TRADERS FACE CAR PARK CRISIS

Report by David Cosgrove

TRADERS have hit out at Dudley Council’s multi-million pound revamp of Dudley town centre — saying it fails to tackle the town’s parking crisis.

A £2 million 18-month overhaul of Market Place is nearing completion but businesses say what Dudley needs above all else is to increase footfall at shops is more car parking spaces.

Adding more parking in the town centre would have been a better use of cash spent on the Market project, according to Roger Scott, a town trader of 20 years.

But Dudley’s economy boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said the authority had already carried out a review of parking in Dudley and was also preparing plans for a new car park in Tower Street.

Mr Scott, a UKIP councillor but speaking as a business owner, said: “The improvements around the town have made some of the older buildings look presentable.

But will this actually bring people back who used to shop here? I doubt it very much.”

Mohammed Sagir, chairman of Voice of Dudley Business, echoed Mr Scott’s concerns. He said: “The main way to improve Dudley town centre is to increase car parking spaces.

The town centre is a mess — it is not like the Victorian times. We have to re-think the planning of the town centre.

Elderly

“Customers have to sit in traffic or have to walk a long way into the centre, then they will just take their business somewhere else.

Dudley used to be a busy town, where people used to love shopping but it’s not any more.”

Mr Scott added that for elderly shoppers in particular there was not enough parking close to the town centre.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for planning and economic development, said: “We have recently reviewed the town centre’s parking needs and increased the number of free on-street parking spaces to 835 with Dudley being the only West Midlands council that does not have on-street pay and display.

“We have listened to town centre businesses and changed an number of free two-hour spaces to one-hour waiting, to increase the turnaround of shoppers in the town and to move longer stay visitors to available spaces in the town’s pay and display car parks, where there is plenty of capacity.”

He added: “We are preparing proposals for a new car park in the heart of the town centre at Tower Street.

“In addition the new car park which will accompany the development at the Curdenden House site will add further high quality car parking.”

IT’S BACK TO THE TUDORS AT HADEN OLD HALL

Haden Old Hall’s Tudor characters — in costume are Ken Waterhouse, Jean Drew, Ray Drew, Helen Holliday and Mark Aston

TUDOR times were brought back to life during a history day at Haden Old Hall.

Music and dancing helped to take people back to the 16th century at the house in Cradley Heath. The hall was originally built in the late 1600s but has parts dating back to the Tudor period, and is attached to Haden Hill House Museum.

On Sunday staff and volunteers welcomed scores of people to an open afternoon where costumed characters entertained the crowds.

Visitors were able to see beautiful birds of prey in the grounds and learn more about how they were used in Tudor times for hunting. Many of the birds which were common in Tudor times are now dwindling in numbers.

Museum services manager Jane Hanney, from Sandwell Museums Service, said: “The Old Hall isn’t open to the public all the time, unlike the Victorian museum next door, so it is great on open days to see the house come alive with historic characters.

“The hall was probably built in the late 1600s but parts of it may date to the Tudor period.

“It has been heavily restored and the friends of Haden Hill Estate have painted the inside with some fabulous historic colours such as red and yellow ochre.

“It has transformed the look of the building.

Haden Hill House Museum will host a craft afternoon on Sunday. The tearoom will be open for afternoon tea from 2pm until 4.30pm.

Staff continue the craft theme with a pop doll making workshop on August 23, costing £1.50, and the birds of prey will make a return to the site on August 30 from 2pm.

COMMUNITY

Volunteers bringing new life to Civic Hall

THE number of bookings at Brierley Hill Civic Hall has soared since a community group took over the venue six months ago.

“Where the venue has been used by theatre and dance groups and has also hosted fashion shows and weddings.

Dudley Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) took over the day-to-day running of the building from Dudley Council in February.

Andy Gray, chief officer of CVS, said: “The first six months have been focussed on re-engaging with Brierley Hill people, councillors, traders and charities who like us all want their Civic Hall to flourish.”

COMMUNITY
THE £95 billion HS2 project will cluster resources on London and is the “wrong answer” for the West Midlands, according to the leader of the Green Party.

Speaking to The Chronicle’s sister newspaper Express & Star, Natalie Bennett said the scheme’s huge bill would be better spent on local infrastructure in the Black Country.

Her damning assessment comes just weeks after the region’s business leaders revealed a £5.5bn vision for the HS2 that would create 2,000 jobs.

Miss Bennett said: “Those behind the scheme seemed to have missed the fact local trains need to run from east to west, not just down to London. That is what would help build a stronger local economy.

“HS2 is the wrong answer for the West Midlands. It would be much more beneficial if the Government were to put the same amount of investment into local infrastructure, particularly in terms of encouraging people to walk and cycle, and into improving bus services.”

A Midlands Growth Strategy developed by Greater Birmingham & Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership seeks to secure Government funding for dozens of connected projects. These include extending the Midland Metro service to Brownhills; supporting a new rail link between Wolverhampton anddropdown to the Black Country; upgrade to the A34 in North Staffordshire and creating a faster rail service between Dudley and Walsall.

But Miss Bennett is in no doubt what the country would benefit most from the high-speed rail line. She added: “Under the HS2 proposals 72 percent of journeys would be people travelling into London. All HS2 will achieve is even greater focus of resources around the capital.”

The triumphant Dudley climbers reach Bert’s Peace Cairn on top of Ben Nevis, raising over £1,500 in honour of a peace campaigner.

The group of climbers took a photo at the cairn on Wednesday marking the opening.

Mr Bissell, who died aged 96 in 1998, was a former probation officer who lived in Selborne Road, Stourbridge, More Mascots Please.

The group are making regular checks in the area following a number of complaints. Headteacher of Tenterfields Priory was for flagship, landmark development.

A spokesman for the St James’ neighbourhood police team said: “Reports have been received regarding vehicles being parked in locations around Oxford Street, Dudley, with the occupants possibly involved in drug-related activity.”

“Officers will be targeting the location in both uniform and plain clothes to target any persons thought to be involved in illegal activity.”

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TAXPAYERS in the Black Country are being ‘ripped off’ by the set-up costs of the West Midlands Combined Authority, it has been claimed – as each borough pays the same as Birmingham.

West Midlands MEP Bill Etheridge said the second city should pay more than three times the price per head ‘ripped off’. “Going on the results of the 2011 census, residents are having to pay £300,000. Co-op, who said the equal cost would ensure every area had an equal say.

Mr Etheridge, who represents Sedgley on Dudley Council, said the cost was being split equally between Dudley, Wolverhampton, Walsall, Sandwell, Birmingham, Coventry and Solihull – each authority budgeting £300,000.

He accused Dudley Council’s Labour leadership of allowing the borough to be ‘ripped off’. “Going on the results of the 2011 census, residents are having to pay more than three times the price per head as the other seven councils,” he said.

“Birmingham City Council should be paying the lion’s share of the costs as they have a far greater population.”

Warning

“The poor old Dudley taxpayer is having a raw deal here. UKIP have been warning people about the pitfalls of entering into any union with Birmingham. It seems the Labour Council have fallen straight into the very first trap.”

The census in 2011 put the population of Birmingham and Dudley in 2011 is 312,000.

But Co-op, who has led the Black Country’s negotiations with other councils on the combined authority, which some have called a ‘super council’, said: “Mr Etheridge would be the first to claim the combination of Dudley would be better served if each of the four Black Country boroughs.

“This is about us all being equals. If we want that equality between us, then we have to be fair to each other. If Birmingham put in more than us, there would be people in the city saying they should get the lion’s share of the benefits as well.”

Mayor and MP scale peak for charities

North Priory transformed to flagship development

A MULTI-MILLION pound revamp of a former council estate has been completed and unveiled.

A total of 314 homes have been built at the transformed North Priory estate.

Housing firms Bromford and Keepmoat Homes and the Home and Communities Agency provided more than £12m of funding for the huge project.

Councillor Gaye Partridge, Dudley Council’s cabinet member for housing, said: “Our vision for the new North Priory was for a flagship, landmark development that was green, energy efficient, sustainable, innovative and cutting edge in its design, appearance and construction.

“It was our vision to transform the area into a sustainable community with a range of housing types and households contributing to the regeneration of the area.”

Affordable

“I think that has been achieved and everyone involved should be congratulated.”

The project provides a mix of affordable homes, including apartments, two, three and four-bedroom houses, bungalows for older people and four fully adapted wheelchair units.

Bromford’s head of neighbourhoods Darrin Gamble said: “The inclusion of a community house means local organisations can bring their services to the doorstep of the local residents.”

A tree was planted in a ceremony to mark the opening.

Drug crime is being targeted

DRUG users and pushers will be target- ed in a new crackdown in Dudley.

Police have stepped-up patrols following reports of ‘suspicious activity’ in Oxford Street near Dudley Leisure Centre.

Uniformed and plain-clothes officers are making regular checks in the area following a number of complaints from residents.

A spokesman for the St James’ neighbourhood police team said: “Reports have been received regarding vehicles being parked in locations around Oxford Street, Dudley, with the occupants possibly involved in drug-related activity.”

“Officers will be targeting the location in both uniform and plain clothes to target any persons thought to be involved in illegal activity.”

Games area plan at primary school

A MULTI-USE area will be created at a Halesowen school under new proposals. Headteacher of Tenterfields Primary School, Richard Walsh, has sub- mitted a planning application to Dudley Council. A decision will be made within three months.

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Police cuts mean more crime, says trade boss

CRIME will increase in the Black Country if community police officers are taken off the streets, warns a business leader.

Up to 2,200 officers and civilian staff are set to lose their jobs in swinging West Midlands Police cuts. The move is expected to hit community policing hardest, with fast-track off to go.

Halowman Chamber of Trade fears the town could be in the firing line with reported crime lower than the average.

Chairman Wayne Edwards believes the figures could be distorted due to traders being put off reporting crime.

He said: “You have to ring 101 for a non-emergency so it may be a time delay. I rang 101 and didn’t get a call back for three or four days.

“What is happening is traders are not reporting crime because they don’t think it is worth it, they can’t hold the support.

“It is going to deteriorate even more over the next few months, the presence of PCSOs is going to be lost.”

Halowman is currently used by two shifts each made up of two officers and three PCSOs, but this is expected to a reduced.

Mr Edwards is set to meet with police chiefs to discuss his concerns that cuts in officer numbers will result in more crime.

“Crime is going to increase,” he added. “What we are seeing is the highest reported crime but people are not reporting it.”

School gets two new classrooms

TWO classrooms will be built at a Dudley primary school creating 105 places for Foundation Phase pupils. It is the latest development to be approved with work expected to start in September.

Players Benik Afobe and Kortney Jack-What’s gold and black and Wolves all over? Jayne Barker’s car, that’s what.

The car is adorned with Wolves colours, tributes, stickers and stripes and is a well-known sight around Molineux and the Black Country.

Jayne, aged 55 from Dudley started her Wanderers obsession at the age of eight and it has grown to include her car and a massive collection of memorabilia.

“I first had a cream Mini but saw they’d released the orange colour and I knew straight away I had to get it,” she said.

“I traded my car in for the new colour and for the last year or so I’ve spent around £5000 decorating it, paying homage to the club I love. It’s my pride and joy.”

“The car includes tributes to Sir Baroness Heyhoe Flint, a mini and a Metal pole which he threw at her, causing her injury to her head, and grabbed by the throat.

Days later Miss Raiston was shaken by the sound of something being smashed. It was a door panel. She called the police and Handy was arrested.

Mr Graham Russell, defending, said Handy had taken a legal high known as Lotek.

A friend, Wayne Neal, had described how he saw a recent change in Handy caused by him taking legal highs and drinking.

For assault Handy was jailed for 10 months, for damaging the TV two months concurrent, for assaulting the dog he was jailed for one month to run consecutively.

Judge John Warner said: “Your offending is so gravitated by the fact that a child was present and you were in drink and had taken drugs.”

New mosque site will be found by end of year

AN alternative site for a new mosque in Dudley will be found by the end of the year, as council bosses are advised to reject £325,000 offer to drop court action.

Dudley Muslim Association (DMA) had tabled the out-of-court settlement to press ahead with its plans to build the mosque on land off Hall Street.

But now, in a fresh twist, the stand-off between Dudley Council and the DMA looks set to continue as the council bosses have rejected the offer to rent the land and resolve the dispute.

A final decision will be made on Monday and an action group, which will use the council work with the DMA will be set up in a bid to find an alternative for the new building by the end of the year.

A report by a scrutiny panel, which assessed the £325,000 offer during a two-day hearing, does acknowledge the need to replace the existing mosque in Castle Hill, which is not fit for purpose, but says the site in Hall Street is not suitable for the development.

Meanwhile, a High Court hearing remains scheduled for October after the DMA proved to a rejected a decision which would allow the council to back the land.

Transparent

Council leader Pete Lowe said: “We welcome the scrutiny panel’s report and the way the historic two-day scrutiny meeting was handled. This open and transparent process enables us to take all of the recommendations the scrutiny board has outlined to our members and ensure we are able to take a fully informed decision.”

Councillor Lowe said the panel had not found in favour of the DMA and had summarised over the issue when making the recommendations.

“I have no interest in the interests of the DLLP and I have no interest in the interests of the DMA. I don’t know them but we can say they are not speaking on behalf of any other council or this community — not now, not ever.”

Amin Rash, spokesman for DMA, said he was disappointed. He added: “The proposed action group is yet another delay tactic by the council. The Court of Appeal hearing is scheduled to take place in October and we hope that justice will prevail.”

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Leaves of a certain age were mortified to hear himself calling out his food order in the pub: “I’ll have the ache and stale pie.”

“Step in”}

Blind Leader of a certain age was mortified to hear himself calling out his food order in the pub: “I’ll have the ache and stale pie.”

fearfully, Cilla Black, gone far too early. Those of a certain age will remember her not as the moody trepper of Blind Date but as the s witching, fragile singer of the 1960s who could Step Into Love and make your heart gasp. Part of that wonderful, exciting, hopeful, innocent world of 60s music was Arabic?

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Longlands facing fines over illegal immigrant’s landlords raise locks of money

by Daniel Wainwright

PRIVATE landlords in the Black Country are the first to face £3,000 fines if they fail to controlathalets and guards on immigrants renting homes.

Kingswinford, Walsall, Sandwell and Dudley, along with Birmingham, are part of a pilot scheme that sees landlords face the threat of legal action if they let a property to someone who has no right to be in Britain.

If they fail to conduct checks they already face fines of £1,000 per tenant and £80 per lodger, rising to £1,500 and £500 for repeated offences. The new scheme will also introduce a five-year prison term for persistent offenders.

There are warnings that the Government has not given landlords and letting agents enough information on how to run out checks to allow them to end tenancies for anyone who entered the country illegally or whose right to stay has expired.

Evolution

It came as French police figures suggested as many as seven in 10 migrants in Calais may be reaching the UK.

The Home Office called in the help of a top UK-based barber in 2013, after a so-called grade one cut. It was at an end, the court was told.

A READER says his local college is offering English for Speakers of Other Languages under the snappy acronym ESOL. He asks, what initially would they use if the language was Arabic?
Concern over French Bulldog puppies

PUPPIES illegally imported from Poland have been sold in the Black Country by ‘unscrupulous’ dealers, which can sell for £2,000 each, may not have been properly vaccinated and officials are trying to find them.

The RSPCA has urged people to be vigilant, saying there is no guarantee about the health of dogs. Environmental health officers in Sandwell are now trying to trace up to 15 puppies that are believed to have been illegally imported.

The council says the dogs were sold from an address in Triviale. Anybody who has bought a puppy from the area, which was supplied with a pet passport from Poland, is advised to contact environmental health officials.

Puppies can only be imported legally once they are 15 weeks old, which gives time to have necessary vaccinations in their country of origin.

Passport

“They must also be microchipped and accompanied by a passport that matches the microchip,” Sandwell Council leader, Councillor Darren Cooper, said. “Unfortunately, falsified passports are being used by unscrupulous importers. If you are not confident that the puppy you are interested in buying matches the tail in the passport, particularly if the puppy seems to be younger than the age given in the passport, then you should contact your vet or the council for further advice.

“If puppies have been imported for sale they may only be sold through a licensed pet shop, so imported puppies should never normally be sold from a private address.”

Anyone who has bought such a puppy is asked to call 0121 569 6600.

Disabled man’s legal bid over vote problem

A SEVERELY sight-impaired man says he is planning to take legal action against Dudley Council after claiming he was denied his right to a private vote at the General Election.

Graham Kirwan, of Brierley Hill, insists equipment provided at polling stations in the borough to aid people with sight problems is inadequate.

He was not able to cast his vote in May’s election without assistance but refused help as he says this would have compromised his right to a vote.

“In my eyes, I am unable to use the new doors and additional glazing incorporate well within the stall.”

Brierley Hill councillor Zafar Islam said “I have stressed very strongly that the people involved at Trinity Street Mosque talk to neighbours and their local Muslims in areas in the earliest opportunity.”

Concern over lack of lending for business

A SHARP contraction in business lending, revealed by new figures from the Bank of England, is a cause for concern say Black Country business leaders. Johnathan Dudley, managing partner and head of manufacturing business at Crowe Clarke Whitfield and chairman of the Alliance for the Black Country, said “Clearly there is a growth in confidence in business and a willingness to do deals but after the problems of a few years ago there appears to be a reluctance of businesses to borrow from banks, who businesses perceive require too much in return.

Although this gap has been partly filled by challenger lenders and alternative finance sources, the growing reluctance to engage with banks will continue to stifle investment and growth. Government schemes such as Funding for lending and Enterprise Finance Guarantee clearly haven’t worked and they need overhauling and replacing.

In addition, there needs to be a restoration of trust between the banks and businesses.”

He said an increase in business lending was essential for delivering the aim to double the size of the Black Country economy.

Parents wanted to share experience

A BRIERLEY Hill children’s charity is seeking volunteers.

Home-Start needs helpers to assist them support families in the community. The charity helps parents build better lives for their children.

Peter Dyson, trustees and volunteer, said: “The volunteers essential training to be able to support families will be invaluable in lots of ways. We may help with parenting tips, or by listening.”

Home-Start contact the organisation on (01384) 485733. Training sessions start on September 23.

More mortgage applications made

THE Tipton and Coseley Building Society has reported a 10 per cent rise in mortgage applications during the first half of this year.

Between January and June, the society which also has branches in Sedgley and Halesowen processed £38.29 million of mortgage applications. The amount was up from £33.72m for the same period last year.

Richard Newton, the Tipton’s chief executive, said: “Interest rates remain at a historical low level and people are taking advantage of the competitive rates on offer.”

Tea party to put venue in spotlight

A TWO-DAY Bostin’ Teas Party event is planned to be held at Dudley Hill Civic Hall.

The event on September 25 and 26 will feature entertainment, food and a variety of stalls.

Dudley Council transferred its day-to-day management of the venue to Dudley Council for Voluntary Service earlier this year to save money on running costs. Dudley CVS wants to increase the number of shows and events held each year.

Boot camp is fit for raising hospice money

A CHARITY hospital boot camp is being held to raise funds for Mary Stevens Healthcare Hospice.

WLH Fitness is organising the event at the new gym, which opened in January.

The event, which is being held on Sunday, August 19, from 10am, is open to all ages and costs £5 to £10 to join.

The fitness group offers a range of keep fit classes, including kickboxing and Zumba classes and boot camp sessions.

Swimming sessions

FAMILIES can make a splash at a free taster session at the Dudley Leisure Centre. Parent and toddler swimming sessions for young people are available at 2pm with a qualified instructor. ¥4 per child. Call (01384) 812800.

关于文章的视觉布局和结构：

- 文章分为多个段落，每个段落包含不同的主题。
- 段落中使用了短语和句子的重复，以强调特定的信息。
- 段落和句子的长度各不相同，以适应不同的信息量。
- 文章中使用了引用和引号，以引出特定的信息。
- 文章中使用了列表和数字，以组织信息。

通过分析这些视觉布局和结构，可以更好地理解和概括文章的主要内容。
IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Charitable thoughts in light of collapse

HAVING seen her mug all over the place this week, it had been troubling me who Camilla Batmanghelidjh really was.

My initial thought was she looked like a kind of radioactive Gina Sharples. But then her red nose was massaged and I was dazed on my sofa by the woman who persuaded David Cameron to hand over £3 million of taxpayers’ money the week before her organisation was not a charity, a worker, but is actually Black Country comedian Lizzie Wiggins.

The Prime Minister has been had over by the Duchess of Dudley.

THE serious question posed by the collapse of the Kids Company, which apparently media has been asking, is what constitutes a charity these days?

It used to be simple enough, somebody might rattle a tin in the high street, or maybe you coughed out raffle tickets, and the money went directly to the poor or the sick.

But these days we have charities that recoup more in advertising revenue than in public purses, employing hundreds of people. The charity workers may earn as much as £30,000 a year, and appears as a guest on Question Time. There are charities outside the Westminster bubble really know what these organisations do, but we are assured by the trustees, who are drawn from the great and the good, that the power is not what.

Well I’m sorry, but that doesn’t sound like a charity to me. That sounds suspiciously like a quango.

II IN what sounded like a belated April Fool, Leicester City Police admitted to only investigatory attempted burglaries where the target is a house with an even number.

I understand those responsible for the idea say it is all about resources and cutbacks.

Well here’s another idea. Why don’t they have a new policy of issuing黄色ing tickets to blue, white or green cars, and a blind eye to minor infringements by the drivers of red, grey or silver ones? Or why not ignore half of all speeding offensives by saying, let off drivers of saloon cars and red cars, and prepare one.

And what would be the likelihood of any of that happening? Pretty close to zero.

The powers that be are always very selective about who gets their work cut out to keep the public purse, employing hundreds of

The duchess, Camilla, feels that it’s all about success. ‘The truth is that it’s not just about saving people, it’s not about saving people’s jobs, it’s not a fraction of the cost of a new window, it’s not really about saving people at all. Cloudy2Clear service 0800 881 2118 and he’ll be happy to help!’

Meet the motorway team of jambusters

Control room operator Steve Mason seen at work in Quinton

Emergency planning officer Frank Bird in the control room

Road team manager Felicity Joyce with a standard patrol vehicle

IT used to be simple enough, somebody might rattle a tin in the high street, or maybe you coughed out raffle tickets, and the money went directly to the poor or the sick.

If your double glazing is misted up, or broken or damaged, give Brian a call for a free quote on 0800 881 2118 and he’ll be happy to help!

FROM a single nerve centre off the M5, a dedicated team of Highways England operators monitor more than 1,600 miles of road.

It is a 24/7 undertaking, supported by 1,400 roadside officers, with the sole purpose of keeping the Midlands’ roads free of congestion.

Walking into the bustling control centre, located at Quinton Business Park, you could be forgiven for thinking you had accidentally entered mission control at NASA.

A huge television display spans the entire of the front wall while rows of operators, complete with headsets, attempt to assess the data it presents.

In the centre is a map of the Midlands’ motorways stretching from Junction 16 of the M6 at Stoke down as far as Pershore Services off the M5, shortly before it meets the M50.

Footage

It also shows the main A-roads running west towards the Welsh border and spans as far east as Banbury in Oxfordshire.

In total the control centre monitors 800 miles of motorway, including the M5, M5 and M56, and 800 miles of A-roads including the A5, A35 and A30.

Around the central map live footage is displayed from a selection of more than 700 cameras located across this busy network or roads.

To help the operators, of which there are 50 working across six shifts, the display offers a vast array of information. On the left of the imposing scene are images from a 24-hour news service, Sky or BBC, which can be split into alerts. Highways England to a crash.

Below that are wind speed readings which are particularly important for the Midlands’ roads as the region has the highest concentration of elevated motorways in the UK.

Mission control — the hi-tech control room at Highways England at Quinton Business Park

Anything above 25mph can seriously affect high-sided vehicles. Anything above 20mph and ‘High Wind — Slow Down’ is automatically displayed on the gantries.

And to the far right of the screen is information on the region’s two sections of smart motorway which run along parts of the M6 and M42.

This technology uses variable speed limits displayed above the carriageway and allows drivers to use the hard shoulder during peak times.

Emergency planning officer Frank Bird explains: “The main way we achieve this is through a series of mirror loops located under the motorway which detect changes in the speed of traffic.

‘When the traffic slows down the technology in the road sends a message to the overhead gantries to state ‘quiescent caution’ or slow down’.

The next step then will be to check the nearest available camera on the network to see if we can see the incident.

‘If, for example, a car has been flipped upside down over one of the loops, the technology can detect the car is not moving and we send an automated signal. We would then kick into overdrive and start closing the motorway.

‘We will quickly get a response car out there which can deal with matters like oil spills and start putting cones out.’”

In the case of a serious crash, where there is the need to close the motorway entirely, the focus of the control centre staff is on doing as quickly as possible.

The aim is to minimise the number of vehicles which are then stranded between where the accident took place and where the motorway has been closed.

Mr Bird added: “On some occasions the nature of the incident allows us to let motorists slowly drive past in the correct direction. But if the incident is potentially a fatal one it is very unlikely we could do that as the scene will need to be preserved for the coroner’s investigations.

In that case we need to turn the traffic around and send them back to the junction behind.

“As a general rule we work to the estimation a mile of traffic takes about an hour to release, so getting the motorway shut quickly in the first instance is crucial.”

Smart motorways are perhaps the biggest tool at the control centre’s disposal when it comes to reducing congestion. But how does slowing drivers down to 50mph speed up their journey?

Simply allow people down to 50mph it might feel sluggish, but there is an improvement in journey time reliability,” said Mr Bird. “Otherwise at busy times people go at 70mph and have to brake very sharply and that is when you get a crash.”

Ultimately all the work by Highways England, particularly that from its control centre, is an effort to keep drivers safe.

Listening to Mr Bird it is clear that staff at the control centre can get frustrated at the reasons some accidents take place in the first place.

With ever-increasing numbers of people having a smartphone mobile, there has been a big campaign to alert drivers to the dangers of using the devices while behind the wheel.

Motorway services

Taking ‘selfies’ while driving has even been blamed for a peak in crashes on the UK’s roads in recent times because of accidents too.

Mr Bird said: “It is amazing how many times there is a crash on one side of a road and you see many cars on the other side skidding and breaking and then you hear a scream. It is the ‘rubberneckers’ who are busy watching and not the emergency crews and ourselves doing, not what is in front of them. Now we can put up big blue screens so drivers travelling in the other direction cannot see what has happened.”

With more than 30 million cars licensed to be on the road in the UK, Highways England certainly have their work cut out to keep the traffic flowing.

Cloudy2Clear Windows — Service With A Smile!

It’s been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear, a company which specialises in repairing windows which are stained or damaged by replacing the panes — not the frames.

It’s claimed that up to 85% of homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that’s all about service. The product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up or can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, if the window can be replaced in any type of frame and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it’s not just about saving people’s money, although that obviously helps. Many people have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn’t focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, deal directly to the customer requires and leave their house clean as a whole. We offer great customer service which is very rare in the service industry as a whole.”

Cloudy2Clear service 0800 881 2118 and he’ll be happy to help!

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Wolverhampton

...and the surrounding Black Country

Dudley Chronicle
Thursday, August 13, 2015
Call to save an old school building

An application has been made to demolish another distinct historical building in Dudley to make way for housing.

The threat this time is to the Gilbert Clapham Building, Blowers Green Road. Built in 1904, primarily as a school, it has in later years been used as council administrative offices and training facilities.

This is a substantial, well detailed, fine example of a school building of the period, contributing significantly to the appearance of the area. Aren’t there enough wastelands/ brownfield sites to build on? I can name several where development could only enhance the landscape instead of destroying another heritage asset.

Why not develop the site itself into homes which would make unique dwelling places instead of the box type properties we see increasingly on new housing?

Come on you Old Claphamians, surely this building is worth saving. Make your objections known by e-mail to cllr.alan@dudley.gov.uk or write to Dudley MBC Planning Dept. Plans for this site can be viewed online. The planning reference is P15/08

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dudley Chronicle

Thursday, August 13, 2015

We should look after our own people first

WHEN you hear the dreadful conditions that some of the immigrants are fleeing from you cannot help but feel for them. If you could go from poverty like they have lived in to what must seem like a life of luxury then you would probably do the same.

But we can only help as many and we have to make a stand. They have to come through the proper channels and have a job to come to.

Our benefit system is not a bottomless purse and no matter how hard it may be to turn away starving people with children and no homes, we have to put our own first. Imagine you have a small income and a modest home and you are asked to feed and house a large group of people in your home. They will contribute nothing and you must do this at the expense of your family.

I have just read that an old people’s home was closed recently because it needed money spent on it. Elderly people heartbroken because they didn’t want to move, local residents fought to keep it open to no avail. Now they are opening it up again to house immigrants.

A ‘thank you’ to firefighters

I phoned to ask them if they could advise us about safety in the home. They came the very next day, even though they had just attended a fire.

The whole crew were prompt, pleasant and polite. We will be forever grateful to them.

R PLASTER
Dudley

Sacred stage could play a key role

I BELIEVE that saving the Hippodrome is something many local people seriously care about. The Hippodrome should be a major link between the zoo and the Black Country Museum.

The stage at the Hippodrome is sacred, with entertainers like Laurel and Hardy along with many other famous people performing there in years gone by.

The Hippodrome could be sub-divided as we keep the stage and maybe the first 20 rows of seats. This is what many theatres in American theme parks have done. The rest of the theatre could be franchised off, café, heritage centre, etc.

The Zoo – The Hippodrome – Dudley Country Museum – Canal Trips Experience would complete a superb day out.

I believe that this package would be an excellent opportunity to extend tourism in Dudley. If we are to attract a greater volume of visitors to the area, I believe we would need to reach out.

We could all benefit from that couldn’t we?

S OAKLEY
Stourbridge

Ring, ring, ring and ride

REGARDING reports on the declining use of Ring and Ride.

I have a 90-year-old neighbour who is almost blind and, due to a chest condition, is unable to use public transport. So she does not go out unless she is able to book Ring and Ride.

Since the changeover in March it is terrible to get through to them.

She loves to go into Dudley on a Tuesday but rarely can as they say there are no journeys available.

Sometimes on a Friday when she pesters them, she can get to Merry Hill with very little shopping time.

She doesn’t mind paying the £1 journey just to get out some days but sometimes when I go with her she is in such a distressed state because of Ring and Ride.

I have rung Head Office many a times and brought it up at the community meetings – surely it can be organised better for those people who get out.

V & G ROSVENOR
Wordsley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dudley Chronicle

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But we can only help as many and we have to make a stand. They have to come through the proper channels and have a job to come to.

Our benefit system is not a bottomless purse and no matter how hard it may be to turn away starving people with children and no homes, we have to put our own first. Imagine you have a small income and a modest home and you are asked to feed and house a large group of people in your home. They will contribute nothing and you must do this at the expense of your family. You couldn’t do it and you wouldn’t do it.

What this country is on a much bigger scale but the same situation, we are putting looking after them because we have our own.

I have just read that an old people’s home was closed recently because it needed money spent on it. Elderly people heartbroken because they didn’t want to move, local residents fought to keep it open to no avail. Now they are opening it up again to house immigrants. You couldn’t make it up!

We have to close the purse and say no to anyone who does not have a job to come to — no benefits and no free housing.

J JAMES
Walsall

A ‘thank you’ to firefighters

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S OAKLEY
Stourbridge
Ruth gives Lowe down on designer
Grange E TG

Fiona is named as
most inspirational
Midland Chase Soroptimists

Tea party in aid of Macmillan
Wollaston 'E' TWG

Speaker leaves a lot to think about
Quarry Bank E TWG

No business took place at the July meeting as this took the form of a summer tea party to raise money for Macmillan nurses.

The committee had organised a delicious tea and 47 members sat down to enjoy it. Quite a few members apologised for non-attendance due to holidays, etc. A total of £110 was raised and this will be confirmed at the next meeting.

After the meal there was an extensive auction.

Grange Chase Inspirational Evening

Branch member Fiona Ford was nominated as the winner. Fiona went on to comment that she now felt inspired to set up a small shop of her own.

A panel of five judges made the decision and Fiona was presented with a crystal inscribed bowl and vouchers worth £150.

Alastair Cooper was the other nominee - and Fiona said she now felt overwhelmed and couldn’t quite believe that she had been chosen for the title.

Fiona went on to commend Soroptimists for all the work they do to educate, empower and enable women and girls throughout the world.

For more information about SI Midland Chase visit the website: www.sight.org/midland-chase.

Chairman Hazel Smith presided over the meeting held at Grange Court, Stourbridge on July 7 and gave a very warm welcome to all members and visitors.

She welcomed two visitors from West Midlands Federation, chairman Margaret Lowe and secretary Hazel Hutt.

Secretary Joan Williams reported that the annual vote held at Stourbridge Football Club was a successful evening with the announcement made at the Region AGM at the Chase Golf Club, Cannock.

Eleven clubs each nominated a woman who they felt fulfilled that title and, following presentations, Fiona Ford was named as the winner.

Fiona was nominated by SI Newcastle. Her own experience with hair loss following chemotherapy inspired her to set up a bespoke service for wig fitting in the Stoke area.

She now has a salon called ‘Fresh Hair’ housed in the Royal Hospital, Stoke-on-Trent.

Midland Chase Region president Carol Bailey, Secretary Jean Williams and Treasurer Margaret Tew and secretary Hazel Hutt, presented Fiona with a Royal Brierley crystal inscribed bowl and vouchers worth £150.

Fiona said how humbled and honoured she felt to have been nominated, especially when she met the other nominees and said that she now felt overwhelmed and couldn’t quite believe that she had been chosen for the title.

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New nursery places to be found after centre shuts

 Bernard hangs up his boots

 NURSERY children who lost out due to the closure of a Dudley community centre will be accommodated at three new developments, says the council boss.

 Little Saints Nursery at St Thomas’s Community Network in Kates Hill closed at the end of term with 52 children left needing new places.

 Dudley Council leader Pete Lowe said he is confident the children will get places at either a new private day nursery or two other centres due to launch next year.

 St Thomas’s Community Network, set up 26 years ago to serve the people of Kates Hill, is due to close on September 30 because of funding cuts.

 Councillor Lowe said: “We have, for a number of years, provided administrative and financial help to the charity, but with ever decreasing funding from central government, we are not in a position to meet the increasing pressures on the council budget.

 “However, we will continue to provide help and support to the charity, including the staff and people using the services, as they wind down their work.

 Sufficient

 “As part of this, we are confident that there will be sufficient places for all children within the network’s nursery, which closed earlier this month.”

 The new developments include the privately run Learning Journey Day Nursery, which opened in July in Brierley Hill, providing 50 places.

 A pre-school service provided in partnership with several schools at St John’s Parish Hall in Kates Hill will offer 20 places from March.

 An existing day care provider in the borough, which cannot yet be named, is to develop a new 50-place day nursery near Dudley town centre, due to open in January.

 Bernard Ray is retiring from the building trade after 46 years but relatives have already found some DIY jobs for the 63-year-old at their homes.

 A DUDLEY man who has spent his entire working life in the building industry, during which time he has overseen the construction of hundreds of Black Country homes, is finally hanging up his boots.

 Bernard Ray, aged 63, has retired as a site manager from regional developer Cameron Homes.

 He has worked his way up to the position of site manager, winning several awards along the way from the National House Building Council for his site management skills.

 “My wife, son and daughter have lots of DIY jobs lined up for me,” said Bernard, a lifelong Wolves fan.

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 Dudley Chronicle Thursday, August 13, 2015
COMMERCIAL FEATURE

THE new Dudley Learning Quarter has changed the face of the town by creating a dedicated campus for students right at the heart of the town centre.

Packed full of exciting technology and social spaces, Dudley Learning Quarter provides undergraduates with the very best facilities to inspire their learning, improve their skills and guarantee fun whilst they complete their course.

The tuition fees for all of Dudley College’s full-time Higher Education qualifications are just £4,750 per year. Choosing this undergraduate route could save you up to £8,000, as two years at Dudley College is considerably less than some equivalent university courses.

Decided

After completing your two year course at college you can opt to convert your HND to a full degree by completing a third year at a university of your choice.

Higher National Diplomas (HNDs) you can choose from: Business; Computing; Design, Fashion & Textiles; Engineering; Public Services; Sport and Travel & Tourism Management.

Once you’ve decided which course you want to study you will need to plan how you are going to pay for your studies. Don’t worry there is lots of financial support available but in brief you can get a tuition fee loan which covers your tuition fees in full and a maintenance loan for your living costs like rent.

You will start paying back your loans when you are earning £21,000 per year. So for example if you earn £25,000 per year you would pay back £30 per month. The amount you pay back is determined by what you earn not what you owe.

Alternatively you can apply for a Higher Apprenticeship at Dudley College where you can study at an undergraduate level while earning.

To find out more about undergraduate and higher apprenticeship courses at Dudley College contact Student Services on 01384 363 363.

Meeting urged over pubs

MEETINGS are being sought with pub bosses and developers as a campaigner is trying to prevent the closure of more community pubs.

Bill Etheridge, West Midlands UKIP MEP, who is also a Sedgley councillor, said the campaign to save the Seven Stars pub in Sedgley had shown people were concerned about the loss of ‘cherished locals’.

Mr Etheridge has written to Greg Clark, the Communities Secretary, calling for tighter regulations to help people protect pubs.

He said: “What started locally as a fight to hold on to the Seven Stars in Sedgley is fast becoming a national epidemic. We live in challenging times and the drinking habits of the nation has evolved too. There are many reasons why pubs fail and in such cases, a development into a retail unit often stops the loss of sometimes unique characteristic buildings.

“However, my constituents are concerned that there will be popular, family-orientated pubs included, which has been known to tear the heart out of communities.”

Mr Etheridge has written to the chief executives of pub company Punch Taverns and property developer New River, which has been buying up pub land, calling for face to face meetings.
Number of dangerous dogs seized has doubled in region

THE number of dangerous dogs seized in the West Midlands has more than doubled. There were 287 seizures in 2011/12, which rose to 604 between April 2014 and March of this year. Last year’s figure includes 189 animals seized on suspicion of being prohibited breeds under the Dangerous Dogs Act and 318 that were dangerously out of control. An expert from West Midlands Police is now working with the Government to address the issue. PC Keith Evans said: “In most cases the fault lies not with the animal’s temperament but with its owner. They may be mistreating it, allowing or even encouraging it to behave aggressively, or are simply naïve about how to best look after their dog and how it interacts with other animals and people. “We appreciate the impact irresponsible dog ownership has on our communities. We have excellent equipment and trained officers to deal with dog-related incidents. All reports of dog-related incidents are taken seriously and I would encourage anyone to report concerns to us on the 101 number.”

Sculpture honours canal volunteers

A SCULPTURE honouring the volunteers who have worked for more than 50 years to preserve the canals of the Black Country will be installed next week. Cradley Heath artist Luke Perry has created a piece celebrating those who have given up their time to care for Dudley’s historic canal tunnel and limestone mines. He is now putting the finishing touches to the artwork which has been commissioned by Dudley Canal Trust. It depicts a spade held in a pair of hands, is cast in steel and will go on display in one of the canal caverns under Dudley. Written on the head of the spade are the words: “This monument is a celebration of the people who have kept this canal alive for over 50 years.” Housed at the canal trust, off Birmingham New Road, the efforts of volunteers over the years has turned the site into one of the busiest stretches of canal in the country with more than 80,000 visitors per year. It will be installed at Hurst Junction, where it will be placed on a plinth with natural light shining on to it from a wall opening above.

New brewer alliance to launch at festival

A GROUP of West Midlands breweries are teaming up to stage a beer festival and launch a new alliance. The event to unveil the Mercian Alliance of Brewers is being held at Green Duck Brewery in Stourbridge from September 4 to 6. Cask and keg beers from the six members will be featured. The group includes Green Duck, Fixes Head, Wyley and Shrewsbury, Blackheath, Fowkes Brewing Company, Upper Gornal; Twisted Barrel Brewery, Coventry; Two Towers Brewery, Birmingham and Glassjaw, Birmingham. A beer made in collaboration between all the brewers is being created at Twisted Barrel Brewery for the festival. The purpose of the alliance is to promote new craft beers being produced by small brewers in the region. “We’d like to invite other brewers to join us. We’d like to be in a position of having increased buying power as a group,” said Tom Fowkes, of Fowkes Brewing Company.

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A DIAMOND couple from Netherton are celebrating 60 years together after they met whilst celebrating the Queen’s coronation.

David and Audrey Stevens, from Baptist End Road, first met at school but it took a chance meeting a few years later to bring them back together.

Mrs Stevens, aged 78, said: “It was the Queen’s coronation in 1953 and I went to the pub with some friends to celebrate and he was in there at the same time. We spoke but I didn’t see him after but he always used to see my brother and ask where I was.”

The pair started to go out, but David was in the forces. When he got demobbed in April 1954 they got engaged in the July. They married on July 30, 1955 at St John’s Church, Kates Hill.

They have two children, David, 56 and Tracey, 50, and four grandchildren. Mr Stevens, 81, was originally from Dixons Green whilst Mrs Stevens grew up in Kates Hill as the only girl out of nine brothers.

Mrs Stevens said it was their love at first sight that sustained the marriage. She said: “When we met it was love at first sight for sure. We have had some brilliant times over the years and a very happy married life.

“Like every couple we have had our ups and downs and the odd disagreement but within a few hours it’s all been forgotten. It’s all about sharing and not being selfish.”

They lived in Owen Street, Kates Hill, for 15 years before moving to Baptist End Road, where they have lived for 45 years.

They enjoy holidaying together and have a caravan in Stourport. Mrs Stevens added: “We had a huge party down our caravan, it was almost as good as our wedding day.”

A-DIAMOND couple from Netherton are celebrating 60 years together after they met whilst celebrating the Queen’s coronation.

David and Audrey Stevens, from Baptist End Road, first met at school but it took a chance meeting a few years later to bring them back together.

Mrs Stevens, aged 78, said: “It was the Queen’s coronation in 1953 and I went to the pub with some friends to celebrate and he was in there at the same time. We spoke but I didn’t see him after but he always used to see my brother and ask where I was.”

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Home for cat in fire drama

Lisa Madeley, left, with Ann Evans from Paws and rescued Ruby the cat at Vets4Pet in Dudley Port after the feline survivor was found a new home.

A CAT found in the charred remains of a burnt-out smoker cubicle has been found a new home.

The fortunate feline, named Ruby by her new owners, was discovered in a 'bad way', inside Dudley Snooker and Pool Hall after it was gutted by fire.

Ruby has been nursed back to health by Vets4Pet in Dudley Port over the past couple of months, with animal charity Paws paying for her treatment and finding a home.

Her new owner Jocelyn Newell, aged 57, spotted the moggie on a Facebook post. She and her family have three other cats - Daisy, George and Felix - and two dogs, Peggy and Poppy.

Ruby has now moved in with the family in their Coseley home.

Vets4Pet's head vet nurse Lisa Madeley said: "We were really pleased that Paws could help with this stray cat and happy she has found a forever home."

People are being urged to have their say on transport plan for the West Midlands.

The West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority (ITA) has developed Movement for Growth, which sets out the region’s proposed transport strategy for the next 20 years.

It includes strategic road and rail improvements, a fully integrated train, bus and rapid transit system and a comprehensive cycle network, all of which is underpinned by smart technology including ticketless travel and real time information.

Members of the public and businesses are now being invited to have their say on the plans during a 12-week public consultation and a series of public meetings.

Councillor Roger Lawrence, chair of the ITA, said: "We need a transport system that both builds upon our existing success stories but also helps our economy grow further and creates an even better place to live.

"Transport is vitally important to this area and Movement for Growth sets out in detail the specific needs of the metropolitan area and how the system can help maximise our economic and social opportunities.

Opportunity

"This long-term plan is for the businesses and people of the West Midlands and I would encourage them to take this opportunity to help determine what the region’s transport network will look like.

The plan outlines making better use of existing road and rail capacity to boost public transport including improvements to bottleneck junctions, the development of a new strategic cycle network and improved conditions for walking, all integrated with the latest smart technology. It also highlights ways to fund a long term programme of works.

Meetings will be on September 9 at Wolverhampton Civic Centre; September 15 at Sunwell Council House, Oldbury; September 21, Dudley Council House. All at 6pm.

Lisa Madeley, left, with Ann Evans from Paws and rescued Ruby the cat at Vets4Pet in Dudley Port after the feline survivor was found a new home.
Almost 10,000 of town’s artworks are hidden away

By Jack Averty

There is no value to art if it is not getting looked at,” he said.

“When the council still put these pieces if they’ve just sat in storage for 11 and a half months a year collecting dust?”

“If the art is of substantial value then it needs to be on display all year round for the public to see, if not the council should sell it off and reinvest the money in the Hippodrome or in other local services.

Councillor Khuhrishad Ahmed, cabinet member responsible for tourism, said: “I think that making an effort to change exhibitions regularly is the way forward.”

He said: “Clearly, it is not possible to display everything all at once, but we rotate pieces wherever possible and hold dedicated exhibitions throughout the year.

“Just 80 of more than 10,000 pieces of art owned by Dudley Council are on display.

Tens of thousands of pieces of fine art and glassware are in storage.

Less than one per cent of the 2,000 pieces of art and 4,000 pieces of glassware on display, with 50 items to be displayed in the Council House and 30 at a permanent gallery dedicated to Percy Shawcross.

This means 9,920 pieces of art – 99.2 per cent of the collection – are in stock rooms, according to figures obtained through a Freedom of Information request.

The council has been told it needs to cut £357 million from its budget in the next three years with more than 130 jobs to be axed by the council in a bid to cut costs.

The council is looking to make 134 voluntary and two compulsory redundancies in 2013/14. That figure includes more than 30 youth workers who have been axed as part of a shake-up of council youth centres to save £200,000. Burial fees have also increased.

Value

Bill Etheridge, UKIP MEP for the West Midlands and a Sedgley councillor, believes that the council should sell off the artworks that don’t see the light of day and reinvest the money in services.

The Dudley Furniture & Homeware Shop charity anniversary

A TOWN centre home furnishing store has celebrated 10 years of raising funds for research into heart disease.

The Dudley Furniture & Electrical Store in Castle Street, Dudley, is one of the 700 shops in the UK from which all profits are handed to the British Heart Foundation (BHF).

It has been 10 years since it first opened and volunteers were invited to join the celebrations.

BHF area manager Julie Taylor said: “We’ve enjoyed a fantastic ten years of huge success. I’d like to take this opportunity to thank all our loyal customers and volunteers who really make this store special and help the BHF fund its life-saving research.”

The store offers a range of items, including beds, sofas, and TV, and will collect suitable unwanted items, call (01384) 505070.

College forge industry links

DUDLEY COLLEGE invested a day touring engineering firms to inspect its facilities in a bid to form partnerships and establish apprenticeship opportunities for students.

Companies including the United Steel and Plastic Moulding Supplies Ltd attended the event at Dudley Advance, the college’s centre for advanced manufacturing and engineering technology.

The event was organised by NatWest in a move to address the decline of skilled workers.

DENTAL technician Steve Morris carefully crafts a denture, ensuring that a small aperture on the side of the prosthetic will be able to accommodate a tiny valve.

The denture looks like any other, but the clever diaphragm development to help hold it secure can give it the edge over its traditional counterparts.

“It’s clever stuff,” says Steve (GDC 142474). “A small diaphragm seals off a one-way valve under bite pressure, creating a vacuum between the denture and gums. The result is a better fit to the soft tissues and improved resistance to any dislodging forces created by chewing and speaking.”

Steak for dinner

For the right person, the Ultra Suction Solution can remedy common denture stability problems without surgery.

“We recently manufactured a second prescription for a patient. We knew the fit was as perfect as it could possibly be, but I was amazed when they called the lab to tell us they had been on their initial ‘test run’ with a steak for dinner.

“The patient was very happy with the outcome,” adds Steve.

The Ultra Suction Solution option attracts the biggest number of inquiries at the Denture Clinic in North Street, Dudley.

Principal Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS (Eng) GDC 108353, who heads the team at his multi-disciplined practice, says: “We have always endeavoured to be on the very cusp of clinical development and this device is another useful option in our commitment to try to deliver results greater than patient expectations.”

Historically, lower dentures can present stability problems as the jawbone erodes with age. With traditional dentures this can cause lower teeth to move and result in painful friction problems on gums.

The suction device can be mounted in upper or lower dentures and due to its efficiency the size of the acrylic ‘plate’ can sometimes be reduced, improving speech and taste.
Samaritans in plea for cash as crucial service faces crisis

A CHARITY has issued a desperate plea for support with bosses fearing it could close if it does not receive a cash injection.

Brierley Hill Samaritans needs to raise £20,000 each year just to continue running and is currently having to rely on its reserves.

The charity offers an around-the-clock support line for people who often turn to them when at their lowest ebb. Buses are now calling on businesses and residents to help ensure the vital service is not lost.

The branch in Albion Street takes more than 25,000 calls each year from people in crisis.

Branch chairman Graham Bristow said: “Each Samaritans branch in an independent charity and has to raise its own money to be able to function. We are currently looking at £20,000 a year to maintain our branch.

“It’s something we have to raise. Our volunteers act as listeners but they are also having to be out there raising money.

“Some companies select a charity to support for 12 months and that would be an ideal scenario for us.”

A significant outlay on upgrading computers has put a further strain on the budget. The upgrade was necessary as Samaritans now keeps details of all its conversations on computer.

“Some companies do not select a charity to support for 12 months and that would be an ideal scenario for us.”

ENTRIES are still being sought for a competition to find Sandwell’s strongest man.

The event will be held at Sandwell Valley Country Park in West Bromwich on August 30 and 31 as part of the Sandwell Show.

Disciplines for 2015 include the giant dumb bell press, overhead log lift, giant tyre flip, and tractor pull.

Three training sessions will be held at Hadley Stadium in Smethwick over the next three Sundays from 9:45am to 11:45am.

Mike Childs, duty manager at Hadley Stadium Leisure Centre, said: “It’s always a great spectacle and records seem to fall every year as the entrants get faster and stronger.

Tens of thousands of enthusiastic spectators watched and cheered last year and that definitely charged the competitors and made them even more up for it.”

It is £20 to enter and there are two weight categories.

Dudley Chronicle
Thursday, August 13, 2015

Tribute to family man motorcyclist, aged 52

Stewart Hollyoake — had fallen in love with motorbikes

‘He was loving and helpful — the type of bloke who would always be there for you if you were in trouble.’

These are the words of Wayne Shaw as he paid tribute to his brother-in-law Stewart Hollyoake, following his tragic death in a motorbike crash.

Biking fanatic Mr Hollyoake, 52, was killed last month in an accident in Shropshire.

Mr Shaw, 50, said engineer Mr Hollyoake had fallen in love with motorbikes late in life, having only gained his licence in his 40s.

But his love of being out on the road took over from all his other hobbies.

Mr Hollyoake died in an accident on the B4368 between Craven Arms and Bridgnorth on July 31 at 4.50pm.

Mr Shaw, of Tilston Drive, Brierley Hill, married to Mr Hollyoake’s sister Joanne, said: “Stewart loved his family. He lived life how he wanted to live it and was a proud man. He looked after his mum.

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Knife attacker locked up in secure hospital

A HOODED attacker who stabbed a shopkeeper 11 times has been locked up indefinitely in a secure hospital.

A court heard David Dean – diagnosed as a paranoid schizophrenic after a lifetime of drug abuse – poses a serious risk to the public.

The 45-year-old used a knife in a savage, unprovoked assault on Purushottam Lal, who was working alone in News and Booze, Bilston, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

Dean burst into the shop at around 9.30pm on December 21.

The 71-year-old victim was repeatedly stabbed but bravely grabbed a stick while battling to fend off around 40 blows of the blade, the court heard.

The attacker finally fled, leaving Mr Lal suffering potentially lethal wounds and requiring surgery on his chest, knee and hand.

Dean was described as fit to plead to a charge of attempted murder because of the state of his mental health.

A jury took just 47 minutes to unanimously decide he was the attacker and found him guilty at an earlier hearing.

Dean, of Hollowtree Street, Mountssor Close, appeared at Wolverhampton Crown Court, where Judge John Wait ordered him to be detained indefinitely in secure accommodation under a Hospital Order.

The court heard that Dean was suffering from paranoid schizophrenia triggered by an abuse of heroin, cocaine and other drugs, that had taken place from the age of 10.

He is under treatment at the Reaside Hospital after being diagnosed with a psychotic illness.

Two psychiatrists reported Dean was under treatment at the Reaside Hospital after being diagnosed with a psychotic illness.

Community is praised for its floral efforts

A COUNCILLOR has praised the community in Amblecote following an impressive display of flowers for its first In Bloom competition entry.

Gardens and shop fronts in Amblecote were transformed with baskets, hanging baskets and pots for the award of the Heart of England judging.

The project was the brainchild of Counsellor Christine Parks who formed a Friends of Amblecote team to take the initiative forward.

Coun Parks was overwhelmed by the backing of the village to get behind their first attempt.

She said: “The day went really well. The village was completely transformed.

“The participation by shop owners was really interesting.

“Many had huge flower pots outside and vases of flowers in the windows.

“We hope to get a good report from the judges but, regardless of what we want to do, it’s bringing the community together and making it look very special.

“For more information on how to get involved with next year’s project contact Coun Parks on 07772 270692 or perkins@e-dialyexpress.co.uk.

A gepartment store from the 1960s has been given the go-ahead.

Interserve plans new HQ

BUDGET supermarket Aldi has unveiled a £500 million expansion which includes hiring 5,000 more staff and opening hundreds of new stores – including one in Lye.

The supermarket is aiming to increase its UK store count to 750 by 2022 as well as open 130 new stores in the two-year planned investment.

Aldi has boomed in recent years and in April overtook Waitrose as the UK’s sixth-biggest supermarket, with a 3.3 per cent slice of the market.

It already has a string of stores across the Black Country and has plans laid for a new store in Oldbury to open in October and a second store in Stafford in November.

It has also secured planning permission for a new store on a former industrial site in Lye, another on the old British Sugar site at Kidderminster and one on the site of the derelict King Arthur pub on Birmingham New Road in Dudley.

The stores usually create 40 full jobs per supermarket.

Black cab drivers in Birmingham are threatening to boycott New Street Station after being told they will have to pay extra fees of up to £1,000 per year to use it.

There were fears that thousands of commuters could be left stranded.

Theaje United Taxi Owners’ Union (JUTO), is meeting with Network Rail bosses over the charges, which the union say could force drivers forced out of business.

A spokesman said: “Drivers already pay a 20p fee to the station every time they pick up a passenger there.

“It also said that drivers had shown great patience in working around the construction site for the last five years.

“Network Rail told us about the new fees, which are being introduced when the station fully opens on September 20, are part of a policy to improve air quality by issuing larger charges for the more polluting cars.

“The general secretary of the trade union said: “None of our taxi driver members will accept Network Rail’s terms.

“The union united and determined that no-one will pay the extra cost for the new fees.

“Instead, drivers will be forced to pick up their rates near the station, meaning that Network Rail’s actions will simply inconvenience passengers by making them walk further to get a taxi.

NEW Street cabbies in boycott threat over pick-up fees

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Barbara, aged 74, is a retired florist, and the couple both spend hours in the garden and have done so since Mr Hall’s first cancer diagnosis in 2005. He battled to beat tongue cancer but was then dealt another blow with a prostate cancer diagnosis.

My Hall, 77, said: “Gardening is good for my health. The gardening isn’t heavy stuff like digging or setting vegetables, it’s just a matter of keeping the lawn and flowers looking nice. “I’m out there every day and so is my wife. If you’re in the garden it takes things off your mind, but if you sit in the house doing nothing or watching television things come up and you worry about them. Cancer can be mentioned on the TV and that gets on your mind.”

Support

Mr Hall also thanked his wife for her unswerving support and said: “If I hadn’t met Barbara I don’t think I would be here today.”

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Former car components inspector Mr Hall met Barbara around a decade ago at Wood Farm Golf and Country club in Essington.
Thousands of pupils attending schools that contain asbestos

THOUSANDS of children in the Black Country are attending schools that still have asbestos in their structure.

Some 86 per cent of schools still contain the substance, which can cause health problems if disturbed. A total of 101 of Dudley’s 107 schools have asbestos. The figure is 69 out of 76 schools in Wolverhampton and 243 of Worcestershire’s 243.

The number of schools is not available for Sandwell but figures show that 46,400 pupils in Sandwell attended schools were asbestos is present. There overall figure is 344,886 pups in the Black Country, Staffordshire and Worcestershire attending schools where there is asbestos.

Asbestos was banned as a building material in 1999 but there is no legal requirement to remove it – and councils insist children are not at risk.

If a person is exposed to asbestos dust during building work it can lead to serious health problems including mesothelioma.

Funding

Campagners say the Government should provide funding for schools to get rid of asbestos.

Councillor Jan Cooper, Dudley’s children’s services chief, said: “Any major programme of complete asbestos removal in our schools would be extremely costly as well as being disruptive to teaching and learning.

Whilst we understand people’s concerns about asbestos, particularly in schools, we would reassure them that we have a robust management programme for regulation and control. It is deemed to be safe if it is in an undamaged condition.

There is also a strict policy which is followed when any building work is carried out at schools. An asbestos survey is carried out before any work is undertaken to ensure the safety of children and staff.”

Last concert for iconic music venue

Top Gun movie night at Merry Hill drive-in

More than 100 arrests made for grooming

MORE than 100 arrests have been made by West Midlands Police in the last five years in connection with online child grooming.

A total of 112 arrests have been made between January 1, 2010 and December 31, 2014, after police dealt with 58 suspected incidents.

These figures refer to cases where an adult over the age of 18 are accused of meeting with a child under the age of 16 after allegedly grooming online.

According to a Freedom of Information request, 18 of the 58 accusations dealt with by West Midlands Police resulted in a charge. The highest number of arrests came in 2012 with 28.

Detective Superintendent Tim Bacon, from West Midlands Police’s Public Protection Unit, said: “The figures relate to a very specific offence: actually meeting children under 16 following grooming where the offender is over 18-years-old. Instances of these crimes are very rare.

"The numbers should not be taken as an indication of the force’s overall approach to tackling child abuse. If used in isolation they will give a much distorted and wholly inaccurate view of the issue as a whole. West Midlands Police have a very proactive approach to targeting online abusers and investigating crimes thoroughly. Our focus is always the victim and their wellbeing.”

“Very professional company the fitters Rich and Keith were absolute gentleman they treated our home with the utmost respect whilst doing an excellent job of our windows and porch.”

Mr Keith Powell

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Margaret Caddick

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Margaret Caddick

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A BRIERLEY Hill manufacturer – 100 per cent owned by its staff – has invested more than £700,000 in a bid to increase its global business.

Alloy Wire, which makes round, flat, shaped profile and electrical resistance wires in a range of nickel alloys, has set its sights on reaching £10 million of annual sales by 2018.

It has boosted its capacity across two sites, in the West Midlands and in Yorkshire.

The company recently put the finishing touches on an investment drive that has seen it install three Zwick tensile and hardness testing machines, PMI material x-ray guns, fully automated multi spindle spooling machine, a five metre strand annealing furnace and a bespoke wire finishing line.

Success

“We’ve had a really good time since the global recession, boosting turnover from £4.5m in 2009 to its current £8m level,” explained Mark Venables, managing director, who led the management buy-out two years ago.

“Our success has been down to our ability to take on small batch quantities, fast response times and the fact we can manufacture in more than 60 different alloys. Now is the right time to build on that success and the significant investment we have made in extending the factory and equipping it with automation and state-of-the-art technology will help us offer an even better product and level of service.”

He added: “It’s not just capital we are spending money on.

“All our 25 staff receive ongoing training and are encouraged to learn new skills that can add value to the business.”

Established in 1946, Alloy Wire is a leading manufacturer of precision drawn round wire, flat wire and shaped wire in a range of high performance and exotic nickel alloys.

Alloy Wire sets sights on £10m sales

The Alloy Wire team celebrate achieving quality accreditations at the Brierley Hill factory of the staff-owned business

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Black Country past brought to life with Sid’s pictures at an exhibition

MEMORY LANE
By Adam Burton

CLUTCHING a second-hand camera and a small bag of belongings, Sid Turner left behind his home city of Liverpool in 1974 to start a new life in the Black Country.

He had signed up to train as a teacher at the old West Midlands College in Walsall – and quickly became fascinated by the area’s industrial landscape and heritage.

Mr Turner went on to teach in a string of local schools, and spent his spare time taking photos of all aspects of Black Country life. Now he has collected the images and is displaying them across the region.

His exhibition, ‘Ghosts’ at Bilston Craft Gallery, has attracted hundreds of people and has been particularly popular among the older generations who recognised landmarks that have long since been demolished.

The 53-year-old was inspired to display the highlights from his collection of thousands of photos after realising how much the area had changed in recent years. And though he accepts there have been some positive developments, he feels the overall impact of changes in the Black Country has been negative.

And he was struck by just how nostalgic people have been when they see his images.

He said: “When we look at old photographs, parents, friends, lovers look back at us, frozen forever in time. It has been quite an emotional experience for a lot of people.”

Mr Turner moved to the Black Country when he started dating a woman from Dudley while he was a member of Liverpool Diving Club. And, apart from Mr Turner as a student in the mid-1970s

Man and boy – a stunning shot of Walsall Market in the mid 1970s, when he always had his camera with him. The odd spell abroad, he has stayed in the area ever since and now lives in Walsall.

Though photography has been one of his main interests, he has also turned his hand to stone masonry, silver work, ceramic art and even clock-making.

After being made redundant from his job as a stenographer, he turned to teaching.

As he had qualifications in both art and design, and chemistry and physics, Mr Turner ended up teaching science at schools including Darlaston and Walsall comprehensives and Manor Farm.

But throughout his career he has never stopped taking photos of urban scenes. He now works as a surveyor for Birmingham City Council and at one point tried to survive as a professional artist.

Mr Turner is still taking photos every day in between his day job and a project he is running at Birmingham University looking at how metal can be extracted from scrap computers.

His ceramic work has been exhibited in galleries in France and Prague, as well as the Wedgwood gallery in Stoke.

In 2002 he lived in China for a year, where a friend had already set up a new life, and started a clock-making business.

But within a year he had returned to the Black Country, where he says his heart lies.

Mr Turner’s love of photography started when, as a five-year-old, he used his father’s old Brownie box camera to capture images of birds in the garden.

He joined Liverpool Photography Society during his teens but always focused on rural landscapes.

He said: “I wish I had taken some more of Liverpool in the 1960s and 70s as they might have been worth a few bob now, but I was trying to do more artistic shots.”

When he arrived in the Black Country, though, he noticed how the towns and communities were defined by factories and steel plants.

A typical snowy scene in Hollies Drive, Wednesbury during the winter of 1978

Wolverhampton, from The Rock in Tettenhall, in the 1980s

Mr Turner’s favourite image, Ocker Hill, with the now-demolished power station visible
Charity marks move with Mary’s award

A CHARITY boss was all smiles after she picked up an award for her long-service working at an organisation that helps families.

Mary Turner has worked at Home-Start Dudley for 20 years and her hard work was recognised at a three-day training event. She was a founding member of the family support charity and continues to work for the organisation as chairwoman.

The award comes shortly after the Dudley team moved from their old offices at Dudley Court North to a new base on The Waterfront at Brierley Hill.

Previously, they shared a building with children’s charity Barnardo’s but have now moved in with Age UK Dudley.

Home-Start Dudley provides support to families who have children under five across the Dudley borough. The charity also helps families with disabled children, parents who have multiple births and those that may face difficulty with parenting.

Mary Turner said: “It’s been a good 20 years because we’re all as committed to providing a good service to all of our referrals. The chief executive of Home-Start UK presented the award at the end of a three-day training event and it was a complete surprise, I had no idea. He said he was going to embarrass someone and then it turned out to be me.”

The 73-year-old added: “It’s a wonderful service because we are able to go into the family home and support them with what they feel needs.

“But we’re continually looking for volunteers that can help us raise money so we can provide support to all of the people that we need to.”

She was presented with a framed certificate and floral bouquet.
New Year in Chester with a visit to Liverpool
Three days departing December 30

**PRICE FROM £179**

Visit two fascinating cities in the north west plus bring in the new year with a gala dinner and celebrations till midnight.

Chester is one of the best preserved cities in Britain which is famed for its black and white architecture. The Roman and medieval walls extend for three kilometres to form an almost complete circuit around the city - they are entirely walkable and offer remarkable views.

Other landmarks which make the city unique include the Rows, a galleried tier of shops dating back to medieval times, the Roman Amphitheatre, the Victorian Eastgate clock plus the beautiful red sandstone cathedral.

In Liverpool, Albert Dock has been part of the landscape for over 160 years and boasts magnificent architecture, with the largest group of Grade I-listed buildings in the UK. It is also home to a number of modern attractions including Tate Liverpool, the Maritime Museum (both with free admission), the award-winning Beatles story - the largest permanent attraction in the world dedicated to the fab four, and of course, not forgetting the world famous Mersey Ferries (entrances payable locally).

On New Year’s day an optional excursion is offered to Chester Zoo. With over 11,000 animals and 110 acres of award-winning zoological gardens, it’s one of the best zoos in the world.

**PRICE INCLUDES**
- Return coach travel
- Two nights half-board accommodation
- Full day New Year’s Eve party
- Visit to Liverpool
- Visit to Chester
- Optional Chester Zoo excursion offered
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0052)

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Emmerdale Tour
Two days departing Sept 26 and Oct 11

**PRICE FROM £149**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Visit to the Emmerdale filming set on the Harewood Estate with a guided 90-minute walking tour
- Visit to Esholt - original ‘Emmerdale village’ including a stop at the ‘Woopack’
- Visit to Halifax village and the Salt’s Mill
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Yorkshire Holidays (ABTA W787X)

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Christmas at Chatsworth
Two days departing November 14

**PRICE FROM £119**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Entrance to Chatsworth house and gardens
- Visit to Meadowhall Shopping Centre
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0052)

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Classical Spectacular at the Royal Albert Hall
Two days departing November 22

**PRICE FROM £139**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
- Leisurely coach tour to the concert
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Holidays (ABTA V787X)

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Saturday Night London Theatre
Go as you please
Two days departures most weekends

**PRICE FROM £99.95**

- Ticket for the Saturday evening performance of a West End show of your choice
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation at a choice of four-star London hotels
- Option to depart on a Friday or Sunday also offered
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782)

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York, Harrogate and the Yorkshire Dales
Four days departing October 16

**PRICE FROM £209**

- Return coach travel
- Three nights half-board accommodation
- Full day in York
- Scenic coach tour of the Yorkshire Dales stopping at Grassington and Pateley Bridge
- Visit to Skipton, Harrogate and Haworth
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0052)

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The Pickering 1940’s Weekend
Two days departing October 17

**PRICE FROM £89.95**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Visits to Pickering and Scarborough
- Optional North Yorkshire Moors Railway excursion
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0052)

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Colourful Cornwall, St Ives, Padstow and Falmouth
Four days departing Oct 2 and 2016 dates*

**PRICE FROM £229**

- Return coach travel
- Three nights half-board accommodation
- Visit to Falmouth, St Ives, Padstow and Penzance
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

* This break also departs on March 18, April 1, May 16, July 8 and September 30, 2016

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0052)

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Enchanting Scottish Homes and Castles
Five days departing October 25

**PRICE FROM £349**

- Return coach travel
- Four nights half-board accommodation
- Visit to Floors Castle
- Guided tour of Drumlanrig Castle
- Visit to the New Lanark World Heritage Site
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0052)

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Disneyland® Paris
Bonfire and Fireworks
Three days departing November 1

**PRICE FROM £199**

- Return coach travel and Channel crossings
- Two nights bed and breakfast accommodation at Disneyland® Hotel Santa Fe
- One day Hop-on ticket to both Disneyland® and Walt Disney Studios® Park
- Services of a tour representative

*Based on two adults sharing, children aged 3-11 from £119 (conditions apply)
Please note this trip cannot be booked online

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

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Krakow
Four days various departure dates 2015/16

**PRICE FROM £399**

- Return flights
- Three nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- Guided sightseeing tour of Krakow
- Visit to the castle district
- Visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau (included but optional)
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430)

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Lake Garda
Venice and Verona
Eight days various departure dates 2015/16

**PRICE FROM £599**

- Return flights
- Seven nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- Guided sightseeing tours of Venice and Verona
- Visit to the Dolomites (with an optional cable car ride available locally)
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430)
Amsterdam, Delft and the Girl with the Pearl Earring

Four days departing October 16

**PRICE FROM £269**

After completing her world tour, which attracted 2.2 million viewers, the ‘Girl with a Pearl Earring’ has returned to her newly refurbished home at the Mauritshuis Museum.

Painted by the master of light, Johannes Vermeer, around 1665, she is one of the stars of the Dutch Golden Age and continues to fascinate historians, novelists and filmmakers alike.

A visit is included to the Mauritshuis Museum in the Hague where some 800 unique works by Dutch and Flemish masters from the Golden Age can be seen. The star attraction is undoubtedly Vermeer’s enigmatic ‘Girl with a Pearl Earring’ and ‘The Goldfinch’ by Carel Fabritius a close second. This is followed by a visit to Delft, one of the prettiest cities in Holland and birthplace of Vermeer, for some free time.

A full day is spent in the Netherland’s capital city, Amsterdam. Built on a network of canals this is a beautiful place to explore. Maybe take a stroll alongside the water, across quaint bridges and through the streets with their grand facades.

For a great way to see the city canal cruises are also available. Another highlight is The Rijksmuseum and there are also numerous diamond factories for which the city is famous. (Entrance fees payable locally.)

**Paddy Power Gold Cup**

Two days departing November 14

**PRICE FROM £99**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Visit to Bath
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

**York, Harrogate and the Yorkshire Dales**

Four days departing October 16

**PRICE FROM £209**

- Return coach travel
- Three nights half-board accommodation
- Full day in York
- Scenic coach tour of the Yorkshire Dales stopping at Grassington and Pateley Bridge
- Visits to Skipton, Harrogate and Haworth
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

**Saturday Night Theatre by rail**

Two days departures most weekends

**PRICE FROM £159.95**

- Return standard class rail travel to London (upgrade offered)
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation at a choice of four-star London hotels
- Ticket for the Saturday evening performance of a West End show of your choice
- Free time in London
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Please note the “from” price and price bands vary for each show Organised by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4762)

**Poldark’s Cornwall**

Four days departing October 2

**PRICE FROM £259**

- Return coach travel
- Three nights half-board accommodation
- Visit to the Poldark mine for a tour
- Visit to the Smugglers Museum
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

**HRH The Prince of Wales’s Gardens at Highgrove**

Two days departing October 4

**PRICE FROM £149**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Tour of the gardens at Highgrove
- Tour of the Cotswolds with visits to Stow-on-the-World and Bourton-on-the-Water
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

**Elvis Exhibition at The O2 London**

Two days departing October 24

**PRICE FROM £115**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Ticket to the Elvis exhibition at the O2
- Free time in central London
- Visit to Greenwich
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

**Yorkshire Cruise and Steam**

Three days departing October 9

**PRICE FROM £169**

- Return coach travel
- Two nights half-board accommodation
- Visits to Harrogate, Skipton, Grassington and Haworth
- Cruise on the Leeds Liverpool Canal
- Journey on the Keighley and Worth Valley Railway
- Coach tour of the Yorkshire Dales
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

**London Weekend by rail**

Two days various departure dates

**PRICE FROM £129.95**

- Return standard class rail travel (upgrade offered)
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation at a choice of four-star London hotels
- Free time in London
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Three-day option also offered from £158.95 Organised by Omega Short Breaks (ABTA Y5314)

**Santander and Green Spain**

Six days various departure dates 2016

**PRICE FROM £429**

- Return flights
- Five nights half-board accommodation
- Guided tour of Santander
- Excursion taking in the Picos de Europa national park
- Two optional excursions offered
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Air Holidays (ABTA V7812, ATOL 2325)

**Bruges by Eurostar**

Four days various departure dates 2015/16

**PRICE FROM £279**

- Return standard class seat on Eurostar
- Return rail connection to London
- Return coach transfers overseas
- Three nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- Guided walking tour of Bruges
- Visit to Ypres and the First World War battlefields
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Curtain entrance fees payable locally Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V47144)

**Paris and the Moulin Rouge**

Four days departing October 16

**PRICE FROM £389**

- Return coach travel and Eurostar crossing
- Three nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- Entrance to the Moulin Rouge to see the show with a half bottle of champagne, wine or a non-alcoholic drink
- Sightseeing tour of Paris by coach
- Evening meal in a Parisian restaurant
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

**STAR EXTRA TRAVEL**, the travel department of the Express & Star, offers a wide range of short breaks and holidays. For your security, our tour operators are members of ABTA – the Travel Association and hold an ATOL (Air Travel Organisers Licence) for holidays by air. Prices are per person (unless otherwise stated). Please note Star Extra Travel is unable to take bookings over the telephone. Please read brochures/web pages for full description plus terms and conditions. Dates subject to availability. Coach pick up points offered: Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton (with the exception of holidays by air, Eurostar and certain cruises).
A CHOR will take to the stage at one of the West Midlands’ most prestigious venues next month for a charity fundraiser.

Members of the Got 2 Sing choir in Wolverhampton will perform a catalogue of British hits from the likes of Queen, The Beatles and Elton John to raise money for Stourbridge charity Mary Stevens Hospice.

The gig, on September 20, will be the second time the group has performed at the venue after an appearance in 2013. The singers have spent hours rehearsing for the event.

Founder and director of Got 2 Sing, Beth Dunn, said: “If it is anything like our last performance at the Symphony Hall it will be a wonderful concert.”

The Wolverhampton choir will be joined by seven other Got 2 Sing choirs – 420 members in total – from across the West Midlands, Shropshire and Hereford.

The charity, Mary Stevens Hospice, offers specialist care for people living with cancer and other life-limiting illnesses who are unlikely to be cured, with cancer and other life-limiting illnesses who are unlikely to be cured, with cancer and other life-limiting illnesses who are unlikely to be cured, with cancer and other life-limiting illnesses who are unlikely to be cured, with cancer and other life-limiting illnesses who are unlikely to be cured, with cancer and other life-limiting illnesses who are unlikely to be cured, with cancer and other life-limiting illnesses who are unlikely to be cured.

These services are provided free to those who need them throughout the Dudley borough, as well as parts of South Staffordshire, Wyre Forest, Sandwell, Hereford and Worcestershire.

Tickets for the concert on cost £20 (adults) and £16 (under 16s) and can be purchased from the Symphony Hall at www.thsh.co.uk. Further details can be found at www.got2sing.co.uk
ITALIAN DOLOMITES
With breathtaking scenery each and every way you turn, this region offers a superb scenic holiday!

PRICE INCLUDES:
Modern Coach Travel
2 Nights – France, bed & breakfast basis
6 Nights – Paganella Hotel, Half board basis
Free bar in resort – 6pm until 10.30pm
Visits to Merano, Riva del Garda, Brenta Dolomites Mountain range & Lake Molveno

DATES PRICES
Friday 4 September £599.00

Dogs of War
New musical Dogfight preview – See Page 27

Mica Paris and Shaun Williamson star in Love Me Tender – Page 27

Cruise to Bruges & Paris
4 Days – Only £209.00!!

PRICE INCLUDES:
Modern Coach Travel
1 Night Private Cabin Accommodation
2 Nights 4* Novotel Hotel – Bed & breakfast basis
Visit to Bruges
Transfers into central Paris
Short Tour of Paris

DATES PRICES
Sunday 27 December £209.00

Knaresborough Christmas Market, Harrogate & Steam Train Special
PRICE INCLUDES:
Modern Coach Travel
2 Nights – Mercure Wetherby
Breakfast Each Morning
Dinner Saturday
Visit to Harrogate & Knaresborough Christmas Market
Visit to Haworth & Santa Steam Train Special

DATES PRICES
Friday 4 December £149.50

For full listings see Express & Star every Friday

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4 Nights – Marriott Meon Valley – Half Board
Visit to Oxford
Visit to Lyndhurst, Christchurch & Lymington
Visit to Portsmouth including Boat Cruise
Visit to Winchester & Southampton

DATE PRICE
Monday 26 October £315.00

ITALIAN DOLOMITES
With breathtaking scenery each and every way you turn, this region offers a superb scenic holiday!

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Modern Coach Travel
2 Nights – France, bed & breakfast basis
6 Nights – Paganella Hotel, Half board basis
Free bar in resort – 6pm until 10.30pm
Visits to Merano, Riva del Garda, Brenta Dolomites Mountain range & Lake Molveno

DATE PRICE
Friday 4 September £599.00

CRUISE TO BRUGES & PARIS
4 DAYS – ONLY £209.00!!

PRICE INCLUDES:
Modern Coach Travel
1 Night Private Cabin Accommodation
2 Nights 4* Novotel Hotel – Bed & breakfast basis
Visit to Bruges
Transfers into central Paris
Short Tour of Paris

DATE PRICE
Sunday 27 December £209.00

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FOR YOUR FREE BROCHURES - NEW FESTIVE BROCHURE NOW OUT
VISIT WWW.LEONSHOLIDAYS.CO.UK
Cloud Atlas

Sunday, 7pm
Robin 2

Cloud Atlas, The Classic Rock Society's best newcomer of 2014, is the new project from Heidi Widdop (Mostly Autumn, Stolen Earth). It is emotional, dark rock.
Visit www.theorbin.co.uk

The Fratellis

Thursday, 7.30pm
O2 Academy, B'ham
The Glasgow trio are back with a new album. Eyes Wide, Tongue Tied, the sound of a band at its peak. It's packed full of fun, is vibrant with energetic soul, an album that oozes confidence.
Visit www.02academybirmingham.co.uk

Joyce Sims

Thursday, 8pm
The Jam House, B'ham
A gifted singer/songwriter, musician, and producer. New Yorker Joyce Sims became one of the brightest Divas during the late 80s and continues to make music today.
Visit www.thejamhouse.com

Hamlet

Friday, 6pm
Wightwick Manor, W'ton
Join the Prince of Denmark as he battles his inner demons and seeks to overthrow his late father. This is the second night for this production at Wightwick Manor.
Visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk
Paris Presley connection

SHE’S loving the show. Mica Paris, a soul star whose speed dial has featured Prince, Mary J Blige, Dionne Warwick and Natalie Cole, is thrilled to be starring in Love Me Tender.

The travelling production of the musical inspired by the music of Elvis Presley has been visiting towns and cities across the UK since June, and from August 24 to 29 will be staged at Birmingham’s New Alexandra Theatre.

“It’s wicked,” says Mica, one of the UK’s most respected female singers with a career of Top 10 hit singles and albums worldwide.

“We’re laughing every night. For someone who was running in the opposite direction to the theatre, suddenly I love it...”

Ah yes, but we forget. Mica has a track record in theatre, well, sort of. Twenty-odd years ago, she starred in two West End Shows; She’s Loving The Show. Me And Sweets were both successful, but, strangely, served only to convince Mica that her future lay anywhere but on stage.

“The last time I did a play was 20 years ago and as much as everybody loved it, I wasn’t mentally prepared for it. I was much younger then, so I couldn’t cope.”

Mica has changed her mind. And she’s glad she did. But she hasn’t turned her back on recording. She’s been working on new material.

“We’re laughing every night”

Reggae veterans to get a dub makeover

WOLVERHAMPTON reggae legends Capital Letters are set to release a completely re-recorded album to their latest record, which was named after their home city.

Earlier this year, the reunited reggae group, based out of Wolverhampton to critical acclaim. The album’s title track, about the city where the group formed back in 1971, has received radio play across Europe.

The group are to release a digital download called Wolverhampton in Dub” on October 16. The band is led by Junior Brown and Lukas Dalby. The new release will focus on the work of producer Dave ‘Old-wah’ Sandford.

TV comedy talent coming to marquee

A COMEDY club in Stourbridge celebrating its first birthday next month has announced a host of TV names will be performing there in future months.

Pitz of Laughter Comedy Club moves to a monthly Friday night slot from September in a marquee at Katie Fitzgerald’s, Enville Street. Headliner at the anniversary gig on September 11 is former Xtra Factor host Matt Richardson. Top of the bill on October 2 is Lain Stirling, from TV’s The Dog Ate My Home-work, Ainhoa Kelly – Kenny Star in Peter Kay’s Phoenix Nights – appears on November 13. See www.wegottickets.com/comedy/event/328539

Rock ’n’ roll band to play for charity

A ROCK ’n’ roll band playing pop hits from the 1950s and 1960s are to perform at a village hall near Wolverhampton.

Rev Peggs and his All Star Rock ’n’ Roll Band will be appearing at Blakedown Parish Hall, Belfrounton Road, for their nostalgic gig on Saturday. Recent shows in Blakedown and Stourbridge were both sell-outs.

Accompanying music scene veteran Rev Peggs will be Dutch Lewis on sax, pedal steel guitarist Maurice Hopkins, Red Kelly on keyboard, Roy Parry on bass and Ken Wright drums.

Profits will be donated to Age Concern. Doors open at 8pm. Tickets are £12, call Ken Cowdery on 01384 392569.
When the chips are down, things grill only get better

By Andy Richardson

The Granary Grill offers a delightful dining room, great service and an uncompli cated menu. The execution of dishes is okay, but not great. Minor refinements and finessing of dishes would make a big difference. It’s the tiniest of tweaks here and there, more accurate seasonings, bet ter cooking, you know the drill – just don’t order the chips.

WHAT’S that splat? The Queen of Puds was looking dismissively at her plate, as though a seagull had pooped right in the centre. “What splat?” “That one there, look.” She pointed to a rubbery square on her plate. It looked like a white-chocolate-jelly and added nothing to an otherwise decent dish.

“That, that splat. Oh My God, you’re not going to put that in the review, are you?” And she clamped her hand to her mouth, as though to prevent any more words from falling out.

The Queen Of Puds has been absent from reviewing duties for a year. Bringing babies into the world has denied us of her entertain ing presence. But she returned with a vengeance during a dinner a deux at The Granary Grill, in Weston Park.

Our starters were decent, if unremarkable. I ate a warm, sautéed new potato salad with pancetta lardons, cherry tomatoes and roast garlic, while The Queen of Puds tackled a deep fried avocado with a blue cheese dressing. The salad was reasonable, though the potatoes lacked any crunch or crispy skin. It’s not down to poor service.

The Granary Grill is an delightfully located dining room, right in the heart of the Weston Park Estate. Light and airy and offering views over a courtyard and pretty garden, it’s a sophisticated steak joint for those willing to travel out of town. Somehow, it’s never quite captured the public imagination in the way that similar venues have.

The reason for that is hard to discern, but it’s not down to poor service.

Our mains were better. The Queen of Puds ate the fish of the day, a generous sea bass fillet that had been cooked beautifully. It was arguably the stand-out dish. I ordered the hickory smoked sticky spiced pork ribs with chips and a garnish. The ribs were great – a treat. The pot of accompanying sauce was delightful. Synchronously sweet, spicy and hot, it added peppery piquancy to a damn good dish.

But the chips were dreadful. There were five of them. You, five. They came in a sad bowl, looking like giants’ amputated fingers. One potato, sliced five ways and served in a saucer, looking like a white-chocolate-jelly.

And so would The Queen of Puds. But she had other things on her mind. Dessert. And she was on record-breaking, Olympic Gold Dessert Medal-Winning form. As we went for five. Every dish on the menu was consumed, namely potted peach with ricotta ice cream and fresh raspberries, a rhubarb and apple galette served with decent ice cream and the pick of the bunch. And, finally, summer berries.

The Granary Grill offers a delightful dining room, great service and an uncompli cated menu. The execution of dishes is okay, but not great. Minor refinements and finessing of dishes would make a big difference. It’s the tiniest of tweaks here and there, more accurate seasonings, better cooking, you know the drill – just don’t order the chips.
The Saturday Night Story (ITV, 8pm)
The Saturday Night Story is a British television drama series that aired from 1969 to 1972. The show was written by Roy Clarke and starred Dicken Lovejoy, and it centered around the working-class life of a family in the slums of London. The series was known for its gritty realism and for its portrayal of the everyday struggles of working-class life.

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**TV Listings**

**SUNDAY**

**6:00** BBC One

**6:45** Channel 4

**8:00** Channel 4

**8:30** Channel 4

**9:00** BBC One

**9:00** Channel 4

**9:30** BBC One

**10:00** BBC One

**10:00** Channel 4

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**08:00** Channel 4

**08:30** Channel 4

**09:00** Channel 4

**09:30** Channel 4

**10:00** Channel 4

**10:30** Channel 4

**11:00** Channel 4
The former boy band member and his girlfriend, singer-songwriter Vicky Fallon, try to start their own small holding in Wales, despite having no experience in farming. In the first episode, they seek advice from the residents of an eco village, go looking for suitable land and make their first attempt to buy livestock at auction.
**Famous faces take a trip down memory lane**

Rock on Tommy – he’s a chance to relive some of the best moments of Saturday Night Live. TV has delivered over the decades. Actually, it’s odd how… that some of the best moments to feature on TV’s shows, because this is really just a low-budget way to up fill the schedules while the broadcaster’s gaze twist a good, old-fashioned, on the ball. Last December, Michael Grade hosted a rather more serious in-depth programme entitled The Fight for Saturday Night TV over on BBC Four. For the idea was the man to change, basically because he’d been in the game all of his life, doing battle for both the Beeb and TV at different times in his career. The documentary examined how a country’s busy evening schedules had become such a battleground over the years, and that it was a war for ratings that was still raging, with the weightlessness – Strictly Come Dancing and The X Factor – currently occupying the biggest purhces.

Over the years, TV has probably lost the best out of the two stations, perhaps glitz, glamour and flashy lights or more easily on the first choice, don’t make it hard for them, or don’t make it hard for them. We’re not sure we’d want it to, either.

So while Strictly may have burned the board by pummelling Simon Cowell’s all-singing jaqulimatto into submission during the past few years, overall, TV’s has featured more light entertaining, tasty TV and more than a bit of a shrug at.

And there’s one woman who will certainly feature highly in this short series, if they have been produced before Cilla Black’s sudden death a fortnight ago, but as she had been a stalwart of Saturday nights on TV without Blid, Dale, you can bet she’ll pop up before too long.

But there are plenty more celebrities and their programmes featured here. Rock on Tommy – the words that open this article – is, of course, the once-famous catchphrase of Bobby Ball, and were always spoken to his comedy partner Tommy Cannon, usually accompanied by a pull on his brightly coloured braces.

They were popular everywhere from the age of 5 to 95, and had a part in that from the late 1970s to 1980s. It turned them from being popular on the comedy circuit into major stars and household names.

They’re among the famous faces offering their opinions on Saturday night folly here, along the likes of Art and Dec, Jonathan Ross, Vernon Kay, Bruce Forsyth, Dermot O’Leary, Graham Norton, Mel Giedroyc, Alan Carr, Keith Lemon and many more.

Can we do without the only celebrities to become well-known thanks to TV as Gladiators’ bad boy Wolf will tell you.

He and glamorous Jet are supplied by Ulrika Jonsson in Birmingham to talk about the programme’s popularity, while Henry Kie and MatthewKelly relay the excitement they had while making Game For A Laugh.

Expect more fun and games from next week’s concluding episode.

**MONDAY**

**The Scandalous Lady W** BBC1, 9pm

Her role in Game of Thrones and The Tudors mean she’s no stranger to tales of sex and intrigue, so who better to take the lead in this one-off period drama than Natalie Dormer? It tells the remarkable true story of Seymour, Lady Worsley, who, at the age of 18, had an 18th-century affair with what is now her husband Sir Richard Worsley (Endeavour’s Shaun Evans) for his best friend George Bisset (Aneurin Barnard, who was recently seen in Cilla). Her spouse was so outraged by this tur of events that he decided to seek compensation from her lover by defiling his ‘possession’. However, Lady Worsley was about to create another scandal as she exposed the secrets of her marriage, in the process challenging ideas about a woman’s worth.

**Revenge Porn** Channel 4, 10pm

Anna Richardson goes to extraordinary lengths to investigate what happens when someone maliciously shares intimate photos of another person without their consent. Anna meets the victims of such actions, talks to experts and confronts the perpetrators of these crimes, the effects of which can have devastating and life-changing consequences. As she digs deeper, she discovers a community of men who take pleasure in threatening and shaming women online and decides to place herself at the epicentre of the revenge porn phenomenon.

**TUESDAY**

**School Swap – The Class Divide** ITV, 9pm

Part one of two. Cameras follow a private head, his state school counterpart and six of their pupils. They spend a week in each other’s worlds. Does private really give parents and pupils a first-class advantage, and does a state education really mean second rate? This documentary attempts to unpick the educational gap dividing Britain’s two school systems. In the first episode, headmaster Mark Mortimer and his trio of pupils from the 400-pupil private boarding establishment Winmarleigh School visit the 700-pupil state secondary Barrow School in Darby, run by Jo Ward.

**WEDNESDAY**

**Return of the Giant Killers: Africa’s Lion Kings** BBC2, 9pm

Lions have been in the news lately after the death of Casi, a big cat who had been a leading attraction at a national park in Zimbabwe until he was killed by hunters. However, in this documentary, which catches up with the pride featured in Africa’s Giant Killers: Natural World, the lions are definitely the hunters rather than the prey. They do two things though, as the start of the rainy season sees a power struggle amongst the males and a challenge from a rival pride, while an inexperienced mum puts her cub in danger, and a lightning strike leads to fires burning day and night. It seems the cats have only one option if they are to avoid starvation – they have to take down an elephant.

**THURSDAY**

**Building the Ancient City** BBC2, 8pm

The ever-present reality shows are taking the best of the ancient cities of Rome and Athens. He begins with in Greece, where 2,500 years ago, Athens gave birth to the idea of a city run by free citizens, with every aspect of daily life - from finance to waste disposal - controlled by a king, but by the people. This led to a system of open government, and the first constitution laying down the rights of citizens - almost 2,000 years before Britain’s Magna Carta.

FRIDAY

**Kate Price: In Therapy** Channel 5, 9pm

The TV personality and glamour model undergoes an intense month of psychological evaluations, conducted by Claudia Bembr, a leading expert in women’s mental health. Interweaving her life story with scientific assessments and the views of those who know Kate best, this documentary aims to help her discover what toll 20 years in the public eye has taken on her emotional wellbeing and make sense of her turbulent career and personal life.

The Best of Bad TV Channel 5, 10pm

The series charting TV continues with a look at 2000s, a decade which brought the rise of the reality star and dubious game show formats. Last in the series.

**BEST OF THE REST**

Ant & Dec feature, The Saturday Night Story, Saturday, ITV, 8pm

**WIN A SHARE OF £35,000 FOR YOUR COMMUNITY GROUP**

**Fancy a slice of our dream prize fund?**

The Express & Star has teamed up with HomeLife and are giving away an astounding £35,000 to local community groups.

From charities to support groups, youth clubs to sports teams, we’ll be accepting applications from organisations wishing to take part in our Cash For Your Community campaign.

Look out for the registration forms in-paper and online at www.expressandstar.com/cfc from Monday, August 17. A maximum of only 150 organisations can be involved so it’s crucially you act fast and register.

**Registration starts in-paper and online Monday, August 17**
PUZZLES

BRAIN GYM
No.337

Codeword
Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.

Double Crossword
Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:


Quick Clues:


Last week’s solutions:
Across 1 Northern Territory; 2 The Boston Strangler; 3 Cheese; 4 Desdemona; 5 A.A. Milne; 6 Venice; 7 Florence; 8 High speed train; 9 Elba; 10 Sweden.

Niner: BLOOMHEAD

Sudoku

Thinking space

Quiz
1. What was the nickname of Baron von Richtofen? 2. With which city do you associate the Raffles hotel? 3. Which monarch is found on a Penny Black stamp? 4. Who was the Indian boy in Kipling’s Jungle Books? 5. Who wrote The Ginger Man?

Niner
Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

Solutions:
349945 gives a dog, 57648 gives a bird, 217 gives a snake.

Quiz:
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Solutions:
349945 gives a dog, 57648 gives a bird, 217 gives a snake.
Extended family semi with four bedrooms

This distinctive, highly individual 2B ed App ar tment/Semi-Detached provides semi detached GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED with a mixture of new and existing reception rooms. These include Lounge, Kitchen, First Floor Bathroom, First Floor Shower Room, three bedrooms, en suite, dressing room, wall tiling, spot lighting, lobby, laundry, bedroom one en suite, dressing room/bedroom four, two further bedrooms, a bathroom, garage and garden and garden store/workshop.

Call 01384 261997 or visit the website at www.gandtproperties.co.uk

Cul-de-sac location for three-bedroom detached

This modern three-bed-roomed detached property in Bridie Grove, West Bromwich, has a pleasant cul-de-sac location. It is for sale through Paul Dubberley at £245,000.

With majority double glazing and central heating, it has an entrance hallway, a lounge/diner with a gas fire and patio doors, a kitchen with cooker, hob and extractor, a ground-floor WC, utility room, three bedrooms, en-suite and first-floor family bathroom.

It also has a driveway, a garage and a rear garden with lawn and patio area and a gate to the side.

For further information call Paul Dubberley on 0121 5220113 or visit www.pauldubberley.co.uk

WOLLASTON

THE MILL YARD

This distinctive, highly individual 2 Bed Apartment/Semi-Detached Bungalow provides Semi detached GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accommodation. It is for sale as an IDEAL INVESTMENT, currently producing £40 pm ex 12 month AST and is very conveniently positioned in this well known address. Lounge, fitted, spacious Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, One with En-suite, Fitted Shower Room, W.C., 2 very well proportioned Bedrooms, Fitted Bathrooms and off road parking to the rear.

Offers around £129,950

KINGSWINFORD

ROKEWOOD CLOSE

This particularly lovely, newly improved and attractively appointed Modern 4 Bed Detached 4 Bed Detached in G&(T) Propertieskd. It provides large living accommodation. The property is well presented and provides spacious well planned GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the First Time Buyer or larger family. Forefronts boasts spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Double Bedroom, fitted Bathroom with shower, upstairs large second bedroom, fitted bathroom and WC. Warmth provided by central heating and gas fire and patio doors, a spacious rear garden with pleasant rear garden.

Offers around £140,950

BRIERLEY HILL

LIMES AVENUE

Please enquire in this popular and convenient address, this extended 2/3 Bed Semi-detached property provides Semi detached GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED (mostly Upvc) and versatile accom ideal for the First Time Buyer, young family or for those with disabilities.

Lounge, Kitchen, Separate Dining Area, W.C., 3 Good Bedrooms, Fitted Bathroom, Lounge, Attractive Kitchen with electric hob and oven, Utility Room with sink and separate WC, 3 Good Bedrooms, Fitted Bathroom and WC, 2 very well proportioned Bedrooms, Fitted Bathrooms and off road parking to the rear.

Offers around £39,950

PENSNETT

CORBYNS CLOSE

This delightfully presented and extended Modern 3 Bed Semi-Detached provides Semi detached GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accommodation. It sits in a very convenient address, pleasantly situated with distant views to the rear in this popular and very convenient cul-de-sac location. With Lounge with Dining Area, Spacious Reformed and Improved Kitchen, Downstairs W.C., 3 Good Bedrooms, Attractively Fitted Bathrooms, Refitted en-suite and off road parking to front. EPC-C

£159,995 till 4/9/15

PENSNETT

ROKEEY PARK

This 3 Bed Semi-Detached provides Semi detached GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the young family or owner in a popular and convenient address and is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN. Although the property requires certain cosmetic improvements, it offers good sized accommodation. It comprises: Lounge, fitted Kitchen, Spacious Downstairs W.C., Downstairs Shower Room, 3 Good Bedrooms, Refitted Bathrooms and off road parking to front EPC-C/D

Offers around £91,950

NETHERTON

THOMPSON CLOSE

Please enquire in this popular and convenient address, this extended 3 Bed Semi-Detached property provides Semi detached GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the First Time Buyer or larger family. Forefronts boasts spacious Lounge, Attractive Kitchen with electric hob and oven, Utility Room and First Floor Bedroom Four, Downstairs W.C. 3 Good Bedrooms, Refitted Bathrooms with shower, Upstairs large second bedroom, fitted bathroom and WC. Warmth provided by central heating and gas fire and patio doors, a spacious rear garden with pleasant rear garden.

Offers around £128,500

QUARRY BANK

BIRCH AVENUE

Please enquire in this popular and convenient address, this extended 6 Bed Semi-detached property provides Semi detached GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the First Time Buyer or larger family. 

Lounge, Separate Dining Room, Separate Kitchen, 6 Good Bedrooms, Refitted Bathroom, Lounge, Kitchen, Separate Dining Area, W.C., 3 Good Bedrooms, Fitted Bathroom, Lounge, Attractive Kitchen with electric hob and oven, Utility Room with sink and separate WC, 3 Good Bedrooms, Fitted Bathroom and WC, 2 very well proportioned Bedrooms, Fitted Bathrooms and off road parking to the rear.

Offers around £111,950

NETHERTON

NORTH ROAD

This delightfully presented semi-detached family home offers Semi detached GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accommodation. It is situated in a popular and convenient address, this extended 3 Bed Semi-Detached property provides Semi detached GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the First Time Buyer or larger family. Forefronts boasts spacious Lounge, Attractive Kitchen with electric hob and oven, Utility Room and First Floor Bedroom Four, Downstairs W.C. 3 Good Bedrooms, Refitted Bathrooms with shower, Upstairs large second bedroom, fitted bathroom and WC. Warmth provided by central heating and gas fire and patio doors, a spacious rear garden with pleasant rear garden.

Offers around £109,950

NETHERTON

WEST AVENUE

Please enquire in this popular and convenient address, this extended 2 Bed Semi-Detached property provides Semi detached GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accommodation. It is for sale as an IDEAL INVESTMENT, currently producing £40 pm ex 12 month AST and is very conveniently positioned in this well known address. Lounge, fitted, spacious Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, One with En-suite, Fitted Shower Room, W.C., 2 very well proportioned Bedrooms, Fitted Bathrooms and off road parking to the rear.

Offers around £140,950

NEW

NEW

NEW

NEW

NEW

NEW

NEW

NEW
KINGSWINFORD, Beachcroft Road
With an OUTDOOR HEATED SWIMMING POOL, this EXTENDED & EXPENSIVELY IMPROVED, SEMI-DETACHED HOME is well placed. Including a LARGE CONSERVATORY and THREE FIRST FLOOR BEDROOMS, Block paved driveway, GARAGE and an attractive rear garden. EPC D
£244,950

Gornal / Pensnett, Cassandra Close
Delightfully located upon Badgers Rise, this ATTRACTIVELY IMPROVED FOUR BEDROOM DETACHED FAMILY HOME offers an VERY SPACIOUS and WELL APPOINTED layout plus a GOOD SIZED CRETE PRINT STYLE DRIVEWAY, GARAGE and LEVEL, ATTRACTIVE GARDEN. EPC D.
£233,950

NETHERTON, Church Road
***REDUCED FOR QUICK SALE*** VIEW EARLY *** This SUBSTANTIAL & STYLISHLY DECORATED, FOUR BEDROOM, DETACHED PROPERTY comprises: Porch, Hall, Guests Cloakroom, Sitting Room, Dining Room, Breakfast Kitchen, Four Bedrooms (Master En-Suite), Family Bathroom, DOUBLE GARAGE, Garden. EPC D.
Offers in Excess of £219,950

SEDGLEY, Gower Road, Northway
EXTENDED gas centrally heated, double glazed detached with good distant views comprising; enlarged entrance vestibule, 17ft living room, dining room with patio doors to UPVC CONSERVATORY, EXTENDED 18’3” kitchen, play/utility room & shower room. Three bedrooms, two with fitted units, bathroom. Wide garage, sheltered rear garden, block paved foregarden. EPC D. SEDGLEY
Offers in the region of £212,500

WALL HEATH, Windmill Grove
Enjoying this delightful cul de sac address close to excellent schooling, this ATTRACTIVELY IMPROVED THREE BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED HOME offers a very generous and attractively appointed layout, plus a driveway / garage and an attractive, level garden. EPC TBA
£205,000

SEDGLEY, Tipton Road
Spacious, modernised, centrally heated (combi boiler), double-glazed inter war semi detached of character within level walking distance of the Bullring comprising: porch, hall, dining room with bay (original fireplace), separate lounge, verandah, cellar, upgraded kitchen, utility section and cloak. Three bedrooms, bathroom with white suite, lengthy driveway to a detached 19ft brick garage, secluded garden. EPC: E SEDGLEY
Offers in the Region of £189,950

KINGSWINFORD, Standhills Road
A BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED & EXPENSIVELY IMPROVED, SEMI-DETACHED BUNGALOW within this very popular address, offering a very spacious layout with TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS, plus full width driveway, CARPORT and a large, superbly landscaped garden. EPC D
£184,950

DUDLEY, The Broadway
Fantastically presented traditional, UPVC double glazed, gas centrally heated semi-detached which has been extended and much improved by the current owner to a high standard. The property briefly comprises: entrance hallway, through lounge, breakfast room, refitted kitchen, utility, THREE BEDROOMS, enclosed rear garden, driveway to front. EPC: D SEDGLEY
Offers in the region of £174,950

COSELEY, Gough Road
Deceptively spacious, three bedroom end town house situated in a popular area of Colesey, and within range of local amenities & railway station. Extended property benefits from UPVC double glazing, gas central heating, original feature fireplaces, two reception rooms, conservatory, bathroom. Private rear garden. 38 ft garage, two work shops with parking to front & rear. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC: E SEDGLEY
Offers in the Region of £159,950
**SEDGLEY, Northway**

**EXTENDED**, Freehold, gas centrally heated, double glazed detached with flexible room arrangements comprising porch, hallway, living room, dining room, kitchen, two bathrooms, two bedrooms, garage, driveway & parking, since garden. 
EPC: D SEDGLEY

**Offers in the region of £269,000**

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**WOODSETT, Bosworth Close, ‘The Poplars’**

**REMARKABLY SPACIOUS!** Situated upon CORNER PLOT a stylish, double glazed & gas centrally heated DETACHED comporragn, reception hall, dining room, sitting room with bay, separate kitchen with small utility room, ground floor cloakroom, three first floor bedrooms, two shower rooms en-suite, further showerroom, garage, driveway & parking, since garden. 
EPC: D SEDGLEY

**Offers in the region of £249,950**

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**GORNAL WOOD, Brick Kiln Lane**

A consequently maintained comparatively spacious gas centrally heated and upvc double glazed detached family home with open aspect to the front enviably situated in favoured location. **EXTENDED** Ensuite, W.C. with Double shower, Bathroom, Separate Kitchen & Utility room, double garage, separate w.c. & toilet in hall, bedroom with bay, 17’7 x 10’17’ garage, professionally landscaped rear garden. 
EPC: D SEDGLEY

**Offers in the region of £230,000**

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**COSELEY, Marsdin Drive, Hurst Hill**

Gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed detached bungalow to quiet secluded location. Accommodation includes entrance hall, living room, kitchen diner, family bathroom, two bedrooms, garage, driveway & parking, since garden. 
EPC: D

**Offers in the region of £155,000**

---

**PENSNETT, Tamsey Green Road**

**AN IMPRESSIVE DETACHED FAMILY HOME which has MANICALLY PRESENTED and BEAUTIFULLY APPOINTED and re-modelled throughout.** Frontage, entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, two bathrooms, three bedrooms, family room & a LARGE LEVEL, PRIVATE & SUNNY REAR GARDEN. EPC: B

**Offers in the region of £149,950**

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**WORDSLEY, Windsor Grove**

**FORMING part of this very pleasant cul de sac, this SUBSTANTIALLY EXTENDED TRADITIONAL SEMI-DETACHED FAMILY HOUSE is on an excellent location.** The property comprises entrance hall, lounge, 17’ x 12’ living room, fitted large kitchen/diner, utility, 2 bathrooms, five bedrooms, garage, driveway & parking, since garden. 
EPC: D SEDGLEY

**Offers in the region of £149,950**

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**KINGSWINFORD, Rangeways Road**

**LOCATED upon a high elevated** in the popular location of UPPER GORNAL and benefitting from gas centrally heated and either uPVC double or uPVC single glazed semi detached in quiet/convenient location, this HOUSE is a perfect family home. 
**Offers in the region of £122,500**

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**LOWER GORNAL, Elan Close**

**A MODERNISED, GAS CENTRALLY HEATED, AND EITHER uPVC DOUBLE OR UPVC SINGLE GLAZED SEMI DETACHED IN QUIET CONVENIENT LOCATION, this HOUSE is a perfect family home.** 
**Lower Gornal, Elan Close.** Offers in the region of £100,000

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**UPPER GORNAL, Clarence Street**

Fantastically presented, traditional terraced property situated in the popular location of Upper Gornal and benefitting from gas central heating, living room, dining room, kitchen, re-fitted Family bathroom, two bedrooms, front & rear gardens, garage, driveway with ample parking and garage. 
EPC: D SEDGLEY

**Offers in the region of £104,950**

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**LOWESTY WOOD, Glinton Close**

**The Poplars** Situated on CORNER PLOT a stylish, double glazed & gas centrally heated DETACHED comporragn, reception hall, dining room, sitting room with bay, separate kitchen, ground floor cloakroom, three first floor bedrooms, two shower rooms en-suite, further showerroom, garage, driveway & parking, since garden. 
EPC: D SEDGLEY

**Offers in the region of £94,950**

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**COSELEY, Lime Street, Hurst Hill**

**A MODERNISED, GAS CENTRALLY HEATED, AND EITHER uPVC DOUBLE OR UPVC SINGLE GLAZED DETACHED home located in a small secluded cul de sac.** 
**Offers in the region of £122,500**

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**WORDSLEY, Guardians Walk**

**AN IMMACULATE, LUXURY APPOINTED, SECOND FLOOR TWO BEDROOM APARTMENT within this stylish modern development, offering an exceptional layout which is ‘READY TO MOVE INTO’, offering an exceptional layout which is ‘READY TO MOVE INTO’**, plus Allocated Car Parking and Separate Visitor Parking. 
EPC: C

**Offers in the region of £109,950**

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**DUDLEY, Chestnut Avenue**

A good sized semi detached family home benefitting from gas central heating and double glazing and briefly comprising entrance hallway, living room, kitchen-diner. Master bedroom with en-suite, two further bedrooms, ground floor family bathroom, rear living room, driveway with ample parking and garage. EPC: D SEDGLEY

**Offers in the region of £110,950**

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**UPPER GORNAL, Tenacre Lane**

**EXTREMELY STYLISH TERRACED** a newly built & fully refurbished gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed traditional terrace within walking distance of the Village comprising lounge, rear hallway, dining room, utility room, fitted kitchen, three bedrooms, family bathroom, en-suite. 
**Offers in the region of £94,950**

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**COSELEY, Anderleigh Drive**

**CONSCIENTIOUSLY MAINTAINED GROUND FLOOR double glazed flat with allocated & secluded rear garden set at head of cul de sac in a convenient district briefly comprising entrance hallway, kitchen with cream finish units, lounge, utility, double bedroom, bathroom, Allocated parking, garden. **EPC: D SEDGLEY

**Offers in the region of £79,950**
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27 Beckett Street, Bilston
Former Pub Premises Suitable for Conversion to a Convenience Store or Residential Redevelopment
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2 Bedroom Mid Terraced Property
Guide: £58,000-£64,000

The Timbertree, Bradley Heath
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INVESTMENT

36 Dudley Chronicle Thursday, August 13, 2015

*Please note charges may apply in addition to the purchase price on some lots
*For a definition of Guide Price & Reserve price please refer to our catalogue or website

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**Wollaston Gerald Road**
- A beautifully presented modern detached property with double glazing and central heating, and fitted out to a very high standard.
- Briefly comprising of modern fitted kitchen, lounge/diner, family bathroom/WC, driveway and garage.
- Garden to the rear.
- Unfurnished.
- Viewing highly essential.
- No pets.
- No DSS.
- EPC: D
- £750 PCM & fees

**Brierley Hill Swan Street**
- A modern first floor apartment in a block of 5.
- Double glazed, gas central heating.
- Modern kitchen area, lounge, bedroom, family bathroom.
- Available from 1st of May.
- £500 PCM & fees

**Dudley Priory Street**
- A modern first floor apartment.
- Double glazed, gas central heating.
- Modern kitchen area, lounge, bedroom, family bathroom.
- Available from 1st of May.
- £475 PCM & fees

**Dudley Windfield Avenue**
- A three-bedroom semi-detached house in Stirn Lane.
- Spacious, bright and well-presented.
- No pets.
- Available from 1st of May.
- £850 PCM & fees

**Russells Hall Osprey Drive**
- A large detached house.
- No pets.
- Available from 1st of May.
- £1,200 PCM & fees

**Dudley Malvern Crescent**
- A modern two-bedroom semi-detached house.
- No pets.
- Available from 1st of May.
- £550 PCM & fees

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- **Offering honest, friendly advice for selling and renting your property.**
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**Dudley Chronicle**

Thursday, August 13, 2015
In 1965 Toyota made a modest start in the UK car market, its arrival marked by a small four-car stand at that year’s motor show. Today, Toyota has not only sold almost three million vehicles in Britain, it builds them here, too.

Although a great deal has changed, there remains a constant theme in Toyota’s business that is as true today as it was 50 years ago, as Paul Van der Burgh, Toyota (GB) President and Managing Director, explained: “Toyota entered the UK market with the aim of providing better cars and better service, even if those weren’t the words used back then. But ever since, Toyota has stood out for giving the customer something better – better equipment, better reliability and better service.”

Pride and Clark was the original UK importer and distributor, a South London family firm that launched its enterprise after John Pride travelled to the Far East to see the developing Japanese car industry for himself. His faith in Toyota was shared by a handful of car retailers who set up the first Toyota showrooms, at first with just a single model line – Coronas – to offer their customers.

Business prospered as the range of vehicles grew, not least with introduction of the first Corolla in 1966. The name Toyota (GB) Ltd was adopted in 1967 and by 1980 200,000 cars had been sold, securing its position as a leading player in Britain’s car market. Nine years later Toyota announced the UK as the location for a European manufacturing centre. Toyota Manufacturing UK’s Burnaston car plant in Derbyshire and Deeside engine factory in North Wales came on stream in 1992 and have benefited from more than £2 billion investment in technology, skills and jobs. They continue to provide valuable opportunities for more than 200 supplier businesses.

TMUK also has the distinction of being the Toyota’s first hybrid vehicle manufacturing centre in Europe, building Auris Hybrid models since 2010.

Tony Walker, TMUK deputy managing director, said: “All the work we have done so far has created a solid foundation for the future. The next exciting step for TMUK is to develop our skills ready for the adoption of TNGA – Toyota New Global Architecture. It’s not just about new products, it’s a new approach to making them. We have plenty of work ahead of us to be ready to adopt the new way of working by the end of the decade, but I strongly believe that, as the last 25 years have shown, we will be ready.”

In its 50th year in the UK, Toyota has already launched new Avensis and Auris models – all built at Burnaston. Later this year it will also begin marketing the first of its Mirai hydrogen fuel cell vehicles here, opening a new chapter in zero emissions driving with technology the drivers of those first Corona saloons could never have imagined.

While Toyota’s focus is on the future and the development of ever-better cars, it honours the achievements of some of its influential models of the past in a heritage fleet, maintained by Toyota (GB). The classic line-up includes an original Corona saloon, the famous Corolla AE86 that helped inspire today’s GT86 coupe, a first-generation RAV4 and one of the earliest British-built models, a 1992-vintage Carina E. Toyota is a big player in British car manufacturing. All the Avensis models and all the Auris hatchbacks and wagons are made at the Burnaston plant in Derbyshire.

A detailed search for the oldest UK-registered Toyota has come up with two original Corona saloons, still on the road and nearing 50 years old. We’ve raced and rallied with great success, including BTCC championships with both Corolla and Carina.
Luxury and economy mixed well

By Ian Donaldson

Goodness knows how long it might take to decide on which tempting extras to add to your new Range Rover. Several pleasant hours, at least.

That’s a joy to come after you’ve plumped for the basic vehicle itself, of course. And here you’re also faced with an almost bewildering set of choices.

The Range Rover you read about here mixes luxury and economy in a way that might let an owner feel good about (modestly) saving the planet while the rear seat passengers feel they’ve flown first class.

For under the bonnet beats a diesel engine, while beneath the floor sits a well protected battery that will actually power this big, heavy car a little way all on its own and help out generally when it can elsewhere.

This economy thinking might be more usual in cars costing a very great deal less than a hybrid Range Rover but it does let us post some impressively ‘green’ figures for something so chunky, even if they’re tinged with the optimism of all official consumption tables.

The added luxury (on an already pretty swish car, of course) comes from stretching front and rear wheels 20cm further apart, all to the benefit of rear seat legroom – now accessed via rear doors so wide they’ll present a danger to passing traffic if not opened cautiously.

Apart from making you feel like a film star stepping on to the red carpet at Cannes, they give so much lounging room you might never get to cut, recline the seatback, and you’ll probably be snoozing before the car slips into top gear.

That stretch puts £7,200 on the price of the Range Rover and added to the hybrid option, pushes the car well over £100,000. That is still a good deal less expensive than, say, a Bentley saloon which feels no more luxurious and wouldn’t take you to dinner via the nearest goat track, should you so desire.

But that is not to think like a potential owner. At this level you won’t be bothering with the practical details after mixed well

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Dudley Chronicle

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Top tips for used buyers

Used car demand has tailed off slightly due to the holiday period while the SUV market continues to go from strength to strength. One of the current best buys is the Porsche Boxster.

“The Porsche Boxster represents great value as a used car and many envious onlookers will think the buyer has spent a bucket load more cash than they actually have,” said Gavin Amos, head of valuation services at My Car Check.

My Car Check, a leading consumer vehicle data provider, has saved millions of people from making an expensive used car mistake.

In its monthly bulletin its used car experts reveal significant trends in the UK market and choose a ‘car of the month’.

“Even at around ten years old, the ageing second generation 987 variants still look fresh today,” said Amos. Boxster offers an exhilarating drive no matter which engine you choose and the chassis is nothing short of superb.

“When it comes to negotiating, remember, as well as revealing a car’s history, My Car Check also provides vehicle valuations – a great tool for haggling with dealers or private sellers.”

As to market trends, Amos said: “July brings little change to the used car market. Although demand has tailed off slightly due to the holiday period, used values remain relatively stable.

“Only older vehicles, in particular those with higher than average mileage, have seen reductions this month, mostly just one to two per cent.”

“With the downsizing trend continuing, Corolla, Fiesta and the Korean competition are thriving. The SUV market continues to go from strength to strength and every manufacturer wants a piece of the action. Nearly all are either already selling, or in the process of unveiling, new variants.

“Renault are entering the fold with new Kadjar. Suzuki have the new Vitara and Seat are about to launch a new A-SUV model. These will create an even more congested sector with consumers spoilt for choice. During the holiday season we historically experience a plateau in enquiry levels, allowing dealers to focus on new registration orders for delivery in September,” said Amos.

Check

My Car Check’s parent company, CDL Vehicle Information Services, performs over a million look-ups a day for companies including AutoExpress, Comparethemarket.com, GoCompare, MoneySupermarket, Swiftcover, Tesco Compare and WhatCar?

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Dudley Chronicle Thursday, August 13, 2015
Dream goal shows that Ben is back

BEN Billingham enjoyed a dream return from injury after grabbing the only goal as Stourbridge overcame Lye in a Black Country derby.

The midfielder, who has been sidelined for the past 10 months with a freak ankle injury, came off the bench to devasating effect in the pre-season friendly.

Billingham entered the fray as a second-half substitute and four minutes later picked up the ball on the edge of the box. He then tricked his way past two defenders before curling an unstoppable strike into the top corner from 25-yards.

The 25-year-old, a former Lye player, was making his first appearance in Stourbridge colours since picking up his ankle injury.

He played in the friendly despite recently securing a loan move to Cradley Town.

“Some people have said to me it was a goal that was meant to be,” the self-employed construction worker said. “It’s been a difficult 10 months. The injury stopped me from playing football and working for a spell and it’s been a long road to get back.

“But I’m a former Lye player and to come on and score that goal – one of the best I have ever scored – was the perfect return.

“It’s what everyone dreams about: playing football and scoring against their old team. It’s great to be back.”

Beacon footie league looking a lot healthier

A TOTAL of 22 teams will contest the home of the 2015/16 Beacon Sunday Football League.

Having finished the last campaign with only five teams in the premier section, following withdrawals, the league has attracted several new clubs.

As a result the Premier section is back to 10 teams, while the remaining 12 will contest the league action in Division One. The new league campaign kicks off on Sunday, September 6. Once again the member teams will also compete in two separate league cup competitions.

There will be two groups of five teams playing each other, with the top two in each section going through to the semi-finals.

In the Division One League Cup there will be four groups of three.

Halesowen Town 1 Tividale 1

HALESOWEN’S final pre-season friendly was abandoned nine minutes early with the scores level at 1-1.

The game was stopped after Tividale striker Joel Ayettey and Halesowen goalkeeper Dan Platt suffered serious injuries.

Referee Terry Holbrook took the decision to halt the game after Platt raced out of goal to meet a long ball and clashed heads with former Causeway United striker Ayettey, resulting in Platt collecting Demetri Brown’s header two minutes later in even exchanges,-officiated in Holbrook’s usual composed, no-nonsense style.

Blazed

There were few clear chances midway in the first half of the best of the Kroen although luis Cooper hit high after 22 minutes and Connor Collins then blazed high and wide from the right.

The visitors gained the upper hand late in the first half and Platt was forced to juggie a tricky shot from the right by Ashley Jackson after 35 minutes.

Demetri Brown then robbed the home defence in the 42nd minute but Chris Sterling barley hallooned the ball over the bar.

The Dale took a deserved lead just a minute before half-time when Demetri Brown beat the home defence down the right and cut the ball back for Jayneh Taylor to control and slam home from 12 yards.

The Yeltz were much livelier after the interval especially in the 46th minute when Collins converted a close-range header from Cooper’s delightful left wing cross.

Home substitute Rikkam Ameenu then headed a cross from substitute Ashley Parsons-Smith at goalkeeper Taylor before the game was brought to its early conclusion.

Martial artist Lukas Letts shows off one of his world championship medals

Martial artist Lukas Letts has added a new honour to his already vast collection when he was crowned a world champion.

The eight-year-old from Craigley Academy, Sandwell, crowned a world champion.

Lukas suffered from chronic asthma but that didn’t stop him training at three different clubs each week and his mum, Laura Cooper, insists it helps him to deal with the condition.

She said: “We’re totally over the moon that he won his medals and we can’t believe it.

“We have all said if he didn’t his karate his asthma would be a lot worse.”

The talented martial artist is also twice UK champion and regional champion. Lukas won the medals in the third kyu and above combined category for eight to nine year olds, in the DKR Tournament where more than 1,500 competed.

The youngster is a second grade brown belt. Lukas trains in the karate style of Bokan-Ryu and attends the club’s Colin Lane Community Centre in Craigley, Old Hill Church and Fitness First, Lye.

Game abandoned because of injuries

Lukas is a world champ at eight

Team Dudley enjoy shut out for derby

Team Dudley 4 Wrens Nest 0

Team Dudley gave a fine performance to take the victory over Wrens Nest in the Midlands Division One.

They struck early when Lee Clark’s fifth-minute corney was headed in off the bar by Jordan Langford-Hill.

Next responded with a header from a corner of their own, but Lee Salt’s effort found the hands of keeper Liam Jones.

Dudley’s Ryan Spittle hit a volley over the bar before firing a shot across keeper Aaron Morris only to see it thump against the post.

But on the half-hour mark, the home team scored when a long throw by Nathan Jones was met by the head of James Hawthorne.

An own goal from Sean Wynne and a fine team move culminated by Reece Bancroft’s composed lob rounded off the scoring.

Just before the half hour Spittle had another chance, chasing down defender Sean Wynne he won the ball and surged to goal, a shot across Morris was perfect but whacked the post and found another Orange shirt to aid the clearance.

Just a minute later, on the half hour, TD would have their load doubled, a long throw from Rob Sibbald Jones would create havoc in the box and a header from captain James Hawthorne would be enough to give Dudley a double advantage in their local derby.

They struck early when Lee Clark’s fifth-minute corney was headed in off the bar by Jordan Langford-Hill.

Next responded with a header from a corner of their own, but Lee Salt’s effort found the hands of keeper Liam Jones.

Dudley’s Ryan Spittle hit a volley over the bar before firing a shot across keeper Aaron Morris only to see it thump against the post.

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Swimmers competing in new contest

FIVE swimmers from Halesowen Swimming Club competed in the ASA National Summer Championship at Ponds Forge International Pool.

New for 2015, this competition was for top-20 British swimmers who did not qualify in the earlier British Championships in a particular event.

With swimmers consistently outperforming their personal best times, Josh Bradley made the Open 100m butterfly and backstroke finals.

Joe Read qualified for the 14-year-olds 100m freestyle and Kate Morricc, the 12/13years 50m freestyle finals.

But the best placed finish of the week was by James Cutthberth who finished eighth in the 14-year-olds 100m butterfly final.

Local newspapers and websites offer the most effective combination for driving consumer action. Readers are more than twice as likely to act upon local advertisements than those on TV and social media.

SOURCE: The Newspaper Society - Consumer Catalyst 2014

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Lye five as Brocton are shut down

Brocton 0 Lye 5

TWO goals from Gary Pile and James Spratt made it a disheartening day for Brocton in the Midland Football League Premier.

BROCTON started well enough with some decent passing. It was a long pass that led to Lye Town’s opener when Simon Williams ignored praise calls for offside and kept his composer to beat a stranded Calvin Barrett.

James Spratt held the ball well for the visitors all game and his strength on the ball let in the hard-working Tom Overfield, but this time nothing came of the move. Then Brocton put together a few promising moves of their own. A flick on from Gary Pile let Josh Wilson in on the right and a good cross found Pile’s head for a downward effort wide of the post.

A moment’s hesitation by Callum Ruld in defence left him offside and with acres of time and space the cross was measured and Overfield made no mistake. Sam Tye put in a ball across field from right to left and although Spray rode his luck a little when the ball arrived, he worked his way into the box and never looked like missing.

It was a poor pass into the centre of Lye’s defence that led to Brocton conceding fourth. A single long ball from the back had the defender static and looking at each other as Overfield nipped through and had time to commit Barrett before taking the ball round him and striking home.

Simon Williams fed Spray for Lye’s fifth.

Nightmare run in touring contest for Honda team mates

STOURBRIDGE driver Matt Neal and his co-driver Alex Tinkham suffered a nightmare British Touring Car Championship Thruxton.

Neal dropped from third to fourth in the opening laps but both he and Shedden had to retire from the second one with damage.

Another retirement for Shedden in race three completed a chastening day for the Honda outfit.

Matt Neal’s Triple Eight’s Jack Goff earned his first ever BTCC victory after producing a dominant performance in the final encounter.

Racing on the soft tyre, Goff found the pace of Jason Plato’s WT to win the win.

Four were the overall standings from team-mate Colin Turkington, with the Honda pair just behind them.

Neal’s car was held by Adam Morgan’s WIX Racing Mercedez in the opening moments but double race-winner Colin Turkington was soon ahead on lap two. Almost simultaneously Plato produced arguably the move of the day as he went into the Complex.

CRADLEY kept their National League title ambitions alive as they edged a nail-biting 44-44 triumph over co-tenants Birmingham in a dramatic encounter, with Perry Hart.

The depleted Heathens showed plenty of grit and determination to overcome the absence of Matt Williamson due to injury to claim local bragging rights in a tense last heat decider.

They appeared set for a long night when skipper Max Uogg suffered mechanical gremlins on the opening lap of heat one – but he bounced back in style to notch 11+1 points as himself and the