Cancer sufferer taunted

A MOTHER suffering from cancer was targeted when teenage yobs in Kidderminster knocked her bald head.
Kim Palmer-Young, 51, a nursery worker, had gone out for the first time since having chemotherapy.
The mother-of-four was at the Wine Cellar shop in Stourbridge Road, were so excited at getting a new pair of feet – and to wear sandals forward to getting a new pair of feet – and to wear sandals.

At least 11 pet cats have died in agony in Kidderminster in what is feared could be a spate of deliberate poisonings.
Six of the cats lived within 20 yards of each other. The distraught owners have reported the deaths to the police, who were new appealing for information.
Four cats belonging to one family in Pat Davis Court have died, as well as one just across the road and a sixth round the corner in nearby York Street.
All were poisoned within two days of each other last week.
A cut owner in Stretton Road also reported that three cats had been poisoned, and four others died on April 23 in similar circumstances.
A mother-of-four was at a Tesco Express when four teenagers pointed at her and taunted: “Look at the state of her hair.”
The 51-year-old nursery nurse who has Hodgkin’s Lymphoma has endured three gruelling chemotherapy sessions.
Her husband Mick died of brain haemorrhages in 2008, aged 49.
Mrs Palmer-Young had plucked up the courage to step out for the first time after undergoing the treatment when she was taunted by the gang.

Heartbroken

“My dad had renal failure and the vets said it was a sign they had been poisoned.
We’re heartbroken and don’t know how this has happened.”

All had renal failure and they had been poisoned.

Heartbroken

Adam Smith, aged 42, of nearby York Street, whose black and white tom Garfield took ill first and was having fits, and then Husky, our black-and-white female started being sick, followed by Tuna another tabby tom, and his brother, Tiger.

FIFTY-TWO years of devotion to the people of Kidderminster have earned Fred Holland the town’s first Civic Award.
Fred, aged 75, began raising money for hospitals and children after moving to the town in 1960.
After his daughter Victoria was diagnosed with diabetes in 1971, when she was nine, helping families affected by the condition became his passion.
Fred, who lives with his wife Shirley, aged 72, in Pimlott Street, has raised more than £120,000 for diabetes charities.
He has organised every thing from pram pushes to coffee mornings and car boot sales, and was the driving force behind developing Kidderminster’s diabetes centre at the town’s hospital.
Kidderminster charter trustee Trustees have just launched the Civic Awards, to honour people who serve the town and its residents – and Fred is the first to receive one.

People can call police on 101.
A HOUSEHOLDER has won a battle to build a side extension to his home – despite bitter objections from his furious neighbours.

Thomas, who lives at The Brake, Hagley, over plans to build a one-storey extension at his property. The small housing development was designed by a leading architect in the 1960s and was an award-winner.

Through the estate’s management company, Mr Thomas’s neighbours argued the development would bring an “unsightly change” to the appearance of the road.

They were also concerned the extension would be “highly visible” and would set a precedent for other such developments.

Mr Thomas took his case to the Upper Tribunal (Lands Chamber) after residents voted against the extension in a ballot.

The Brake (Hagley) Management Company Ltd presented a covenant restricting building work on the site. It described an offer by Mr Thomas to pay £200,000 to all his neighbours as “derisory”.

Mr Thomas refused the consent to waive the anti-building covenant which had been “unreasonably withheld”.

He had offered to make the extension available for management meetings and

Extension plan – The Brake in Hagley

said the plan would not be a sight for any other resident. He said it would not fall within the sight line of other properties.

Tribunal judge Peter Franks, a fellow of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, found in favour of Mr Thomas.

He said the extension, for which planning permission was already approved, was reasonable use for the land.

He said it would be straightforward. Despite the architectural merits of The Brake it did not offer “such significant qualities or uniqueness or individuality”.

The self-drive break is for one evening staying either on the Friday or Saturday night in a four-star hotel. You will see the evening performance at 7.30pm. The theatre performed their first full musical last year when they presented Back to the 80’s, and the production was praised by audiences and critics.

Tickets can be obtained from The Rose on 01562 743745 or online at www.rosetheatr.co.uk

FROM £129.95 (Saturday Night) FROM £139.95 (Dine and Dance)

For a reason supplement (subject to availability). Single rooms only applies.

The self-drive break is for one evening staying either on the Friday night or Saturday night in a four-star hotel. You will see the evening performance. For both breaks the price includes a theatre ticket, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel, full English breakfast (plus dinner for Dine and Dance options). Pick ups are from Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

Rail inclusive breaks

Departs most weekends

FROM £139.95

Take in a top West End show and have some free time in London for shopping and sightseeing. For the Dine and Dance option see the matinee performance before heading back to the hotel for dinner and disco (conditions apply). For the Saturday Night option you will see the evening performance. For both breaks the price includes a theatre ticket, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel, full English breakfast (plus dinner for Dine and Dance options).

Pick ups are from Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

Coach inclusive breaks

Selected weekend departures

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Concert to boost hospice

A SUMMER concert has been lined up in Kidderminster next month to raise money for KEMP Hospice.

Lord Digby Jones is due to host the event on June 23, which will see Midlands-based choir Get 2 Sing, and takes place at the Wyre Forest Church.

The choir will perform a varied programme including Motown, pop, music theatre and gospel.

Lord Digby Jones, a former director general of the business nose organisation CBI, has supported the hospice in Marston Road since he opened it in 2005.

Elle Millward, community fundraiser at KEMP said: “We are delighted that the concert is supporting the hospice and what a special way to celebrate our 30th anniversary year.”

Get 2 Sing’s choir leader and founder, Beth Dzindolet said: “We’re really excited to be holding this concert with choirs from Bewdley, Roughmoor, Brewood and Worcester. “The night will be full of energy.”

Tickets, which cost £10 for adults and £5 for under 16s, are available by calling 01562 515151.

Hall performance

JUNE: As part of Pride and Prejudice series, performances will be performed at Hagley Hall on July 7 by the Chardianshine Theatre Company. Tickets are £14 for adults, £7 for children. Details from 01562 887290.

Festival

Residents in Wyre Forest are staging 20 parties, with celebrations planned at the Wyre Forest Arms pub in Bank Street and in the town centre.

Cannock Chase District Council received seven applications for street closures while nine roads in Lichfield will be temporarily shut for the celebrations.

In the Wyre Forest area, the Boar’s Head pub in Kidderminster town centre is staging a three-day festival of entertainment. The authority is processing a further three applications.

The planned parties locally are: June 3, Comings Drive, Kidderminster; Fairfield, Kidderminster; Roden Avenue, Kidderminster; Founedy Street, Stourport; June 2, 3 and 4, The Boar’s Head, Worcester Street, Kidderminster.

Heritage weekend hailed a success

Heritage weekend has been hailed a success.

The Old Ticket Office Heritage Weekend has been held at the Stourport Canal Basin.

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A steady flow of visitors streamed through the town to take advantage of the weekend.

Organisers said: “It was great to see people enjoying the attractions they explored were Discover Stourport, the mini-museum in Bridge Street, The Old Ticket Office Heritage Room in York Street, the Tolmers Stables Heritage Room, Canal Basin, and the living quarters of the British Waterways historic working canal boat, the Swift.”

Visitors also enjoyed a Stourport Industrial Town Trail on Saturday and a strenuous five mile walk on Sunday, The Baldwin Trail, which included a visit to Wilden Church.

Pauline Annis, chairwoman of organisers Stourport Forward, said: “It was great to see people enjoying the Heritage Weekend.

“I would like to thank everyone who helped with the weekend. We hope that families will join us for our next event, our Pirate Weekend on June 16 and 17.”

The Welshpool Llanfair Railway

The Welshpool Llanfair Railway is a great way to enjoy your stay.

Waresley Railway

A Waresley Railway train was recently named after the late Ray Goodwill, who was a long-time supporter of the Railway.

Cheltenham

In Cheltenham, the town centre is staging a three-day festival of entertainment.

Staffordshire

The Staffordshire RTC are planning a three-day festival of entertainment.

Attractions

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Wellesley Catering Services

Wellesley Catering Services offers a variety of catering services for events.

Parking

Parking is available at the Welshpool Llanfair Railway, which is located close to the railway station.

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A PUPIL at Holy Trinity International School’s memory was so impressed by her class activity that she decided to record pupils’ happiness by making her own clipboard chart.

Rose Leek, three, went round fellow classmates asking if they felt happy, sad or angry, before collating the results on to her handmade clipboard chart.

And the results? The children were “happy”!

Nursery assistant Joanne Potter, said: “As part of our early years personal, social and emotional development activities we asked the children a chart, asking them to tick how they and their friends felt that day, with all the results added to a final tally chart to show the pupils’ overall happiness.

“Rose, using her initiative, created a personal class activity chart and proceeded to talk to the other nursery children and staff, as well as a visiting parent, how they felt, before marking her results on her clipboard. It was wonderful to see her personal confidence, and the concentration and focus she displayed as she completed her survey.”

Three-year-old Rose Leek, collating her survey results on to her chart.

The fostering appeal launched in Kidderminster.

 Worcestershire County Council’s fostering service is backing the national Foster Care Fortnight campaign by encouraging people to find out about fostering.

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Shake-up on the bins aiming for efficiency

Pupils bloom for contest

The winners, left to right, Ava Freeman, five, Adam Ram, seven, Billy Wooldridge, seven, Jessica Holden nine, and Molly Smith, 11.

PEOPLE in Wyre Forest are being reminded that rubbish and recycling collection days have changed this week.

Councillors have set up a search facility available on the authority’s website so residents can check on the details.

The shake-up is because of crews working a four-day week from Tuesday to Friday, starting this week.

Rubbish is being collected from every resident in the first week and recycling the next. Collections will continue on an alternative-weekly basis.

The authority says the changes are part of a plan to make efficiency savings across the service.

Councillor Marcus Hart, cabinet member for environmental services, said: “The changes will mean better efficiency for our collection crews with them working longer hours over fewer days.

“There will be more emphasis on team working to ensure rounds are completed in as short a time as possible. Even so, some customers may find that their bins will be emptied at a different time to what they’re used to.

“We ask that bins are placed at the collection point by 6am on collection day and they could be collected until mid-afternoon.

“The council is also asking people to recycle more. Bins to be recycled should be placed loose in the bin, not in a bin liner, or they will be sent to landfill. For information on collection days and on recycling, log on to www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/waste.

Police invitation

WEST Mercia police hold a drop-in evening at Chaddesley Corbett Primary School, in Chaddesley Corbett at 5.30-6.30pm, tomorrow (Friday). People can discuss any issues affecting the community with police officers.

PUPILS at Bewdley Primary School have been getting in to the Olympic Spirit with a competition to combine the challenge of designing an Olympic Garden to transform an unused patch of grass in the school grounds.

The children created miniature gardens, models and drawings to convey the Olympic values and what it means to them to have the event in this country. Overall winner was Billy Wooldridge, and prizes also went to Ava Freeman, Adam Ram, Jesse Holden and Molly Smith.

To start the gardening, children, parents and staff worked together to dig up the area which is now ready for the children to transform in to Billy’s Olympic Garden vision.

Teacher Amanda Bradley said: “We can’t wait to see the garden in bloom this summer.”

The winners, left to right, Ava Freeman, five, Adam Ram, seven, Billy Wooldridge, seven, Jessica Holden nine, and Molly Smith, 11, were given the chance to present their ideas to the Town Hall, where the ideas were received and the winners were congratulated.

The winners were given the chance to present their ideas to the Town Hall, where the ideas were received and the winners were congratulated.

After a competition to design an Olympic Garden, the children were given the chance to present their ideas to the Town Hall, where the ideas were received and the winners were congratulated.

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PEOPLE in Worcestershire are being offered free health MoT checks to be ready for the summer.

Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust’s Health Trainers will be offering the health MoT check.

They include checking blood pressure, body mass index, blood sugar levels, and carbon monoxide levels for smokers.

Health Trainer Co-ordinator Jayne McCullough said: “Following the winter health MoT, we managed to support people with lifestyle changes after highlighting conditions such as diabetes and high blood pressure.”

“The service is not just here to identify potential problems to people, but to help them find solutions by offering support.”

The MoT began at the start of the year and more data has been added to meet demand.

The Worcestershire Health Trainer Service offers a free and confidential support and advice service on all aspects of healthy lifestyles for anyone aged 16 or over.

The health checks are available at a number of venues up to July 2.

For more details go to www.worcestershire.nhs.uk/healthtrainers or call 01905 681833.

Second jobs event

WYRE Forest MP Mark Garnier has announced a second jobs fair in Kinver - on September 20 at the town hall. The time is to be confirmed. Hundreds of job seekers turned up to the first fair, in March.

THE hills in a picturesque village are alive with the sound of music as an operatic society gets ready to stage its version of a much-loved show.

Kinver Light Operatic Society has gathered together its own Maria and seven Von Trapp children for the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical Sound of Music.

The story of a nun who leaves an Austrian convent to become a governess to a widowed naval officer’s seven children in the 1930s, is on at Edgecliff Theatre, Kinver, until Saturday.

And it’s a real family affair, with relatives of different generations on stage together.

Bella Moreton, aged eight, stars as Greta, while her mum, Cathy, plays Sister Sophia. Millie Brown, 10, plays Brigitta, and her brother, Joe Brown, is Nazi officer Rolf.

Ellie Woodward, 12, plays Louise with her mother, Rachel Woodward, as a nun. Charlotte Wood, who takes the lead role of Maria — made famous by Julie Andrews — said: “We are the first local society to be performing the musical.”

For tickets call 01384 839063.

Flower shows and gardens

Enjoy one of these wonderful breaks which will delight and inspire any gardener or garden admirer!

All breaks include coach travel and half-board accommodation.

Hampton Court Palace Flower Show and Windsor FROM £140**

Two days departing July 7

Hampton Court was the favourite residence of Henry VIII. Every stage of gardening, from seed to plot to plant is represented in the many exhibits at the show whilst the visual displays are endless as small gardens and water gardens sit alongside conceptual gardens and vast show gardens. Includes entrance to Hampton Court Palace show and a visit to Windsor.

Organised by Unaggio Holidays (J614), AM62

Great Gardens of Sussex and Kent FROM £278*

Four days departing July 6

Sussex and Kent are home to some of the finest gardens in the country and give a wonderful insight into centuries of gardening trends. Includes entrance to Great Dixter, Sissinghurst and Nyman. Visits to Wakehurst Place, Sissinghurst Castle Garden, Boîte Hill Garden and Sheffield Park and garden.

Organised by Diamond Holidays (J651), AM63

Kents Castles and Gardens FROM £288*

Four days departing August 17

Kent is a place where heritage meets horticulture and this tour takes in some of the highlights, from romantic gardens to the ‘loveliest castle in the world’. Includes entrances to Scotney, Hever and Leeds castles, Penshurst Place and visits to ‘The World Garden of Plants’ at Lullingstone Castle and Sissinghurst Castle garden.

Organised by Diamond Holidays (J652), AM63

Lindisfarne and the Alnwick Garden FROM £139**

Three days departing September 7

A visit to the truly magical Alnwick Garden, one of the most talked about and remarkable gardens in the UK and the list continues with a visit to Bamburgh and Lindisfarne.

Organised by Unaggio Holidays (J615), AM63
Village hall in line to win prestigious award

Royal fun day at carnival

RESIDENTS of Wolverley near Kidderminster celebrated their May Fayre with music from Birmingham outfit Red Shoes dancing from Wolverley Sebright Primary School. Villagers were entertained with superb traditional songs, and Essex Johnson, 13, was picked to be carnival queen, Caelen Gower, 12, was princess and Charlotte Hudson, eight, was the rosebud. Esie and Caelen both attend Wolverley CE Secondary School, and Charlotte goes to Wolverley Sebright Primary.

Appeal for donors

BLOOD donor sessions are being held tomorrow (Friday) at Trinity Methodist Church, Churchfields, Kidderminster, at 1.15pm-3.30pm and 4.30pm-7.15pm. Call 0300 123 23 23 to book an appointment.

Winners are a friend to the environment

Winners were announced at the Historic Dockyard in Chatham, Kent.

Competition for village halls

Selected from nearly 100 applicants, Trimpley Village Hall will compete against four other organisations from across the country for the chance to be named winner of the Community Buildings category, and receive a £2,000 prize.

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The chronicle
Welcome for internet porn move

WYRE Forest MP Mark Garnier has welcomed a Government move to refine rules on access to internet pornography.

Under proposals, people would have to opt in to receiving adult content when they sign a broadband contract. It follows a Parliamentary inquiry.

Mr Garnier who was on the inquiry team, said he was pleased that the Government was committed to protecting children online.

Town’s plan to create community hub takes a major step forward

PLANS to develop a multi-use hub and community-run hall at Stourport Civic Centre have taken a major step forward.

Stourport Town Council has agreed in principle to explore the proposal that the town council could take over the ownership and management of the building after Wyre Forest District Council vacates it later this year.

A steering group with representatives of all the councils involved is now developing a business plan and working out how to raise the money they need for the project.

Potential tenants of the hub have been approached, including Stourport Town Council, Stourport library, the Worcestershire coroner, police, Job Centre Plus, Support Guidance Services (previously Connections) and discussions are continuing.

The steering group needs expressions of interest before May 22 from local businesses, community groups or public sector bodies which may be interested in developing the lower ground floor of the building. Anyone interested can contact Liz Sheerin, Stourport Forward, on 01299 822827.

Volunteers

Plans for the hub include developing a youth theatre group, hosting live bands and extending the hire of the hall by the local community.

More volunteers are needed, particularly those with organisational skills.

“This is a big step forward for Stourport Town Council”, said Councillor Ian Parish, council leader. “We will seek professional advice as to whether this is a viable way forward.”

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Gardens to be opened to visitors

TWO Bewdley gardens will be open under the National Gardens Scheme this weekend.

Bowcastle Farm, Tanner’s Hill, is open on Saturday, 11am-5pm. Owners Thomas and Cedric Quayle won the Bewdley in Bloom large garden category in 2011.

The garden at Toll House Cottage, Stourport Road, is open on Sunday, 11am-5pm. There will also be a painting and woodturning studio to see. At both gardens, admission is £3, children free.

Rain fails to hold up council’s HQ

Part of the £10 million council building taking shape

The building of Wyre Forest District Council’s £10 million headquarters is still on schedule despite the recent bad weather.

Some scaffolding at the building, at Finepoint Business Park, Stourport, is due to come down soon as work on the scheme enters its final phase.

External work on the new council chamber and offices at the complex has now been finished and internal works are under way.

Landscaping, including the laying of paths and creation of roadways will be done soon, and work on the roof will be completed within the next two weeks, according to builder Thomas Vale Construction.

Bosses at the firm said they were confident the project would be completed by July 30 but admitted severe weather over the past week had not been helpful.

Project manager John Maley said: “Provided we do not have any more serious weather we should remain on target.”

The HQ has been controversial. Some councillors said the cash could have been better spent in other areas but the council says consolidating services will save around £500,000 a year.

Library hosting Olympic events

FAMILIES in the Wyre Forest area can celebrate the Olympic torch passing through the area at a series of special events at Stourport Library.

Up to May 24 the library is hosting an Olympic-themed trail and quiz, with an overall prize for one lucky winner.

On Saturday, there will also be a special Olympic themed story-time for children of all ages between 10.30am and 11, followed by arts and crafts sessions where children can make their very own Olympic torch, these sessions will run from 11am to 3pm.

Library manager Maureen Hobbs said: “We are all really excited about having the Olympic torch pass through our county, and want families to come and celebrate with us and get into the spirit of this momentous occasion.”

Both events are free and are open to everyone. For details, go to www.wyreforest.gov.uk/libraries, call 01905 822722, or visit Stourport library.

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Town’s plan to create community hub takes a major step forward

PLANS to develop a multi-use hub and community-run hall at Stourport Civic Centre have taken a major step forward.

Stourport Town Council has agreed in principle to explore the proposal that the town council could take over the ownership and management of the building after Wyre Forest District Council vacates it later this year.

A steering group with representatives of all the councils involved is now developing a business plan and working out how to raise the money they need for the project.

Potential tenants of the hub have been approached, including Stourport Town Council, Stourport library, the Worcestershire coroner, police, Job Centre Plus, Support Guidance Services (previously Connections) and discussions are continuing.

The steering group needs expressions of interest before May 22 from local businesses, community groups or public sector bodies which may be interested in developing the lower ground floor of the building. Anyone interested can contact Liz Sheerin, Stourport Forward, on 01299 822827.

Volunteers

Plans for the hub include developing a youth theatre group, hosting live bands and extending the hire of the hall by the local community.

More volunteers are needed, particularly those with organisational skills.

“This is a big step forward for Stourport Town Council”, said Councillor Ian Parish, council leader. “We will seek professional advice as to whether this is a viable way forward.”

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Nursing inspires heroine Lisa to find true identity

ALTHOUGH she will forever be known as a “machete attack heroine” Lisa Potts feels she has now found her true identity.

Juggling motherhood with 13-hour nursing shifts has been a challenge but Lisa has “loved every minute of it”.

“It’s one of those moments in your life when you think this is what I’m meant to do. It’s a really difficult course and combining working full time and studying is tough but my family and husband are really supportive.

Lisa especially enjoys being on the wards at New Cross Hospital.

“Sometimes patients will say ‘You don’t half look like that girl Lisa Potts’. I play little jokes on the patients who they think they recognise me.’

Lisa Potts needs no introduction: she is the nursery nurse who risked her life to shield children from a machete wielding attacker, suffering severe injuries as a consequence.

Since that fateful day in 1996 Lisa’s life has moved on in positive ways. She got married to policeman husband Dave Webb, had two beautiful boys and has now found her true identity.

“Machete attack heroine” Lisa Potts feels she has now found her true identity.

“Nursing is very much like that,” Lisa said. “Occasionally I see some of the children at the hospital and I have been really inspired by them.”

Lisa’s new career path is a natural extension of her nursery nurse role and nurturing instinct.

The desire to care comes to the fore in her relationship with her sons Alfie, aged eight and five-year-old Jude. When she talks about her boys it is obvious they mean the world to her.

“I have a fantastic relationship with both of them, they have a great sense of humour and are typical boys.”

It’s been almost 18 years since Lisa tried desperately to protect the children at St Luke’s, Blakenhall, from Horrett Campbell’s frenzied attack.

“Occasionally I see some of the children,” she says. “Patients start to pick her voice as she talks about them.”

Lisa has put her heart and soul into it. “I’ve had to learn to get on with all of this stuff. I’ve been in a merry-go-round. It changed my life but it has also survived.”

Lisa launched Believe To Achieve in 2002 to help children and parents in Wolverhampton. She had been in demand for charitable projects including in Vietnam and Romania, where she helped set up an orphanage named after her. “I started Believe To Achieve because after what happened I was asked to do so much charity work and I thought I would love to do something in my area.

“The charity helps youngsters aged five to 11 by raising their self esteem.

When it launched it was running in five schools. A decade on it is now in 30 schools and has transformed the lives of thousands of young people.

Lisa hopes it will have a future after lottery funding runs out next year. “The charity has done some fantastic work and it would be very sad if it ends.”

To celebrate the 10th anniversary Lisa is hosting an event at The Mount Hotel, Tettenhall, on May 24. Tickets are £20 with all proceeds going to the charity. Call 01902 877552.

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The folk of Cannock Chase are fortunate to have in their midst a poet of rare talent – Reg Fullelove BEM, of Heath Hayes.

Reg, known as ‘Aer Reg’ is a man who is infused with a passion for his place and his people and by a belief that those yet to come must know of the lives led by those gone.

Reg’s rare talent is that he is able to pass on history through moving, evocative and sensitive poems that capture imaginations and empower young and old alike to see, touch, smell, taste and hear the past.

Exciting And wonderfully, this ability to arouse the physical senses is matched by that of exciting the feelings of mind, soul and heart.

For many years Reg, with his late wife Brenda, also gave talks to societies of all kinds and visited schools. Indeed these visits were much more than talks for they embraced poetry and small exhibitions.

A delver of distinction, Reg would bring with him prized possessions and memorabilia of days gone by, especially to enthuse young people with an interest and understanding of what had been before.

This reaching out to the past for the sake of both the present and the future began back in the mid-1970s when Christopher Phipps was covering the Black Country area for what was then BBC Birmingham from 1974-80.

During this period Christopher carried out many interviews that are now of importance historically, while he also produced and presented ‘Wulfrun Echo’ for the station and made documentaries. Reg was an early contributor to ‘Wulfrun Echo’ and continued to feature until it ended.

It was then that Reg Fullelove took the writing name of ‘Aer Reg’. It was fitting that he did so for from that day onwards he belonged to Cannock and its folk, as indeed he does to the wider West Midlands.

He is no longer going out and about with his talks, yet Aer Reg still reaches out to us through his words and sentiments. Some of his poems have been collected in a book called Three Pounds of Sugar.

As Reg said: “So many times I’ve heard those words ‘when I was little’ and so I decided to create that world in book form”.

Others have been gathered by his grand-daughter, who is a lecturer, into a booklet just for the family. It is called: 30 Years of Aer Reg. The Stuff You’ve Loved.

The life and rhymes of passionate poet Aer Reg

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  Tel: 0330 123 9225
- Contact your GP for medical problems, or, for GP out of hours service, telephone your GP and follow the recorded advice
THE local election results were a great disappointment to many of us in the Borough of Dudley. Turnout was down to approximately one third of the electorate. One can only speculate about the reasons for this decline in voting. A combination of apathy, dissatisfaction with the Government nationally, and a feeling that politicians should just get on with the job, are all factors in my view. It is particularly hard on the Conservative councillors who lost their seats. The one reason I did not base at all on the doorstep was any dissatisfaction with the performance of Dudley Council. Having served as a local council- 
cello and chair of a number of committees I know only too well the frustrations of the performance of local government being judged, not on its merits, but by the mood in the country towards the national government. I would like to put on record my admi- ration for the achievements of Dudley Council under Conservative leader- ship. The economic crisis inherited from the last Labour Government led to a severe squeeze on local govern- ment finance. Dudley were obliged to find £35m and this has been achieved by efficiencies and reductions in manage- ment costs in ways that have protected frontline services. Residents, especially those on fixed incomes, have, for several years, benefited from one of the lowest council tax rates in the West Midlands, a rate which has been frozen for the last 12 months. I am very sorry that so many good and hard-working councillors lost their seats. I would like to thank the Conser- vative group of officers of Dudley Council for the professionalism and ambition that has been the hallmark of our borough.

Margot James MP (Conservative), Stourbridge

Coalition to blame for poor showing

THE Government is entirely to blame for the poor showing of the recent elections, as is the Civil Service. The Prime Min- ister, a government nobody as a whole is not too difficult to please, but when voting time comes around as these May elections have proven, those broken election promises play a major part in the final outcome.

I’m 76 and I cannot grumble too much. However, as one of the few who have seen this country slip down the ratings in every walk of life and is getting worse. So, if lessons are to be learned from these latest poll results this Coalition Government must change if it wants to stay in power. M Slater, Rowan Rise, Kingswinford.

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THE local election results were a great disappointment to many of us in the Borough of Dudley. Turnout was down to approximately one third of the electorate. One can only speculate about the reasons for this decline in voting. A combination of apathy, dissatisfaction with the Government nationally, and a feeling that politicians should just get on with the job, are all factors in my view. It is particularly hard on the Conservative councillors who lost their seats. The one reason I did not base at all on the doorstep was any dissatisfaction with the performance of Dudley Council. Having served as a local council- 
cello and chair of a number of committees I know only too well the frustrations of the performance of local government being judged, not on its merits, but by the mood in the country towards the national government. I would like to put on record my admi- ration for the achievements of Dudley Council under Conservative leader- ship. The economic crisis inherited from the last Labour Government led to a severe squeeze on local govern- ment finance. Dudley were obliged to find £35m and this has been achieved by efficiencies and reductions in manage-ment costs in ways that have protected frontline services. Residents, especially those on fixed incomes, have, for several years, benefited from one of the lowest council tax rates in the West Midlands, a rate which has been frozen for the last 12 months. I am very sorry that so many good and hard-working councillors lost their seats. I would like to thank the Conser- vative group of officers of Dudley Council for the professionalism and ambition that has been the hallmark of our borough.

Margot James MP (Conservative), Stourbridge

Coalition to blame for poor showing

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P-pick up a prize at penguin display

Worcester's art gallery and museum is looking for the public's help with a new exhibit.
The gallery has unveiled a new exhibit - a penguin. And bosses there need help to give it a name.
The penguin is part of the museum's historic bird collection, an important collection of more than 1,300 specimens from all over the world.

Originally collected in the 19th century the penguin hasn't been on display since the 1970s. But after conservation work it is now taking pride of place in the recently re-designed Museum Gallery.

The stuffed specimen is a king penguin, from Antarctica.

Visitors to the gallery from now to the end of June can enter a competition to name the penguin. Museum staff will choose their favourite name and the winner will receive their own penguin toy.

Rachel Robinson of Worcestershire museum, said: "We are very excited to be able to put our penguin back on display but we would really like it to have a name and that's where the people of Worcester come in.

"Why not come along to the museum, have a look at our new displays and join in the competition?"

Activity
The penguin is kept company in the new gallery by other examples of taxidermy including a polar bear cub and a colobus monkey.

As well as naming the penguin visitors can try fossil rubbing. There is also a dressing up activity to illustrate the gallery’s themes of industry, inspiration, exploration and knowledge.

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Maggie Wallace, senior gallery and museum assistant gets the penguin ready.
THIRD OF THE YEAR
Sat 19th, Sun 20th May 10am-4pm
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*£1 admission - goes to Charity!
*HTA and Cook’s Vouchers cannot be used at this event

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Fuchsias and Geraniums
Ready Now

£1.20
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Good Selection Of Shrubs
£4.00 Each or
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Cottage Garden Perennials
£1.65 Each or
10 FOR £15

Page 14 KIDDERMINSTER CHRONICLE, THURSDAY, MAY 17 2012 www.expressandstar.com/free-editions
**Supermarket bosses are appealing for support**

Staff at the Sainsbury’s store in Ambrocts Garden Centre are launching a series of fundraising events each year.

Over the past 12 months the scheme raised £3,900 for Dudley’s volunteer-run Wrens Nest charity, which helps people living on the town’s estates.

New staff manager Scott Hill has now proposed a Voluntary Arrangement to its creditors in order that the company can trade once more. The move came after administrators had sold the company’s debtors.

Wrens Nest are highly delighted.

The new Labour leader of Dudley Council has vowed to give the community more say in the way the authority is run as he outlined his priorities for the coming year.

Councillor David Sparks said: “These classes will be fun and are a way to keep fit and meet new people.”

Many makes and models of Pine and Metal beds are available at the store today.

“Certain parts of the business and assets of the company were sold prior to our appointment as administrators and so we are now focusing our attention on the realisation of the company’s liabilities.”

The administrators’ proposals will report more fully on “what are likely to be the administrator’s professional fees and expenses in the event of the business going into administration”.

For more information call the council’s Employability Team on 01384 812373.
Economy
boosting
firms are
rewarded

THREE Black Country busi-
nesses have graduated from
the Goldman Sachs 10,000
businesses pro-
gramme.
The TLC college, Wol-
verhampton, Vine Trust,
Walsall, and the YMCA
Black Country Group were
in the first Midlands scheme
and received their certifi-
cates at a dinner in Birming-
ham.

The programme is designed to boost local eco-
nomic growth and job cre-
tion through practical business education and
support to small businesses and social enterprises.

Classes for the second cohort have begun, and
recruitment for the third is in progress.

A silver lining for trainee solicitor

A TRAINER solicitor at
leading Black Country law
firm Higgs & Sons is cele-
brating after achieving a
silver prize in the Birming-
ham Law Society's annual
awards for trainee solicitors.

Mark Maguire achieved
the second highest overall
marks in examinations and
course work while studying
for his legal practice
qualification.

He also received £100 of
book tokens at the society's
annual meeting in April.

“This is a great achieve-
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proud to have received the
award,” he said.

He worked extremely hard
to achieve his results, so it's
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the Birmingham Law Society.”

Delight

Higgs' graduate trainee
programme is one of the
most successful in the region and many of its
partners trained with the
Brierley Hill-based firm.

Catherine Jones is one
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She said: "Adam’s
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Society.

Higgs' trainee James
Osborne has become liaison
officer for BTBB and colleague Rachel Sutton has
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Phyllis Thomas, nee Edwards, Bill Edwards, Bill’s wife
Pat, Phyllis’s husband Len and Jim Edwards on Spade
Above: Spade near Broad Street, Wolverhampton, in about 1927.
The Edwards children on board are, from left, Mary, Nell, Alice,
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and Joe.”

In the mid-1930s there was moderniza-
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kept breaking down, and the family went for
life on dry land in about 1937 or 1938.

We got off and lived in Broad Street in
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years and nine months,” said Jim, who was
awarded the British Empire Medal in 1990.

As for Joe, he went into factory work.
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Spade and Apollo survive as leisure boats.

A new owner of Spade found a 130-year
photo taken at Bunbury locks showing the
Edwards family and, thanks to the wonders
of the internet, this led to him tracing the
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KIDDERMINSTER CHRONICLE, THURSDAY, MAY 17 2012 Page 17
www.expressandstar.com/free-editions
Show to dance you back to the sounds of the 60s

**The Pulse**

**Festival gets a Push from French star**

Push, Birmingham Hippodrome

ACCLAIMED French ballet-dancer Sylvie Guillem’s first performance at Birmingham Hippodrome was highlight of this year’s international dance festival in the city.

The 48-year-old Parisian, first declared a star by Rudolf Nureyev 30 years ago, now brings her grace and vitality to contemporary dance, collaborating with dancer and photographer Russell Maliphant.

In two thrilling solo acts she showcased her skills. Solo was danced to flamenco guitar and was all pride and passion. Two, danced to electronic music, began slowly as her body morphed and twisted into falling life, before limbers a blur in this martian arts-inspired piece.

Maliphant impressed in his own solo, Shit, dancing with his shadows and then both dancers combined for the award-winning Push. Exquisitely Guillem deflected gravity as she curled and curled around Maliphant’s body. The pair needed Push their art form to another level.

---

**Such strings of success**

CBSO, Symphony Hall

IT was a battle of virtuoso violinists at Symphony Hall, and Birmingham’s home-grown Laurence Jackson lost nothing in comparison with international solo superstar James Ehnes.

Ehnes, Canadian guest artist, has been technically dazzling, as expected, with his concerto with Brahms in Prokofiev’s Violin Concerto No 1, while quite tugging the heart-strings.

By contrast, Jackson, leader of the CBSO, had the audience in the palm of his hand as he played the Vivaldi violin in 1820, delighted everyone during Rimsky-Korsakov’s emotional roller-coaster.

The show features classics like Pomus and Shuman including A Teenager In Love and, of course, Save The Last Dance For Me. Tickets range from £15.00 to £31.50 with concessions available.

---

**Young soul singer makes it sound so very easy**

Michael Kiwanuka, Wulfrun Hall

Kiwanka is a new kid on the block, singer-songwriter Michael Kiwanuka looks as at ease on stage as any veteran of the folk-acoustic circuit. His smooth soulful voice, saucy manner and versatile use of music styles gives him the look of someon who has been doing this most of his life.

Kiwanka evokes an early Motown sound in songs such as Tell Me A Tale, Root and I’ll Get Along from his new album Home Again. He sings easily into tunes with a reggae flavour and even adds country with Always Waving.

Kiwanka is an excellent musician with a charismatic voice that has the ability to move between genres while keeping his distinctive southern. His swags guitar to easily move from acoustic to jazz funk then to a heavier beat reminiscent of Santana.

He is at his best singing with just his acoustic guitar such as Home Again, where he displays a quality bringing to mind the great Roy Charles.

---

**Grass roots to Grandeur**

CONNIE IS IN TOWN

THK Sound of Music star Connie Fisher, winner of BBC TV’s How Do You Solve A Problem Like Maria?, returns to Birmingham Hippodrome in the Leonard Bernstein’s Wonderful Town from May 22 to 26.

Connie is in Town

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**Essential Ireland**

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**December**

IMMIGRATION, separa-

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**April**

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**September**

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**January**

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**February**

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**March**

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**May**

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**August**

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**October**

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**November**

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**June**

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**July**

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**December**

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**Essence of Ireland**

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**Wolverhampton**

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**Midlands**

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**London**

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**East Midlands**

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**West Midlands**

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**Birmingham**

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**KIDDERMINSTER CHRONICLE, THURSDAY, MAY 17 2012 www.expressandstar.com/free-editions**
OFF BY HEART: SHAKESPEARE

ITV1

1.20 Classic Film Festival: Can a Cock and Bull Story. (2000) Comedy, starring Steve Coogan and Rob Brydon. 2.00 Close.

SPORTHOTEL

8.00 4Nights Hotel-StAnton.
• 4Nights Hotel - StAnton.
• 1Night Hotel - Belgium
• Buffet Breakfasts
• Full Board
• 3D/2N Fly-in
• Flights from London Luton
• 2Nights Hotel - StKatharines
• Flights from London Heathrow

SATURDAY

11.00 Surprises in Beige.
2.50 Hana’s Helpline.

SPORTHOTEL

9.00 British Movie Week.
• British Movie Week.
• Full Board
• Flights from London Heathrow

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Sunday TV

Channel 5

10.00antheatric. 10.00 The Big Breakthrough. (R) Weather for the Week Ahead. (R) Weather for the Week Ahead. 12.00 Sunday Politics. 1.60 Bargain Hunt. (R) 2.30 Dragon’s Den. 3.40 Bulldog. 4.40 The Queen’s Speech. 4.60 Libelle. 4.10 Points of View. 4.20 Songs of Praise. 5.00 Channel Four Film Show 2012.


Channel 4’s COMEDY GALA

1.45 Road Trip. (R)
2.00 The Simpsons. (R)
2.45 Roary the Racing Car. (R)
3.00 The Mr Men Show. (R)
3.40 The Railway Children. (R)
4.10 The Inbetweeners. (R)
4.30 The Millionaire. (R)
4.40 Film: Do Dooni Chaar.
5.05 Film: 10,000 BC.
5.15 Film: Deep Impact.
6.00 Regional News; ITV News at Ten; ITV News at Ten; Sunday Politics. (R) Weather for the Week Ahead.

Channel 2

5.00 Breakfast 5.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00 The Big Breakthrough. (R) Weather for the Week Ahead. 12.00 Sunday Politics. 1.60 Bargain Hunt. (R) 2.30 Dragon’s Den. 3.40 Bulldog. 4.40 The Queen’s Speech. (R) 4.60 Libelle. 4.10 Points of View. 4.20 Songs of Praise. 5.00 Channel Four Film Show 2012.


Channel 1

5.00 Good Morning Britain. (R) 5.00 Good Morning Britain. (R) 5.10 My Best Friend’s English Bulldog. 8.00 The Great British Bagpipe Contest.

ITV

1.45 The Bill. 2.00 The Simpsons. (R)
2.45 Roary the Racing Car. (R)
3.00 The Mr Men Show. (R)
3.40 The Railway Children. (R)
4.10 The Inbetweeners. (R)
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2.45 Roary the Racing Car. (R)
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3.40 The Railway Children. (R)
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>1.00 AM</td>
<td>Breakfast.</td>
<td>BBC1</td>
<td>9.15 Fake Britain</td>
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<td></td>
<td>6.00 AM</td>
<td>BBC News; Weather.</td>
<td>BBC1</td>
<td>11.00 Cash in the Arc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6.30 AM</td>
<td>Good Morning Britain.</td>
<td>Channel 4</td>
<td>6.00 Breakfast</td>
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<td>7.00 AM</td>
<td>CBBE</td>
<td>Channel 5</td>
<td>8.30 Chinese Food in Minutes</td>
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<td></td>
<td>8.30 AM</td>
<td>ABC's World News</td>
<td>ABC1</td>
<td>10.00 I'm a Celebrity, Extra</td>
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<td>9.00 AM</td>
<td>Good Morning Britain.</td>
<td>Channel 4</td>
<td>12.00 Chinese Food in Minutes</td>
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<td>10.00 AM</td>
<td>News at 10</td>
<td>BBC1</td>
<td>1.10 The Wright Stuff</td>
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<td>11.00 AM</td>
<td>The One Show.</td>
<td>BBC1</td>
<td>3.30 Live in the UK.</td>
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<td>12.30 PM</td>
<td>Lunchtime</td>
<td>Channel 4</td>
<td>5.15 Marathon Man</td>
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<td>1.30 PM</td>
<td>The One Show.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Make &amp; Model</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Color</th>
<th>Mileage</th>
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<th>Price After VAT</th>
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Kia’s April performance couldn’t quite match the record rainfall the country endured. But the brand continued its remarkable 2012 performance, delivering 5,120 new vehicles to customers during April.

Kia delivered 5,120 new vehicles to customers during April.

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**Wolves have unveiled little-known Norwegian State Sollbakken as their new manager – with chairman Steve Morgan admitting the appointment is a gamble.

But Morgan has insisted the former Norwegian international will prove a hit in the Molineux hot-seat.

The multi-millionaire believes his choice, who won five Danish Superliga titles in six years at Copenhagen, is a risk that can pay off handsomely.

“It’s always a gamble – of course it is, when you appoint any new manager but we don’t believe that just because he’s not well known in

by Tim Nash

England, that it’s a problem,” said Morgan.

“He’s a veteran of the Champions League, he has won lots of silverware as a player and as a manager, and of course he will have money to spend.

“It’s only a brave appointment in the sense that Sollie (pronounced Stolier) is not well known in the UK but he’s a legend in Scandinavia and northern Europe and his record ranks up there with the best."

Morgan revealed Wolves had interviewed only two candidates this time – Sollbakken and outgoing boss Terry Connor.

Wolves are planning two back-room appointments under the new boss. They plan to have a European-style sporting director – called a “football development director” – and an assistant coach, expected to be Sollbakken’s long-term assistant Bird Wiggren.

The football development director will be appointed by, and report to, chief executive Steve Morgan. The new role hasn’t yet been clearly defined, but he will assist Sollbakken.

Sollbakken confirmed: “I trust the guys already here but I want to add in one or two new people. It’s too early to say who I will bring.”

Wolves insist he is fit for duty after challenging the media to a race.

The 44-year-old former midfielder was forced to retire from playing in 2001 when he had a cardiac arrest on the training pitch when he was at Copenhagen, similar to Bolton mid-fielder Fabrice Muamba in March.

He said: “For me it was a defect I had from birth, I haven’t been troubled before, nor afterwards. If you want me to run with you, I will lead you 10 times out of 10.”

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**KIDDERMINSTER** Harriers wide-man Marvin Johnson wants to become the team’s rightwing wonder on the right-hand side as he bid to make his mark.

Johnson has been used on the left since arriving from part-time Romsal in February and impressed in the point of an English T20 call-up.

The 21-year-old has been named in an 18-man squad for the national semi-professional side’s Mission to Moscow on June 5, where they will face Rostov.

But, after that game in Group A of the International Challenge Trophy at Dynamo Moscow’s Khimky Arena, he wants bow

Steve Burr to do the ‘right’ thing

The Birmingham-based flanker rallied Harriers 18 times last season in that position before his switch to Aghowle, where he scored his first goal after 12 appearances.

He said: “I am going to speak to the gaffer and, hopefully, get more time on the right. I prefer to play there, I can cut therefore get shot off and I can cross with my right foot. I just can’t shoot as well.”

“That’s where I feel my all-round game is better and be more of a threat.”

That said, on the left, I still can link up with people and balls put into the box.”

Meanwhile, Harriers midfielder Kyle Storer today welcomed Nuneaton Borough into the Blue Square Premier after his former club were promoted.

Boro went up from the Blue Square North with a 1-0 win over Gainsborough Trinity on Sunday to return to non-league’s top flight for the first time since 1987.

Storer left Liberty Way with Harriers paying an undisclosed fee to bring the 25-year-old into the full-time squad on a two-year contract.

A successful stop in division was seen when Storer make 40 appearances for Harriers in his first season and he’s backing his old employers to up their game and adapt to the standard, after coming through the play-offs at the second attempt.

He said: “I couldn’t have been more pleased for them last weekend, I am over the moon for them.”

“Do the whole, they have been very unlucky over the last two seasons, but they have restructured and bounced back well.”

“There are plenty of similarities between Kidderminster and Nuneaton, because both like to do things the hard way!”

“IT shows what character they have there and they fully deserve it.”

**Corbett 6.**

**Colts Sen 3; Pockets 1 Withymoor 0; Wyre Forest Harriers 0 Netherton Bladder 4; Stour Park Rgrs 4 WH Dudley Spts 0; Dudley Spts 0 Grange Two Gates 4; Netherton Ath 6 Dudley Kings 5).**

**Kings 2 Burlish Olympic 2 (aet, pens 3-1 and**

**Wolverhampton (Dpts) 176-4; Kidderminster Victoria CC**

**It was a case of so near, but so far as Kidderminster Victoria were come away from Wolverhampton with victory.**

Harrowing have won the toss and invited the visitors to bat. Kings and Richard Kimberlin conceding just 25 and 15 runs respectively a couple of extra’s.

But then on, Wolverhampton batted steadily, with Karl Quinney and Siman Lycett bowled for two and with Vitali Tsyplik caught and bowled for a duck in the same over.

Wolverhampton scored just 42 runs in the first 16 overs, with Williams and Richard Kimberlin conceding just 25 and 15 runs respectively a couple of extra’s.

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