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SCHOOLS SHUT AMID 'EXTREME HEAT' WARNINGS: P2

WOMAN 'BLUDGEONED EX WITH METAL POLE'



EXCLUSIVE REPORT

Murder jury told of a train set row before fatal blow

By James Richings

A WOMAN accused of murdering her long-term partner allegedly hit him with a metal pole 'three or four' times after he could not find a model train set, a court has heard.

Cheryl Downs, 66, is alleged to have murdered Robert Kellett, 62, whose body was found in a bathroom covered by tarpaulin at the home they shared in Terry Road, High Wycombe.

The court heard Mr Kellett died in October 2024, but his body was discovered 11 months later, after a lodger found his corpse.

Full story: Page 7


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News

Burger shop dismantled after closing down

A High Wycombe burger joint that operated for little more than a year is finally being dismantled.

Beef Guys, located in Frogmoor next to Subway, opened in autumn 2024 and quickly became one of the few places in the country serving red doner meat.

However, by January 2026, the shop, known for its striking black-and-yellow décor, had been left abandoned and largely untouched for weeks.

Attempts to contact the business proved unsuccessful, with calls going straight to voicemail.

The premises also remained dark during its advertised opening hours, raising questions about its closure.

The Free Press reached out to the company earlier this year for comment but did not receive any response explaining why it had shut down.

Now, nearly six months later, images show work is finally underway to strip out the interior, with shelves, fryers and drink dispensers being removed from the building.

Despite its relatively short lifespan, the restaurant had built a solid reputation online.

On Google, it held a rating of 4.2 out of 5 from 65 reviews, many of them positive.

One customer praised the “freshly prepared food, generous portions and piping hot service,” describing it as “quality food, at a quality price, from quality people.”

Beef Guys replaced Detroit Pizza, another short-lived business that opened in 2023.



APS Window Company has announced it will continue its sponsorship partnership with Wycombe Wanderers FC

Window company renews sponsorship deal with Wanderers

APS Window Company has announced it will continue its sponsorship partnership with Wycombe Wanderers FC for another year, reinforcing its commitment to supporting local sport.

The family-run business called the extension into the upcoming season a “proud moment”.

A photograph shared by the firm shows director Andy alongside his daughter Sophie on the pitch, holding an official Wycombe Wanderers shirt, highlighting the firm’s strong community ties and family values.

APS Window Company said the partnership reflects its focus on teamwork and reliability, in business and on the field. It also encouraged supporters to get behind the Wanderers.

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Centre housing hundreds of chairs to open

Sam Riley
sam.riley@newsquest.co.uk

WYCOMBE Museum is set to open a new discovery centre next month dedicated to the town’s rich chair-making history.

Located on St Mary Street in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, the Chair Discovery Centre will house nearly 250 chairs and furniture archives that have been stored off-site for more than 20 years.

It will open to the public for the first time on July 17 and 19, with additional open days planned throughout the year.

Roz Currie, director of Wycombe Museum, said: “High Wycombe as we know it was built on its chair-making industries. “Our collections reflect this incredible story and represent our remarkable communities. “I am so excited that our chairs will finally have a home where everyone can go and visit. “Thanks so all our supporters, funders and the amazing staff and volunteer team that have made this possible.”

The centre has been funded by a range of organisations and supporters, including the Association of Independent Museums, the Aurelius Charitable Trust, Buckinghamshire Council, and the Julia Rausing Trust.

Buckinghamshire Council also supported the project through the Future High Street Fund, which aims to revitalise town centres and boost the local economy.

Located above the High Wycombe Social Club, the centre will not replace Wycombe Museum’s main site on Priory Avenue.

Instead, it will serve as a dedicated store and exhibition space for items that cannot be displayed at the museum due to space constraints.

Peter Brazier, Buckinghamshire Council’s cabinet member for culture and leisure, said: “As custodians of a nationally significant chair collection, Wycombe Museum’s new Chair Discovery Centre will allow everyone to see the fascinating objects that tell the story of traditional chair making and connect to their local heritage.

“This central venue is an exciting addition to the museum’s wider displays at their main site on Priory Avenue and we are delighted to have played a key part in bringing about its opening by providing access to this newly renovated building.

“This investment, making use of money sourced from the Future High Street Fund, is another way Buckinghamshire Council is developing and regenerating High Wycombe, bringing new life and energy to the town centre for the benefit of residents, businesses and the wider community.”

To celebrate the opening, Wycombe Museum will hold a month-long Chair Festival in July, featuring exhibitions and events that explore the evolution of the town’s furniture industry.

Entry to the Chair Discovery Centre will be free of charge on all open days.

Sport

Club's £5,000 worth of materials for revamp

A rugby clubhouse is set for a major revamp.

High Wycombe Rugby Club will receive £5,000 worth of building materials following a competition win.

The contest was organised by Travis Perkins and Northampton Saints.

Ally Wong, group head of marketing at Travis Perkins, said: "We were overwhelmed by the number of entries we received for the clubhouse renovation competition. Selecting the winners was difficult as there were many worthy entries, but these two clubs truly deserved it."

"They were chosen not only for their incredible work supporting grassroots rugby, but also for the positive impact they have on the wider communities in the vicinity."

More than 50 clubs applied, explaining how

they would use the materials to improve facilities.

The scheme forms part of Northampton Saints' long-standing partnership with Travis Perkins, which has sponsored the Premiership club for 25 years.

As part of the competition, a junior team from both clubs was invited to the Northampton Saints' High Performance Centre for a training session with first-team stars George Furbank, George Hendy and Craig Wright.

Michael Fradgley, junior chair at the club, said: "It is a great initiative from the Northampton Saints and Travis Perkins. Ourselves and Woodbridge are going to benefit massively."

Travis Perkins supplies building materials across more than 500 branches nationwide.



High Wycombe and Woodbridge with Saints stars Craig Wright and George Hendy

Berks and Bucks win one each in T20 double header

BERKSHIRE and Buckinghamshire were involved in an amazing NCCA T20 double header at Wokingham CC's Sadlers End ground on Sunday.

Records were broken as both counties secured a win in their penultimate Group 3 fixtures, maintaining their chances of reaching the next stage.

Berks lost the opening match by 42 runs after being shot out for just 91, their lowest-ever National Counties T20 total, with Bucks skipper, Conner Haddow returning remarkable figures of 4-1-9-6.

The slow left-armer's figures were Buckinghamshire's best in the competition and the second best anywhere, bettered only by Oxfordshire seamer Ollie Currill's seven for 12 against Cheshire three years ago.

Haddow dismissed Rhys Lewis, Ben Salter and Johnny Connell without, conceding a run in his first seven balls, returned to snare Charlie Dunnett in a one-over second spell, and he then mopped up the tailend by taking the wickets of Toby Greatwood and Samm Daniel in his final over.

Earlier, Bucks had been dismissed for 133, with Rhys Nicholas scoring 34 and Greatwood taking three wickets for 31.

Berkshire took swift revenge in the second match of the day, shooting out their visitors for 67, their lowest T20 total, and romping

Dave Wright

ing to a 133-run victory, a record margin for the competition, surpassing the 119 runs by which Cheshire beat Oxfordshire at Banbury in 2015.

Johnny Connell's 40-ball 84 and James Isbell's half-century took Berkshire to 200 for six. Home spinners soon had Bucks in big trouble, Euan Woods taking 3-22 and Rhys Lewis 3-14.

Only openers Josh Lincoln, with 16, and Billie Dodds, with 14, reached double figures as Bucks were bundled out inside 16 overs.

Berks stay top of Group 3 due to their net run rate of 3.26, followed by Bucks (0.52) and Bedfordshire (-1.15), with all three counties on eight points after six matches.

Berks complete their group programme against Beds at Luton Town on July 5, while Bucks take on Wales NC at Marlow.

This coming Sunday, Berks face Oxon in the semi-finals of the NCCA Trophy, with the winners taking on Cumbria or Cheshire in the final at the Copdock & Old Ipswichian club near Ipswich on Sunday, July 19.

The last time Berks and Oxon met in the last four was in 2008, when Berks triumphed by seven wickets at Banbury with a side captained by Bjorn Mordt, who is now their Head Coach.



Records were broken as both counties secured a win in their penultimate Group 3 fixtures

Flackwell Heath appoint Taz to top role

A new development manager has been appointed at Flackwell Hotspot.

Taz Bashir, who will take charge of the club's side for the 2026/27 season, brings more than 30 years of coaching experience to the role, having started his career at Wycombe Wanderers in 1995.

He is an FA Level 3 qualified coach and has spent the past two decades at FAB Academy, working with players from under-sevens through to men's football.

Most recently, he managed the academy's men's team to a league and cup double.

A spokesman for the club said: "His wealth of experience and proven track record in player development make him a fantastic addition to the club."

He will be assisted by Graham Buckle.

Football club to promote volunteers

A football club is offering free promotion to community volunteers.

Aylesbury United Football Club wants to honour the "incredible work" done by individuals across the town and surrounding areas.

The club, now under community ownership, is keen to hear stories of ventures that have made a positive impact in their community.

They have announced their commitment to supporting these efforts through various benefits.

The initiative includes a free half-page advert in the club's matchday programme.

Volunteers will also receive promotion on the club's website and at their Community Day.

The recognition extends to two complimentary tickets to a home league fixture, where the volunteers can engage with the club's supporters.

Aylesbury United FC chairman, John Woodhouse, said: "As a community-owned football club run by dedicated volunteers, we understand the time and effort people give to support the residents of Aylesbury and the surrounding areas."

"Our partnership program will strengthen collaboration between the club, our community partners, and local businesses."

Wanderers to play Thames Valley rivals in EFL Trophy

WYCOMBE Wanderers will face Thames Valley rivals Reading in the group stages of the EFL Trophy.

The Chairboys, who reached the final of the competition in 2024, have also been drawn against Bristol Rovers, as well as the Chelsea U21s.

It will mark the first time Wycombe have met Reading in this competition, and the fifth occasion the two sides have faced each other in cup fixtures.

The last meeting between the clubs outside of league competition came in August 2019, when they met at Adams Park in the first round of the EFL Cup.

That match ended 1-1 before Reading progressed with a 4-2 penalty shootout victory.

Alex Samuel gave Wanderers the lead just before the hour mark, but George Puscas levelled the score just four minutes later.

Since then, the two sides have met eight times in league competition, twice in the Championship and six times in League One.

Across those fixtures, Wycombe have recorded two wins, while Reading have won four, with the remaining two matches ending in draws.

Wanderers will also come up against Bristol Rovers in the group stage.

The two teams are no strangers in this competition, having met six times previously.

Their most recent en-



Wycombe Wanderers will face Reading and Bristol Rovers. Image: Bradley Collyer/PA wire

counter in the EFL Trophy came in August 2017, when Bristol Rovers ran out 5-1 winners at Adams Park.

Previous meetings in the tournament also took place during the 2015/16, 2011/12, 2010/11, 2006/07 and 2004/05 seasons respectively.

Group stage fixtures are scheduled to get under way in early September.

It has also been confirmed that Wycombe will

take on Stevenage in the first round of the League Cup.

It will be only the second time the two sides would have met in the competition, with the previous encounter taking place in August 2021 in the second round.

Adebayo Akinfenwa gave the Chairboys the lead after 23 minutes before second half goals from Elliot List and Jamie Reid gave the Boro a sec-

ond half lead.

It looked like the Hertfordshire-based team were going to enter the third round, but a last minute equaliser from Tjay De Barr on his Wycombe debut rescued Wanderers a draw, and take the tie into a penalty shootout.

The Gibraltar scored the winning penalty, which set up a third round tie against then cup holders and reigning Premier League champions, Man-

chester City.

Overall, Stevenage and the Chairboys have played each other 22 times, with both teams winning nine games each, with there being four draws.

Away from the League Cup fixtures between the two teams, the clubs have also met three times in the EFL Trophy.

These fixtures occurred in the 2019/20, 2021/22 and 2022/23 seasons respectively.

Martin named Leicester manager

FORMER Wycombe Wanderers right-back Russell Martin has been appointed as Leicester City's new manager.

Martin, 40, has signed a three-year deal with the Foxes, who were relegated from the Sky Bet Championship last season following a points deduction for breaching the EFL's financial rules.

He said: "I'm delighted to be here and excited to begin working with the players and staff. This is a club with great history, strong support and high expectations, and I'm looking forward to getting to know the club, the city and the supporters."

"My immediate focus is on the team: building strong relationships, setting clear standards and creating performances that Leicester City supporters can connect with and be proud of."

Leicester's chief football officer Jon Rudkin said Martin's appointment followed a "thorough process" and is in no doubt the former Scotland defender is a "strong leader" who can "help us move forward with purpose and direction."

After impressing at Non League Lewes in 2004, he joined Wycombe that summer and spent four years at Adams Park, playing 142 games and scoring five goals.

Harris could return

WYCOMBE Wanderers have reportedly contacted Fulham over a potential move to re-sign midfielder Luke Harris.

The 21-year-old, who played 19 times and scored twice for the Chairboys while on loan from the Whites during the second half of the 2025/26 season, is set to depart West London.

According to reports, discussions are ongoing between the two clubs, although no agreement has yet been reached on personal terms.

Harris, who previously impressed during a loan spell at Adams Park, remains a player highly regarded by the club's coaching staff, starting 15 of his 19 outings for the Adams Park side.

Prior to his move to Buckinghamshire in January, the midfielder spent the first-half of the campaign at Wycombe's M40 neighbours in Oxford United, scoring in 17 games in all competitions.

He has also had stints at Birmingham City, helping the Blues win promotion to the Championship in 2025, and Exeter City.

Ex-Wycombe boss sacked by Oxford United

FORMER Wycombe Wanderers player, captain, coach and manager Matt Bloomfield has been sacked by Thames Valley neighbours, Oxford United.

The 42-year-old only joined the Kassam Stadium outfit in January, winning just six of his 22 games in charge, drawing seven and losing nine, as the Us were relegated to League One after a two-year stint in the Championship.

His departure from the Oxfordshire-based club means he is now looking for his fifth managerial role in four years, following stints at Colchester United, Wycombe and Luton Town.

In a statement Oxford said: "Matt was appointed in January 2026 and oversaw the second half of the 2025/26 season, a campaign which ultimately ended

in relegation to League One. Throughout his tenure, he represented Oxford United with professionalism and integrity.

"We would like to thank Matt for his efforts and wish him every success in the future.

"The process of appointing a new Men's First Team Head Coach will begin immediately, and the Club will provide updates in due course."

Bloomfield arrived at Oxford following the sacking of Gary Rowett, and despite several encouraging displays, results were few and far between, with the Us finishing on 47 points, four points off safety.

The decision means Bloomfield is now searching for his fifth managerial role in just four years, following previous spells at Colchester United, Wycombe and Luton Town.



Matt Bloomfield has been sacked by Oxford Utd. Image: Rhianna Chadwick

SPORT

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Reading step up pursuit of winger ahead of Onyedinma



Fred Onyedinma celebrates after scoring at Adams Park

READING have intensified their pursuit of Wycombe Wanderers winger Fred Onyedinma.

The 29-year-old, who has had four separate spells at Adams Park, is out of contract at the end of this month and will become a free agent on July 1.

Wycombe have offered him a new deal to remain in South Buckinghamshire, but interest from their Thames Valley rivals is growing.

It is understood that Onyedinma has already held discussions with

the former Premier League side, having a prior connection to manager Leam Richardson, having briefly worked under him at Rotherham United during the 2023/24 season.

The winger is also familiar with Reading's ownership group, the Couhig family, who owned Wanderers between 2019 and 2024.

Onyedinma spent two years at the club during that period, playing a part in one of the most significant chapters in the club's history.

During the Couhigs' tenure,

Wycombe achieved promotion to the Championship for the first time.

He played a key role in that success, notably scoring twice in the League One play-off semi-final second leg against Fleetwood Town, helping secure a 6-3 aggregate victory.

In the final, current Reading CEO Joe Jacobson converted the decisive penalty in a 2-1 win that sealed promotion, after the winger was fouled in the area by Oxford United keeper, Simon Eastwood.

After being released by Luton

Town, Onyedinma returned to Wycombe in autumn 2024.

Since then, he has made 94 appearances and scored 16 goals in his latest stint.

The 2025/26 season proved particularly impressive, as he found the net 10 times in 48 appearances across all competitions.

His performances earned him both the Supporters' Player of the Year and Players' Player of the Year awards, the first time he has completed that double across his six seasons at the club.

Wycombe start season with trip to Blackpool

WYCOMBE Wanderers will start their 2026/27 League One season away at Blackpool.

The Chairboys will travel up to the former Premier League side on August 15, before taking on Plymouth Argyle a week later in their first home league match.

This campaign will see the Adams Park team take on several local teams such as Reading, Oxford United, Milton Keynes and Luton Town, with each of these fixtures being played by mid-November.

Over the festive period, Wanderers will travel to Peterborough United on Boxing Day before taking on Stevenage in their final match of 2026, which will be played at Adams Park.

The New Year will start with a home match against the 2016 Premier League champions in Leicester City on January 1.

They will then take on the Foxes across the Easter Weekend, travelling to the King Power Stadium on Good Friday, before playing Peterborough at home on Easter Monday.

The league season will end at home to Barnsley, with Wycombe's final three fixtures of the season all being against teams beginning with B (Bromley, Bradford City and Barnsley).

Wycombe's full league fixture list is as follows:

AUGUST

August 15 Blackpool (A)
August 22 Plymouth Argyle (H)
August 29 Stockport County (A)

SEPTEMBER

September 1 Sheffield Wednesday (H)
September 5 Milton Keynes Dons (H)
September 12 Leyton Orient (A)
September 19 Wigan Athletic (A)
September 26 Reading (H)

OCTOBER

October 3 Bromley (A)
October 10 Luton Town (H)
October 17 Notts County (H)

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October 20 Cambridge United (A)

October 24 AFC Wimbledon (A)

October 31 Burton Albion (H)

NOVEMBER

November 14 Huddersfield Town (H)

November 21 Oxford United (A)

November 28 Bradford City (H)

DECEMBER

December 1 Barnsley (A)

December 12 Mansfield Town (A)

December 19 Doncaster Rovers (H)

December 26 Peterborough United (A)

December 29 Stevenage (H)

JANUARY

January 1 Leicester City (H)

January 9 Doncaster Rovers (A)

January 16 Notts County (A)

January 19 Cambridge United (H)

January 23 AFC Wimbledon (H)

January 30 Burton Albion (A)

FEBRUARY

February 6 Stockport County (H)

February 9 Sheffield Wednesday (A)

February 13 Milton Keynes Dons (A)

February 20 Leyton Orient (H)

February 27 Huddersfield Town (A)

MARCH

Saturday, March 6 Blackpool (H)

Saturday, March 13 Plymouth Argyle (A)

Saturday, March 20 Oxford United (H)

Friday, March 26 Leicester City (A)

Monday, March 29 Peterborough United (H)

APRIL

April 3 Stevenage (A)

April 10 Mansfield Town (H)

April 13 Reading (A)

April 17 Wigan Athletic (H)

April 24 Luton Town (A)

April 27 Bromley (H)

MAY

May 1 Bradford City (A)

May 8 Barnsley (H)



Michael Duff's team will travel to Blackpool for the opening day of the season (PA)

Goalkeeper and winger in talks with EFL clubs

WYCOMBE Wanderers goalkeeper Will Norris and winger James Tilley are set to depart the club this summer.

Norris, who joined from Championship side Portsmouth 18 months ago, is out of contract this summer, but has been offered a new deal to stay at Adams Park.

However, the Chairboys have since signed shot-stoppers in Connor Hazard and Matt Macey, who will battle it out for the number one shirt in South Buckinghamshire, meaning Norris' time at the club is effectively over.

On June 23, one week before his current deal is set to expire, it was reported that he is in talks to sign with League Two Salford City on a free transfer.

The 32-year-old has kept 22 clean sheets in 59 matches for the Chairboys, but has made several high-profile errors.

Another face that is expected to leave Adams Park this summer is winger James Tilley.

The former Brighton & Hove Albion man only joined Wycombe 12 months ago on a free from AFC Wimbledon, who had just been promoted back to League One following a three-year stint in League Two.

He was an ever-presented name for the Dons, but struggled to find form at Adams Park, playing just 13 times in all competitions, scoring once.

His solitary goal came in a 2-2 draw against Reading last August.

He would later re-join the Dons on loan in January, and it is anticipated he will permanently re-sign for the London-based team, with Wimbledon putting in a bid for Tilley on June 23.