

# SANDWELL HERALD

SUMMER 2024 – CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF SANDWELL



@sandwellcouncil



Sandwell



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# 50 YEARS

OAK HOUSE

# 1974 • 2024



Supporting Sandwell with the cost of living – Page 4



Summer fun for children and young people – Pages 11-14



Royal surprise for Sandwell school – Page 20



Hero binman in house fire rescue – Page 21



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[www.sandwell.gov.uk/emailupdates](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/emailupdates)



[www.sandwell.gov.uk](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk)



50 YEARS  
1974 • 2024

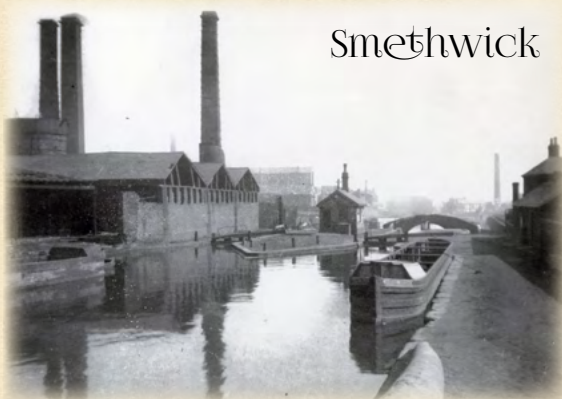


Sandwell  
Metropolitan Borough Council

West Bromwich



Smethwick



# A trip down memory lane...

**If you want to reminisce some more, join us this summer as we celebrate all things Sandwell.**

For the borough's 50th anniversary, Sandwell's libraries are holding a photographic exhibition showcasing the history of our six towns – from the past half century as part of Sandwell and going back even further in time.

**The exhibition dates and locations are as follows:**

**Central Library, West Bromwich** (Friday 19 July – Thursday 25 July)

**Tipton Library** (Friday 26 July – Thursday 1 August)

**Wednesbury Library** (Friday 2 August – Thursday 8 August)

**Oldbury Library** (Friday 9 August – Thursday 15 August)

**Blackheath Library** (Friday 13 September – Thursday 19 September)

**Smethwick Library** (Friday 20 September – Thursday 26 September)

On each of the Fridays, starting at 11am, there will be a talk about the exhibition, as well as the opportunity to view some fascinating archive material from the Sandwell Community History and Archives Service.

**Entrance to these events is free for everyone.**

Read more about Sandwell's 50th anniversary and share your memories at [www.celebratesandwell.com](http://www.celebratesandwell.com)

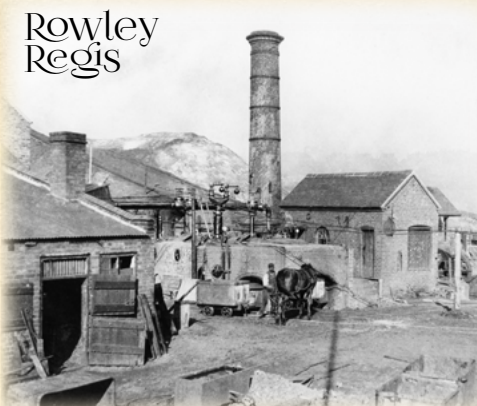
Tipton



Wednesbury



Rowley Regis



Oldbury



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## Archive photos from the early 1900s

**West Bromwich** Congregational Church, High Street, West Bromwich (c.1900)

**Smethwick** Smethwick Locks, Brindley's Old Main Line near Bridge Street (1927)

**Tipton** Tipton Public Library, Victoria Road, Tipton (c.1910)

**Wednesbury** Cycle Parade, Walsall Street, Wednesbury (c.1900)

**Rowley Regis** Haden Hill Colliery, Old Hill, Pit Number 2 (c. 1900)

**Oldbury** Oldbury Town Square (c. 1930)

## Sandwell – an artist's view

These drawings were done by Sandwell's very own **Wayne Law**, who worked for West Midlands Fire Service before his retirement.

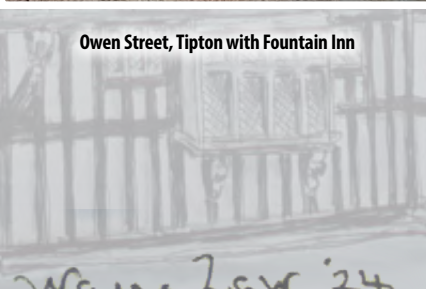
His artwork is inspired by his interest in local history and preservation of Black Country heritage.



Canal boat heading to Ocker Hill Power Station, Tipton on the Walsall Canal



Owen Street, Tipton with Fountain Inn



Bustle Bridge, Oldbury, viewed from Oldbury Town Loop Canal

## Sandwell 50th front page photos

Here's a quick guide to the front page photos (clockwise from the top left):

- Smethwick High Street, 1992 (Fiona Bailey/Jeevan Singh, [jubileeartsarchive.com](http://jubileeartsarchive.com))
- Comedy and acting star Josie Lawrence became a Freeman of Sandwell, 2011
- Commonwealth Games 2022 mascot Perry and Paralympian Ellie Simmonds OBE at the official opening of Sandwell Aquatics Centre, 2023
- Wednesbury Museum and Art Gallery, 1978 (R Binns, Sandwell Archives)
- The Hawthorns, the home of West Bromwich Albion (Wayne Law)
- Businessman Dr Roy Richardson 'drove' sheep through Oldbury on becoming a Freeman, 2017
- Windrush Day with Mayor Councillor Syeda Khatun MBE, Maisy Benain, Richard Lindsay and Sharon Blissett, 2024
- The Carnegie building, Tipton pictured in 2006 – the historic and new home of Tipton Library
- The Oak House, West Bromwich (Wayne Law)



# Positive change for Sandwell

**//** As we celebrate our 50th anniversary, I am proud to represent the vibrant and diverse communities of Sandwell.

A new Council Plan, launching this summer, reflects the things that you – the people of Sandwell – have told us are important.

The plan outlines our commitment to delivering positive change for the citizens of Sandwell.

Central to this plan is our dedication to:

- make Sandwell a great place to grow up for our children and young people
- create and maintain a cleaner, greener, safer place to live
- improve the health of our residents
- foster a thriving economy, providing opportunities for growth, good jobs and prosperity.

We're committed to making Sandwell a child friendly borough where children's views are listened to, influencing positive change.

Our ambitions are bold, driven by a desire to build a future where everyone can fulfil their potential and lead happy and healthy lives with access to a range of opportunities.

We're working hard to improve the customer experience for people using our services, deliver regeneration across our six towns and work more effectively at a neighbourhood level. We're also promoting animal welfare – a subject close to my heart.

Of course, we face challenges. The cost of living crisis has hit households and businesses in Sandwell. But we are supporting our community through our tackling poverty programme and have ambitious plans to create the good jobs and opportunities that will boost everyone's life chances.

We will work with our residents, businesses, partner agencies and thriving voluntary and community sector to confront challenges head on and turn these ambitions into a reality.



*Kerrie*

**Councillor Kerrie Carmichael,**  
Leader of Sandwell Council

## Sandwell's new Cabinet [Go to www.sandwell.gov.uk/cabinet](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/cabinet)

### Councillor Paul Moore

Statutory Deputy Leader, Finance and Resources

We will provide the very best services we can for residents and businesses by managing the council's money and resources responsibly.

We will consult you when planning our spending and we will work with our partner organisations to co-ordinate spending wherever we can.

We will keep improving the customer experience – whether you're contacting the council by phone, in person or online – and help more people to access services digitally.



### Councillor Suzanne Hartwell

Deputy Leader, Neighbourhoods and Community

We'll continue working with partner agencies to tackle crime and support victims.

We will carry out more improvements at Sandwell Valley Country Park – as well as improving other parks and our allotments service.

We continue to invest in leisure centres and will host a programme of local, regional and national events at Sandwell Aquatics Centre.

Our new way of neighbourhood working will make our services more responsive to local issues.



### Councillor Sukhbir Singh Gill

Business and Skills

We will spend more of the council's money with local businesses to support our economy and boost jobs, training and apprenticeships for Sandwell people.

We're committed to making sure children and young people have the right skills and support to take the next step into adulthood.

We are providing support and advice to businesses through our Sandwell Business Growth Plan, including our Start-Up Hub, focusing on innovation and expansion.



### Councillor Vicki Smith

Housing and Sustainable Development

We will improve the customer journey for residents who use our housing management services and will publish a set of standards for council tenants including a Repairs Charter.

We continue to build new council homes to offer more accessible affordable housing and we invest in ongoing improvements to existing homes.

We will set up a new supported housing service to address complex housing needs and prevent homelessness and rough sleeping.



### Councillor Keith Allcock

Environment and Highways

We will continue working to keep all our public spaces clean and tackle litter and fly-tipping.

We'll keep promoting recycling and make it easier to recycle if you live in a high-rise block.

Our new road safety plan aims to further reduce road accidents that cause injuries.

We will help address climate change and improve air quality by raising awareness, supporting cycling and walking and helping organisations reduce carbon emissions.



### Councillor Peter Hughes

Regeneration and Infrastructure

We're working with public and private sector partners to attract investment and deliver a diverse 'pipeline' of regeneration projects, to boost our towns and create jobs and skills opportunities.

We're designing major road improvement schemes and we'll keep working with landowners, developers and others to make sites available for much-needed housing.

We'll continue working with the government and West Midlands Combined Authority on key regeneration projects and to seek new funding.



### Councillor Jackie Taylor

Adult Services, Health and Wellbeing

We will help people live safe and independent lives and support carers.

We will keep updating the way we provide adult social care and increase our numbers of skilled staff to provide high-quality services for our residents.

We'll continue to invest in mental health and wellbeing, and we are a dementia-friendly borough.

We will promote public health initiatives across our six towns to help people live healthy lives and tackle health inequalities.



### Councillor Jalal Uddin

Children and Families

We're striving to achieve UNICEF UK Child Friendly status for Sandwell.

We will do all we can to support children, young people and families – including those in our care and care leavers.

We continue to work with professionals across agencies to keep children and young people safe.

We will ensure every child has access to a place in a good or outstanding school and help schools to improve attendance.







# We know many of our residents are struggling to make ends meet.

We have a range of support and advice available to support you at [www.sandwell.gov.uk/supportingsandwell](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/supportingsandwell)

## Welcoming Spaces – open all year round



**Our network of Welcoming Spaces is there to provide a place to sit, chat and join in the free activities.**

Staff are on hand to help if you have any money worries – they will be able to put you in touch with services that can provide advice and support.

Look out for the logo on a community building in your area or visit [www.sandwell.gov.uk/welcomingspaces](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/welcomingspaces) to find your nearest.

## Help with debt and money worries

We know that for many people, money is tight. If you are struggling with debt, advice is available – whether your debt is big or small.

The main thing is to seek advice as early as possible, before things get out of control.

Visit [www.sandwell.gov.uk/helpwithdebt](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/helpwithdebt) for services that can help you deal with debt and get on top of your finances, or drop in to your local Citizens Advice office.

Visit [www.sandwell.gov.uk/homeless](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/homeless) for help if you're at risk of losing your home.



## Cost of Living Support Programme

**Do you (or does someone you know) need some additional support to help you to cope with the cost of living?**

We are offering a free and confidential service provided by trained and experienced advice workers from Sandwell Consortium and Citizens Advice Sandwell & Walsall. They can help with:

- benefits and debt advice
- energy advice
- budgeting
- employment support
- help to get online



This is an outreach service and the team are using different locations for drop-in sessions across Sandwell.

Visit [www.sandwellconsortium.co.uk/service/colt](http://www.sandwellconsortium.co.uk/service/colt) to find a session near you. You can also contact Sandwell Consortium by phone **0121 533 2568** or email [referrals@sandwellconsortium.co.uk](mailto:referrals@sandwellconsortium.co.uk)



## Have fun for free!

**Now the summer is here, there are plenty of ways in which you can get out and about on a budget.**

- Visit one of our libraries – there are lots of free activities.
- Sandwell's museums have lots of low cost or free activities for all ages. Visit [www.sandwell.gov.uk/joininmuseums](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/joininmuseums) or look on Facebook [@sandwellmuseums](https://www.facebook.com/sandwellmuseums)
- Take a walk along one of our beautiful canals.
- Visit a local park or try out our cycling routes.

Visit [www.sandwell.gov.uk/funforfree](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/funforfree) for more.



## Important information for council tenants

**April 2024 – March 2025 is a 53 week rent year. Please make sure that you budget for the extra week.**

For more information about how to adjust your rent payments and how you will be affected if you are on Universal Credit or Housing Benefit please visit [www.sandwell.gov.uk/extrarentweek](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/extrarentweek)



## Help with water bills – don't miss out!

If you are on a low income you might be eligible for a reduction in your bill.

To find out more visit [www.sandwell.gov.uk/waterbills](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/waterbills)



# Universal Credit – Managed Migration

**The government has started the process of moving all benefit claimants onto Universal Credit (UC) in Sandwell.**

### What is Managed Migration?

Managed Migration is the DWP's approach for moving households on legacy benefits over to Universal Credit.

### The benefits affected are:

- Income-based Job Seeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Income Support
- Housing Benefit
- Child Tax Credits
- Working Tax Credits

### What do affected residents need to do?

Residents claiming a legacy benefit will be notified by letter when they need to claim UC. This letter – called a Migration Notice – will provide the date by which you need to make your claim and details of the support available.

You will have three months to make your claim. If you fail to claim within this time, your benefits will end.

Residents claiming Tax Credits who are of State Pension Age will be sent a letter to apply for either Universal Credit or Pension Credit, depending upon your circumstances.

You are advised to get a full benefit check from a local advice provider as soon as you receive your Migration Notice.

### When is this happening?

Managed Migration in Sandwell started in February 2024. The final group of claimants asked to move will be those receiving Income-related Employment and Support Allowance, who will be asked to claim sometime between September 2024 and December 2025.

### What if I need support with my UC claim?

If you are a council tenant you can contact Sandwell Council's Rents Team on **0121 737 5148** from Monday to Thursday 9am to 5.30pm and 9am to 5pm on a Friday for advice and support.

If you are not a council tenant please contact the Welfare Rights Team on **0121 569 3158**, Monday to Friday 9am to 4.30pm, or go online at:

[www.sandwell.gov.uk/welfarerights](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/welfarerights)

Visit [www.sandwell.gov.uk/universalcredit](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/universalcredit) for more details on the move to UC and timeline or scan the QR code using a mobile or tablet device.

# I SEE...UC

**Universal Credit Changes**



**Are you ready for the move to Universal Credit?**



# Sandwell Business Growth

Here to help you achieve your business ambitions

Where and how do you access finance to make your business ambitions a reality?

The Sandwell Business Growth team gives focused support to help you achieve your ambitions. When your business wins, everyone wins.

Our Sandwell Business Growth Team is here to help you navigate the challenges that entrepreneurship can present.

Go to [www.sandwellbusinessgrowth.com](http://www.sandwellbusinessgrowth.com) to find out more.



## Enrol now with SAFL for September 2024



**Sandwell Adult and Family Learning (SAFL) provides learning opportunities for adults aged 19+ across Sandwell.**

Our aim is to enable all adults in Sandwell, from all walks and stages of life, to learn something new and shape their own futures. We offer a range of subjects to learners, with over 200 courses delivered throughout the borough.

We are proud of our 99% learner satisfaction rate and 94% of our learners achieved their learning goals with us in 2022/23. We were also judged to be a 'Good' provider by Ofsted in March 2023.

**How to enrol:**

We have initial assessment dates at various locations from July to September.

Visit [www.learnsafl.ac.uk](http://www.learnsafl.ac.uk) for all the latest course information or phone **0121 557 0837** to speak to our friendly staff.



Rose Kerr – SAFL Learner of the Year 2023



## Free office space in Sandwell

Find out about the Sandwell Start-Up Hub, an innovative, free co-working workspace for new businesses.



[www.sandwell.gov.uk/startuphubs](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/startuphubs)

## A King's Award for Enterprise for your company?

Imagine being invited to a royal reception because your Sandwell company has been awarded the UK's most prestigious business prize.

Your team is delighted and your customers are highly impressed.

Securing a King's Award for Enterprise is transformative for any company, boosting staff morale, reputation and often sales.

When KMB Shipping won in 2021, the Tipton-based team experienced a 25% increase in turnover from international orders.

Recognising these benefits, the Sandwell Business Growth Team and the Sandwell Business Ambassadors are urging more Sandwell businesses to apply, in all four categories.

You don't have to run a big business. You need only two FTE members of staff to be eligible, and the majority of winners are SMEs.

Work is involved, but there is support to help you meet the September deadline with a strong application: [sandwellbusinessambassadors.co.uk/our\\_work/kings-awards](http://sandwellbusinessambassadors.co.uk/our_work/kings-awards)



## Careers in Sandwell event

A wide range of jobs, apprenticeships and training opportunities are available at our Careers in Sandwell events.

All ages are welcome to come along to the next event on Tuesday 20 August in the Council Chamber, Sandwell Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, B69 3DB between 2pm and 5pm. No booking is necessary, just drop in.

Advisors from our Employment and Skills Team Think Sandwell will be on hand to offer advice and guidance on the support available to help you into employment, or to find short courses for work. Information on local apprenticeship and job vacancies will also be available.

Visit [www.sandwell.gov.uk/thinksandwell](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/thinksandwell) for more information.



Why I chose a career with Sandwell Adult Social Care:

“So I can be there for my family”

as much as I am for my job.”



There are loads of opportunities to make a difference and join the Adult Social Care workforce in Sandwell.

Search for social care jobs at: [www.sandwell.gov.uk/WeAreSandwell](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/WeAreSandwell)





# D-Day heroes remembered

As the nation marked the 80th anniversary of D-Day last month, we remembered those who served at the historic Normandy landings.



Among them was Smethwick-born Lieutenant Den Brotheridge, widely believed to have been the first Allied servicemen to be killed by enemy action on D-Day, 6 June 1944.

Lieutenant Brotheridge led his platoon in 'Operation Deadstick', which used gliders to capture German-held bridges, preventing

enemy tanks from reaching the Normandy beaches and the Allied soldiers landing there.

The operation was a success and the bridges were taken. However, while crossing what later came to be known as Pegasus Bridge, Brotheridge was killed by enemy fire. His only daughter, Margaret, was born three weeks later.

Of her father's sacrifice, Margaret said: "It is important to remember and take pride in what my father's generation did and their commitment to freedom in Europe."

On 6 June, Sandwell Council joined with the Royal British Legion, uniformed groups, residents, schoolchildren and Deputy Lieutenant for the West Midlands, John Wood, for a service in Oldbury Civic Square. We remembered all who served including those who never returned home.

With thanks to Chris Sutton at the Smethwick Heritage Centre for the photo of Lieutenant Brotheridge used in this article.



# New Mayor of Sandwell

Councillor Syeda Khatun MBE is the new Mayor of Sandwell.

Her Mayoress is her daughter Syeda Hasna and Councillor Steve Melia is the new Deputy Mayor with his sister, Val Thacker, taking on the role of Deputy Mayoress.

Councillor Khatun, who has been a councillor for 25 years, will be raising money for Acorns and Yemeni Community Association's Let's Talk Hope.

Acorns offers a network of palliative care and support to life-limited and life-threatened children and their families.

YCA Let's Talk Hope raises awareness, offers guidance and extends support to anyone impacted by cancer, engaging with community and various faith groups to destigmatise discussions around cancer.

The Mayor is the first citizen of Sandwell and is non-political presiding over meetings of the council and attending events across Sandwell and beyond.

Email [mayors\\_parlour@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:mayors_parlour@sandwell.gov.uk) if you want to invite the Mayor to an event or make a donation to her charities.



New Mayor of Sandwell, Councillor Syeda Khatun MBE, with Mayoress Syeda Hasna

SCHOOL LEAVERS

# SANDWELL COLLEGE

A CAREERS COLLEGE

# SANDWELL MAKE CAREERS HAPPEN

# Enrol From

SANDWELL.AC.UK 22 AUGUST

ENJOY FREE TRAVEL TO COLLEGE!





# Free concerts... Jazz & blues events in Sandwell

50 YEARS  
1974 • 2024

Sandwell  
Metropolitan Borough Council



<b>Friday 19 July</b>	
7.30pm Blackheath Library	<b>Ben Toury (France)</b>
<b>Saturday 20 July</b>	
12 noon Bromwich Hall (Manor House), Stone Cross	<b>Florence Joelle</b>
12 noon West Smethwick Park Pavilion	<b>Simon Spillett Quartet</b>
1pm West Bromwich Central Library	<b>The Traveling Janes (USA/Norway/Singapore)</b>
2.30pm West Smethwick Park Pavilion	<b>Nils Solberg Rhythm Boys</b>
4pm West Bromwich Central Library	<b>Val Wiseman Quartet</b>
7pm West Bromwich Central Library	<b>Tipitina</b>
<b>Sunday 21 July</b>	
12 noon West Smethwick Park Pavilion	<b>Gianni Tbay (Italy)</b>
2.30pm West Smethwick Park Pavilion	<b>Honeyboy Hickling Blues Band</b>
<b>Monday 22 July</b>	
7.30pm Great Bridge Library	<b>Hit Parade Heroes</b>
<b>Tuesday 23 July</b>	
7.30pm Wednesbury Library	<b>Tenement Jazz Band</b>
<b>Wednesday 24 July</b>	
7.30pm Cradley Heath Library	<b>Art Themen Quartet</b>

<b>Thursday 25 July</b>	
7.30pm Great Barr Library	<b>The Journeymen</b>
<b>Friday 26 July</b>	
11am West Bromwich Central Library	<b>You're Never Alone With A Uke</b>
7pm Wednesbury Museum & Art Gallery	<b>Rich Dickinson's Driving Force</b>
7.30pm Bleakhouse Library, Oldbury	<b>Playing Django</b>
<b>Saturday 27 July</b>	
12 noon Wednesbury Museum & Art Gallery	<b>Bruce Adams Quartet</b>
1pm West Bromwich Central Library	<b>The Swing Cats (Spain)</b>
4pm West Bromwich Central Library	<b>Hannah Brine</b>
7pm Lightwoods Park Bandstand, Bearwood	<b>Alan Barnes Quartet</b>
7.30pm West Bromwich Central Library	<b>Errol Linton &amp; His Band</b>
<b>Sunday 28 July</b>	
1pm Thimblemill Library, Smethwick	<b>'A Night at Minton's' with the Bruce Adams / Alan Barnes Quintet</b>
2pm Haden Hill House, Cradley Heath	<b>Warren James Skiffle Group</b>
2.30pm Oak House, West Bromwich	<b>Chick Wren's Rollin' River Band</b>
4pm Thimblemill Library, Smethwick	<b>Jamie Thyer &amp; The Worried Men</b>
7pm Thimblemill Library, Smethwick	<b>Hot Club of Halifax</b>

[www.sandwell.gov.uk/jazzfestival](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/jazzfestival)

These listings are correct at the time of printing but may be subject to change beyond Sandwell Council's control. Please check our website for latest details. Go to TicketSource [www.ticketsource.co.uk](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk) to reserve tickets for free library concerts.

Visit Sandwell  
[www.visitsandwell.com](http://www.visitsandwell.com)

HM Government

West Midlands Combined Authority

Commonwealth Games Legacy Enhancement Fund

40<sup>TH</sup> BIRMINGHAM  
**JAZZ & BLUES** FESTIVAL  
JULY 19<sup>TH</sup> TO 28<sup>TH</sup> 2024



School Leavers

# Enrol

# from

## 22 August 2024

ENROL FOR **A LEVELS & ADVANCED CAREER** QUALIFICATIONS

OVER 30 A LEVELS & DIPLOMAS

99% PASS THEIR EXAMS

91% PROGRESS TO UNIVERSITY

ENJOY Free Travel to College [centralstmichaels.ac.uk](http://centralstmichaels.ac.uk)

Central Saint Michael's Sixth Form, New Square, West Bromwich B70 7PG

[in](#) [yt](#) [tw](#) [fb](#) [ig](#)



# Healthy Sandwell

Are you looking to make a lifestyle change?

- Stop smoking
- Lead a more active lifestyle
- Lose weight

Or simply take advantage of the NHS Health Checks we offer?

We can help support you every step of the way to a fitter and healthier life.

To find out more please call us on 0800 011 4656 or 0121 569 5100

Text GETHEALTHY to 87007

Email: LS@nhs.net



[www.healthysandwell.co.uk](http://www.healthysandwell.co.uk)



Take control of your health this summer with a **FREE NHS Health Check**



Aged 40-74? Find out about our **FREE NHS Health Check**

Even though you might be feeling great, if you're over forty you may be at risk of heart disease, stroke, kidney disease, diabetes or dementia. A **FREE NHS Health Check** can help you reduce these risks and make sure that you stay healthy.

**BOOK NOW**

Call **0800 2545 163** or visit [nhshealthcheck.randox.com](http://nhshealthcheck.randox.com) to check your eligibility and book an appointment



Helping you prevent  
diabetes  
heart disease  
kidney disease  
stroke & dementia



In partnership with



## Measles and whooping cough

**Measles and whooping cough continue to circulate in Sandwell and people are urged to check vaccinations are up to date.**

Remember measles is highly contagious. Two doses of the MMR vaccine will provide 99% protection against measles and rubella.

In March, we worked with NHS England and NHS Black Country Integrated Care Board to deliver vaccination clinics to schools, targeting those with the lowest uptake of MMR vaccinations. Nearly 300 children were vaccinated.

If you need to check if you or your children need the MMR vaccine, contact your GP practice. It's not too late to catch up on any missed doses.

We're planning further catch-up vaccination clinics throughout Sandwell. Please keep an eye on Sandwell Council's social media for details.

Meanwhile, cases of whooping cough continue to rise across the UK.

If you're pregnant, it's important to get the whooping cough vaccine to protect your newborn baby, as they are at greatest risk.

Pregnant women can get the vaccine from their midwives, antenatal clinics and local GP from 16 weeks of pregnancy.

Check signs and symptoms by searching '**NHS measles**' and '**NHS whooping cough**'.

**Whooping cough cases are rising**

**Babies are at greatest risk as they are too young to start their vaccinations**

Book your vaccine through your GP surgery or local maternity service



**BREATHING IN SMOKE HARMS OUR HEALTH**

**HELP IMPROVE AIR QUALITY IN SANDWELL**



**SANDWELL'S SMOKE CONTROL AREA IS NOW IN PLACE**

### The Rules:

- Visible smoke must not be emitted from any chimney located in any building or moored vessel such as a canal boat
- Wood or coal must not be burned in an open fireplace or in a stove unless the stove is a 'Defra smoke exempt appliance'
- You are allowed to burn 'authorised' smokeless fuels such as manufactured briquettes or anthracite coal in all stoves and fireplaces
- Those who break the rules can be fined up to £300

From **MONDAY 1 JULY 2024**

**ARE YOU READY?**

Learn more: [www.sandwell.gov.uk/SmokeControlArea](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/SmokeControlArea)



# FREE 12-WEEK WEIGHT LOSS PROGRAMME

Let's work together towards a healthier, happier you.

- Group support
- Face-to-face sessions
- Online sessions
- Digital support
- Follow-up sessions



You can join the programme if:  
 -You live in Sandwell or have a doctor (GP) here  
 -You are 18 years old or older  
 -You have a BMI over 25 (or over 23 if you are from ethnic groups)



Call for FREE 0800 011 4656  
 or 0121 569 5100  
 Text GETHEALTHY to 87007  
[www.healthysandwell.co.uk](http://www.healthysandwell.co.uk)



## Thinking about making some changes to your drinking?

Low or no alcohol doesn't mean low or no fun!

With more people wanting to try and reduce how much alcohol they drink, there are now a wide range of alcohol-free drinks available, and you could even try making your own mocktails.

By reducing the amount of alcohol you drink, you can help lower your risk of developing alcohol-related health issues, such as:

- diabetes
- cancer (breast, mouth, throat, oesophagus, voice box, liver, colon, and rectum)
- heart attacks
- strokes
- early onset dementia
- liver disease
- cirrhosis

If you're worried about how much you're drinking, visit Healthy Sandwell [www.healthysandwell.co.uk](http://www.healthysandwell.co.uk) and have a closer look at how alcohol can affect your mind and body.

### Support is available:

- If you are 18 and over, call Cranstoun on 0121 553 1333
- If you are under 18, call DECCA 0121 569 7220



## Recovery projects in Sandwell

Sandwell Council's Public Health team has provided funding to 10 organisations for projects that support people in recovery from alcohol or substance use.

Projects include a variety of activities, groups and opportunities to support anyone who is trying to reduce or stop their use of alcohol or any other drug.

Check out our website at [www.healthysandwell.co.uk](http://www.healthysandwell.co.uk) to read more about our recovery projects, along with information about our treatment services, help to stop smoking and support to stop gambling.

For treatment support for drug or alcohol problems, call Cranstoun Sandwell on 0121 553 1333 or email [sandwell@cranstoun.org.uk](mailto:sandwell@cranstoun.org.uk)

You can also get help to stop smoking, call 0121 740 0040 or visit [www.smokefreesandwell.co.uk](http://www.smokefreesandwell.co.uk)

## Mental health – help is available

Feeling worried, anxious, overwhelmed, depressed or lonely? You don't have to struggle with your feelings alone. Help is available.

Sandwell Better Mental Health is an initiative to help improve the mental health of people in Sandwell. This provides essential mental health and wellbeing services tailored to individual needs.

- Adults • Children and young people • LGBTQ+ wellbeing support
- Support around drug and alcohol use • Suicide prevention
- Bereavement support • Training

Go to [www.sandwell.gov.uk/mentalhealthsupport](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/mentalhealthsupport) or scan the QR code to find a range of support and services to help you.

### Need to talk to someone urgently?

Call NHS 111 (select Option 2), go to [111.nhs.uk](http://111.nhs.uk) or text 07860 025 281.

You can also call Samaritans free 24/7 on 116 123.



Papyrus Hopeline specifically helps young people aged up to 35 with confidential suicide prevention advice – call free 24/7 on 0800 068 4141 or text 88247.

For anyone looking for support following a bereavement, call Cruse Bereavement Support on 0808 808 1677 (available Monday-Friday).



## Women's Health Hub

Women looking for a friendly place to speak to a health professional can visit a new service launched by the Probation Service and Sandwell's sexual health service in collaboration with Black Country Women's Aid.

The Women's Trauma-Informed Healthcare Project is based at Landchard House in Victoria Street, West Bromwich B70 8ER – please email [womenshealth@justice.gov.uk](mailto:womenshealth@justice.gov.uk) or call 07749 700133 for more details.

Professionals will either provide help directly or support women to access services.

The project, which originally helped women in any part of the criminal justice system but has now expanded to support any woman, received an award for its work from The Butler Trust in 2023.



## Signage goes up at state-of-the-art hospital

Official signage has started to go up across the Midland Metropolitan University Hospital.

Opening later this year and run by Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust, it will be one of the biggest hospitals to open in the UK in the past 10 years.

With the name now emblazoned in the signature orange colour across the front of the building in Smethwick, the organisation is working with construction giants Balfour Beatty to prepare for handover.

It will house one large accident and emergency department, bringing together the two A&E services currently operating at Birmingham's City Hospital and Sandwell Hospital.

Jayne Dunn, Director of Commissioning & Equipping at Midland Met, said: "Seeing the main signage go up for the hospital, A&E, the children's department and maternity will bring the project to life for our communities and heralds the opening is just around the corner."





# Introducing Midland Metropolitan University Hospital

Opening soon



Midland Metropolitan University Hospital will bring together all acute and emergency care services currently at City and Sandwell Hospitals.

Our two existing emergency departments will combine to create a new one at Midland Metropolitan University Hospital.

The new hospital will look after people who need emergency care or who are seriously unwell.

#### Midland Met includes:

- Advanced emergency services with a purpose-built emergency department complemented by co-located imaging and diagnostic services.
- A dedicated children's emergency department with assessment unit.
- A midwifery-led birth unit, delivery suite, neonatal unit and antenatal services.
- Over 730 beds with 50 per cent of rooms on wards being en-suite.
- 13 operating theatres, 13 adult inpatient wards, 2 children's wards and 2 maternity wards.
- The regional hub for sickle cell and thalassaemia care, offering specialised services and expertise.

More information about our new hospital can be found on our website at [www.swbh.nhs.uk](http://www.swbh.nhs.uk)

Midland Metropolitan University Hospital, Grove Lane, Smethwick, B66 2QT



# Summer of fun

## FOR SANDWELL'S CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

### Your four-page guide to activities across Sandwell this summer

#### Fun activities for young people return this summer

Sandwell Council's Youth Service will be running free holiday activity and food programmes in Sandwell parks and open spaces across the six towns.

A range of activities aimed at 11 to 19-year-olds (up to 25 for those with SEND), supported by the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme, will be offering something fun and exciting for all young people. This includes our NEW Youth Bus, mobile climbing wall, multi sports, graffiti art and laser fun.

By popular demand our skate park coaching and competitions will be returning to Brunswick Park, Britannia Park and Victoria Park, Tipton.

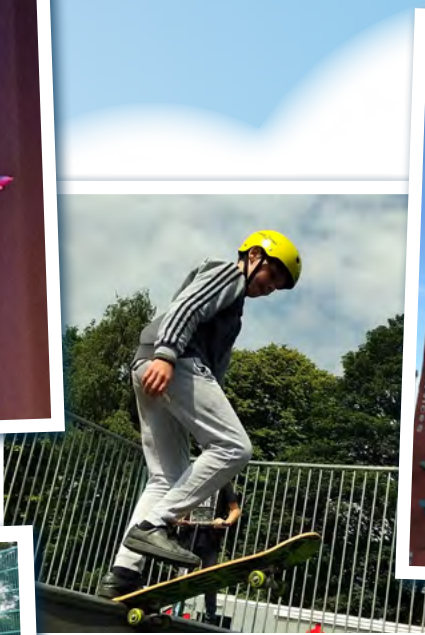
Have you got a teenager who is interested in singing and wants to learn more about performing? Then our NEW Massaoke programme at Coneygre Arts Centre, Tipton, is the chance for them to sing in front of our packed out theatre!

Is your teenager adventurous? Then climbing, abseiling, archery or canoeing may be more their thing! Get them booked onto one of our multi-activity days at Malthouse Outdoor Activity Centre in Tipton. Or, if they feel even more adventurous, then book onto one of our hill walking days in the Shropshire Hills.

For families with young people who have SEND, we are offering free activities, including a family day at the beach and outdoor activities at Malthouse Stables.

Alongside this, we have young women-only sessions, including hill walking and a day at the beach. All targeted sessions need to be pre-booked and are on a first-come basis.

All of the above has been made possible through funding from the Holiday Activities and Food programme.



Visit [www.justyouth.org.uk](http://www.justyouth.org.uk) for more information on activities and programmes or follow us on Facebook (search 'JustYouthSandwell').

## SCHOOL HOLIDAYS TO REMEMBER!

free activities for children and young people



## Exciting summer activities for children

As the summer holidays draw near, brace yourself for a spectacular line-up of Sandwell Holiday Activities to keep your youngsters entertained and active.

Funded by the Department for Education, Holiday Activities provide fantastic opportunities for children and young people to delve into new interests, forge friendships and hone new skills. Whether it's sports, music, dance, art, drama, cooking or thrilling day trips, there's something to captivate every child.

If your child receives free school meals based on benefits, you'll receive a Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) e-voucher. This voucher will come with a unique code and booking instructions via email or text.

#### Not eligible for the voucher but still looking for activities and some summer fun?

Head over to [holidayactivities.sandwell.gov.uk](http://holidayactivities.sandwell.gov.uk) to find activities offering FREE universal or subsidised spaces. Stay updated by following 'SandwellHolidayActivities' on Facebook.

Look no further than Go Play! Open to all children and young people aged 5-12, Go Play offers free play sessions led by trained play workers across Sandwell. Dive into more details at [www.goplaysandwell.co.uk](http://www.goplaysandwell.co.uk) or search 'GoPlaySandwell' on Facebook.

Let's make this summer unforgettable with fun, exciting and playful activities for children and young people of all ages in Sandwell!



Department  
for Education

Sandwell  
Metropolitan Borough Council





# Summer of fun FOR SANDWELL'S CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

## Sandwell celebrates National Play Day

Join us as we celebrate the National Play Day – which is back for its 15th year, having already delighted over 10,000 children and families.

This year's main FREE event will be held at Coneygre Arts Centre in Tipton on Wednesday 7 August, 12noon to 4pm.

Enjoy free food workshops and Dohl drumming workshops – available for pre-booking before the event.

Experience a full set list featuring performances from theatre productions, local bands and magicians!

Engage in play across the entire site with sporting activities, archery, UV games, mud painting and crafts.

Pack a picnic and enjoy the summer fun! Don't miss out on this fun-filled day of play and entertainment!

Check out our National Play Day Summer Tour dates for more FREE events happening near you across the summer holidays.

### Arts and reading fun at Sandwell Libraries

Sandwell Libraries celebrate in style this summer with both Sandwell's Arts Festival and the Marvellous Makers Summer Reading Challenge.

We'll have author events, storytelling, children's theatre, dance performances and much more at Sandwell libraries this summer.

For younger audiences, all libraries will be holding interactive Play, Talk, Read sessions and, if you are lucky, you may see our very own Sandy Bear as he tours around the libraries.

Just some of the many highlights include:

- **Dangerous Dave** will be bringing his high energy show to Central Library, West Bromwich on Wednesday 14 August – booking essential.
- Curiosity Productions will be bringing their brand-new theatre show, **Sleeping Seeds**, to Tipton Library on Friday 23 August at 10.30am. Perfect for families with children under 5 and supported by Black Country Touring – booking essential.

Contact your local library for their full programme and find out more at [www.sandwell.gov.uk/librariesonline](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/librariesonline) and [www.visitsandwell.com](http://www.visitsandwell.com)

Search 'Sandwell Libraries' on X (@sandwelllibs) or search 'SandwellLibraries' on Facebook.

Go to [www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk](http://www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk) for the Summer Reading Challenge.

### Go Play this summer!

Get ready for a summer full of fun with Sandwell Council's play service and become part of the fantastic Go Play Sandwell family!

Dive into a summer packed with indoor and outdoor fun including arts and crafts, archery, mud painting, mini-inflatables, family games and much more! All you need to do is check what is on in your area, show up and play – all at no cost!

Want to find out more? Contact our community Go Play providers: Powered by CAN in West Bromwich, Wednesbury, Oldbury and Smethwick; Sporting Your Futures in Rowley and Groundwork West Midlands in Tipton.

Amazing FREE play sessions are available for all school aged children and families across the borough all year round.

For a full calendar of events and contact details check out our play sessions calendar at [www.goplaysandwell.co.uk](http://www.goplaysandwell.co.uk)

**NATIONAL PLAY DAY Summer Tour**

FREE EVENTS FROM 12MIDDAY - 4PM

24 JULY	LIGHTWOODS HOUSE
26 JULY	WEDNESBURY RUGBY CLUB
31 JULY	HADEN HILL HOUSE
7 AUG	ONEYGRE ARTS CENTRE
14 AUG	DARTMOUTH PARK PAVILION
21 AUG	WEST SMETHWICK PAVILION

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council | Go play Sandwell



### Emotional wellbeing support for all ages

The Sandwell All Age Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Directory provides a wide range of local, regional and national support services for children, young people and their families.

From crisis helplines to specialised therapy programmes, residents can find support for their emotional wellbeing. Find bereavement support, mental health counselling, advice around addictions and much more.

The directory covers various age groups, making sure people of all ages can access relevant services.

To access the directory, go to our Family Information Service Hub at <https://fis.sandwell.gov.uk> and search for 'Feelings, emotions and mental wellbeing'.



## Accelerate into employment!



16 to 24-year-old Sandwell residents who are looking to get into employment or training can get support from the Accelerate project and Think Sandwell employment and skills team.

Whether you're just leaving school, college or uni and are about to take your first steps on the career ladder, or have been looking for a while and would like some additional help, Accelerate can support you to develop important skills for work and increase your confidence.

There's a range of activities on offer and you'll get to work 1-2-1 with an advisor who will help you work towards your goals.

Activities available include wall climbing, hill walking, canoeing, map reading, drama, film or music production, archery and more. There is no charge to take part, and lunch is provided on all days.

Email [enquiries\\_recruitment@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries_recruitment@sandwell.gov.uk) to find out more.

## WHATEVER THE RESULT, WE'RE HERE TO HELP

Have you had your exam results and you're not sure what to do next?

Get specialised information, advice and guidance on weekdays  
Thursday 15 August 2024 to  
Friday 30 August, 10am – 4pm

Not including Bank Holiday Monday 26 August

GET IN TOUCH

[www.connexionssandwell.co.uk](http://www.connexionssandwell.co.uk)

[sandwell\\_connexions@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:sandwell_connexions@sandwell.gov.uk)  
0121 569 2955





# Summer of fun

FOR SANDWELL'S CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

## In your town

**Our Youth Service will be running a number of activity days in key parks in each of our six towns this summer.**

Our regular youth clubs will still be open and youth workers will be out and about throughout the summer, helping young people to find somewhere safe to go, something positive to do and someone to talk to.

Activity days open to all young people (just turn up on the day) will be running in a park in each town, offering a range of free activities, thanks to funding from the Holiday Activities and Food programme, including our climbing wall, graffiti art, laser fun and multi sports.



### Activity days in parks

- Wed 24 Jul – Thu 25 Jul, 4pm-8pm**  
Brunswick Park, Wednesbury WS10 9HH
- Wed 31 Jul – Thu 1 Aug, 4pm-8pm**  
Red House Park, Great Barr B43 6NA
- Wed 7 Aug – Thu 8 Aug, 4pm-8pm**  
Victoria Park, Smethwick B66 3QB
- Wed 14 Aug – Thu 15 Aug, 4pm-8pm**  
Lion Farm Playing Fields, Oldbury B69 1EA
- Wed 21 Aug – Thu 22 Aug, 4pm-8pm**  
Britannia Park, Rowley Regis B65 9HH
- Wed 28 Aug – Thu 29 Aug, 4pm-8pm**  
Victoria Park, Tipton DY4 8SW

Full details at [www.justyouth.org.uk](http://www.justyouth.org.uk)



Go Play Sandwell will also be running a number of free activities for children aged 5-12 at various locations in each of our six towns this summer, no need to book just turn up and play!

[www.goplaysandwell.co.uk](http://www.goplaysandwell.co.uk)

**Go play Sandwell**



This map is a guide to the offer in each town rather than showing exact geographical locations

## Brand-new Youth Bus gearing up for the summer

**Our Youth Service is getting its brand-new Youth Bus ready to tour around Sandwell's parks this summer.**

The Youth Bus offers young people activities featuring the latest technology including a mini recording studio, a sensory area, smart TVs and gaming consoles.

Young people aged 11 to 19 (up to 25 for young people with SEND) can come along to any of the sessions around Sandwell during the summer holiday.

The Youth Bus will make its debut at SHAPE Summer Youth Fest on Saturday 13 July and will be at the WEDNESDAY activity day in each of Sandwell's six towns listed in the article above.

The Youth Bus is the first of two new buses to serve as mobile youth provision for young people in Sandwell. The second bus is expected to be delivered later this year.

Go to [www.justyouth.org.uk](http://www.justyouth.org.uk) for details of other locations Youth Bus will be visiting.



## Information for families

**Sandwell Family Information Service (FIS) is an early help service by offering free, impartial information to local families with children aged 0 to 19 years (or up to 25 years with a special educational need or disability), young people and professionals.**

FIS can support you to help find the right childcare provider, help with childcare applications and answer any other childcare-related queries.

Visit the FIS Hub <https://fis.sandwell.gov.uk> for national and local services, activities and advice pages.



# Summer of fun

FOR SANDWELL'S CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

## SHAPE Youth Summer Fest is back!

SHAPE Youth Summer Fest is back for 2024, with the biggest selection of free activities ever!

Join us on Saturday 13 July from 12noon until 8pm, at Sandwell Valley Showground in West Bromwich (B71 4BG), for a day filled with fun activities, good food and lots of live performances!

The event will feature activities for children and young people, including sports like cricket, zorb football, arts and crafts, Sandwell's new Youth Bus, DESIBlitz Art Bus, the mobile library, a careers expo for 14-19s, a young traders market and much more! Our two stages will showcase live music and performances from DJs and bands and local, upcoming talent!

The Albion Foundation has worked with SHAPE to bring back the ever-popular Blind Dave's Colour Run! The event is a 5k run, jog or leisurely walk with six colour stations where participants will be doused from head to toe in bright colours. Adult tickets are £15 and child tickets are £7.50 each, including a paint pack, T-shirt and medal on completion.

Visit [www.justyouth.org.uk/ysf](http://www.justyouth.org.uk/ysf) for more information about this year's SHAPE Youth Summer Fest. To register for the colour run, sign up by 10am on Wednesday 10 July.

**SHAPE**  
2024 Survey  
IS NOW LIVE!



[www.justyouth.org.uk/shapesurvey](http://www.justyouth.org.uk/shapesurvey)

Have you heard the 2024 SHAPE Survey is now live!?

We need as many young people aged 11 - 19 years in Sandwell to complete it!

The survey responses contribute to Sandwell's key priorities for the next year!

To complete the survey, please visit:

[www.justyouth.org.uk/shapesurvey](http://www.justyouth.org.uk/shapesurvey)

# SHAPE

## YOUTH SUMMER FEST

**SATURDAY 13 JULY 2024**  
12NOON - 8PM  
SANDWELL VALLEY, WEST BROMWICH, B71 4BG

**FREE Entry!**

**YOUTH ZONE**  
Featuring Music Workshops, Youth Bus, UV Rave Tent and Mini Stage with Open Mic performances

**FAMILY ZONE**  
Featuring Arts and Crafts, Mud Painting, Giant Lego, Gardening and Planting, Outdoor Games, Soft Archery, Dhol Drumming Workshops and a Storyteller

**MUSIC ZONE**  
DJ Rena Sparks, DJ Naziah, Melly, Nu Vibe Entertainment, DJ Auden Allen, and SHAPE Your Talent 2024 Winners

**SPORTS ZONE**  
Featuring activities in Boxing, Cycling, Cricket, NFL Flag Football, a Climbing Wall, mini Gym and Zorb Football

**AND LOTS MORE...**

- Blind Dave's Colour Run\*
- A Careers Expo for 14-19 year olds
- Junior and Senior Fairground rides\*
- Cultural Education Zone & DESIBlitz Art Bus
- A Young Traders Market\*
- Various food stalls\*

**FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:**  
[WWW.JUSTYOUTH.ORG.UK](http://WWW.JUSTYOUTH.ORG.UK)

\*There is a cost associated with these activities  
PLEASE NOTE: SOME ACTIVITIES AND PERFORMANCES MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

## Summer events at parks and green spaces

We have some fabulous summer events coming up at Sandwell Valley and our parks and green spaces across Sandwell.

On Sunday 14 July, you can celebrate **Black Country Day and Sandwell's 50th Anniversary** at Sandwell Valley Visitor Centre with a host of live Black Country music.

The **Sandwell and Birmingham Mela** – the UK's biggest South Asian music festival – is at Victoria Park, Smethwick, on Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 July, with music, dance, food, arts and crafts.

Enjoy the **school summer holidays** with activities at Forge Mill Farm and Sandwell Valley Visitor Centre throughout the six-week break.

At Sandwell Valley Showground, our **Picnic Movies** evenings are back with Top Gun (12) on Friday 2 August, The Lion King (PG), Barbie (12A) and Grease (PG) on Saturday 3 August and Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban (PG), The Greatest Showman (PG) and Hocus Pocus (PG) on Sunday 4 August.

Don't miss our spectacular **Sunflowers and Sunflower events** at Forge Mill Farm – look out for dates to book from mid-August.

Go to [www.visitsandwell.com](http://www.visitsandwell.com) for details of these exciting events and more.



## Family fun at Sandwell's museums

50 YEARS  
1974-2024

Our museums are celebrating **Our People, Our Places** this year as Sandwell turns 50.

Come on a journey with us this summer for a wide variety of family activities for all ages.

At **Wednesbury Museum** travel through the ages, meet the Vikings and Saxons, make medieval floor tiles and celebrate our Victorian museum.

While at **Oak House** get your hands dirty with archaeology week.

At **Bromwich Hall** celebrate our nature in our grounds and enjoy some fantastic hands-on fun with decorating pots.

At **Haden Hill House** use our house and grounds for inspiration to create sculptures and some arty creations.

Across our sites there will also be games and activities with Go Play Sandwell, plus crafty fun, active and sporty activities, relaxing family yoga and lots more. There are also exhibitions and displays and regular activities and community groups to enjoy.

Entrance to our museums is free but there may be a small charge for some activities. Booking may be required for some activities.

[www.sandwell.gov.uk/joininmuseums](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/joininmuseums) has full details or follow us on social media @sandwellmuseums

## Free swimming and more at leisure centres

Free swimming is available for Sandwell children aged 18 and under during designated sessions over the school summer holidays.

Sandwell Leisure Trust centres will advertise specific sessions for the pools at Sandwell Aquatics Centre, Tipton Leisure Centre and Wednesbury Leisure Centre.

Go to [www.slt-leisure.co.uk/free-swimming-in-sandwell](http://www.slt-leisure.co.uk/free-swimming-in-sandwell) for details or call 0300 012 0121.

For **West Bromwich Leisure Centre**, register for free swimming by visiting reception at the centre or for more information call 0121 580 6430 or search 'West Bromwich Leisure Centre' at [www.placesleisure.org](http://www.placesleisure.org)

Our leisure centres will also be working with partner organisations to offer an exciting range of fun-packed activities over the summer holidays, with something for everyone, so check the Sandwell Leisure Trust and Places Leisure websites and social media for more details.

Don't miss the summer holiday diving sessions at Sandwell Aquatics Centre – open to anyone from six to 16 and suitable for all abilities. Book soon to avoid disappointment! Go online to book at:

[www.slt-leisure.co.uk/divinglessons](http://www.slt-leisure.co.uk/divinglessons)



**STAY SAFE, STAY OUT**



Stay safe this summer and please only swim in purpose-built, supervised swimming pools.

Sandwell has lots of open water including lakes, pools, ponds, canals and rivers, which can seem inviting during the summer months, but please don't be tempted to swim in them.

People can often misjudge their swimming ability. Water may feel warm on the surface, but just a few feet below can be icy cold, even in the hot weather and can very quickly cause severe cramp and hypothermia.

Go to [www.sandwell.gov.uk/watersafety](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/watersafety) for more information.



# Volunteers Needed

Our Police Cadets need YOU!

As a Cadet Leader, you will:

- ✓ Inspire young people
- ✓ Be a positive role model
- ✓ Take part in exciting activities
- ✓ Gain valuable skills & experience



Search 'WMP Jobs' or scan the QR code to apply today

## Make a real difference to young people's lives

For the past four years, Dwayne from Oldbury has dedicated his free time to mentoring and supporting over 30 young police cadets at two units in Sandwell.

The sessions take place during school term times at West Bromwich Collegiate Academy on Wednesdays from 6pm-7.45pm and Bristnall Hall Academy on Thursdays from 4.30pm-6pm.

"I've always loved teaching young people," Dwayne says, "and I wanted to make a real difference in their lives. That's what inspired me to become a Cadet Leader."

He adds: "The best thing about being a Cadet Leader is seeing young people develop new skills and to see those skills being used in sessions and in their lives."

But Dwayne's impact goes beyond that. He's a positive role model, helping the cadets develop their goals and explore careers in policing.

"Volunteering is so rewarding," Dwayne adds. "It gives you a sense of purpose and a way to give back to your community. It's a great achievement, and you gain new skills that look fantastic on your CV."

As well as volunteering as a Cadet Leader, Dwayne also volunteers as a Police Chaplain for West Midlands Police, offering support and friendship to employees.

He explains: "At one of our chaplaincy meetings we had a talk about the police cadets and the amazing work they do."

"I volunteered straight away as I believe that all young people should have the right to explore new opportunities, learn about policing and develop new skills."

**Inspired by Dwayne's story? You too can make a difference by becoming a Cadet Leader!**

You'll inspire young people, helping them develop valuable life skills and build confidence. This role can offer you valuable leadership skills, teamwork experience and the satisfaction of making a positive difference in your community.

Search 'Cadet Leader' at [www.westmidlands.police.uk](http://www.westmidlands.police.uk) to learn more about becoming a Cadet Leader.



## Keep your home safe during the summer months

Summer is here! While we all enjoy the weather, it's also important to remember to keep your home secure.

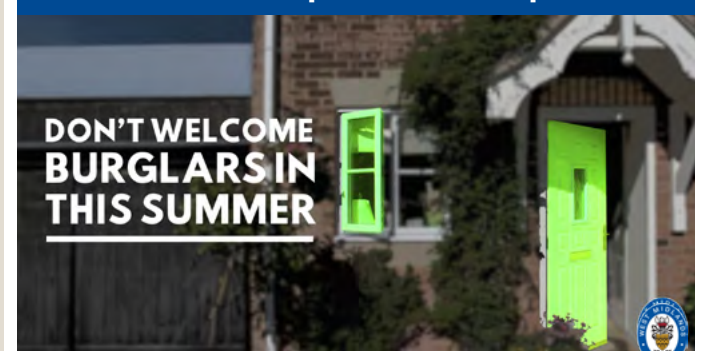
West Midlands Police is working hard to proactively deter and target thieves, but everybody has their part to play to prevent themselves from becoming a victim of burglary.

### Here's how you can help:

- Make sure to close and lock all your doors and windows when you go out – even if you're just popping out for a few minutes. This includes patio doors and side gates.
- Don't leave phones, keys or other valuables where they can be seen or reached through the letterbox and open windows.
- Avoid leaving your garden tools lying around and lock them in your shed when you've finished using them.

Find more tips online at:

[www.westmidlands.police.uk/crime-prevention](http://www.westmidlands.police.uk/crime-prevention)





## Your behaviour is your responsibility

We all have bad days and that's okay. But what's not okay is for you to take your feelings out on others in a way that is harmful.

No matter what you are feeling, there is absolutely no excuse for abuse. Domestic abuse can devastate the lives of your partner, children, family and friends – both now and in the future.

If you're concerned about your behaviour or the behaviour of someone you know, call the Respect Phonenumber **0808 802 4040** or go to [www.respectphonenumber.org.uk](http://www.respectphonenumber.org.uk)

This is a team of friendly advisors who will listen without judgement and offer confidential and honest advice to help people stop being violent and become safe around their partner and children.

Always dial **999** in an emergency.

For anyone experiencing domestic abuse, help and support is available at:

[www.sandwell.gov.uk/domesticabuse](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/domesticabuse)

### For specialist support:

Black Country Women's Aid:  
[www.blackcountrywomensaid.co.uk](http://www.blackcountrywomensaid.co.uk) or  
**0121 552 6448**

Ask Marc offers help and support for men:  
[www.askmarc.org.uk](http://www.askmarc.org.uk) or **0121 289 6402**

Birmingham LGBT Centre: [www.blgbt.org](http://www.blgbt.org) or  
**0121 643 0821**



## Stay alert this summer

The summer months are packed full of fun activities, and Counter Terrorism Policing West Midlands are reminding you to stay vigilant and let us know if you see something that doesn't feel right.



Whether you're off to sporting events, music festivals or simply a day out in town, it's important to stay alert to your surroundings.

Superintendent Nick Rowe, from Counter Terrorism Policing West Midlands, said: "While our advice is not based on an increased threat to the area or events, we're reminding residents of the importance of staying alert and reporting anything that seems suspicious or doesn't feel right.

"We have dedicated officers working around the clock to keep the region safe, but reports from the public are vital in supporting our efforts.

"We want everyone to have a safe and enjoyable summer so trust your instincts and if you spot something suspicious – report it straight away. The smallest piece of information might be vital and you'll never be wasting our time."

Report to police by calling **101**, or call **999** in an emergency. You can also report confidentially online by visiting [act.campaign.gov.uk](http://act.campaign.gov.uk) or calling the anti-terror hotline on **0800 789 321**.

## New places where you can report a hate crime

Four new organisations have recently joined the Sandwell Hate Crime Third Party Reporting Centre Network with over 40 centres now in operation.



The centres are spaces in the local community where people can report a hate crime, if they do not wish to directly report this to the police, with the centres then passing the information on to the police themselves.

Staff at Abrahamic Foundation and West Smethwick Park Pavilion, both in Smethwick, Bangladeshi Women's Association in Tipton and South Staffs Water Community Hub in Wednesbury have received training and can now forward reports of hate crime on behalf of victims to the police.

The centres can also help victims of hate crime in Sandwell to access victim support services dedicated to hate crime.

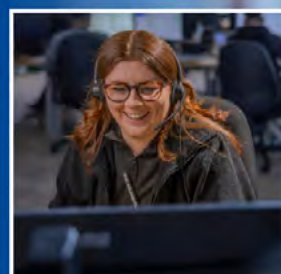
Visit [www.sandwell.gov.uk/hatecrime](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/hatecrime) for more information on where Hate Crime Third Party Reporting Centres can be found across Sandwell.

Always call **999** in an emergency.

# We're Recruiting

We need your skills

- ▶ Police Officer
- ▶ Police Staff
- ▶ Police Community Support Officer
- ▶ Force Contact - Call Handler



Want more information?

Search 'WMP Jobs' or scan the QR code to apply today



# Sandwell Police update

**Chief Superintendent Kim Madill, Sandwell Police Commander, reports back on the past year.**



“ This summer marks my first year as the commander of Sandwell Police. That means I’m responsible for all aspects of policing across the borough. It’s a big responsibility and one I’m proud to carry on your behalf.

When I started, I set three clear priorities. They are:

- Providing a service that works for all local people where we’re targeting criminals and securing justice for victims and witnesses.
- Making sure people have the opportunity to be involved in policing whether that’s volunteering, influencing our priorities, shaping how we respond to issues in neighbourhoods or scrutinising how we use our powers.
- Building a team who are representative of Sandwell’s communities and who want to use their skills to serve people well.

By changing the way we work, listening to local voices and employing some excellent people, I’m pleased to say we’re delivering on all of these.

- We’re answering your calls faster. ■ We’re arriving at incidents sooner.
- We’re arresting more people. ■ We’re securing better outcomes for victims.
- We’re reducing crime.

This is great news for everyone, except criminals. But I know there is more for us to do. My focus for the next 12 months will be to continue delivering on my priorities.

Whether you’ve been volunteering for us, run a Neighbourhood or Street Watch scheme, attended one of our community meetings, shared our social media posts or acted on the crime alerts we share on [WMnow.co.uk](http://WMnow.co.uk), thank you for playing your part for making Sandwell a better place to live, work, visit and invest.”

If you’d like to get more involved, email [sandwell\\_partnerships@westmidlands.police.uk](mailto:sandwell_partnerships@westmidlands.police.uk)

You can also sign up to free WMnow email messages at [www.WMnow.co.uk](http://www.WMnow.co.uk)



## E-BIKE AND E-SCOOTER FIRE SAFETY IN THE HOME

Make sure you charge your e-bike or e-scooter battery safely. Follow these simple steps to reduce the risk of fire.

- Don't leave your device charging unattended or when you're asleep.
- Don't charge or store your battery in the hallway or where it could block your escape.
- Only use the correct charger for your battery.
- It is recommended that a professional carries out an e-bike conversion.
- Only buy e-bikes, e-scooters and batteries from trusted retailers and manufacturers.



Scan here for more information

**LOVE WALKIES?**

Avoid a £100 fine by following our Sandwell doggy rules:

- Owners must carry dog poo bags
- Owners must pick up after their dog
- Dogs are not allowed in playground areas or tennis courts

[www.sandwell.gov.uk/pspos](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/pspos)

**BARBECUES CAN BURN MORE THAN JUST SAUSAGES**

NO stoves, BBQs or fires in our parks or green spaces. Don't risk a £100 FINE

[www.sandwell.gov.uk/pspos](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/pspos)

**5 KENRICK WAY STREET RACERS TAKEN TO COURT**

STREET RACING IS BANNED IN THE BLACK COUNTRY  
[WWW.SANDWELL.GOV.UK/STREETRACING](http://WWW.SANDWELL.GOV.UK/STREETRACING)

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

## WARNING! SEIZED

### OFF-ROAD BIKES COULD BE SEIZED AND CRUSHED

Police and council teams have warned that off-road motorbikes and other off-road vehicles could be seized and crushed if used illegally.

**OFF-ROAD BIKING ILLEGALLY?**

**DON'T RISK IT**

People riding illegally face being arrested and having their bikes seized and crushed.

**SEIZED AND CRUSHED**

[WWW.SANDWELL.GOV.UK/MOTORBIKENUISANCE](http://WWW.SANDWELL.GOV.UK/MOTORBIKENUISANCE)

**YOUR BIKE YOUR RESPONSIBILITY**



# One year on – big successes at Sandwell Aquatics Centre

Since opening to the public on 24 July 2023, Sandwell Aquatics Centre, Smethwick, has attracted nearly 12,000 attendees to our diving programme.

The Learn to Dive programmes boast nearly 200 customers and 125 squad members, making over 300 weekly attendances.

Sandwell Diving Club is affiliated with Swim England, with members competing nationally in skills, age groups and junior elites.

Our first-year diver Kalila, pictured top right, achieved personal bests on the 3m and 10m boards, finishing sixth overall with a new personal best in our most recently hosted event, Junior Elites.

Three swimming clubs – Haden Hill, Oldbury and Warley Wasps – successfully merged to form Sandwell Aquatics Club, delivering both swimming and water polo. The club has swimmers competing at the national Aquatics GB Summer Championships in Sheffield.

Swim England has transferred Learn to Swim programmes from two former leisure centres (Langley and Smethwick) over to Sandwell Aquatics Centre. Beginning with 1,200 members, the centre now has a staggering 2,605 people learning to swim with lessons for a wide range of ages and abilities. In addition, the centre offers the Learn to Swim programme to 46 schools.

Sandwell Leisure Trust is also working with Active Black Country, the council's Public Health team and schools to encourage people to be safe around water.

Visit [www.slt-leisure.co.uk/sandwell-aquatics-centre](http://www.slt-leisure.co.uk/sandwell-aquatics-centre) or call 0300 012 0121 for more information.



# Kaiden makes a splash!

We're so proud of Smethwick's Kaiden who is making waves in the swimming world.

At just 14, he's smashing records and topping the rankings in the UK in seven different disciplines.

Kaiden competed at the Sandwell Aquatics Centre in the 2024 Worcester County Swimming Championships, scooping an impressive 16 trophies and more success to his name.

He's off to the British Swimming Summer Championships at Ponds Forge in Sheffield at the end of July, to compete in 10 events – the most number of events qualified for in the under 16s age group.

He's only been swimming six years and has already been selected for the England pathway, which will hopefully take him to the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics.

Kaiden said:

**"What I love most about swimming is the friendships and the fun that you make along the way."**

**"I love competing with my friends, I love having fun, I love racing."**

**"It's just a great sport to be involved with."**

Kaiden received funding from the council's Gifted and Talented Programme which supports aspiring athletes to fulfil their potential.

Go to [www.sandwell.gov.uk/giftedandtalented](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/giftedandtalented) for more information.



**SANDWELL LEISURE TRUST**

## YOUR PERFECT MEMBERSHIP

**ONE CARD**

Access to swimming, fitness classes and gyms at all our centres. ONE Card is the ultimate individual pass for health and fitness in Sandwell.

**FAMILY MEMBERSHIP**

Our Family membership provides inclusive access for swimming, fitness classes and gyms at all our SLT centres. Family ONE is the ultimate family pass.

**GYM ONE**

With Gym One use a SLT gym with no contract. With top of the range cardio equipment, weights, training equipment and everything you could need for your workout.

**JOIN NOW**      [SLT-LEISURE.CO.UK](http://SLT-LEISURE.CO.UK)

# FIND IT DO IT

Find something you love on our exciting new website – *Find It Do It!*

[www.visitsandwell.com/finditdoit](http://www.visitsandwell.com/finditdoit) is the go-to place to find local activities and clubs near you.

Discover arts, entertainment, culture, heritage, green spaces, sports, new friendships and lots more. We have venue listings too if you need to host an activity.

If you represent a group looking for new members or would like to promote a regular activity, send us the details using the contact form on the website.

**FIND SOMETHING YOU LOVE  
IN SANDWELL**

Visit **Sandwell**      [www.visitsandwell.com/finditdoit](http://www.visitsandwell.com/finditdoit)



## Our new Animal Welfare Charter

**Sandwell Council has launched a new Animal Welfare Charter aimed at protecting wildlife and pets.**

The new charter seeks to build on Sandwell Council's existing efforts to protect animal welfare across its country parks.

Council Leader, Councillor Kerrie Carmichael, said: "I welcome the introduction of this new charter and look forward to working with residents to develop it further over time to meet our goal that no animal should suffer needlessly in Sandwell."

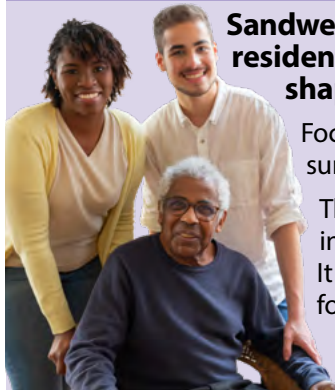
The charter draws inspiration from the RSPCA's charter and encompasses a range of principles and guidelines designed to protect animals and their rights.

Lee Gingell, RSPCA Public Affairs Manager, said: "We commend Sandwell Council for this welcome step in adopting a comprehensive animal welfare charter. This commitment showcases their dedication to ensuring the welfare of animals within the local community."

Visit [www.sandwell.gov.uk/animalwelfarecharter](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/animalwelfarecharter) to read the Animal Welfare Charter.



## Support for carers



**Sandwell Adult Social Care is working with carers, support organisations, residents and partners to understand carer experiences and to help shape a new Carer Support Service.**

Focus groups and drop-ins were held at community venues, as well as an online survey looking at carers' needs and the need for an overarching service.

The new service is being designed in partnership with carers so they can influence decisions about the service and help to improve carers' lives. It will be a key contact point for referral, and also provide a central contact point for unpaid carers to access information and advice.

Go to [www.sandwell.gov.uk/carers](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/carers) for advice on support for carers.

## Community Alarms

**Did you know? Our Community Alarms service offers support for older, vulnerable and disabled people at the touch of a button by wearing a pendant or wrist watch.**

The alarm package also supports people returning from a hospital stay so they can get back into their own homes.

Community Alarms, which recently marked its 40th anniversary, offers a 24/7 service, all year round. Visit [www.sandwell.gov.uk/communityalarms](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/communityalarms) or call 0121 569 6800.



## New team to sort out housing complaints

**Sandwell Council has set up a new Housing Resolutions Team to sort out complaints.**

**The team:**

- will investigate complaints impartially taking into account the tenant's point of view so that whenever possible any issues or concerns are dealt with
- will make sure tenants are told what is happening with their complaint and that they are kept informed throughout the process
- will make sure each complaint is looked at on its own merits and if necessary will, on behalf of tenants, challenge any decisions already made

- will use the new process to learn from complaints so issues are not repeated

For general housing enquiries, visit [www.sandwell.gov.uk/housing](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/housing) or call 0121 368 1166.

For housing repairs, go to [www.sandwell.gov.uk/repairs](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/repairs) or call 0121 569 6000.

# Life is what you make it



## Foster for Sandwell

Enquire at [fostersandwell.co.uk](http://fostersandwell.co.uk)



## Prince of Wales surprises St Michael's school

His Royal Highness Prince William made a surprise visit to St Michael's Church of England High School in Rowley Regis, following a written invitation from 12-year-old pupil Freddie.

The Prince commended the school's students for their award-winning projects to support young people's mental health. He met representatives of the school's Student Voice group and the Matrix Project, which looks at male mental health.

He also joined in a workshop with students to discuss a range of issues and initiatives related to mental health and wellbeing.



## Blind Dave rides again

This September, Sandwell Freeman and fundraising legend Blind Dave Heeley and his team will cycle a staggering 1,000km over seven days along the route of the First World War Western Front in France, raising money for The Albion Foundation.



The route was inspired by the story of 2nd Lieutenant Alexander Douglas Gillespie of the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders who was killed in action in 1915. He had written a letter home from the frontline and dreamed of creating a 'Via Sacra' (sacred road) that everyone could follow to honour the fallen.

Dave, from West Bromwich, said: "Many brave men and women gave the ultimate sacrifice all those years ago to cement our freedom and they should never be forgotten. This ride will be tough but very emotional with many of us having fallen distant relatives and we intend honouring them as we ride."

The team hopes to raise £80,000 towards The Albion Foundation's continuing work supporting disabled children through sport.

Visit [www.justgiving.com/page/teamblinddavecyclewfw](http://www.justgiving.com/page/teamblinddavecyclewfw) to read more and donate.



Be part of our Family

## Big thank you to volunteers



Staff from Fitzgerald civil engineering contractor donating items to the Bring A Tin appeal at Sandwell libraries

### Sandwell had an amazing Volunteers' Week and The Big Help Out weekend in June.

More than 1,000 food items were donated during the week to the Bring A Tin appeal organised by SCVO (Sandwell's voluntary sector support organisation) and Sandwell Council.

Kind-hearted residents and businesses went to libraries or participating parks to drop off 1,130 items, which we're distributing to local foodbanks. There was also a tidy up at Haden Hill Park and West Smethwick Park.

Thanks to everyone who took part and everyone who gives up their time to volunteer in Sandwell.

Fancy giving it a go? Go to [www.letsgosandwell.info](http://www.letsgosandwell.info) for almost 300 different volunteering opportunities.

## New day club for people with care needs

If you, or people you know, want to get out more but worry that care needs are holding you back, a warm welcome awaits you at Crossroads Day Club.

The day club, which meets on the first Wednesday of every month, 10am-3pm at the Oak Tree Centre, Tame Road, Oldbury, B68 0JP, is open to all adults living with any condition, including dementia.

You can enjoy a change of scenery, social activities, refreshments and a hot meal in a safe and secure environment, all at a competitive price.

Crossroads encourages independence, while also having care support workers on hand to assist people with mealtimes and getting around.

Call Crossroads on **0121 553 6483** or visit [www.crossroads-caringforcareers.org](http://www.crossroads-caringforcareers.org)



## Sea Cadets in Sandwell – join us!



Sandwell Sea Cadets offer young people aged 10-18 unique opportunities to learn valuable skills, make lifelong friends and have unforgettable adventures.

A uniformed organisation and fully recognised by the Ministry of Defence, Sea Cadets offer learning through exciting activities on and off the water.

Many teenagers and volunteers say it feels like a second family and Sea Cadets have robust safeguarding practices in place to ensure all young people feel secure and protected.

Visit [www.sea-cadets.org/sandwell](http://www.sea-cadets.org/sandwell) to find out more or email [trainingshipalbion486@gmail.com](mailto:trainingshipalbion486@gmail.com)

## Charities join forces to support blind and partially sighted people

A pioneering partnership in Sandwell is helping people with sight loss to access new opportunities.

The Beacon Centre for the Blind is working with Sandwell Visually Impaired to help blind and partially sighted people break down some of the barriers they face in accessing their community, living independently and finding work, learning or volunteering opportunities.

The programme, which is funded through the government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund via Sandwell Council, is just entering its second year. The programme reached almost 300 people in its first year with more than 40 people receiving direct support.

To find out more, call Sandwell Visually Impaired on **0121 525 4810** or email [info@sandwellvisuallyimpaired.org.uk](mailto:info@sandwellvisuallyimpaired.org.uk)

You can also call Beacon on **01902 880 111** or email [enquiries@beaconvision.org](mailto:enquiries@beaconvision.org)



EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS SUPPORT FOR THE blind and partially sighted community



## Smethwick Community Awards

Smethwick Community Awards celebrate the people, charities and organisations that work hard to make Smethwick a fantastic place to live.

**Congratulations to the 2024 winners:**

- Good Neighbour: **Mohammad Ikhtlaq**
- Young Person: **Holly Wilcox**
- Volunteer: **Andrew Johnson**
- Community Project: **New Beginnings**
- Community Organisation: **Smethwick Baptist Church**
- Smethwick Lifetime Achievement: **Aynols Reid**

The awards ceremony at The Opal Suite was sponsored by Persimmon, Glass Express, Football Kits Direct and Arden Supermarket.



Young Person of the Year winner Holly and runner-up Aisha with, left, then Assistant Police & Crime Commissioner Tom McNeil, and, right, West Midlands Police's Wes Smith



# Hero Sandwell binman rescues couple and dog from house fire

Sandwell bin man Steve Whitehouse was praised for his heroic actions after rescuing a man, a woman and a dog during his round.

Serco employee Steve, known as Winnie, was on his trade waste round with driver Kevin Marriott when they spotted the blaze at a maisonette in Ridgeway Road, Tipton. He climbed to a first-floor balcony three times to rescue the trio.

Steve, who's worked as a Refuse Operative in Sandwell since 2007, said: "I saw a young woman screaming from the balcony and all I could think was that I needed to get to her as quickly as possible.

"The smoke was getting thicker. I called to anyone else who might be inside and could hear a young man shouting in distress for his dog. I managed to bundle up the dog in a blanket, jumped back down to the ground, and got the owner to throw the dog to me. I then went back up to help him."

Once Steve had completed the rescues, he started banging on neighbours' doors to alert them to the danger. Kevin tended to neighbours who'd evacuated their homes for safety and let Steve's family know what was happening.

Once they'd recovered over a strong cup of tea, the pair continued with their round.

Tipton Watch Commander Chris Green, for West Midlands Fire Service, said: "I have no doubt that, without Steve's incredible bravery, the outcome could have been very different."

The fire was caused by an e-bike battery exploding while on charge at the bottom of the stairs, cutting off an escape route – see page 17 for advice on reducing the risks of fire when charging e-bikes and e-scooters or go to [www.wmfs.net/safety/e-bikes](http://www.wmfs.net/safety/e-bikes)



Following the rescue in February, Steve (right) and Kevin (left) were awarded Collection Crew of the Year at the 2024 Awards for Excellence in Recycling and Waste Management.

## Summer bin collection times

Waste and recycling bins are emptied from 5.30am while bin crews begin work earlier during the summer months.

Please put your bins out the evening before or by 5.30am for collection on your usual day. The earlier collection times will be in place until the end of September.

The tip in Shidas Lane, Oldbury, is open from 7am until 4pm over the summer. Go to [www.sandwell.gov.uk/tip](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/tip) to book your visit.



## Receive your Council Tax bill the easy way

Signing up for paperless Council Tax bills is a simpler, quicker and a more reliable way to receive and check your bill.

To register to receive e-bills, simply complete our online form.

[www.sandwell.gov.uk/counciltaxbills](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/counciltaxbills)



## The annual canvass is coming soon

Every year our Electoral Services team are legally required to check the details that we hold for your household for the purpose of publishing an accurate Register of Electors.

You need to be on the Register of Electors in order to vote in elections. Being on the electoral roll also improves your credit score.

Every household will be contacted at the end of July either by letter, email or phone – residents will be asked to check the information we currently hold is correct, even if you have recently registered to vote, your house is empty or you have just moved.

The most important thing is that you need to read the communication you receive really carefully and check that the details are correct. The letter will tell you if you need to respond.

Go to [www.sandwell.gov.uk/annualcanvass](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/annualcanvass) to find out more about the annual household canvass.



## Here to help 24/7 with MySandwell

You can request council services and report problems to the council 24/7 with MySandwell.

It's easy to create an account – go to [www.sandwell.gov.uk/mysandwell](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/mysandwell)

We've launched a free MySandwell App where you can access a growing number of services. Download it from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store.

Going online can save you time and money on phone calls or travel costs.

You can also pay bills online at [www.sandwell.gov.uk/paybills](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/paybills) or by phone, by credit or debit card on **0300 456 0514**.

You can go online for all sorts of council services – to pay your rent or Council Tax, apply for benefits, report anti-social behaviour, apply to join the housing register, report a housing repair, apply for a Blue Badge, ask about school places and much more. Go to [www.sandwell.gov.uk](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk)

If you're not online, you can still phone us for help:

- Adult social care or urgent help for someone vulnerable: **0121 569 2266**
- Births, marriages, deaths and Register Office: **0121 368 1188**
- Children's services or to report a child at risk: **0121 569 3100**
- Council Tax and benefits: **0121 368 1155**
- Education benefits: **0121 569 8186/8189**
- Housing enquiries (including homelessness/rough sleepers): **0121 368 1166**
- Housing repairs: **0121 569 6000**
- Highways, bins, recycling and other environmental services: **0121 368 1177**
- Pay bills (by debit or credit card): **0300 456 0514**
- Welfare Rights Team: **0121 569 3158**

★ Win a cream tea for two at Sandwell Valley Visitor Centre Tea Rooms, plus a family ticket for Forge Mill Farm (2 adults and 3 children) and a free bag of food for each person to give to the animals.



One of the words in the list below cannot be found in the wordsearch.

- AQUATICS
- PICNIC
- HOLIDAYS
- SUNGLASSES
- MYSANDWELL
- SUNCREAM
- ICE CREAM
- SHAPE
- OLYMPICS
- WASPS
- SURFING

C	W	P	D	E	H	O	L	I	D	A	Y	S	N
S	C	S	P	Y	O	M	Y	P	I	Q	P	C	S
S	G	A	M	E	L	A	C	G	E	C	R	N	T
A	H	L	Y	S	Y	E	R	W	N	A	W	N	C
S	L	U	S	S	M	R	D	A	S	C	L	T	E
A	L	N	A	R	P	C	E	S	R	R	E	U	S
P	O	C	N	Y	I	E	E	P	S	E	S	S	C
C	R	N	D	I	C	C	U	S	M	C	D	A	C
P	A	C	W	C	S	I	C	I	N	C	I	P	R
P	E	N	E	R	C	R	S	U	R	F	I	N	G
R	W	P	L	S	E	S	S	A	L	G	N	U	S
A	C	Q	L	I	M	S	L	U	S	L	D	E	U
A	Q	U	A	T	I	C	S	S	R	U	S	S	I
W	M	M	U	A	I	G	E	C	L	D	S	A	E

Courtesy of <https://thewordsearch.com>

Send us this word along with your name, contact number and address including postcode to: **The Editor, Sandwell Herald, Communications Unit, Sandwell Council, Oldbury, B69 3DE**, or you can email the word along with your details to: [herald\\_competition@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:herald_competition@sandwell.gov.uk) by Friday 23 August 2024.

First correct entry out of the hat wins the prize. One entry per person. Entrants must live or work in Sandwell.

MISSING WORD .....

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

.....POSTCODE.....

PHONE NUMBER .....

Congratulations to our Sandwell Herald Spring 2024 winners.  
**Wordsearch:** Amy Haines, Tipton  
**Sudoku:** Linda Lloyd, Cradley Heath



# YOUR SANDWELL COUNCILLORS

## YOUR OLDBURY COUNCILLORS

Bristnall			Langley			Old Warley			Oldbury		
											
Amolak Singh Dhariwal 07811 583 956	Thomas Johnston 07974 883 588	Ellen Fenton 07450 963 628	Bill Gavan MBE 07813 364 277	Jill Tromans 07974 883 521	Caroline Owen 07929 729 943	Harnoor Bhullar 07968 576 563	Chipiliro Kalebe-Nyamongo 07977 710 948	Luke Cotterill 07442 878 825	Nagi Daya Singh 07811 583 817	Suzanne Hartwell 07814 862 104	Rizwan Jalil 07866 244 444

## YOUR ROWLEY REGIS COUNCILLORS

Blackheath			Cradley Heath and Old Hill			Rowley			Tividale		
											
Danny Millard 07825 706 133	Jag Singh 07812 682 584	Kerrie Carmichael 07852 699 513	Julie Webb 0121 559 9263	John Tipper 07501 066 202	Vicki Smith 07970 497 742	Claire Mayo 07480 744 438	Khayam Khan 07897 780 526	Sohail Iqbal 07442 878 404	Amrita Dunn 07555 127 349	Wakas Younis 07424 377 892	Maria Crompton 07810 850 960

## YOUR SMETHWICK COUNCILLORS

Abbey			Smethwick			Soho and Victoria			St Paul's		
											
Bob Piper 07817 617 595	Jennifer Hemingway 07890 952 567	Nicky Hinchliff 07929 658 986	Ashley Lewis 07855 985 146	Luke Davies 07974 879 379	Parbinder Kaur 07956 149 668	Mohammed Jalal Uddin 07811 583 860	Ragih Mufihi 07974 883 550	Farut Shaeen 07967 591 228	Aqeela Choudhry 07855 985 100	Muhammad Loan 07424 965 084	Sukhbir Singh Gill 07929 729 532

## YOUR TIPTON COUNCILLORS

Great Bridge			Princes End			Tipton Green		
								
Soyfur Rahman 07855 985 156	Sahdaish Kaur Pall BEM 07930 492 467	William Gill 07305 432 400	David Wilkes 07855 985 153	Justyna Kordala 07549 817 139	Archer Williams 07929 729 950	Abid Hussain 07811 583 951	Syeda Khatun MBE 07766 421 436	Richard Jeffcoat 07442 879 919

## YOUR WEDNESBURY COUNCILLORS

Friar Park			Wednesbury North			Wednesbury South		
								
Simon Hackett 07813 989 422	Terry Fitzgerald 07977 532 070	Elizabeth Giles 07443 707 790	Luke Giles 07549 657 831	Nicola Maycock 07974 876 939	Peter Hughes 07896 914 849	Ian Chambers 07929 659 646	Kulwant Singh Uppal 07974 883 554	Jenny Chidley 07974 883 522

## YOUR WEST BROMWICH COUNCILLORS

Charlemont with Grove Vale			Great Barr with Yew Tree			Greets Green and Lyng		
								
Les Trumpeter 07429 517 031	Natalie Weston 07827 444 769	Dalel Singh Bhamra 07443 551 022	Steve Melia 0121 502 5751	Michaela Allcock 07977 729 107	Connor Horton 07380 334 497	John Giles 07816 353 752	Jackie Taylor 07813 364 299	Pam Randhawa 07951 861 263
Hateley Heath			Newton			West Bromwich Central		
								
Paul Moore 07969 138 038	Kay Millar 07971 524 694	Amardeep Singh 07925 174 940	Keith Allcock 07970 202 313	Saj Ashraf 07465 724 276	Elaine Giles 07715 301 375	Liam Preece 07515 354 967	Tirath Singh Dhatt 07874 660 324	Farzana Haq 07449 541 778

### Key to councillors' political parties

-  Labour Party
-  Conservative Party
-  Independent

## Your councillors ARE HERE TO HELP

Your local ward councillors are here to support you.

If you need to check which ward you live in, and search for your local councillors, go to [www.sandwell.gov.uk/councillors](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/councillors)

For more information on councillors, email [members\\_services@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:members_services@sandwell.gov.uk)





50  
YEARS  
1974 • 2024

# Sandwell at 50

## Looking to the future...

50  
YEARS  
1974 • 2024

**More than 80 projects across Sandwell's six towns are transforming the borough, attracting a potential £3 billion of public and private sector investment over five years.**

The Herald looks at progress on several major projects. Find out more at [www.regeneratingsandwell.co.uk](http://www.regeneratingsandwell.co.uk)

## New college campus officially opened

**It was great to officially open Sandwell College's Central Saint Michael's Sandwell Science, Engineering & Manufacturing Centre in West Bromwich High Street.**

More than 220 students are now able to enjoy their learning at the new facility.

Students can work in a range of electrical and mechanical labs, digital computer labs and computer aided design (CAD) studios.

Also, in a first for the Black Country, a 'Festo suite' is available to prepare people, companies and organisations for the digital future in production and new technologies.

The project was funded by the government's Towns Fund programme, with co-funding from Sandwell College and the Department for Education.



## Work starts on new Britannia Park changing rooms

**Four new Football Association-approved changing rooms will mean people can make full use of the Rowley Regis park's sport pitches.**

We'll also work with a voluntary sector organisation to promote the use of the grass pitches to help grow junior and women's football.

This is the latest phase of Britannia Park improvements. New allotment beds are finished and work is already under way on the tennis courts and new play area.

By improving facilities, families and children will have more opportunities to participate in activities including tennis, basketball, netball, cricket and football as well as events and to use the new play area.

Improvements are funded by the government's Towns Fund, Sandwell Council and the Lawn Tennis Association.



## TIPTON

**Plans to build 65 new council homes in Tipton, supported by the government's Levelling Up Fund, remain on track.**

Tenants from both Union Street blocks have moved to alternative premises.

The shops are also now vacant, some businesses choosing to relocate nearby.

The Post Office has secured premises in Unity Walk so this vital service can continue to serve the town with reopening scheduled for later this summer after a refit.

Work has begun to strip out the two Union Street blocks, ahead of demolition which begins later in 2024. Design work is now complete with a planning application submitted to seek approval to build the new apartments.

The council has commissioned urban design specialists to advise on improvements along Owen Street, Union Street and the canal walkway.

They will offer guidance on traffic calming, walking routes, street tree planting and play facilities, all aimed at making Tipton a safer, more attractive centre, designed around people's needs.



## WEDNESBURY

**Work has started on the £20.4million Wednesbury Levelling Up Partnership.**

We have installed new and upgraded CCTV cameras and have started improving green spaces with new planting and better paths and lighting.

Further work will take place in 2024 and 2025 to:

- Help the town centre thrive through improvements including new paving, more seating and greenery, and agreeing a masterplan to attract further investment
- Help partners tackle crime and anti-social behaviour by engaging with residents and businesses and making changes in green spaces to discourage nuisance bikes
- Prepare land at Friar Park Urban Village ready to build 630 new homes
- Improve green spaces at Lakeside and Norbury Open Space, Hydes Road Playing Fields, Balls Hill Open Space and Wyntor Lane Open Space
- Expand the Friar Park Millennium Centre so there's more space for a wider range of services to help give people the skills they need to secure better jobs

In September 2023, Sandwell Council and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities agreed the programme that will be delivered as part of their Levelling Up Partnership.



## SMETHWICK In October 2023, Smethwick was named as one of 55 towns to receive up to £20million funding from the government over a 10-year period to invest in local people's priorities.

To access the funding, the Smethwick Partnership Board, with support of Sandwell Council, is producing a Long-Term Plan for Smethwick based on local priorities.

An online survey was launched to get the views of residents, businesses and community groups to help identify the priorities for Smethwick. There's still time to have your say in the survey at [www.smethwickltp.co.uk](http://www.smethwickltp.co.uk) – closing date 28 July 2024.

The plan will be submitted to the government in August.

Email [regenerating@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:regenerating@sandwell.gov.uk) to get involved to help identify and develop projects for Smethwick.



Funded by  
UK Government

These projects have been supported  
by government funding.



**HANDS UP IF YOU**

[WWW.SANDWELL.GOV.UK/BINS](http://WWW.SANDWELL.GOV.UK/BINS)

# RECYCLE

Each week, the weight of 36 double decker buses of recycling is collected from homes across Sandwell! Recycling really matters and every bottle, can or jar you recycle makes a big difference. It's important we only put the right types of things in the bin, as otherwise it can spoil all the good recycling that's collected. You can recycle the types of items pictured below. Scan the QR code for more advice on what can and can't go in your blue lid bin.

Full advice at:



✓



**Plastic bottles, pots, tubs & trays**

✓



**Tins, cans & foil**

✓



**Glass bottles & jars**

✓



**Paper**

✓



**Card**

- ✓ Loose recycling
- ✓ Clean and dry
- ✓ All recycling inside bins
- ✓ Flatten card
- ✓ Crush plastic bottles

