

District Advertiser

Kineton & Wellesbourne

April 2026

FEATURED

Crossword & Sudoku

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Community Events

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Monthly Horoscope

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The Ultimate Directory of Local Services for Kineton,
Wellesbourne & Surrounding Villages | Est. 1994

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District Directory

Care Homes

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.....01926 812185

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Steaming Sam01926 889691

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Compassion Direct(01341) 388649
Southam Community Minibus.....01926 812767
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Warwickshire Vision Support.....01926 411331
WRCC.....(01789) 842182
WRCC Back & 4th Community Transport
.....01789 471595

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Wellesbourne Parish Council(01789) 841434
Warks C/Council(01926) 410410
WRCC Energy(01789) 472619

Emergency Local Services

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Floodline0845 9881188
Gas0800 111 999
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Water0800 783 4444
UBUS.....(01789) 264491

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Shire Forestry & Fencing Ltd.....07584 132926
The Agg Arborists07808 970535

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Wellesbourne Library0300 555 8171

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Kineton Playgroup(01926) 640010
Hampton Lucy CE Primary School

& Nursery(01789) 840398
Lighthorne Heath Primary School and Nursery.....
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Little Grasshopper Kindergarden...(01295) 690272
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Loxley C.E. Com. Pri.(01789) 84021
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Temple Herdewyke Pri.....(01926) 641316
Tysoe Childrens Group(01295) 680624
Stratford College(01789) 266245
Stratford High School.....(01789) 268051
Stowe Valley Multi Academy Trust(01926) 812560
Warwickshire College0800 783 67 67
Warwickshire College Moreton Morrell.....
.....(01926) 318357
Warwickshire College(01926) 318267
Wellesbourne CE Primary(01789) 840311

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Penmans Solicitors LLP(01789) 470022
Stratford & South Warwickshire Liberal Democrats
.....01789 295970
Royal British Legion(01926) 817059
Wellesbourne & District Lions Club
Community.....01789 841567
Membership01789 840697
Secretary01789 840704
Wheelchair Loan.....01789 841730
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FOX CUBS RSPCA

Baby foxes may look cute and cuddly but they're wild animals with a fierce bite! They're incredibly smart and have a keen sense of sight, hearing, and smell.

How do fox cubs survive?

Fox cubs are born in the spring and there are usually four to five cubs in each litter.

Here's a year in the life of a fox:

Winter - foxes start to establish and defend their territories, ready for the mating season in January. This is often when they're most vocal and people report hearing them screaming.

Spring - fox cubs are born and start to emerge from their den.

Summer - the cubs will grow and become independent, while the adults leave the den and start to moult. It can take several months for their new coats to completely grow back.

Autumn - now the cubs are fully grown they'll leave their family group to find territories of their own.

Fox cub development

Fox cubs are born blind and deaf, weighing about 100g and their fur is dark grey. This changes to a dark brown in the first two weeks as their ears and blue eyes open.

At one-month-old, their red fur starts to come through on their face and their eyes change colour to amber. As they start to take their first steps outside of the den their muzzle turns white.

By six to eight weeks their dark fur fades to red and are weaned from their mother. They're starting to become independent and spending time exploring outside the den.

Rescuing a fox cub

If you find a baby fox, it might not have been abandoned. In the spring, it's normal to see month-old cubs developing their survival skills above ground during the day. Their parents are usually nearby, watching. Parent foxes are unlikely to approach the cubs if people are around. Vixens will move their litter one by one if they feel the den has been disturbed and so you may come across cubs then.

Is the fox cub in danger?

If it's unclear if the cub is in immediate danger or not, watch and wait for an hour or two. They may recover and wander off. After that time, if it's clear that they need help, contact us on 0300 1234 999.

If its eyes are open - parents are probably nearby so just check again in 24 and 48 hours, and provide supplementary food/water if concerned.

If its eyes are shut - the cub is dependent on their mother and too young to be above ground. Don't confine it, as it might be possible for an expert to reunite it with mum.

Don't try to rescue, handle or transport the cub yourself as they can be aggressive when stressed or injured. Because cruelty and neglect calls are our top priority, it might take us longer than we'd like to help this cub. We appreciate your understanding.

Never try to rear a cub yourself

Fox cubs need expert care and the company of other fox cubs. Foxes that grow up around humans and become used to them won't survive well in the wild. It's usually better for cubs to be left in the wild and given supplementary food and water than to be brought into captivity. Their average stay in a wildlife centre is five to six months, which is a long time in a young fox's life.

If you've been asked to take a fox cub to a vet or wildlife rehabilitator, record the exact location you rescued the cub from in case they can be returned.

If you disturb a fox litter and the mother runs away, move away from the cubs and monitor them from a distance. Their mother should return when she feels safe and will move her cubs to another den.

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Random Ramblings

Article By Peter Vale-Humphreys

April

The year seems to be speeding along. Nature has, too, as I witnessed a blackbird collecting vegetation to build a nest – this in mid-February! The Mute Swans at Walton are also swimming about in a determined mood searching out their nest site for 2026. As previously written in an earlier article, they drove off the 2025 year’s cygnets in late January, to make the space in the lake for the new breeding programme. Nature is truly wonderful and we see the creatures going about what they need to do this year. I really hope that the avian ‘flu’ does not impact hereabouts.

Something which I really do get concerned about is the wanton dumping of rubbish, not so much the fly tipping, although we have witnessed that at times here in Walton and environs, but the discarding of water bottles, empty cans of alcohol, wrappings from food products etc. Really, it must stop as it damages the countryside. It really is thoughtless and inconsiderate. Another of my concerns is for the driving of vehicles over known flowering areas such as cowslips. There is enough roadway edge to do manoeuvres and parking safely, without incursion into the wider verge areas.

Not necessarily connected with our local countryside but more in the towns and certainly the cities is the increasing number of vagrants, rough sleepers, beggars and as recorded in the newspapers, the increase in shoplifting. I always understood that there was a Vagrancy Act (1924) which should address the bulk of the listed situation. Theft is never acceptable and the law really needs to be act; we do need to be stronger in our resolves to address these issues.

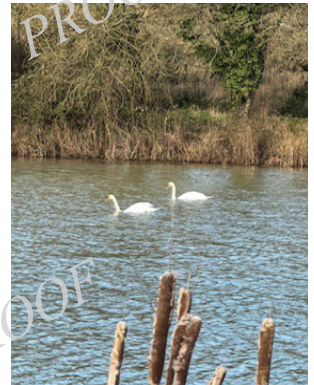
To try and introduce a bit of positiveness and wellbeing aspects, my recent visit to the Capital and the Kew Gardens yielded such wonders as hosts of daffodils, crocus, snowdrops, even a fox which was oblivious to our presence. My brother-in-law, Andrew, took a wonderful picture of the fox. Walking the streets, as we travelled to our next meal celebration for the Chinese New Year, it was obvious that nature exists with us. As the senior member there are responsibilities to undertake, but it has been a happy time of celebration, even the greeting of our latest family member Caerys a little angel born at end of January and in time for the CNY festivities. The proud parents, Sally and Marek, were keen to let us join in and bestow our good wishes to the little infant girl. It goes to underpin the importance of family and getting together to support each



other in our daily lives. In the UK, isolation is all to prevalent and we all could do more to look out for one another, without being too overbearing or intrusive.

With Spring truly here, along with the rain that seems endless, we should feel the need to get out and breathe the air and make our observations on nature doing its bit to brighten our livers.

Please enjoy the nature photos taken by Andrew and Edith –really stunning.’



Free expert advice on all tree work!



Scullion Tree Care

The year seems to be speeding along. Nature has, too, as I witnessed a blackbird collecting vegetation to build a nest – this in mid-February! The Mute Swans at Walton are also swimming about in a determined mood searching out their nest site for 2026.

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Down The Garden Path

Pete's Piece by Farnborough Garden Centre

April: The month of April is probably one of the most exciting months for gardeners with new plants bursting into life daily and a mixture of new foliage and flowers appearing everywhere. For those that listen, a real change in birdsong can be heard this month, and bees and other insects start to become active - but beware - April is often a cruel month weather-wise and plant damage can occur.

Monthly Reminders

Newly planted trees and shrubs - this can be a deceiving month with cool but very dry spells making us forgetful. Do remember to water all newly planted trees and shrubs regularly as they could dry out very quickly this month despite it being cool. The fact that your new plant is in the soil, does not mean it will survive without water and attention on a frequent and regular basis from day one.

Roses - start treatments against 'black spot' this month including soil beneath the bushes. Complete pruning early this month.

Summer bulbs and tubers - there is still time to plant these for some exotic blossoms in the summer. A full range is on sale at Farnborough.

Alpine and herbaceous plants - now is an excellent time to plant new borders or rockeries or add to your existing

areas. A wide selection of plants are now arriving at Farnborough in a range of sizes.

Garden Ponds - if you intend to create a new water garden or restock an existing pond, this is a good time to commence planting. A full range of plants will start to appear here this month.

Sweet Peas - Sweet peas that have been over-wintered can be planted out this month and new seeds can be sown. If you prefer to use young plants, then these will become available this month.

Hanging baskets and containers - If you have a greenhouse or conservatory, you may want to start planting-up these this month using young plants. They must, however, be kept indoors until all danger of frost has passed. A wide range of plants are now on sale, but should you decide that you want your basket made up for you, don't delay as we have a maximum space for baskets and have to close our customer list once this is reached. If you need new, ready-planted Baskets or Containers, these will start to appear for sale in early May, once the danger of frost has passed.

Vegetables - lots of vegetable plants will be on sale at Farnborough now for use under glass or out of doors. Even if your garden is small, try and give some space to grow fresh vegetables. The special taste of home-grown vegetables may surprise you.

Plants looking good this month:

- Species Clematis - Magnolias
- Cistus (Broom) - Rhododendron
- Viburnum - Amelanchier Malus (Crab Apple) - Prunus (Cherry)

Lots of our over-wintered and newly arrived stock is now on our display areas including a huge range of garden tress, shrubs, climbers, conifers and roses. We now have a renewed selection of stepping stones, paving, edging stones, chippings, cobbles and rockery stone. So, why not visit us to look around, when we shall be pleased to offer any help or advice that you may require.

We hope to see you soon.

Pete's Top Tips

- Prepare for Spring

Spring arrives this month as early flowers, tree blossoms & flowering shrubs burst into life.

1. Tubs & Planters

If you already planted them, now is the time to clear last years plants & prepare for early Spring displays. Early flowering bedding is now available to add colour to your garden.

2. Summer flower bulbs & tubers

These are still available & most can now be safely planted outdoors. Dahlias are an especially colourful plant for pots or borders.

3. Greenhouses

Changeable weather can cause problems in heated greenhouse so keep an eye on this and don't forget ventilation. Now is the time to start planting tomatoes, peppers & cucumbers etc for fresh salad crops later.

4. Garden Ponds

If the weather is kind then this month is a good time to clean and restock ponds. New plants will be appearing at Farnborough Garden Centre now.

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How to Play Sudoku

Sudoku is a nine by nine grid divided into nine smaller boxes. Your task is to place the numbers one to nine so that every row, column and box contains each number exactly once. No number may be repeated within any of these areas.

Begin by studying the numbers already given. Look for rows, columns or boxes that are nearly complete, as it is easier to identify which numbers are missing. Count how many spaces are left and compare them with the numbers already used.

Use elimination to narrow down choices. If a number already appears in a row, column or box, it cannot be placed in any other square within that area. This process helps reduce uncertainty and reveals logical placements without guessing.

When only one space can hold a particular number, fill it in and move on. Each correct entry creates new opportunities elsewhere in the grid. Keep scanning the puzzle, switching between rows, columns and boxes to spot patterns and resolve tighter sections.

S U D O K U

4	9	5	6	1	7		2	
8	6	3			9	4	1	7
7	1	2		3	8		5	
	8	7		6	2			
	4			9		5		
				4	2			
3						1	8	
9	5		2		1			6
				8			9	5

KEEP READING

FOR ANSWERS

PC Doctor

Don't Get Caught by Online Scams

Scams are getting harder to spot. They can arrive by email, text, phone call, social media or fake websites, and often look genuine. Their aim is usually the same: to panic you into acting quickly before you stop and think.

A common scam is the fake bank message. You may be told your account has been compromised and asked to click a link or confirm security details. Another is the parcel delivery text, asking for a small payment to release a delivery. Some scammers pretend to be computer support, claiming your device has a virus and asking for remote access. Others pose as family members with a "new number" and ask for urgent financial help.

Shopping scams are also widespread. A professional-looking website may offer goods at very low prices, but once payment is made, the item never arrives. Romance scams, charity scams and fake social media messages are also designed to win trust before asking for money or personal details.

The warning signs are usually the same: urgency, fear, secrecy, suspicious links, unexpected messages and requests for payment or passwords. If something feels wrong, stop and check.

A simple rule is: Pause. Check. Verify.

Never click straight away. Go to the official website yourself use a trusted phone number, and confirm the request independently.

If You Think You've Been Scammed

Act quickly. Contact your bank immediately and ask them to stop your card, monitor your account or cancel suspicious payments. Change your passwords, starting with your email account, then turn on two-factor authentication where possible.



If you clicked a suspicious link or let someone access your device, run a full antivirus scan and remove any unknown software. Keep checking your bank statements, emails and shopping accounts for unusual activity. If needed, warn your contacts in case your account has been used to target others.

In the UK, scams can be reported to Action Fraud as well as your bank or the relevant website or platform.

The Don't List

- Don't** click links in unexpected emails or texts
- Don't** give out passwords, PINs or passcodes
- Don't** trust urgent messages without checking
- Don't** allow remote access to your computer from a cold caller
- Don't** transfer money to someone without verifying who they are
- Don't** shop on unknown websites just because they look genuine
- Don't** ignore suspicious transactions, however small
- Don't** keep using a compromised card or account
- Don't** be embarrassed to hang up or delete a message

Scams can catch anyone off guard. The best defence is to stay calm, slow down and verify everything before you respond.

April in British History

April has long been a month linked with important moments in the history of the United Kingdom. From famous battles and royal birthdays to political change and national tragedy, the month has produced events that continue to shape how Britain remembers its past. Some April anniversaries are marked with celebration, while others are remembered with reflection and sadness. Together, they help tell the story of a nation shaped by conflict, culture, courage and change.



One of the most significant April events in British history is the ****Battle of Culloden****, fought on ****16 April 1746**** near Inverness in Scotland. This battle brought the Jacobite Rising to a decisive end, as the forces of Charles Edward Stuart, better known as Bonnie Prince Charlie, were defeated by the Duke of Cumberland's government army. Culloden is remembered not only as the last major battle fought on British soil, but also for the harsh consequences that followed. Highland culture, dress and traditions were heavily suppressed in the years afterwards, making Culloden a deeply important and emotional chapter in Scottish history.



Another famous April date is ****23 April****, traditionally celebrated as both the birth and death date of ****William Shakespeare****. Born in ****1564**** and dying in ****1616****, Shakespeare remains one of the greatest writers in the English language and one of Britain's most famous cultural figures. His plays, poems and characters continue to be performed and studied around the world, making April an important month in literary history as well.



April also carries a strong connection to one of the world's most famous maritime disasters. On ****15 April 1912****, the ****Titanic**** sank on its maiden voyage after hitting an iceberg in the North Atlantic. Although the tragedy happened far from Britain, the ship was built in ****Belfast****, and its story remains closely tied to British and Irish industrial history. The sinking shocked the world and became a lasting symbol of both human ambition and human vulnerability.

In ****April 1916****, the ****Easter Rising**** began in Dublin. Although this event took place in Ireland, it formed a major part of the wider history of the United Kingdom, as Ireland was then under British rule. What began as an armed rebellion soon became a turning point in the struggle for Irish independence. The events of that April would go on to reshape relations between Britain and Ireland for generations.

Modern British history also contains April events that remain vivid in living memory. On ****15 April 1989****, the ****Hillsborough disaster**** took place during an FA Cup semi-final in Sheffield. Ninety-six Liverpool supporters lost their lives as a result of a crush in the stadium, with later victims bringing the total to ninety-seven. It was one of the darkest days in British sporting history, and the long campaign for justice that followed became just as important as the tragedy itself. Hillsborough remains a powerful reminder of the need for truth, accountability and dignity for victims and their families.

A more hopeful April anniversary came on ****10 April 1998****, when the ****Good Friday Agreement**** was signed. This landmark agreement helped bring an end to much of the violence known as The Troubles in Northern Ireland. It was a major political achievement and remains one of the most important peace agreements in modern British and Irish history. For many people, it stands as proof that dialogue and compromise can achieve what years of conflict could not.



April is also a notable month for the Royal Family. ****Queen Elizabeth II**** was born on ****21 April 1926****, and throughout her long reign that date became a significant one in the national calendar. Her life spanned an extraordinary period of British history, and April was always a month of royal reflection and celebration.

Taken together, these events show that April is far more than just the arrival of spring. It is a month filled with anniversaries that reveal the drama, sorrow, achievement and resilience of British history. From battlefields to peace agreements, from literary greatness to national mourning, April has given the United Kingdom many moments that remain memorable to this day.



Wellesbourne & District Lions

This year we have 6 Giant Easter Eggs, made specially for the Wellesbourne & District Lions by Thorntons. For a chance to win one of these lovely eggs there are six separate raffles across the Wellesbourne and District area.

Lions will be selling tickets at Wellesbourne Sainsbury's on Good Friday 3rd April and at Ettington Shop on Easter Saturday 4th April from 10am until 2pm on both days. The winning ticket on each day will win a Giant Easter egg delivered to their door in time for Easter Day.

We also have a further four Giant Eggs situated at: Gilks Café Kineton, The Granville Pub and Village shop in Barford and Massimo barbers in Wellesbourne. Eggs and tickets will be available in each of those venues from early March until Easter.

All funds raised will help our local communities.

"Tipper "who is our barman at Lions Club meetings, is seen here admiring one of the special Easter Eggs. (Thanks for all you do for the club Tipper!)"



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Community Events

Are you and your family living with cancer? Find out how we can help. Every 3rd Friday monthly, 2pm-4pm at The Shakespeare Hospice. Call Carole 01789 266852.

Ashorne Table Tennis Club play competitively in both the Stratford and Leamington leagues. Please contact Steve Handsley on 07484-287728 if interested in playing.

Ashorne and Moreton Morrell Cricket Club This thriving village cricket club is looking for new players and social members for the 2024 season. We play at one of Warwickshire's most attractive cricket grounds, in Ashorne and compete in Division 1 of the Cotswold Hills League (Saturdays). We also compete in a Warwickshire evening T20 League, whilst also maintaining a full season of social Sunday afternoon friendly matches. We are wholly open to potential members of all ages and abilities. If interested, please contact Mark Freeman (Secretary) on 01789 840504.

Avon Bowling Club Swans Nest Lane, Stratford-upon-Avon. Welcome non-members to join in Community Bowls. Tuesdays and Thursdays 1.30 – 3.30pm, starting Tuesday 14th May. Bowls and friendly tuition provided. Flat soled shoes to be worn. £5 including tea/biscuits. Contact Maggie 01789 842776 or our website: avonbowlingclub.org.uk

Barnardo's Warwickshire Children and Family Centres: Wellesbourne Methodist Church Let's Play. A chance to meet others whilst having fun! Our Stay & Play sessions offers language enrichment through play. The sessions are free of charge and will include activities such as stories, singing, music and movement, messy play and more. Aimed at toddlers and under 5s. Younger siblings welcome! Thursdays 9.30 – 10.30am. Please book your place on our Eventbrite page, www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/stratford-district-children-and-family-centres-49498983293 Find us on Facebook & Instagram.

Bishops Itchington Baby and Toddler group Thursday 10-11:30am The Memorial Hall. Craft table, singing, snacks and drinks. Call Clare 07500 838250.

Carers4Carers is a friendly self-help support group for those caring for a family member or friend. We meet the fourth Friday of each month from 10:30 to 12 noon at Kineton Village Hall. Come along for coffee, biscuits and a friendly chat as well as speakers and activities to support you in your caring role. Your loved ones will also be able to attend our Companionship Group while you are with us. For more information about group, including help with transport to/from meetings, phone Gillian on 07947 893504, email us at kcarers4carers@gmail.com or take a look at www.carers4carersonthefosse.org

Carers' Connect For ALL CARERS on 3rd Monday of every month at WELLESBOURNE VILLAGE HALL 10.30-12.30. Email: communities@vasa.org.uk

Connections Cafe held on the third Wednesday monthly, 2-4pm at Harbury Village Library, for those with a diagnosis of dementia together with their carers. Tea, coffee, cake, chat, activities, singing. Come along and join us.

Dene Valley u3a Looking for new activities this year? ...or opportunities to make new friends? Then Dene Valley U3A has something just for you. With nearly 50 activities, from Art to Archeology, from Bridge to Bowls there is bound to be something of interest.

Coming on you own? ... thats no problem! Check our website, then email or phone the Group Leader for the activities of interest. We will ensure you receive a warm welcome right from your very first visit.

Want to get out more?... We run a range of Outings by coach and minibus. So whether an historic site, a musical, or show we remove the stress of driving and parking... and introduce you to a group sharing the same interests.

Finally, we meet 2.00pm second Tuesday of each month at St Peters, Wellesbourne. Entry cost is just £2 and includes a guest speaker and refreshments.

With almost 400 members from around the Wellesbourne area we are always looking for new members. So check out our website and join us denevalleyu3a.chessck.co.uk or call Trevor Shaw on 0775 374 2924 to find out more.

Fishing, Plough Angling Society looking for new members. Lovely stretches on River Avon, Ryton on Dunsmore and Hill Wootton areas. Call George 07759 250347.

J12 Model Radio Racing Club Knightcote meet on Sundays. New members welcome. Please ring John Hazelworth 07786 325000.

Kenilworth Dancing Club Tuesdays 2-4pm, St Johns Church, Kenilworth. Contact Linda on 07888 398928.

Kevin O'Connor, country and folk singer available for parties, gigs, events. Free for charities. Also looking for keyboard player to form duo. 07940 985463.

Kineton and District Gardening Club meets on the second Thursday of each month at 7.30pm in the Kineton Village Hall. We have a variety of talks on horticultural topics and occasional outings in the summer. New members from novices to experienced gardeners are welcome. For more information contact Jane on 07513 528306.

Kineton and District History Group meet at Kineton village hall on the 3rd Friday of the month. Starting at 7.30pm. Please see our web site at Kineton and District Local History Group for more information, www.kinetonhistory.co.uk or www.kinetonheritage.co.uk

twitter: @kinetonhistory
email enquiries : kinetonhistory@yahoo.co.uk

Kineton Amateur Dramatic Society - we put on 2 productions a year at Kineton Village Hall. New members welcome. Details can be found on our website - kads.org.uk or contact our Secretary on 01789 842540.

Kineton Art Group meets Monday 12.30 - 3pm and also 7- 9:30pm in Kineton Village Hall throughout the year. Artists of all abilities welcome. Please contact Gaynor Van Dijk (Membership secretary) for details please email: gaynorvandijk@gmail.com

Kineton Baby and Toddler group Mondays 9.30-11.00am, Kineton Village Hall. Toys, craft table, outdoor area, snacks and songs. Call Sophie 07988417086 - sophiewizard-ponter@hotmail.com - [https://www.facebook.com/ - Kinetonbabyandtoddlergroup](https://www.facebook.com/Kinetonbabyandtoddlergroup)

Kineton Community Library The library is based in the Village Hall in Mill Street and is operated by volunteers. It is open: Monday

and Wednesday afternoons 2pm until 5pm and Saturday morning 9.30 until 12.00. Telephone (during opening hours) 01926 641774.

The Friends of Kineton Library are always looking for new members and new members are very welcome. No specific skills are required just a willingness to give a couple of hours once every 2 or 3 weeks and training is available. Any one interested can contact Wendy Smith, the Chair of the Friends Committee, on 01926 641657 or call into the library any time. www.facebook.com/kinetonlibrary/

Kineton Literary Society, meeting every other month at Kineton Village Hall. A space to chat about books, make new friends and hear from local authors. Join the mailing list by emailing kinetonliterarysociety@gmail.com or come along to one of our events.

Kineton Methodist Church Southam Street, Kineton, Warwick. CV35 0LL, Minister: Rev. Tina Brooker. Email: tina.brooker@methodist.org.uk and phone: 07479 556913. We welcome all who wish to join us, in particular those living in the village of Kineton as well as the villages in the surrounding rural area. We are part of the South Warwickshire Methodist Circuit. Church Services: Morning services on Sunday at 10.30 a.m..

Kineton Playgroup Term time preschool sessions 9am to 3pm from the term after child's 2nd birthday; breakfast and after school club and holiday club for 3- to 11-year-olds. Please contact Carol for more information on 01926 640010.

Kineton WI meets on the second Tuesday of each month (except August) at 7.30pm in Kineton Village Hall. Check us out on FB or speak to Kathy on 07425179957.

Knightcote Model Boat Club 1/4 acre water at New House Farm, Knightcote. New members welcome. Call 01926 612827.

Leamington & Warwick Model Railway Society meets 7.30pm Thursday evenings at New House Farm, Knightcote, Telephone Pete Hutchinson 07817 398903.

Lighthorne Heath Scout Group for boys & girls from age 6 years in the Beaver scout section to age 14 in the scout section. Any adult looking to become involved in scouting then please contact Senagh Booth 01926 640728 or email shenagh.booth@gmail.com, or turn up at Lighthorne heath village hall on Tuesday evenings from 6pm.

Newbold Pacey & Ashorne WI meets on the second Thursday of each month at 7:30pm in Ashorne Village Hall CV35 9DR. We are an active friendly group with members ranging in age from 30s to 80s. Our date of birth is 19 August 1919 but we don't act our age! We run a Community Coffee Morning in the village hall on the first Saturday of the month, we enjoy a country walk and we all love a bit of cake! We're on Facebook as Newbold Pacey & Ashorne WI - Warwickshire, Insta as newboldpaceyashornewi and Email npandawi@gmail.com Contact secretary Trish to find out more: 07919 392588

NEW Singing for Dementia Group. For people living with Dementia and their family/carer. Please join us on the 1st Tuesday of every month. Wellesbourne Village Hall CV35 9NH from 2pm - 3.30pm No charge (donations welcome. Starting on Tuesday 2nd August and then monthly. Support for Carers of loved ones living with dementia in South Warwickshire. Heather and Paul Dowler 01295 688376 - talkdementia@mail.com www.talkdementia.uk

Rainbows - a fun and exciting programme for girls aged four to seven, it's all about learning by doing. Rainbows is all about developing self-confidence, building friendships, learning new things and having fun. Girls get their hands dirty with arts and crafts, get in touch with nature and play games - it's all about learning by doing. Rainbows follow a diverse and engaging programme and can take part in lots of different activities with girls their own age. Register your daughter here: <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/>

Repair Cafe Wellesbourne - Sessions are held for 2 hours once a month on the 1st Saturday of each month - 10-12: at the Methodist Hall, Bridge Street, Wellesbourne, CV35 9QP. Contact fizzzz@thefms.me - or Nicky_n_morie@yahoo.co.uk - and find us on Facebook.

Royal British Legion Galanos Branch (BR4049) - Becoming a Royal British Legion member means joining a network of likeminded people and enjoying a variety of activities. For more information, please contact us at Galanos. Chairman@rbl.community or call 07850 431127.

Sewing Classes do your own thing style class, patchwork and quilting, dressmaking, home furnishing and sewing machine techniques. 1st and 3rd Wednesday morning of the month. 10am-1pm Ratley Village Hall. Call Sheila Jones 01295 670674.

Shipston Beekeepers contact via website <https://www.sbka.org.uk/>

Shipston Cycling Club meet every Sunday at 0930 at the Bridge Car Park in Shipston just off the B4035. We cater for all road cyclists of all abilities. For more information visit our website or contact Alex via the contact page on the website.

Single Boots We are a friendly, Midlands based walking club for single people. We organise day walks on most Sundays, summer evening walks, weekend trips away in cottages, B&Bs and camping and social activities. For more information please visit www.singleboots.co.uk.

Short Mat Bowls Club held at Lighthorne Heath Primary School on Mondays at 5:30pm during term time only. We need new members 18+, come along and join us -first night free.

Stamp Collectors. Stratford-upon-Avon Philatelic Society welcomes new members. Do you have a collection you would like to develop? Or, have you inherited one and are looking for advice on preserving or selling? We can help! We meet alternate Wednesdays at 2pm at the Stratford-upon-Avon Racecourse. For programme and further details see our website or contact Colin at cfountain@talktalk.net or 01789 841606.

St Peter's Little Angels meet Monday 1.30pm-3pm term time for toddlers + carers. Please ring Margaret on 01789 508831.

Swan Singers - come and try our lively mixed choir singing all music genres in Kineton on Tuesdays at 7.30pm. No auditions but enthusiasm is essential, friends will be made and fun will be had. Singing has proven health benefits. Browse www.swansingers.uk or email admin@swansingers.uk or phone 07791 769102 for more details.

"The Evergreens" provides a wide variety of monthly entertainment for the young at heart. Meetings are normally in Kineton Village Hall on the 2nd Thursday in the month at 2.30pm. Call Wenda 01926 640314.

Transforming Lives for Good (TLG) has been organising Lunch Clubs during the school holidays in many different towns, and now there will be one in Stratford. Make Lunch aims to provide a free hot meal and some fun-filled activities on certain days in the long Summer holidays. It is directed at Primary age children (5-11) in those families who find it difficult to manage when there are extra mouths to feed when the children are home from school. The sessions are taking place on Monday and Thursday at the United Reformed Church from 11.30am to 1.15pm. Contact Linda on 07523 363464 or Ann on 07580 557163.

Tysoe Childrens Group Pre School sessions for children from 18 months between 9am and 4pm. Breakfast club from 7.45am and After School Club until 6pm. Call Yvonne/Rachel on 01295 680624.

Tysoe W.I. meets the first Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm in Tysoe Village Hall. Join us for a glass of wine. Check us out on FB or call 01295 780765.

Warwickshire Vision Support Centres for people with a visual impairment *Leamington and Warwick:* Mondays -located at Chandos Court, Chandos Street, Leamington Spa. The centre runs every Monday morning (except bank holidays) 9.30am - 11.30am

Stratford: Tuesdays -located at Tyler House, Tyler Street, Stratford Upon Avon. The centre runs every Tuesday morning 9.30am - 11.30am

Both centres with speakers, equipment demonstrations, activities and social sessions. Min £1 entry. Please call 01926 411331 or email enquiries@warwickshire.vision with any queries. Many varied volunteer roles also available with the charity - please get in touch!

Wellesbourne & District Lions Club The Club meets on 2nd and 4th Mondays, Wellesbourne Cricket Club from 8.00pm. Interested? See our website wellesbourne-lions.org.uk or Facebook and arrange to come along you'll be most welcome.

Wellesbourne and Walton Horticultural Society Spring and Autumn traditional village

shows. Plant sales. For further information please contact Guy on: 07512 782874.

Wellesbourne Badminton Club meet Tuesdays 7.30-9.30pm at Kineton High School and WBC Juniors on Fridays 6-7.30pm & 7.30-9pm. wellesbournebc.com or email secretary@wellesbournebc.com.

Wellesbourne Bowls Club, Loxley close, Wellesbourne CV35 9RU. Contact Richard/Secretary: richardtapsen@gmail.com for enquiries.

Wellesbourne Local History Group We meet four times a year, January, April, July & October on the 4th Wednesday at 7:30 in Wellesbourne Village Hall, School Road, Wellesbourne, Warwickshire, CV35 9NH. We have a guest speaker at each meeting. <https://sites.google.com/site/wellesbournelocalhistory/> Call: 01789 841805 Email treblig99@outlook.com

Wellesbourne Photo Group meets on 1st and 3rd Thursdays at Wellesbourne Village Hall. This group welcomes all who enjoy this activity from beginner to the more serious photographer. Call Nick on 07733 150982.

Warwickshire Stitchers is a friendly group of enthusiastic embroiderers and textile artists. We welcome all new members - beginners, experienced stitchers or anyone taking up embroidery again after an absence. We love to share our skills and learn from each other. We meet most months on the first Friday for talks and the first Saturday for workshops and members' days. In 2023-24 meetings will continue to be a mix of face-to-face and Zoom. In person meetings are held at St Mary's Church Hall Leamington. For more information go to warwickshirstitchers.org.uk or contact secretary@warwickshirstitchers.org.uk

Wellesbourne Village Hall Large room with stage, smaller meeting room, kitchen, disabled and baby change facilities, large car park adjacent. Contact Bookings Secretary Ron Smedley 01789 841396.

Wellesbourne Wanderers - Come and play for Wellesbourne Wanderers FC Minis (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2). Every Saturday morning (for both boys and girls) from September to May at Wellesbourne Sports & Community Centre. For more information on how to join, along with details of football for those aged 8-18, please visit our website www.wellesbournewanderersfc.co.uk or email info@wellesbournewanderersfc.co.uk.

Wellesbourne WI meets on the second Wednesday of each month (except August) at 7.30pm in Wellesbourne Village Hall. Join us for fun talks and social time with friends. Take a look at our FB or email secretary.wellesbournewi@gmail.com.

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Here's a solid shortlist of day outings in and around Southam, Kineton and Wellesbourne for April and early May.

Very local picks

Burton Dassett Hills Country Park near Southam is a strong choice for a simple spring outing: walks, big views, picnics and kite-flying. Warwickshire County Council describes it as rugged hilltops with panoramic views and woodland paths.

Wellesbourne Market runs every Saturday and on summer bank holiday Mondays, 8:30am–3pm, with free entry and parking, so it works well for a casual morning or half-day trip.

Chedham's Yard, Wellesbourne is a restored blacksmith's and wheelwright's yard, open on Saturdays from Easter/early April into September, and entry is free.

Best dated outings in April / early May

Southam Teatime Classical Concert at the Graham Adams Centre is on 25 April 2026, 3pm–5pm.

Southam Triathlon takes place on 26 April 2026 at Southam School/Leisure Centre. Even if not competing, it could make a lively local spectator outing.

Kineton Sports & Social Club lists An Evening With Medium Mark Brandist on 18 April 2026 and Live Music – Echoes Acoustic Duo on 2 May 2026.

Wellesbourne Library has an Easter Holiday Activities: Reading Around the World drop-in event, useful for a family outing.

Nearby larger day trips worth the short drive:

British Motor Museum, Gaydon is open daily and has several April events including Jaguar Breakfast Club (4 April), Gaydon Gathering (14 April), Museum on the Move (17 April), Rustival (18 April) and Ultimate BMW Meet (26 April).

Compton Verney is open Wednesday–Sunday, with grounds and galleries open through April, making it a dependable art-and-gardens day out.

Charlecote Park has an Easter egg hunt/trail running into 12 April 2026, and the estate is open for general visits without prebooking for ordinary visitors. Upton House and Gardens has spring exhibitions running from late March plus an Easter trail from 28 March to 12 April 2026.

Warwick Castle is running Easter activities from 28 March to 12 April 2026, alongside its regular shows and attractions.

Stratford Butterfly Farm is running Easter activities from 28 March to 12 April 2026, and tickets for 2026 are available.

Hatton Adventure World has its Easter Eggstravaganza from 28 March to 12 April 2026, with baby animals and family activities.

Easy ways to plan it

For **walking/scenery**: Burton Dassett Hills, Charlecote Park, Upton House grounds.

For **families with children**: Wellesbourne Market, Butterfly Farm, Hatton, Warwick Castle, Wellesbourne Library Easter activity.

For **culture/history**: Chedham's Yard, Compton Verney, Southam classical concert.

For **motoring enthusiasts**: British Motor Museum at Gaydon is the standout.

A good Top 5 from this list would be: **Burton Dassett Hills, Wellesbourne Market, British Motor Museum, Compton Verney, and Charlecote Park.** Event times can still change, so it is worth checking the venue page again before setting off.



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Digital Coins – Scam or Investment?

Digital coins, often called cryptocurrencies, have become one of the most talked-about financial topics of modern times. Some people see them as the future of money, while others believe they are little more than a risky gamble. So, are digital coins a scam or an investment? The truth is that they can be either, depending on the coin, the platform, and the knowledge of the person buying them.

At their best, digital coins are a new form of financial technology. They allow people to send and receive value online without always needing a traditional bank. Well-known coins such as Bitcoin and Ethereum have gained popularity because they are widely recognised and built on established blockchain systems. Supporters argue that these coins may offer long-term investment potential, especially as more businesses, institutions, and investors show interest in them.

However, the digital coin world is also full of danger. Thousands of coins have been launched with little or no real purpose behind them. Some are created purely to attract quick money from hopeful investors before collapsing in value. In some cases, developers disappear with investors' funds, leaving buyers with worthless digital tokens. This is where the word "scam" becomes very real. Fraudsters often use hype, celebrity endorsements, social media excitement, and promises of guaranteed returns to tempt people into parting with their money.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS



Unlike traditional savings or many regulated investments, digital coins can be extremely volatile. A coin may rise sharply one week and crash the next. That means even a genuine cryptocurrency is not automatically a safe investment. Many people have made profits, but many others have lost large sums by buying at the wrong time or trusting the wrong project.

In my view, digital coins are not all scams, but they are not a safe investment for everyone either. The strongest and most established cryptocurrencies may be considered a speculative investment, but the market as a whole is filled with risk, misinformation, and fraud. Anyone entering this area should only invest money they can afford to lose, research carefully, and stay away from anything that sounds too good to be true.

So, are digital coins a scam or an investment? The answer is that they can be a legitimate investment in some cases, but they are also a playground for scams. Caution, research, and common sense are essential. For most ordinary people, digital coins should be approached with care rather than excitement.



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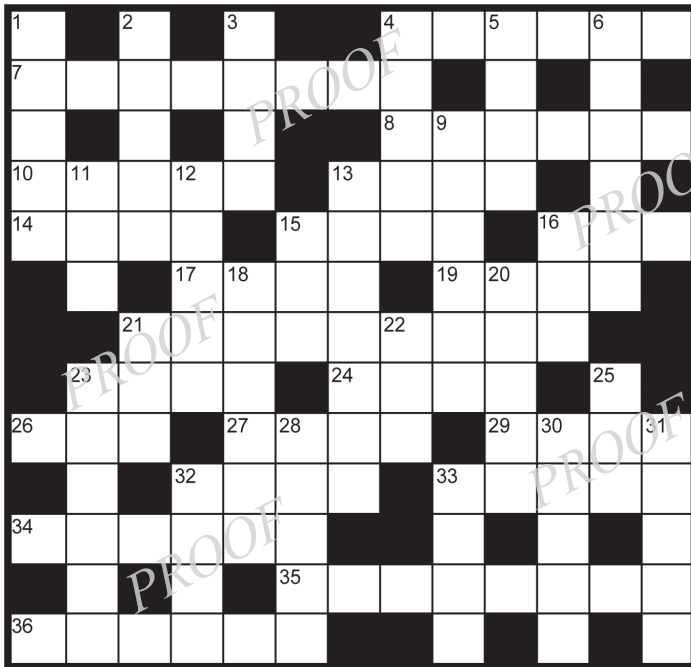




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- | | | | | | |
|---------------|-------------|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Across | 4 | Exhausts.....(6) | 23 | Manner.....(4) | |
| | 7 | Day after today.....(8) | 24 | Chilly.....(4) | |
| | 8 | Religious festival.....(6) | 26 | Meadow.....(3) | |
| | 10 | Coin.....(5) | 27 | Amphibian.....(4) | |
| | 13 | Long hair.....(4) | 29 | Cupid.....(4) | |
| | 14 | Drawn-out affair.....(4) | 32 | Duck.....(4) | |
| | 15 | Fairy.....(4) | 33 | Wear away.....(5) | |
| | 16 | Unit of current.....(3) | 34 | Wanderers.....(6) | |
| | 17 | African country.....(4) | 35 | Believes.....(8) | |
| | 19 | Support.....(4) | 36 | Evaluate.....(6) | |
| | 21 | Felons.....(9) | | | |
| | Down | 1 | Ceases.....(5) | 18 | Suggested.....(6) |
| | | 2 | Amid.....(5) | 20 | Tree.....(5) |
| | | 3 | Low cart.....(4) | 21 | US Spy organisation.....(3) |
| | | 4 | Curse.....(5) | 22 | Signal assent.....(3) |
| | | 5 | Relaxation.....(4) | 23 | Fruit.....(6) |
| 6 | | Fantatised.....(6) | 25 | Food fish.....(3) | |
| 9 | | Beast.....(6) | 28 | Desert's fertile patch.....(5) | |
| 11 | | Consume.....(3) | 30 | Circular.....(5) | |
| 12 | | Mother-of-pearl.....(5) | 31 | Feeling.....(5) | |
| 13 | | Check-up, commonly.....(7) | 32 | Domesticated.....(4) | |
| 15 | | Girl's name.....(3) | 33 | Therefore.....(4) | |
| 16 | | Donkey.....(3) | | | |

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Health & Wellbeing

Health & Wellbeing: Spring Into April With Strength and Mobility

As April arrives and the days begin to brighten, many of us feel encouraged to step outside, breathe in the fresher air, and make a positive change to our daily routine. Spring is a season of renewal, and it offers the perfect opportunity to focus on health and wellbeing—especially when it comes to supporting the ageing process and keeping mobile.

Growing older is a natural part of life, but how we age can be influenced greatly by the choices we make each day. Staying active, eating well, and keeping both body and mind engaged can all play a major role in maintaining independence, confidence, and quality of life.

One of the most important factors in healthy ageing is mobility. Being able to move comfortably and safely allows us to continue enjoying everyday activities, whether that means gardening, shopping, visiting friends, or simply walking around the house with ease. Mobility is closely linked to strength, balance, and flexibility, all of which can be improved at any age with gentle, regular effort.

Walking remains one of the best forms of exercise for older adults. It is simple, free, and highly effective for improving circulation, supporting joint health, and keeping muscles active. Even a short daily walk can lift the mood, improve stamina, and reduce stiffness. For those who are less confident on their feet, light chair exercises, stretching, or supervised movement classes can also bring enormous benefits.

Balance is another key area to focus on as we age. Falls can become a greater risk over time, but regular movement helps strengthen the muscles that keep us steady. Activities such as tai chi, gentle yoga, or simple standing exercises can help improve coordination and stability. It is never too late to start, and even small improvements can make a meaningful difference.

Joint care is equally important. Many people experience stiffness in the knees, hips, hands, or back as they get older, particularly if they spend long periods sitting still during the colder winter months. April is an excellent time to get moving again. Gentle stretching in the morning, taking regular breaks from sitting, and keeping the body warm can all help ease discomfort and improve flexibility.

Nutrition also plays a vital part in the ageing process. A balanced diet rich in fruits, vegetables, lean proteins, whole grains, and healthy fats supports muscles, bones, and the immune system. Calcium and vitamin D are particularly important for bone health, while plenty of water is essential for keeping the body functioning properly. Dehydration can sometimes go unnoticed in older adults, so making a point of drinking regularly throughout the day is wise.

Spring also brings more daylight, which can have a positive effect on mental wellbeing. Spending time outdoors, even for a few minutes, can boost mood, support better sleep, and encourage a more positive outlook. Social connection is just as valuable. Meeting friends for a walk, attending a local group, or simply making time for regular conversation can all help reduce loneliness and improve emotional health.

Keeping mobile is not about running marathons or making drastic changes. It is about choosing simple, manageable habits that keep the body moving and the mind engaged. Taking the stairs when possible, pottering in the garden, stretching while the kettle boils, or enjoying a gentle stroll in the April sunshine all contribute to overall wellbeing.

Ageing well is about staying as active, strong, and independent as possible. This April, let the season be a reminder that small daily actions really do matter. By caring for our bodies, maintaining movement, and embracing healthy routines, we give ourselves the best chance to enjoy life fully at every age.

Top 10 Tips for Healthy Ageing and Keeping Mobile

1. Walk every day

A short daily walk helps keep joints moving, muscles working, and the heart healthy.

2. Stretch gently each morning

Simple stretches can reduce stiffness and help you start the day feeling looser and more comfortable.

3. Don't sit for too long

Get up regularly, move around the house, or do a few light movements every hour.

4. Work on your balance

Gentle exercises like standing on one foot, heel-to-toe walking, or tai chi can improve stability.

5. Keep your muscles strong

Light resistance exercises, gardening, or carrying shopping can help maintain strength.

6. Eat for bone and muscle health

Choose foods rich in calcium, vitamin D, protein, fruit, and vegetables.

7. Drink plenty of water

Hydration supports energy, concentration, and joint health.

8. Get outside when you can

Fresh air and daylight can lift your mood and encourage natural movement.

9. Stay socially active

Meeting others, joining groups, or chatting regularly with friends helps mental and emotional wellbeing.

10. Listen to your body

Keep moving, but know your limits. Gentle, regular activity is better than overdoing it.

Horoscope for April 2026

April 2026 brings a surge of fresh energy and determination. Aries season drives bold action and new beginnings, while Taurus energy later in the month encourages stability and grounding. It's the perfect time to take initiative, then build something lasting from it.

♈ Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19)

This is your moment, Aries! The Sun in your sign fuels confidence, courage, and momentum. You're ready to take charge and make things happen. Mid-month brings a breakthrough—trust your instincts and act decisively. A personal goal is within reach.

Love: Passion and excitement return.

Career: A bold move leads to success. **Lucky Days/Nos:** 3, 9, 18

♉ Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20)

As the Sun enters your sign later in the month, a sense of calm and clarity replaces earlier uncertainty. Use early April to rest and reflect, then step forward with confidence. Financial and personal stability begin to strengthen.

Love: Slow and steady builds trust.

Career: Practical decisions bring rewards.

Lucky Days/Nos: 20, 25, 29

♊ Gemini (May 21 – Jun 20)

Your social world is buzzing. April brings opportunities through friends, groups, and networking. A conversation mid-month sparks a promising idea—follow it through.

Love: A friendship may turn romantic.

Career: Collaboration leads to success. **Lucky Days/Nos:** 6, 14, 27

♋ Cancer (Jun 21 – Jul 22)

Career and public life take focus. You may find yourself stepping into a leadership role or receiving recognition. Stay grounded and trust your emotional intelligence.

Love: Supportive connections grow stronger.

Career: Recognition boosts confidence. **Lucky Days/Nos:** 5, 16, 28

♌ Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 22)

April inspires you to think bigger. Travel, learning, or a new perspective brings excitement. Say yes to opportunities that expand your horizons.

Love: Adventure sparks romance.

Career: Growth comes through learning.

Lucky Days/Nos: 4, 12, 24

♍ Virgo (Aug 23 – Sep 22)

Transformation continues. Financial or emotional changes push you toward a stronger, more secure position. Trust the process, even if it feels intense at times.

Love: Deeper bonds form through honesty.

Career: Strategic planning pays off. **Lucky Days/Nos:** 7, 15, 22

♎ Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22)

Relationships are in focus. April encourages balance, compromise, and clarity in partnerships. A key decision mid-month brings harmony.

Love: Commitment deepens.

Career: Teamwork brings results. **Lucky Days/Nos:** 8, 19, 26

♏ Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21)

Daily routines and wellbeing take centre stage. Small, consistent changes lead to big improvements. Stay disciplined—you'll see results quickly.

Love: Stability replaces uncertainty.

Career: Productivity increases. **Lucky Days/Nos:** 2, 11, 23

♐ Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21)

Creativity and joy return. April encourages fun, romance, and self-expression. A spontaneous opportunity may lead to something exciting.

Love: Playful energy strengthens bonds.

Career: Creative ideas gain attention. **Lucky Days/Nos:** 10, 18, 30

♑ Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19)

Home and family matters come into focus. A decision about your living space or personal life brings long-term stability.

Love: Comfort and loyalty deepen.

Career: Steady progress continues. **Lucky Days/Nos:** 1, 13, 25

♒ Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 18)

Communication is key this month. Important discussions or agreements bring clarity. Stay open-minded—new ideas bring growth.

Love: Honest conversations strengthen bonds.

Career: A deal or contract progresses. **Lucky Days/Nos:** 6, 17, 21

♓ Pisces (Feb 19 – Mar 20)

Focus turns to finances and self-worth. April encourages you to recognise your value and make decisions that support long-term security.

Love: Emotional security grows.

Career: A financial opportunity appears.

Lucky Days/Nos: 9, 20, 27

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Why You Should Advertise with us!

Why Print Advertising Still Works for Local Businesses
In a world full of scrolling, swiping and disappearing ads, local businesses need marketing that truly sticks. While social media and online advertising have their place, print advertising continues to deliver real results – especially for businesses wanting to reach local customers in a trusted, memorable way.

Reach Local People, Right Where They Live

One of print advertising's greatest strengths is its ability to target a specific area. If your customers are local, your advertising should be too. Publications like District Advertisers, with a print run of over 15,000 copies and an estimated readership of 30,000, put your business directly into the hands of local people.

Unlike online ads that can be skipped in seconds, a printed advert has a physical presence. It sits on a table, kitchen counter or desk, giving your business repeated exposure and making it far more likely to be noticed and remembered.

A Longer Lifespan Means More Value

Digital ads can vanish in an instant. Print lasts. Many readers keep their local magazine until the next issue arrives, meaning your advert can be seen again and again throughout the month.

That longer shelf life gives your business more chances to make an impression, build familiarity and stay front of mind when someone finally needs your service.



Supporting Local Business Helps the Whole Community

Advertising in local print does more than promote your business – it strengthens the local economy. When people spend money with local businesses, more of that money stays in the area, helping to support jobs, services and other independent businesses.

There is also an environmental benefit. Encouraging people to shop locally can reduce the need for longer journeys, cutting fuel use and lowering emissions. Supporting local businesses is not only good for the high street – it is good for the wider community too.

Print and Digital Work Better Together

This is not about choosing one over the other. The strongest marketing campaigns often use both print and digital together. Print builds trust, credibility and local awareness, while digital offers speed, targeting and instant response.

Used side by side, they create a more powerful and effective advertising strategy that helps businesses reach customers in multiple ways.

The Bottom Line

For local businesses wanting to stand out, build trust and stay visible in their community, print advertising remains one of the smartest choices available. It is local, lasting and effective – and when combined with digital marketing, it becomes even more powerful.

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Pet's Corner

Adventures with Your Pets

April is a lovely time of year for both pets and their owners. The days are becoming longer, the weather is beginning to improve, and gardens, parks and countryside walks are bursting back into life. After the colder winter months, many of our pets are ready to enjoy more fresh air, exercise and stimulation.

For dogs, April is a wonderful month for getting back into regular outdoor routines. Walks become more pleasant, fields and footpaths are greener, and there are more opportunities for play and exploration. However, with spring comes muddy paws, wet coats and plenty of interesting smells, so it is a good idea to keep a towel by the door and check paws after walks.

Cats also tend to become more active at this time of year. Many enjoy sitting in sunny spots, exploring the garden and making the most of the milder temperatures. If your cat spends time outdoors, April is a good reminder to ensure their microchip details are up to date and that they are protected against fleas and worms, as parasites begin to become more active in warmer weather.

Spring is also an important time to think about pet health. Fleas, ticks and other pests start to reappear in April, so prevention is always better than cure. Regular grooming can help you spot any problems early, and it is a good chance to check your pet's coat, skin, eyes and ears. For long-haired pets in particular, a spring groom can make them feel much more comfortable.

Many pet owners also like to spend more time in the garden during April, and pets often join in. But care should be taken with spring flowers and plants, as some can be harmful if



chewed. Tulips, daffodils and lilies can all pose risks to pets, especially cats. It is worth checking that your garden is a safe place for curious noses and paws.

April can also be a lively month for wildlife, with birds nesting and small animals becoming more visible. Dog owners should be mindful when walking in the countryside and keep dogs under control around livestock and wildlife. Cat owners may also notice their pets becoming more interested in birds and hidden corners of the garden.

For smaller pets such as rabbits and guinea pigs, April is a welcome change too. As temperatures rise, outdoor hutches and runs can start to be used more often, provided nights are not too cold. Fresh greens can be introduced carefully, and enclosures should be checked to ensure they remain dry, secure and sheltered from April showers.

Most of all, April is a month to enjoy the companionship that pets bring. Whether it is a cheerful walk with the dog, watching your cat bask in a patch of sunlight, or seeing a rabbit happily nibble fresh hay, spring offers many simple pleasures. Our pets often remind us to slow down, get outside and enjoy the changing season.

So as April unfolds, make the most of the brighter days, stay on top of seasonal pet care, and enjoy all the little moments with your furry friends.

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