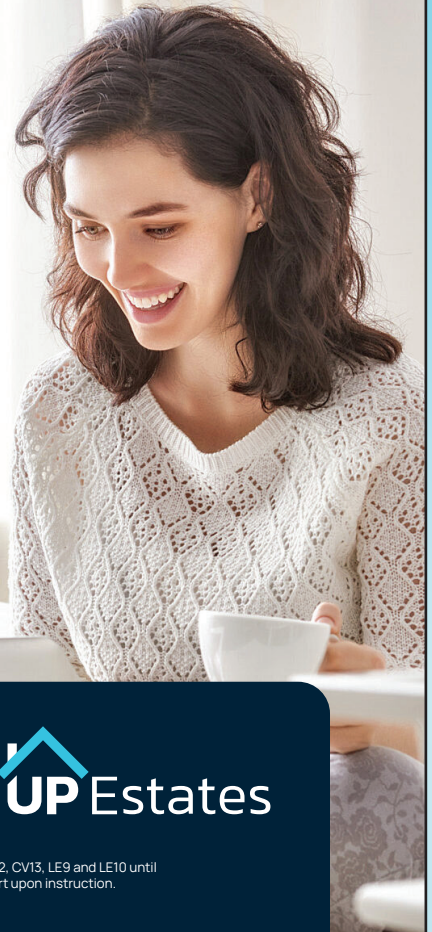
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# Community Comes together for Club



It is never good news when severe flooding hits our homes and businesses – but one positive we can take from such occurrences is the way communities come together to help.

For instance, members of a Nuneaton squash club worked through the night to protect it from flood water - saving the family-owned site more than £20,000 worth of repair work this month.

About 20 members joined the owners of Cleaver Squash Club in Weddington on Monday, 6 January to push water away from the indoor courts.

The members were protecting the courts, which had to be replaced in 2024 after another flood damaged them beyond repair.

Steve Rhodes, a long-standing member of the club, said the group worked to sweep water out of the centre throughout the night between Monday and Tuesday.

*“The flood levels started rising quite significantly on Monday afternoon,”* he said.

*“There were about 20 people here on and off - the really hardcore people were here until 4am.”*

*He said the group was “literally pushing water out of the club, sweeping it down through the club”.*

Another member, Charlie Morris, said the club was a great part of the community.

*“All the members committed to get the club back to where it needs to be,”* he said.

*“It’s a certainty that this is going to happen again, it’s just actually putting the measures in place to neutralise it as much as possible.*

*“But a lot of it is down to hard work and graft.”*

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# TeenTech Turning Teens to Future Career Paths

A festival to introduce students to companies and showcase the careers available to them locally will take place in February.

TeenTech Festival, which takes place at the MIRA Technology Institute (MTI) in Nuneaton, has been attended by more than 20 local schools over the last five years with all six of the Nuneaton-based secondary schools attending.

The STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics) event, set to take place in February 2025, provides support at the MTI to assist students in finding their chosen paths and engages them to stay and implement their skills in the area.

And a contribution of £4,500 from Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council has helped ensure that the event will be able to go ahead.

Cllr Nicky King, Portfolio Holder for Business and Regeneration, said: *“The Council recognises the importance of students gaining an insight into a future career and that this event can benefit both prospective employees*



*and companies locally.*

*“That is why Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council is happy to financially contribute to ensure the event continues to go ahead for the borough’s students.”*

Operations Director, Lisa Bingley of MTI, said: *“MTI are proud to have worked with Teen Tech for the last five years to bring this amazing STEAM event to our local students, bringing industry and education together to promote career paths, products and companies.*

*“We are so pleased to be able to continue to offer our support in collaboration with our local councils.”*

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# Twycross first Tiny Tot of 2025

The first baby of the year has arrived – at Twycross Zoo!

The much-loved Leicestershire tourist attraction has proudly announced its first new primate arrival of 2025 = a coppery titi monkey.

And the infant is a real daddy's kid – since its arrival it has been cared for by its father.

The species is native to South America's rainforests, particularly in Brazil, Peru and Colombia.

The coppery titi is named for its distinctive burnt-red, copper-hued fur.

Since the infant's arrival, it has been cared for by its father, who becomes the primary caregiver 48 hours after birth.

He will continue this role until it reaches around six months and can explore its enclosure on its own.



Twycross Zoo's Primate Curator, Matthew Ford, said: "We are thrilled to welcome a coppery titi monkey, born as part of our ongoing conservation efforts.

"At the end of last year, the coppery titi monkeys moved into a newly renovated enclosure designed by our expert team of zookeepers include climbing structures, natural vegetation, and plenty of opportunities to encourage natural behaviours."



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# Pingles Leisure Centre Update

The Pingles Leisure Centre is back open for users – and bosses have explained why it was suddenly closed earlier this month.

Leisure chiefs have apologised for any inconvenience caused due to the closure at short notice on Thursday 9 and Friday 10 January.

The temporary closure followed maintenance works to the steel columns in the leisure water area.

A period of closure was put in place to afford time for technical assessment to take place.

Following a structural engineer inspection the centre was able to re-open in time for the weekend.

Further repair works do need to take place, and that is being arranged to happen as quickly as possible.



A spokesperson said: *“In the interim, we do unfortunately need to keep the smaller leisure pool area closed and restrict access to part of the gym space, until this work has been completed.”*

The management and use of the main pool will continue as usual and the gym and studio have re-opened with an amended programme, which will be available to book online.

Further information will be made available via the Pingles Everyone Active website.



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# Stay Well for Winter

As the colder weather continues, winter comes with a higher risk of health issues, particularly for older people or those with long-term conditions and compromised immune systems.

To support residents in staying warm and well this winter, Warwickshire County Council (WCC) is raising awareness of information and advice available to help support those who may be particularly vulnerable.

Winter viruses are more prevalent during the colder months and can spread more easily – but there are steps people can take to reduce the spread of viruses, protecting both themselves and more vulnerable people.

Vaccines offer the best protection against viruses like COVID-19 and flu, and anyone who has been invited for these vaccinations is encouraged to attend their appointment as soon as possible. Staying away from others and regularly washing hands when feeling unwell will also help to reduce the spread of viruses along with *'catch it, bin it, kill it'* when coughing and sneezing.

Being cold can raise the risk of higher blood pressure, heart attacks and strokes. The cold, damp weather can aggravate existing health problems, making people more vulnerable to respiratory winter illnesses. *But there are things residents can do to stay well:*



- Try to have warm drinks and at least one hot meal each day
- Make sure all footwear has a snug fit with non-slip soles
- Keep your bedroom windows closed during really cold weather
- Keep active and remove hazards that may cause you to fall
- Have an emergency contact number for a friend or neighbour in case you need help.

Councillor Margaret Bell, portfolio holder for Adult Social Care and Health, said: *“As we experience much colder weather, it’s also really important to follow our tips to keep warm at home. Please also check in with elderly or vulnerable neighbours and family members to make sure they stay warm and well too.”*

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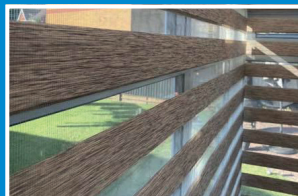
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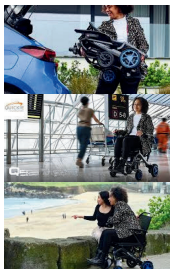
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# Get Your Car Checked for Winter

With more cold weather on the way, Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership is reminding drivers in Nuneaton that now is a great time to book your vehicle in to a garage for a free winter safety check to help avoid unnecessary breakdowns and to keep you and your passengers as safe as possible on the road.

Most local garages offer this free check but you can also search online for a garage near you that offers this service. You need to book in advance.

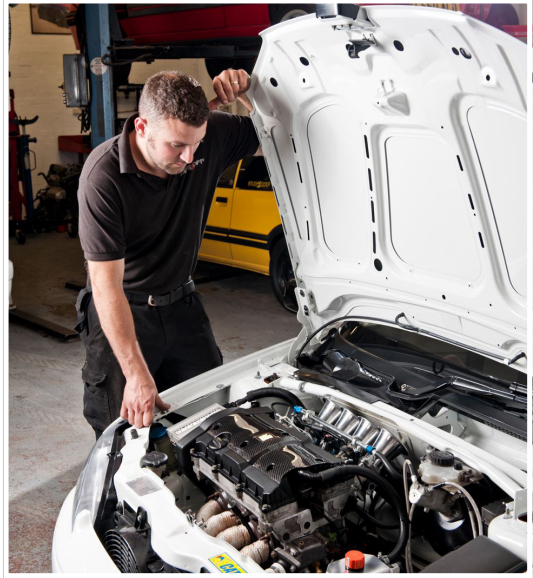
Checks include tyres, wiper blades and screen wash, anti-freeze levels, lights and battery levels.

Sharon Hilton of Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership said: *“Vehicle safety checks are even more important during the winter as the adverse weather conditions can affect the reliability and performance of your vehicle. Good tyres are essential in wet, icy and snowy conditions to maintain grip on the road so need to be checked regularly.*

*“Headlights, brake lights and rear markers need to be checked by the driver constantly to ensure they work so that other road users can see you.*

*“Having safer vehicles on the road is good news for all road users and helps us towards our target of reducing the number of people killed or seriously injured in road collisions in Warwickshire by 50% by 2030.”*

Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service offers winter car checks across the county and gives advice around maintaining your car. The events will be advertised through the partnership and Warwickshire Fire and Rescue social media accounts.



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