BIRMINGHAM MAGAZINE

DIGITAL EDITION
September 2026

Compiled from stories published online in September 2026



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BIRMINGHAM MAGAZINE

DIGITAL EDITION

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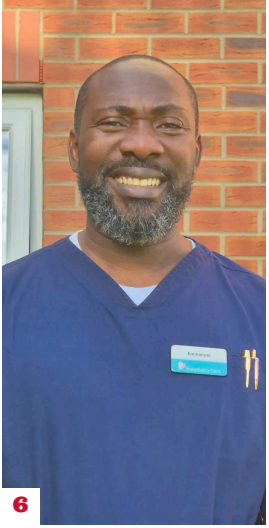

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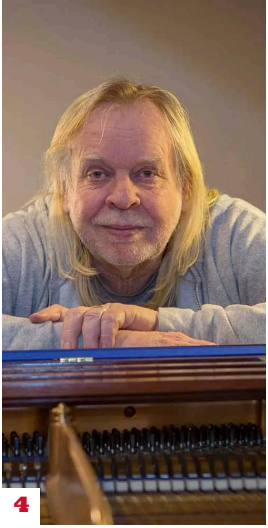

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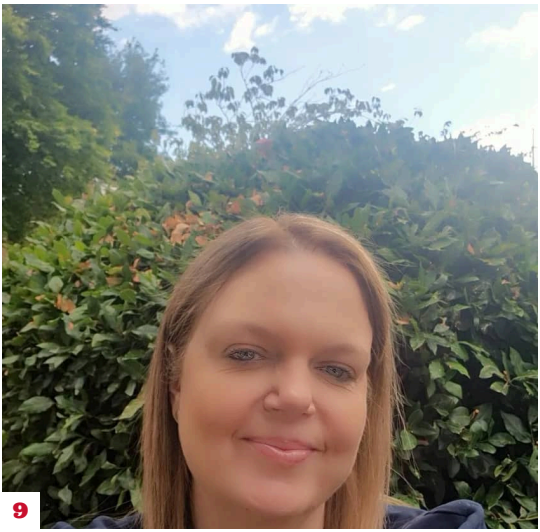

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Every photo is numbered with its page. Spot a face, turn to the number.

On the cover: Local Care Home Manager Recognised for Outstanding Leadership, page 9. Photo supplied by Sanctuary Care.

This is a look-back edition, put together in November 2026 from stories that appeared online in September 2026. Birmingham Magazine's first digital edition was published in November 2026.

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Your turn

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Photo supplied by Simon Hale PR for the Creative Spirit Show

BIRMINGHAM

Rick Wakeman Set to Appear at Yardley's Creative Spirit Community Showcase

Former Yes keyboardist Rick Wakeman will join Yardley's Creative Spirit Show, an event recognising local achievements in creativity, community activity and neighbourhood projects.

The event takes place at Dovehouse Theatre, Langley School, Kineton Green Road, Solihull, on Saturday 3 October, from 7-9 pm.

The programme includes performances from local musicians and dancers and will highlight the community campaign to protect Barrows Lane Fields, the area's last remaining green space for organised sport, leisure and community use.

Supported by the Yardley Neighbourhood Network Scheme (YNNS), facilitated by Birmingham Disability Resource Centre, and the National Lottery Community Fund, the Creative Spirit Show is a collaboration between Yardley Community Protection Society (YCPS) and The Conies, a Yardley-based children's safety charity for which Rick Wakeman is an ambassador.

Wakeman, a CBE recipient and Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee, will give a short performance during the event. His six-decade

career has included work with Yes, David Bowie and Cat Stevens, alongside more than 100 solo albums.

He said:

I am looking forward to being part of the Creative Spirit Show. Creativity has always driven my music, and it is encouraging to see that reflected in Yardley, from the work to protect Barrows Lane Fields to the activities supporting children through The Conies.

Fay Goodman, Chair of YCPS, said:

We are pleased to have Rick Wakeman join us as we mark the progress made in safeguarding Barrows Lane Fields from private development. This has been achieved through the efforts of residents, volunteers and partner organisations including Arts in the Field, Yardley Preservation Society and Sport England.

She added:

Our next step is to secure ownership of the site and develop it as a long-term community asset.

The event will also acknowledge the work of The Conies, founded in 2014 and awarded the King's Award for Voluntary Service this year. The charity uses its traffic-cone characters to support safety education for children. Its latest programme, Conies Safe Explorers, provides free workshops combining music, art and safety learning for children aged 4–11, funded by the National Lottery Community Fund.

Masamune Dojo will also be represented at the event. The organisation has recently launched Shefuay personal safety and wellbeing sessions, including self-defence, tai chi, yoga, tessen fan and body-and-mind activities. The free sessions are led by Goodman, a 7th Dan in Iaido and 6th Dan in Jodo, with support from specialist trainers.

Goodman said:

These sessions form part of our wider aim to support health, wellbeing and quality of life within the Yardley community.

Tickets for the Creative Spirit Show are £25 (£15 concessions), available direct from Dovehouse Theatre, and must be purchased in advance.

Issued on behalf of YCPS by SHPR (Simon Hale/simon@simonhalepr.co.uk. Fay Goodman can be reached at fay@goodmedia.co.uk and on 07976 426463

By Simon Hale Online 30 September 2026
Read more: **birminghammagazine.co.uk**

Your turn
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Emmanuel is a Finalist for a National Care Award!



Photo: Sanctuary Care

A Sanctuary Care home colleague whose dedication helped three residents regain the ability to walk, has been shortlisted for the National Care Awards 2026.

Emmanuel Okwo, Team Leader at Redhill Court Residential Care Home, in Kings Norton, Birmingham, has been named a finalist in the Carer of the Year category at the National Care Awards.

The recognition follows Emmanuel's extraordinary work supporting residents, mentoring colleagues and continually enriching lives.

Since joining not-for-profit Redhill Court in 2023, he has transformed the lives of three residents who arrived at the home using wheelchairs, after being told by external medical professionals they would not be able to walk again. Emmanuel developed personalised plans for each resident, and working with them on small, achievable goals, he and his colleagues quite literally safely got them back on their feet and walking!

One resident, who lives with dementia, had found the loss of her mobility deeply frustrating. Emmanuel put a plan in place to help her gradually rebuild her strength, and she is now able to walk freely around the home.

Emmanuel said:

I feel incredibly honoured to have been shortlisted. Caring for somebody's loved one is the greatest trust you can be given, and I always try to treat every resident with the same care and respect I would want for my own family.

Seeing residents achieve something they thought was no longer possible is very special. I am proud to work alongside such a dedicated team, and this recognition belongs to everyone at Redhill Court.

Joanne Sheppard, Home Manager at Redhill Court, said:

Emmanuel treats the residents as he would his own parents. He is passionate about finding out what they would like to do and working with them to achieve their goals, getting the whole team behind them.

He is a born leader and an incredible mentor and we are all very proud of him.

The winners of the National Care Awards will be announced at a ceremony in London in November.

By Kate Yates Online 29 September 2026
Continued at **birminghammagazine.co.uk/emmanuel-is-a-finalist-for-a-national-care-award**

Many Hands Made Light Work for Birmingham Charity



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Many hands made light work when Rotarians from across the West Midlands joined forces for a special Impact Day at a charity in Edgbaston.

Twenty-eight members from Handsworth, Mosely & Sparkbrook, Solihull St Alphege, Meriden and Lickey Hills Clubs and HROC marketing agency's own Rotary Club, came together to complete a number of building and maintenance tasks at Birmingham Settlement Nature & Wellbeing Centre.

It marked a return visit to the Edgbaston charity site which works to tackle inequality by connecting and empowering people through action, support and shared learning.

The volunteers were divided into three groups, completing projects including clearing large patches of weeds that can now be turned into a planting area for spring flowers, painting the seats of the outdoor amphitheatre, emptying an overflowing wood store and installing shelving.

Organiser, Jonathan Wilding, said:

All three groups took a real pride in looking at what they had achieved over the day, they also thoroughly enjoyed the fellowship of meeting other Rotarians and swapping ideas of potential projects.

"We all had a most enjoyable day today: finding a resource that many of us didn't know existed; working with people with a common goal; meeting new people and making a visible difference to the environment. It was a day were fellowship and service came together and we all left feeling that we'd made a difference.

Jackie Poynton, from HROC's Rotary Club, said:

By Amanda Chalmers Online 10 September 2026
Continued at **birminghammagazine.co.uk/many-hands-made-light-work-for-birmingham-charity**

BIRMINGHAM

Birmingham Frankfurt Christmas Market Dates Announced



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Christmas is on its way, with dates now announced for this year's Birmingham Frankfurt Christmas Market.

The market will open on 5 November and run until Christmas Eve, 24 December, bringing seven weeks of festive cheer, traditional German treats and entertainment to the heart of the city.

The market features beautifully decorated stalls serving German food and drink, including hot gluhwein, schnitzel, bratwurst, alongside an array of handcrafted gifts, decorations, toys, and jewellery.

The market's opening hours for this year are:

By Zoe Walker Online 30 September 2026
Continued at **birminghammagazine.co.uk/birmingham-frankfurt-christmas-market-dates-announced**

BIRMINGHAM

Sutton Coldfield Nursery Raises Funds for Local Charities



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Partou Langley Gorse Day Nursery and Pre-school in Sutton Coldfield has raised almost £500 for local charities through its annual summer fete.

Organised by Nursery Manager Holly Edwards and her team, the event was attended by families, carers, friends and local community groups.

With games for all ages, the also fete featured an impressive cake sale and a range of hot and cold drinks.

Set in a rural Georgian mansion a mile from the town centre, Partou Langley Gorse offers the benefits of a countryside location whilst being easy to reach for local parents.

Inside, its age-specific rooms are filled with natural resources that spark children's imaginations.

By Barry White Online 11 September 2026
Continued at **birminghammagazine.co.uk/sutton-coldfield-nursery-raises-funds-for-local-charities**

BIRMINGHAM

Local Care Home Manager Recognised for Outstanding Leadership

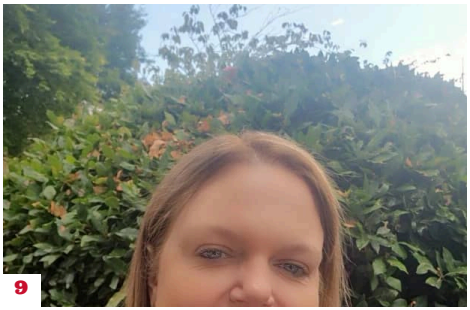

Photo supplied by Sanctuary Care

A Sanctuary Care home manager from Birmingham has been shortlisted for a prestigious national award in recognition of her outstanding leadership and devotion to enriching lives through exceptional care.

Joanne Sheppard, Home Manager at Redhill Court Residential Care Home in Kings Norton, has been named a finalist in the Registered Manager of the Year category at the Care Home Professional Leaders in Care Awards 2026, which celebrate excellence across the care sector.

By Kate Yates Online 11 September 2026
Continued at **birminghammagazine.co.uk/local-care-home-manager-recognised-for-outstanding-leadership**

BIRMINGHAM

Nikki Tapper MBE Becomes Latest New Face of Walsall's First Awards



'We shouldn't just celebrate the achievements of Birmingham city' is the rallying cry of an award-winning BBC radio presenter from Walsall who's become one of the faces of a new awards launched to celebrate her town.

Nikki Tapper MBE is among the proud ambassadors for the inaugural Walsall Business & Community Awards, taking place on November 21st.

The broadcaster's move to Walsall from Erdington two-and-a-half-years ago, marked a return to the town with which she has strong links. As well as having family in Gillity Village, she also has fond memories of her teacher training days at Wolverhampton University Walsall Campus.

She said:

By Amanda Chalmers Online 17 September 2026
Continued at **birminghammagazine.co.uk/nikki-tapper-mbe-becomes-latest-new-face-of-walsalls-first-awards**

In brief



BIRMINGHAM

Inspirational Female Fundraisers Win Backing of UK's Biggest Calendar Retailer

The UK's biggest calendar retailer has partnered with local ladies who have dared to bare in support of more than 30 charities.

By Amanda Chalmers Online 18 September 2026
Continued at **birminghammagazine.co.uk/inspirational-female-fundraisers-win-backing-of-uks-biggest-calendar-retailer**



BIRMINGHAM

Ladies First Return to House of Commons to Launch 2027 Business Awards

A prestigious event at London's House of Commons this week marked the official launch of a national awards campaign to celebrate some the country's most inspirational achievers in business.

By Amanda Chalmers Online 14 September 2026
Continued at **birminghammagazine.co.uk/ladies-first-return-to-house-of-commons-to-launch-2027-business-awards**



Photo: Desh Foundation

BIRMINGHAM

British Bangladeshi Business Awards Return for First Time Since Covid in Birmingham

The British Bangladeshi Business Awards(BBBA) are making a return for the first time since the Covid pandemic with more prizes than ever, and they are taking place in Birmingham.

By Alison Brinkworth Online 28 September 2026
Continued at **birminghammagazine.co.uk/british-bangladeshi-business-awards-return-for-first-time-since-covid-in-birmingham**



BIRMINGHAM

Animeleague Birmingham Anime and Gaming Con Review

Prior to attending Animeleague London Anime and Gaming Con and Animeleague Birmingham Anime and Gaming Con as press and as a cosplayer, I had already covered Animeleague as a whole. I cosplayed as Crash Bandicoot so I could show my costume to Coco Bandicoot voice actress Debi Derryberry. This was the second time I had met her, having first met her at MCM Comic Con London last year.

By Wing See Li Online 24 September 2026
Continued at **birminghammagazine.co.uk/animeleague-birmingham-anime-and-gaming-con-review**

In brief



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BIRMINGHAM

Children with Complex Needs Entering Care Up by a Third in a Single Year

Children are arriving in the care system with physical disabilities, trauma-related needs, neurodiverse conditions and emotional or behavioural challenges, and there is a growing need for foster carers with the knowledge, skills and mindset to help these children thrive.

By Jason Cook Online 11 September 2026
Continued at **birminghammagazine.co.uk/children-with-complex-needs-entering-care-up-by-a-third-in-a-single-year**



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BIRMINGHAM

Tamworth Craft Fair Returns to Support St John Ambulance

Following the success of its summer event, St John Ambulance Tamworth will host a second community craft fair this autumn to raise funds for the organisation's work across the local area.

By Joshua Gill Online 3 September 2026
Continued at **birminghammagazine.co.uk/tamworth-craft-fair-returns-to-support-st-john-ambulance**



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TELFORD

Telford Balloon Fiesta Brought Colour and Crowds to Town Park

Telford Balloon Fiesta returned to Telford Town Park over the Bank Holiday weekend, bringing hot air balloons, live entertainment, family activities and community celebrations to one of the town's biggest annual events.

By Zoe Walker Online 7 September 2026
Continued at **telfordmagazine.com/telford-balloon-fiesta-brought-colour-and-crowds-to-town-park**



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WORCESTER

Claude Monet Masterpiece Goes on Display in Worcester for First Time in 30 Years

A masterpiece by world-renowned French Impressionist Claude Monet has gone on display at Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum, brought to the city through the support of the Worcestershire Heritage, Art & Museums charity.

By Barbara Parker Online 14 September 2026
Continued at **worcestermagazine.co.uk/claude-monet-masterpiece-goes-on-display-in-worcester-for-first-time-in-30-years**

In brief



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COVENTRY

Coventry Heritage Open Days Return with Free Entry to Over 50 Historical Venues

Heritage Open Days are returning to Coventry, as the city's historical and cultural venues open their doors for people to visit: completely free of charge.

By Catherine Wilson Online 14 September 2026
Continued at **coventrymagazine.co.uk/coventry-heritage-open-days-return-with-free-entry-to-over-50-historical-venues**



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TELFORD

Five Local Veterans to Be Honoured on Telford's Veteran Trail

Five local veterans who dedicated their lives to serving their country will be permanently commemorated on Telford's Veteran Trail in Telford Town Park after being selected to receive council-funded plaques.

By Catherine Williams Online 3 September 2026
Continued at **telfordmagazine.com/five-local-veterans-to-be-honoured-on-telfords-veteran-trail**



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WORCESTER

Worcester Council Celebrates Success of Free Tennis Court Scheme

Worcester City Council's summer scheme offering free access to tennis courts has proved popular once again.

By Catherine Wilson Online 16 September 2026
Continued at **worcestermagazine.co.uk/worcester-council-celebrates-success-of-free-tennis-court-scheme**

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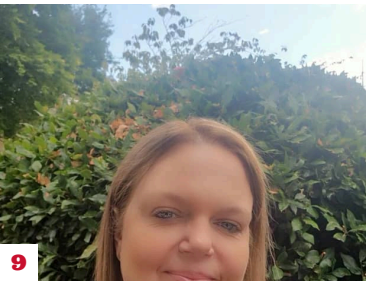

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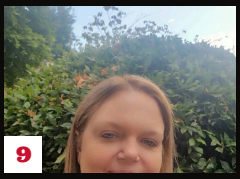

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