RFU CLUB

Saturday, April 13th 2019 | Old Leamingtonians Vs Old Yardleains RFC 3:00 pm KO



WELCOME

A very warm welcome to all players and supporters and old friends from Old Yardleains RFC today. We have many fond memories from playing Old Yards back in the day and it's always great to see some familiar faces.

Our First XV look to complete the season in 3rd spot having been at the top of the league for a few weeks but a few disappointing losses earlier this year put a halt to our promotion target. There have certainly been highs and lows this

season with particular note to the 106-0 win against Dunlop, a significant score line but not one for gloating over. We have witnessed a reduction in the number of available rugby players locally and therefore clubs and fixtures.

As the Seniors' rugby season draws to a close today, there is still some exciting rugby to watch and support, none less so than our Colts team who are playing against Broadstreet in the Warwickshire Cup Final this Monday 15th April at Coventry RFC, KO 7:30. They are looking to repeat lasts season's triumph in the same final. We had a great support last year and I hope that as many, if not more, can come along to support the Colts.

Some of you will have seen my e-mail updating on news of future club development. Old Learningtonians RFC aspires to be the leading Warwickshire rugby club with facilities to ensure all Minis & Juniors, Mixed Ability players, Colts, Ladies and Seniors' rugby continues to thrive.

The club has an initiative "Project 31" to deliver the Development Plan in a structured way, to ensure the club's objectives are managed in a cost-effective and focused manner, with tangible improvements to our facilities. The phases and priorities highlighted from the club development survey are the Car Park. Main and Member's Lounges. Bar and of course Changing and Gvm Facilities

The club has kicked off these work streams and now produced a draft design and plan, using the feedback from Members, for the phased improvements to the clubhouse. This will be finalised shortly and used to produce detailed project plans and the draft financial plan. We intend to distribute this to Members, once complete. Thanks to everyone who has contributed ideas and feedback.

Project NEST is still on-going and still in the planning stage.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has contributed so much to OLs this season. To all the club sponsors that have helped to ensure the continued progression of our great club, to every volunteer that has given their time, including the Committee, all players and coaches, team officials, kitchen bar staff, grounds staff and cleaners. Also we should be extremely proud that we have started two new teams this season which is a tremendous achievement, my heartfelt thanks to you all. Lastly to the Programme team who put these editions together, till next September, have a great closed season and keep an eve on your e-mails, the club website and social media. Please make sure we have your correct e-mail address.

Finally, as the season closes we can look forward to the Beer and Gin Festival in aid of Rugby4Heroes on the 10th and 11th of May. I hope many of you can make it. Today, please support the teams and match officials in the usual OL fashion and join us after the game for a beer and some food.

Phil Eales Chairman











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SECTION NEWS

News from the M&J Section:

Sunday 8th April 2019 U14's Earlsdon 10 v OL's 27

Conquering the high wire, triumphing in the Plate

What a weekend for the OLRFC Under 14's, as they left the club on the Friday for a "tour" at Condover Hall activity centre in Shropshire. After arriving it was straight in to tour mode and a Hawaiian theme night that the children and adults threw themselves in to with much vigour, and they paid for in the morning. Saturday saw a day of activities. with children and adults taking on climbing walls, abseiling and a high wire. The players really showed their mettle with everyone completing the course, less so the adults, some of whom had identified the possible dangers of it all. Then it was on to raft building and mini Olympics to finish off the day, with superb food and expertise on offer. It was a great first half of the tour. It was an early start for all on the Sunday, and after another hearty breakfast it was onto the coach for the trip to The Bob Coward Memorial Ground home of Barker Butts, to represent the Old Leamingtonians RFC in the Warwickshire RFC Plate Final. Arriving at 10:00am the squad embarked on their warm up routines, which due to the pressures of the tour so far that weekend, included just waking up, a slight concern for the coaches! Once they took to the pitch against Earlsdon RFC, all tiredness was forgotten and the boys moved into game mode. Throughout the first half OL's pack exerted the pressure on the opposition and scored first. It did not take long for Earlsdon to respond through their pacey fullback.

This kicked OL's up a gear and with great support from a large crowd on the touch line, they scored two more tries including one from a beautifully weighted crossfield



kick that was majestically gathered and off loaded to a supporting runner who scored under the sticks. So 17-10 at halftime. From this point onwards OLs were in control of the game and tight management in defence coupled to the ability to attack from any part of the pitch enabled OL's to come out clear winners 27-10. Great work from the entire squad who all deserve a mention as they all played their part in the game and of course thanks to the coaching team of Colin Aston, Tim Perkins, Shaun Smith, Martin Boag, Ian Pavier and Ian Gordon

Lucas Wager Chairman, Minis and Junior Section



ARRUNDALE FINANCIAL PLANNING

News from the Ladies Section:

It's been a tough season for the ladies team, who've finished bottom of their league. However, over the season the team has steadily improved, with new players joining, and experienced players moving into new positions and making them their own.

We have had to dig deep at times, sometimes with just 14 players putting in big performances against teams at the top of the league. A particular highlight was our win against Wymondham Wasps back in September, watched by some of our former players who had come down to celebrate 30 years of ladies' rugby at Old Leams.

Also very enjoyable was our recent victory over Moseley, avenging the heavy defeat we suffered on the opening day of the season and giving them a bit of a shock. As our season ends the county season begins, with 6 of our ladies being selected for Warwickshire. While the season hasn't gone how we'd hoped, we're eager to come back in the autumn, keep working and improving, and get back to where we belong.

I'd like to thank all the players and supporters who have been with us on this journey and everyone at the club who has helped us get the team out for each fixture. It's been a privelege working with you all.

Liz Kennedy

COACH'S CORNER

Adam Canning gives us his views:

I have little to add to the praise and thanks from our Chairman, Phil Eales and President Mike Hemming. who have written elswhere their thanks to all concerned with the club, and from my perspective, particularly the First team squad.

We have used a large pool of players this season to ensure we field our strongest side for each fixture. My particular thanks to everyone who has donned the shirt this year carrying a slight injury, playing out of position and those who stepped up to Senior Rugby as debutantes.

That is not to diminish the contribution of stalwarts and regulars who continue to give their all to the coaching team, the squad and the club, week in week out.

I am gutted we didn't make promotion again this year.



Despite our best efforts, and sometimes not quite, key results went against us.

It only makes me more determined to work with everyone in the closed season to maintain our legendary fitness and perfect those killer plays that will turn things around starting in September.

Clear eyes, full hearts, can't lose. It's been a pleasure lads, see you in the bar.

SECTION NEWS

News from the M&J Section:

A warm welcome to all players and visitors from Old Yardlieans from everyone in the Mini and Junior Section.

Wow this season has passed by very quickly and what a season it has been for the Mini and Junior Section, we have had a fanstastic season with a number of highlights

We hosted a very successful mini's festival in October with over 1000 visitors and 65 teams

We hosted a very successful Wasps Coachclass where Wasps hosted over 500 Mini rugby players from across

We hosted the Land Rover Cup in conjunction with Wasps which was a fantastic day with hundreds of under 11 & 12 players from across the county.

We hosted North Bristol for their tour with a Wasps coachclass in the morning followed by a fantastic show

All in all a really fantastic season that has culminated in the Under 14s and 16s winning the Warwickshire Plate

and the under 16s winning their end of season festival in Bournemouth.

This weekend is relatively guiet at the Crofts with all teams training at home apart from Under 12s hosting Old Laurentians and Under 14s hosting Moselev.

Good Luck to all teams this Weekend, below are the fixtures.

U6 Training at Home

U7- U11 - Training at Home

U12 - Old Laurentians at Home

U13 - Training at Home

U14 - Moselev at Home

U15 / U16 - Training at Home

Girls - Training at home

Lucas Wager Chairman, Minis and Junior Section













MATCH REPORTS

League: U15 Fixture Sunday 7th April 2019

Fixture: Stratford RFC U15 XV v Old Learningtonians RFC U15 XV Result: Stratford RFC U15 XV 34 - 40 Old Learningtonians RFC U15 XV

Summary: Cracking Game, close Victory

After the previous week where OL's had a reasonable comfortable game, today's was a much more exciting affair. With a squad of only fifteen players, the side had had no subs and played a couple of players out of position. Their chances were somewhat reduced. But their coaches did not account for the strength of character of the players and did not need to worry about the team's desire to play. For parts of the game the side were down to 14 players with a yellow card, a bloody nose and a knock removing one player at a time.

Stratford opened up the scoring but OL's fought back hard and by half time were up 26-12. Scorers in the first half include Rhino, Callum, Ben and Cam (you know who they are), each scoring in their own way. Rhino straight through, Callum running 80 metres round the whole of Stratford and Ben and Cam jinxing through the middle of the lines, each scoring a great try.

The second half opened with a reinvigorated opposition who came back hard and scored quickly to take the lead. James then took a stationary ball from a scrum and glided through the opposition centres to score straight down the middle, pulling us back ahead. Stratford responded to take the score to 34-33 with OL's trailing a point with only a few minutes to go. T

The front five always drove the opposition back in every scrum, the back row harried their backs tirelessly, Mason sniped and managed the back of the scrum brilliantly, Ben managed the back line, James and Cam swung the ball wide when needed and made space for each other and the back three, who attacked and defended with equal vigour.

Tension between the sides increased to handbag level before Leamingtonians won a maul, a ruck and a few drives to arrive within a few metres of the try line. They kept being held up or repelled until Ben got his second try diving over the line to make the final score 34-40 to Old Leams. It should be noted that both sides scored the same number of tries but Oli converted five out of six of ours and Stratford only two. It was Oli's kicking secured our victory.

This reporter doesn't have the eloquence of our DoR to express the tension or skills shown in the game, but it was an electric morning and like all the best games, it was as close as any we have played. It is a testament to OL's players that they didn't give up when provoked and the momentum was swinging against them. They played some ension between the sides increased to handbag level before Leamingtonians won a maul, a ruck and a few drives to arrive within a few metres of the try line. They kept being held up or repelled until Ben got his second try diving over the line to make the final score 34-40 to Old Leams. It should be noted that both sides scored the same number of tries but Oli converted five out of six of ours and Stratford only two. It was Oli's kicking secured our victory.

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Report from Richard Veys



MATCH REPORTS

League: U16 Fixture Saturday 6th April 2019

Fixture: Bournemouth Festival

Result: Old Leamingtonians RFC U16 Bournemouth Festival Champions

Summary: OL's Win Bournemouth Festival - End of an Era - and they all Cried!!!

OL's Under 16 RFC travelled to the Bournemouth Festival at the end of their Junior season of Rugby for 2018/2019. For some this was the end of an eleven year Journey of Sunday mornings washing dirty kit, for others it was the culmination of their efforts as a coaching team.

A long Friday night coach journey ensued and the tour party were greeted a the Seaview hotel by the accommodating Hotel Staff. .Early to bed and an early rise was required and the muster of all at a hearty breakfast was impressive .The short journey to Bournemouth RFC was full of anticipation and there was no doubt the boys were up for it .The sun was shining and the other teams in the competition all had good form.

Ol's had the advantage of watching everyone play before them and that set the team up for the Tournament. They knew what they had to do, win all their games and that would be that ..From the first whistle the boys played with all the flair and composure that was required, dispatching Bournemouth RFC in 16 minutes of nonstop attack to win 21 v 0.

Next up Hemel Hempstead was a much feistier affair and with all the 16 year old testosterone flying a mighty scrap ensued .The game ended 7 apiece and a little bit of indiscipline could have cost the mighty OL's. Injury to Freddie H,Issac and George were also of concern . The third

game was a non-starter as High Wycombe conceded to OL's .

This left a final showdown between OL's and Newtown from Mid Wales, the only other unbeaten team who were packed full of Welsh representative players . A "fight them on the beaches for the very last time" team talk was held and off the OL boys marched into battle and a battle it was. However OL's were controlling the game and only ferocious defence by Newtown kept the game scoreless at half time.

Like an 80's movie, sometimes things happen for a reason, sometimes years of hard work come down to just 60 seconds of pure magic. The excellent Scots referee awards OL's a penalty at half way. Dan McCarthy spirals the ball into touch 8 yards out from the try line. A subtle shift in the lineout formation by Ol's and Benny Ed throws double top to hit Alfie "Salmon " Potter and the driving maul is on. Ball at the back in the hookers hands and the boys pile in, winge, ,fly half the lot .Forward they go with a momentum that is not going to be stopped .Newtown pull it to the ground and the ref awards the penalty try. Eleven years in the making and Ol's win it

There is not a dry eye in the house for the final huddle and that is that !! Thanks to the all the boys, their parents and of course the coaching team from the now ret D.O.R.

Report from Andy Hart













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PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

I echo Phil's a warm welcome to everyone attending The Crofts today, particularly the management, players and supporters of our First XV league opponents, Old Yardleains RFC. I also welcome today's match official, Mr Miles Pigden from Warwickshire Society of Referees.

Back on 1st September last year we came across a determined OY's side at Tilehouse Lane and the 20-10 score line in our favour was hard won and only great defence denied the Old Yards further scores in the ten minutes before the final whistle

Two weeks later however they were demolished at Pinley by 79 points to 0 points and their season has not properly recovered since. They have had close, albeit losing, results against those teams now in mid-table although they secured an excellent win against Stoke Old Boys back in January. This generally poor sequence however now means that they are eight places below us in the league with only 21 points to show from their campaign this year.

Our narrow loss to Manor Park a week ago resigned us to once again miss out narrowly on promotion. Although we may close the gap on Shipston if they were to lose their away game at Ledbury it will not be quite enough and we must therefore rue some of our poorer performances over the season. It looks as if we may be seeing some familiar faces next year with both Old Coventrians and Rugby St Andrews currently at the foot of Midlands 2 W (South).

I am sure that many of our senior players of the 1970's and 80's will remember the always combative and occasionally attritional matches against the OY's. In those days the chance to cross swords with the likes of Sidwell, Pugsley, Chinn, Power, Ullah and Black to name just a few, was always relished and definitely a game where selection was paramount. However despite the potential for skulduggery on the pitch, the post-match outings to the bar salved everything and great friendships have been forged from those encounters.

As this season draws to its close once again, like Phil, I must thank the players for ensuring that a full league



Finally, a big thank you to all you hardy souls who have stood on touchlines across the County and beyond, in all weathers, in order to support the Old Leamingtonians. Disappointing though it is for us not to be able to try our hand in the league above next season, we have had another good season and this bodes well for next year. It was particularly pleasing to see several of our young Colts progress to both the First and Second XV's, learning quickly and often making a name for themselves. With the current Colts due to play their Warwickshire Colts Cup Final this coming Monday, let us hope that some of these lads too will aspire to follow their contemporaries into the senior ranks.

Whatever the outcome of today's game I hope that you enjoy your time at The Crofts. Next season will arrive before you know it!

Mike Hemming President Old Leamingtonians RFC















TODAY'S SQUADS

Today's referee is Miles Pigden

OLD LEAMINGTONIANS 1ST XV
1. Kai Cott
2. Carig Ellis
3. Mike Robertson
4. Rhys Cory

o. ooo ralamiin	
6. Andrew O'Toole	

7.	Ollie	Sarginson

5 .Ine Talamini

8.	Sam	Brittain

9.	loby	Lord	(c)

10. Ciaran O'Connor

11. Callum Semple

12. Simon Hemming

13. Tom Eales

14. Paul Salvin

15. Kai Bailey

REPLACEMENTS

16. Pete Nancarrow

17. Adam Stannard

18 Liam Dowson

TO: Elain Bowoon	
Chairman of Rugby:	Craig Ellis
First Team Manager:	Currently vacant
Coaches:	Scott Conduit, Adam Canning and Craig Ellis
Physio:	Emily Hickman

Club colours: Gold and Royal hoops

OLD OLD YARDLEIANS 1ST XV

- 1. James Samuels
- 2. James Willcock
- 3. Tommo Thompson
- 4. Mickey Brennan
- 5. Rob Willis
- 6. Harry Brown
- 7. Tom Mead
- 8. Adam Madelev
- 9. Jack Fitzgerald
- 10. Sam Richards
- 11. Alex Hope
- 12. Dean Brain
- 13. Lee Purdey
- 14. Jon Hunt
- 15. Adam Walker

REPLACEMENTS

16. Luke Griffiths

17. TBC

18. TBC

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MATCH REPORTS

League: Midlands 3 West (South) Saturday 23rd March2019
Fixture: Old Leamingtonians RFC 1st XV v Ledbury RFC 1st XV

Venue: The Crofts, Bericote Road

Result: Old Leamiongtonians RFC 1st XV 22 v 20 Ledbury RFC 1st XV

Old Leamingtonians absence of first team rugby for two weeks was evident in a first half display that was disjointed, lacking any cohesion between forwards and backs, and that allowed Ledbury to take control of the game. The match was only three minutes old when Ledbury scored the first try of the game with a move that started in their own half of the field and went almost unchallenged to touch down. The try was converted.

Ledbury continued to have the better of the game and the home side were kept under constant pressure. Solid defence kept the fast Ledbury three-quarters from scoring tries but mistakes provided the visitors with penalties after 20 and 25 minutes play, both converted to reach half time with Ledbury having a 13 points lead.

OLs started after the interval by taking the game to Ledbury and it was only some slack passing that prevented the home side from scoring. It was Ledbury that added a second try when an attempted long looping OL pass inside the Ledbury 22 metre area saw the ball intercepted and a breakaway try followed. The conversion was successful and moved Ledbury into a 20 point lead.

From this point on OLs began dominating but time and again loose passing at crucial moments saw chances go astray. With the game entering the last phase a swift three-quarters move saw the ball collected by Ciaran O'Connor who beat the retreating Ledbury defence to touch down and open OLs account. The conversion was missed.

From the restart OLs gained possession and forced Ledbury back into their 22 metre area where they conceded a penalty that was kicked into touch and from the line out



the OLs forwards took control resulting in back row forward Felix Heath touching down for try number two. The try was not converted. From the restart OLs again took control of the game and further forward pressure on the visitors saw good possession used when Heath crossed for his second try. This try was converted to bring OLs with three points of Ledbury.

OLs continued to enjoy the better of the game and kept the visitors under pressure, but an OL penalty was kicked too long into the dead ball area and it looked as if the game was going to end with a Ledbury win. However, from the set scrum back on the half way line OLs won the ball against the head and moved the game forward to the left of the field. With the OL forwards now dominant, good ball was freed wide out on the left and instead of continuing to ruck the ball forward with Ledbury committed to all out defence, a long crossfield kick found right wing Callum Semple who ran on and picked up the ball to cross the goal line wide out on the right for what turned out to be the last points scored in the game giving OLs a 22 points to 20 victory. The home side were very happy to have achieved a bonus point win securing what will no doubt be third place in the league.

Report from Denis Fisher Photos Tim Nunan



MATCH REPORTS

League: Midlands 3 West (South) Saturday 30th March 2019 Fixture: Manor Park RFC 1st XV v Old Leamingtonians RFC 1st XV

Venue: Griff & Coton, Nuneaton

Result: Manor Park RFC 1st XV 17 - 12 Old Learningtonians RFC 1st XV

Despite scoring the best two tries of a four try game OLs had to settle for a losing bonus point after conceding too many kicked points to Manor Park in a game full of unforced errors by both sides.

The first half was a much disjointed affair with OLs (playing downhill and against the wind) being forced onto defence for the first quarter. It was this solid defence that kept Manor Park's heavy forward driven game in check until the 15 minute mark when the home side forced the ball over the line for the opening try. The try was converted. 10 points to nil.

With OLs continuing to defend well but being allowed little opportunity to express their free flowing game it took an individual effort from stand-off Ciaran O'Connor to open OLs account. From a set scrum on the OLs 22 metre line he was fed the ball and drawing the Manor Park defence he found a gap and cut through the Manor Park Three's 60 yards diagonally cross field before drawing the second line of defence, chipping over the oncoming players and then outpacing the turned defenders to touch down in the corner for an outstanding individual try. He converted his own score to reduce the Manor Park lead going into half time to a three point deficit.

The second half was dominated by OLs but even so it was Manor Park that scored first with a converted try against the run of play. The OLs lighter pack was by now dominating the set pieces and putting the home side under increasing pressure but whatever the OLs tried fell short of converting possession into points. Even a yellow card awarded to one of the Manor Perk forwards did not assist OLs to add to their score

With 15 minutes to play another piece of individual genius saw OLs second row Joe Talamini collect the ball on the half way line and run at the Manor Park opposition. When it appeared to all concerned that he would run into the Manor Park defence barrier he simply chipped the ball over the oncoming defenders to feed winger Tom Eales running through to touch down, making the score 17 - 12

The game continued in the same vein with neither side being able to break down solid defences and OLs had to settle for a losing bonus point defeat.

Report from Denis Fisher















LEAGUE TABLE

Midl	Midlands 3 West (South)										
Pos	Team	<u>P</u>	w	D	ŗ	PF	PA	+/-	ТВ	LB	Pts
1	Pinley	22	21	0	1	677	219	458	13	1	100
2	Shipston on Stour	22	17	1	4	957	344	613	17	3	90
3	Old Leamingtonians	22	16	0	6	579	359	220	13	3	81
4	Ledbury	22	14	0	8	626	395	231	10	4	71
5	Berkswell & Balsall	22	13	2	7	607	317	290	9	5	71
6	Manor Park	22	13	0	9	438	414	24	7	2	63
7	Woodrush	22	10	0	12	410	613	-203	5	1	46
8	Alcester	22	8	0	14	416	549	-133	7	0	40
9	Coventry Welsh	22	7	1	14	366	603	-237	8	2	40
10	Stoke Old Boys	22	6	0	16	364	680	-316	8	3	35
11	Old Yardleians	22	4	0	18	274	670	-396	2	3	21
12	Upton-on-Severn	22	1	0	21	262	813	-551	2	1	7



SPONSORSHIP NEWS

Performance sponsorship update

Thank you once again to our 'performance' sponsors who have pledged support to the 1st XV this season.

The 1st XV coaches have been awarding exclusive Akuma 'stash' to those players who have shown outstanding commitment, both on and off the pitch, to the senior rugby section so far this season. The November awards were presented to Reece Jones, Joe Blackett and Will Thomson at training on Thursday night and previous winners so far this season include Mike Robertson, Liam Dowson,

Callum Semple and Henry Reynolds. The sponsorship pledges have also been put towards a weekly 1st XV man of the match prize as well as monthly team rewards for achieving agreed targets during the period. The squad enjoyed Domino's Pizzas together on Thursday as a reward for an outstanding 6 weeks whilst sitting down and agreeing our targets for the period between now and the end of January.

Thank you to Pete Holden, Bill Walker, Geoff Canning, Phil Eales, Mike Vallance, Mick Hemming, Steve Davis, Clive Dixon & Dave Drabwell for your support.

SECTION NEWS

News from the Colts Section:

Colts Season In Review the road to the 2019 Colts **Cup Final**

Coming off a record winning season in 2017/18 that included a season-ending achievement of a cup and Warwickshire League double was always going to be difficult and this years Colts have stepped up to challenge admirably

The colts completed their preseason with high hopes for attempting an unprecedented repeat of the previous year's success, with a 38 man squad. The season started very well remaining unbeaten in the league until November, only falling to Kettering in the National Colts Cup and sadly missing out on a narrow 31-12 loss away to Old Laurentians in December and a very rare loss against local rivals Kenilworth on a cold wet and windy afternoon at the Crofts

a week before Christmas. Our Colts found their form again and their winning ways both home and away securing second place in League.

The Cup competition remained a high focus for the squad meeting Kenilworth in the first round and Old Larentians in the Semi final, blasting both away in their wake completing a double revenge for league defeats and once again have reached the Final to be played at Coventry RFC The Butts on Monday 15th KO1930hrs against Broadstreet.

We hope you can join us once again and make the difference on the evening, a supporters coach is being organised and we hope that we can repeat last years success and retain the trophy.

Mark Edwards











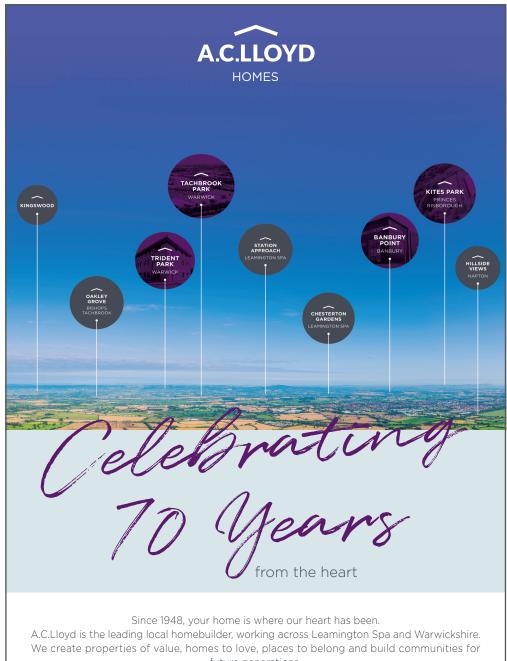












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