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# Students Secure Special Glasses for Special Players

*Young footballers with visual impairment in Nuneaton can now play the game with special sports glasses – thanks to a group of talented students.*

The Level 5 HND Social and Community Work students from North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College successfully completed a pioneering project to supply specialist spectacles for young people with vision impairments who play sport.

This innovative initiative, to develop a professional presentation aimed at improving access to football for visually impaired athletes, involved a collaboration with Level 4 Graphic Design students and Weddington Football Club.

The students raised awareness about the difficulties faced by young athletes who cannot wear traditional glasses while playing sport, which often means they miss out on opportunities to showcase their talent to scouts.

With support from Community and Voluntary Action Nuneaton and Bedworth, known as (CAVA), and funding through a Warwickshire County Council grant from Councillor Robert Tromans, the students have been able to provide sports glasses that will allow these young footballers to play without limitations.

Laura Fullylove, a student who worked on the project, said: *“Being part of this project has been an incredible experience. Designing sports goggles for visually impaired young footballers has given me a unique opportunity to apply my skills in a meaningful way.*

*“It’s great to know that our work could help these athletes perform at their best and break barriers on the field. I hope this project inspires*



*others to think creatively about accessibility in sports.”*

Cllr Robert Tromans, Weddington division, said: *“I am so pleased to have been able to support the bid from Weddington Junior Football Club. Promoting physical activity is important and these goggles will help enable local children, who need corrective vision, to enjoy football.”*

Michelle Black, CAVA Funding and Group Development Officer for Nuneaton and Bedworth said: *“We are delighted to have been part of this project. Seeing the students’ passion and commitment to making sport more accessible for all young people was truly inspiring.”*

Susan Adcock, Academic Coordinator, added: *“The collaboration between the Social and Community Work and Graphic Design Higher Education students has been inspiring.”*

Peter Everitt of Weddington Football Club said: *“Our football team has a long-standing commitment to inclusivity, and these glasses are a game-changer for the young athletes who struggle with vision impairments, giving them the confidence to fully engage in the game and demonstrate their talent on the field.”*

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# Free Health Checks for Veterans

Local veterans are being offered free health checks after health and veteran organisations joined forces to develop a new innovative project in the local community.

This initiative is being offered as a collaboration between George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust, Veterans Contact Point, Warwickshire County Council, North Arden Primary Care Network and Nuneaton and Bedworth Primary Care Network.

The first checks were offered as part of the 'Brew and Banter' events at the Veterans Contact Point Nuneaton Hub which started from Wednesday 22nd of January, with further sessions in different community locations to be released throughout the year.

Free, tailored health checks are being given to catch potential health problems early, allowing veterans to live healthier, more active lives.

*"We are extremely proud to be offering free health checks to our veterans who we have a very close and important relationship with,"* said Dr Catherine Free, Managing Director of George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust. *"This initiative is our way of showing gratitude to those who have served our country.*

*"By providing early detection and prevention in a community setting, we can ensure that veterans have access to the care and support they deserve."*



The program is open to all veterans, regardless of age or the length of time since their service.

Len Hardy BEM, Chief Executive Officer of The Veterans Contact Point and also a veteran himself, commented on his own personal circumstances that following a scheduled blood screening test which indicated problems he was subsequently diagnosed with Leukaemia (AM) and received treatment which is ongoing.

Len reflected: *"This would not have been detected if I had not had the routine blood screening at the George Eliot Hospital and I would encourage all North Warwickshire Veterans to take full advantage of this free health check opportunity."*

Veterans interested in accessing the free health checks can visit [www.geh.nhs.uk/veteranshealth](http://www.geh.nhs.uk/veteranshealth) or call 02476 343 793 for more information.

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# Help Celebrate 25 Years of Bulkington Community Centre

2025 marks the 25th anniversary of Bulkington Community & Conference Centre!

It started back in 1996 when, to prevent developers taking the land, some local villagers came together to form a charity taking over the old school and developing it into a multiactivity community centre.

Since May 2000, the centre has gone from strength to strength and is an integral part of the community.

The 25th anniversary takes place in May and there will be various events and activities throughout 2025 to celebrate.

These events will not only be a celebration but also a very necessary way to help raise funds for the centre and planned projects.

A spokesperson said: *“As a charity, we work extremely hard to raise funds, led by a very small team of employees and a number of volunteers without whom we would not be able to offer such an extensive programme of events and activities.*



*“We achieve big things, but we must work extremely hard to maintain a very ageing school building and continue to develop the site and services. We are responsible for all upkeep and running and development costs.*

*“We are dedicated to making a positive impact in the lives of our local community and are often supporting new groups to get up and running.”*

One regular event is a Drumming Circle which takes place monthly on a Monday at 5.50pm. Beginners are welcome so take along a drum or a rattle for an uplifting experience.

For more information email [sallybatley202@gmail.com](mailto:sallybatley202@gmail.com).

Or there's the Medicine Circle, a “Whol-istic Women's Wellness Group” which starts on Friday, 14 February from 2pm to 3pm for eight consecutive weeks.

For more information call Sharon at Embrace 07830 000712 or email [embracebysharon@gmail.com](mailto:embracebysharon@gmail.com)

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# Dark Months and Mental Wellbeing

As winter continues, the colder, darker months can have a negative effect on a person's mood, so this is an important time of year for everyone, especially children and young people, to look after their mental health.

That's why we're sharing advice and guidance on how young people, supported by parents, carers and schools, can look after their mental health and wellbeing throughout the winter.

## Support for children and young people

Children and young people experience emotional challenges from time to time and it's important that they know they don't have to go through it alone—help is always available through a range of support services.

It may not be easy for young people to recognise when they're struggling. Some signs to look out for include losing interest in activities, having ongoing trouble sleeping, wanting to spend more time alone, feeling upset or angry more than usual, or self-neglect. If these signs seem familiar, it's important to let someone know and reach out for support.

The Warwickshire Rise Service offers comprehensive support for all children and young people, which includes:

**Direct Support:** A combination of group sessions for young people and their parents or carers, along with individual therapeutic interventions.

**School-Based Resilience Programmes:** Initiatives like Boomerang, Big Umbrella, and Mental Health in School Teams.

**Support for Caregivers:** Collaborating with social care, schools, and other professionals.

**Community-Based Support:** Resources for parents and carers through Rise Community Partnerships.

**24-Hour Support:** Access to crisis care and a 24/7 helpline.

Additionally, Kooth is a countywide digital platform for young people aged 11-25 in



Warwickshire, providing a safe and confidential way to access emotional wellbeing and early intervention mental health support.

For more information on the services and resources available to help support children and young people's mental health, visit the Warwickshire County Council website at: Mental health services for young people – Warwickshire County Council

For wider information on the mental health and wellbeing services available to all residents, visit [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/mentalhealth](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/mentalhealth).

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# Improving Links to New Bedworth Physical Activity Hub

A big step forward in improving links to and from Bedworth town centre and the new Bedworth Physical Activity Hub will start being put in place this month.

Warwickshire County Council Highways Directorate will install a new crossing point on Sergeant Simon Valentine Way and a cycle path leading into Miners' Welfare Park.

The works are financed using Levelling Up funds secured by Nuneaton and Bedworth Council and provided by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government Pathfinder Programme, along with funding from Sport England and the Council itself.

The crossing works are planned to start the week commencing Monday 24 February and will last for approximately six weeks.

Some traffic management controls will need to be in place at times during the work and both Councils are asking for the public's tolerance and understanding of any inconvenience that results during the project.

Additional path works will also separately be being undertaken by NBBC's Activity Hub construction contractors BAM near the mountain bike trail skills area to start to create some of the new and wider permanent tarmac paths leading to the hub.

This work will involve a very short path diversion being put in place during two working weeks, but Parkrun routing at the weekend will be unaffected.

That Activity Hub path work is scheduled to start on Monday 10 February.

Cllr Jan Matecki, Warwickshire County Council Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning, said:

*"This new crossing and cycle path represent a significant step forward in connecting*



*Bedworth town centre with the exciting new Physical Activity Hub.*

*"These improvements will not only promote active travel and healthier lifestyles, but also future-proof further planned active travel connections and play a vital role in the wider regeneration of Bedworth, supporting economic growth and enhancing connectivity for residents."*

Cllr Tim Jenkins, Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Communities and Health at Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council, said:

*"We apologise for any inconvenience that the additional path works near the Physical Activity Hub cause but have worked closely with BAM as our Activity Hub construction contractor to absolutely minimise any impacts on park users.*

*"Can we please ask people visiting the park during that time to follow any signage and any directions given by construction site staff.*

*"We have tried to keep a path circuit open and available at all times around the park for residents during the construction period and doing that necessitates occasional minor adjustments to the route that the temporary path circuit takes.*

*"The alternative would have been to close off the circuit around the park fully for much longer periods, so we ask for your understanding while we work towards a new Physical Activity Hub for Bedworth fully fit for the 21st century and towards the enhanced park facilities."*



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Our care homes cater to a wide range of needs, including residential care, dementia care, mental health support, physical disabilities, palliative care, and sensory impairments. We also offer short-term respite care, providing families with the flexibility they need. Whether privately funded or supported by local authorities, every resident receives the same high standard of care, rooted in dignity, respect, and compassion.



Life at Long Lea and Parkhouse Grange is vibrant and engaging. We believe that staying active is key to overall well-being, which is why we offer a variety of activities designed

to entertain, inspire, and invigorate. From coffee mornings and gardening clubs to arts and crafts sessions, cocktail-making classes, and movie nights, there is always something exciting happening. Residents also enjoy outings facilitated by our dedicated minibus service, allowing them to explore the local community and beyond.



Meal times are a highlight at both homes. Our talented chefs prepare fresh, home-cooked meals daily, focusing on nutrition, flavour, and variety. We create well-balanced meal plans tailored to individual dietary needs, ensuring that dining is not just nourishing but also an enjoyable social experience.

Our philosophy is simple yet profound: *“If it doesn’t meet the standards I’d want for my mother, it doesn’t meet our standards for anyone.”* This guiding principle shapes every aspect of care we provide, ensuring that each resident feels valued, safe, and truly at home.

Discover the warmth, care, and community spirit at Long Lea and Parkhouse Grange - where exceptional care is our everyday commitment.

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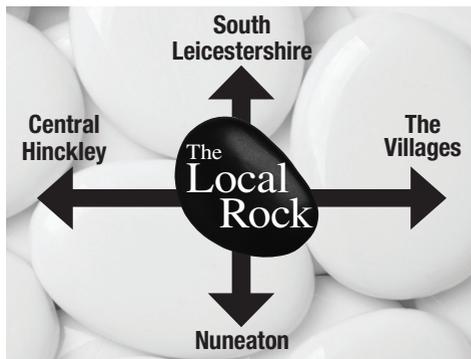


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