A NEW £5 million college campus has officially opened in the Black Country.

Stourbridge College has modernised its main campus at Hagley Road with a stylish new building created for a fresh generation of learners. The site has centres of excellence for engineering, health and social care and early years.

During the grand opening, guests saw students hard at work in the new science and IT laboratories which are part of the revamped A-level suite. The site has centres of excellence for engineering, health and social care and early years. A range of events took place at the opening of the campus, which is part of Birmingham Metropolitan College.

Performing arts students celebrated Stourbridge College through the years and music students provided background entertainment.

Marget James, who is defending her seat in Stourbridge, performed the official opening and unveiled a glass sculpture in the reception area which was created by artist, Allister Malcolm of Bradfordshire Art Museum.

The piece, called *The Vision*, is based around the iris of an eye. The artist said he was inspired by his determination to follow his dreams.

Head of Stourbridge College Wendy Stevens said: “Today is the realisation of our ambition to create the very best in teaching and learning facilities in the Black Country. The students and staff are absolutely thrilled to have moved into new classrooms with state of the art IT technology and bespoke facilities for engineering, health and social care and early years.

“We now have a real presence in Stourbridge town centre with a fantastic landmark building which is providing a real draw for local students and employers.

“Our aim is to build on the legacy of the college and help more local people realise their dreams,” said Miss James.

“IT’s not many youngsters who have a special beer bred in celebration of their first birthday.

But Harvey-Joe Hicks has been honoured in just such a way and the ale, called *The Cat’s Cradle*, has already proved a hit with drinkers.

His parents, Aimee and Dan, run The Cat Inn, at Enville, and the youngster is a well-known character among customers.

Rennie Ales has brewed the 4.5 per cent amber ale to honour Harvey-Joe’s first birthday which will be celebrated on April 29.

The beer is exclusive to drinkers at The Cat and will only be available for the rest of the month. And the youngster has been trying his hand at pulling pints of the ale.

The pub has a second reason to celebrate after being crowned the Campaign for Real Ale’s South Staffordshire pub of the year for the third year running.

Mrs Hicks said they were still making plans for her son’s birthday at the moment.

“It is great Enville Ales has brewed the beer to honour Harvey-Joe’s birthday,” she said.

“People have already sampled it and it is selling like hot cakes at the moment. It is really popular.”

“Everybody at the pub loves Harvey-Joe. He is a well-known little character.”

Mrs Hicks, 29, said she and her husband had been running the pub for three years.

**GRADE A EXAMINATION CENTRE**

The college on Hagley Road

**IDEA FOR GLASS WALKWAY AT CAMPUS AXED**

FRESH plans have been lodged for a £3 million performing arts centre at Halowsen College after concerns about the original designs were raised by fire chiefs.

The new complex was due to be connected to other buildings at the Whittington Road site by a glass walkway, which the college had hoped to use as an exhibition space and break area for students.

But fire officers said as the link way would be the main escape route for the block in an emergency, it would need to be left clear. Revised designs have now been submitted for a stand alone complex after bosses said they would not be able to use the glazed walkway as hoped.

The performing arts centre is the latest stage of a revamp at the site, with £28m being invested in replacing buildings. It will provide teaching and rehearsal space for students on music, drama and dance courses. The college has been struggling to provide enough space for the growing number of students taking performing arts courses. Some currently have to travel off campus to use facilities at Benjamin’s, a function hall in the town centre.

**COMEDY**

Dancing Grannies aim to conquer America

DANCING granny sensations The Fizzogs have gone to America after being snapped up by two TV stations.

The unique trio’s Dancing Grannies routine will be broadcast on TruTV in Los Angeles and a Canadian television station is screening the Black Country troupe’s comedy-drama Black By Day.

The transatlantic breakthrough comes on the back of the Fizzogs going viral on the internet last year when their dance at Stourbridge Carnival attracted 1.6 million hits worldwide.

**DEATH**

Inquiry after man is killed on track

A MAN was killed when he was hit by a train in the Black Country. He was struck near Dudley Port station at around 6.15am on Easter Monday.

Trains were suspended after the incident, reported by the driver of a Virgin Trains service, leading to delays for bank holiday travellers. National Express buses and Midland Metro accepted train tickets to help.

A British Transport Police spokesman said: “Inquiries are ongoing. The matter is not being treated as suspicious. Anyone with information is asked to contact 0800 40 50 40.”

**HOMES**

Canalside housing decision pending

PLANS to create a new canalside development in Tividale will be decided next week.

Developer Cameron Homes Ltd has submitted proposals to build 60 homes on the site of a former refuelling depot in the Tipton Road

The company believes the land is the ideal location for new homes because of nearby transport links and leisure services.

A decision was due to be made by Sandwell Council last month but members deferred a site visit because of a busy agenda.

Members of the planning committee are now set to make a decision on April 15.

**INSIDE ALEXANDRA IN GRAND SHOW**

The Cat Inn at Enville, run by Dan and Aimee Hicks whose baby son Harvey-Joe is eager to pull a pint, is Staffordshire Pub of the Year

Pub’s favourite tot

It’s not many youngsters who have a special beer brewed in celebration of their first birthday.

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A FORMER Black Country police chief has blasted cuts to forces and spoken down the country, warning that officers cannot work "from Costa Coffee with a laptop".

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**NEWS IN BRIEF**

**Patrols against off-road bikers**

POLICE patrols are being increased around Dudley following complaints about off-road bikes.

Residents living near Fens Pool in Brierley Hill have reported motorcycles being used during evenings and weekends.

The Worcestershire and Pennant police team have pledged to tackle the issue and have increased patrols.

They said: “As the lighter nights return, so do the issues with off-road bikes.”

The team is now advising bikers not to use the face having them confiscated.

**Driver in court over fatal crash**

A MAN has appeared in court charged with causing death by dangerous driving.

Jamie Wharton, aged 29, was behind the wheel of a Nissan skyline when it careered through a garden wall in St Peter’s Road, Netherton, just last June. Front seat passenger Timothy Pears on, 39, suffered fatal injuries.

At Dudley Magistrates’ Court, Whitton, of Birch Coppice, Quarry Bank, aged 30, was remanded in custody after an appearance at Wolverhampton Crown Court on June 23 for a plea and case management hearing.

**Burglary suspect held in custody**

A MAN has charged with carrying out a burglary and one theft and, at Dudley Magistrates’ Court, was remanded in custody after an appearance at Wolverhampton Crown Court on June 23 for a plea and case management hearing.

**Letters in favour of supermarket scheme**

MORE than 100 letters in support of a supermarket on a site of a landmark petrol forecourt have been received.

Aldi has lodged proposals to demolish the Martin Food Estate and build a new store.

Nearby residents have written to Dudley Council in support of the scheme.

**Police probe stabbing**

A STABBING victim in a stable condition in hospital after being attacked in a Dudley supermarket.

A 38-year-old man was stabbed twice in the car park at The Royal Hotel in Castle Street at 4.15pm on Sunday night. Police said inquiries were ongoing.
Man jailed after newsagent robbery

A ROBBER has been jailed for more than four years in a part in a terrifying raid on a newsagent in the Black Country.

John Garratt and an accomplice stole £500 worth of cigarettes and attempted to steal a cash box from Midland News in Tipton after threatening the shopkeeper with a gun hammerer and pushing her to the floor on November 21.

David Bennett, prosecuting, said the robbery left the woman “unattended” and unable to work in the shop on her own, though she did not suffer physical injuries.

She was behind the counter when drug addict Garratt, aged 28, and another man approached her wearing face masks. One of them then raised the hammer before attempting to take the cash box but was pushed away by the shopkeeper who called for help. The other was stealing cigarettes from behind the counter and was also pushed away but forced her onto the floor. The woman’s family caused one of the robbers to run while the other threatened the family in the shop’s television viewing.

Mr Bennett said Garratt had numerous previous convictions for robbery. Thomas Schofield, mitigating, told Wolverhampton Crown Court that Garratt, of Elwell Street, West Bromwich, was “remorseful” about his crime.

Recorder Anthony Lowe said there was “no room in lecturing about his crimes because previous judges had done the same without Garratt changing his behaviour. He sentenced him to four years and eight months in prison.

Construction work at market hits traders

MARKET traders in Dudley claim they are losing business despite moving to a larger part of a £6.7million revamp.

Stallholders say customers are lured by the on-going construction work in High Street.

Work started in January last year, leaving the traditional stalls for more than 12 months and throughout the Christmas period.

They have seen their takings plummet and as most of the stallholders have settled into the new revamped market place, they say they are still finding it tough.

Work is still going on around them as the finishing touches are put to most of the stalls and traders say the noise of the work, which may not be complete until August, is deterring shoppers.

Scarred

Roy Eaton, aged 70, who has owned his clothing stall on the market since 1996 and now works there part-time for his son, said the work had been disruptive.

“I think it’s time it was done, now,” Mr Eaton said. “It’s nice and clean but it has just taken too long and caused too much disruption.

“I think you do have to give it time, but I do think customers are getting scarred over by the work.”

Grahame Stothall, aged 51, of Derby Rd Road, who has worked on a vegetable stall on the market for 12 years, said: “We have been told that it is meant to be August when they are finally done – we just want it done and dusted.

John Millar, acting strategic director for finance, environment and housing at Dudley Council, said: “We are in the process of putting the finishing touches to the market place area and when complete will benefit the business community, shoppers and visitors alike.

“The overall scheme is on schedule and in budget, and is due to be completed by early summer.”

Launching the jam jar appeal for the leukaemia unit

A CHARITY hopes loss change will add up to hundreds of pounds for a cancer unit at Dudley’s Royal Hospital.

Members of the Leukaemia Unit Appeal Fund are once again holding their jam jar appeal to bring in cash for the good cause. And they hope residents will show the same level of support as they first staged the appeal three years ago.

The charity supports the hospital’s Georgina Unit and raises funds through events and its two shops in Upper Gornal and Tipton.

The last jam jar appeal was held over the course of the three months and raised £3,000 for the unit. This time, because of its previous success, the charity has decided to extend the campaign. It kicked off last week and will run for six months.

People can pick up a jam jar from the charity’s shops in the Arcade, Upper Gornal, and Unity Walk Arcade, Owen Street, in Tipton.

They are then asked to place their loose change into the jar and bring it back to the shop once full. Alternatively people can fill up their own jam jars with coins and donate it to the charity.

Charity bosses said they had already donated around £150,000 to the unit.

Ros Bratt-Wytton, charity trustee, said: “It is for a very good cause and people are always very generous in their support.”

Don’t miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Construction work at market hits traders

Cancer unit jam jar plea extended

Wheelchair users legal challenge to temple

WORSHIPPERS are using the largest Sikh temple in Wolverhampton after securing all of the access for people in wheelchairs.

The group accuses the Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara in Blakeneys of leaving people in wheelchairs outside the main prayer room and making them hold small screens in the dining room because they are unable to observe the custom of sitting on the floor.

Papers have been filed with the County Court in Birmingham. Letters have been sent by Paul Upall and Pat McFadden, both seeking re-evaluation as MPs in Wolverhampton, reminding the gurdwara of its obligations under disability discrimination law.

About 10,000 people regularly use the Sedgley Street gurdwara. Campaigners say people in wheelchairs cannot sit on the floor or be offered a lift is not always available. The committee says no-one is being excluded and plans are in place for a new building which will improve access.

Jaginder Bassi, chairman of the Sikh Forum Wolverhampton, said about £5,000 has been raised through donations and a legal challenge.

“Whatever is happening to disabled and other people is degrading,” he said.

Gurdwara management say more facilities for disabled worshippers will be provided under a £2 million revamp. A spokesman said: “We make every effort to try for practical reasonable adjustments that are also consistent with our practises, in line with people with disabilities taking account of our faith’s traditions.”

Escape for driver as car overturns

A MOTORIST had a lucky escape when his car careered off a road near Stourbridge.

The occupant was able to walk away uninjured after his black Vauxhall Astra overturned between Stourton and Kinver.

Both vehicles were checked to ensure they were safe and crews from the Stourbridge fire station left after 2pm.

Four people were brought to hospital after the car and van were involved in the collision. One suffered minor injuries and the others required hospital treatment.

Start date for work on council houses

WORK to create new council houses on the site of a former care home to help most people will begin in June.

The last remaining homes have been converted into eight bungalows and six apartments. Planning permission was granted for the scheme in February.
A SERVICE will celebrate the life of respected businessman Douglas Graham, chairman of the Claverley Group, parent company of the Express & Star and Shropshire Star.

Mr Graham died after a short illness, aged 83. He belonged to the Wolverhampton-based family company, widely regarded as one of the most successful in the newspaper and print industry.

A service to celebrate his life will take place at St Peter’s Collegiate Church in Wolverhampton on Monday, July 13. It starts at 11.30am. At the family’s request, in lieu of flowers, donations are to be made to Compton Hospice, Severn Hospice and Hope House.

Mr Graham succeeded his father, Malcolm Graham, as chairman of the Claverley Group in 1983 after a lifelong career in the business.

A keen motor enthusiast, he lived at Worfield near Bridgnorth, was a life member of the British Racing Drivers’ Club and was a game shooting enthusiast. His wife Sara said she was especially thankful for the cars he bought.

Mr Graham was a major force in the newspaper and print industry, widely regarded as one of the most successful in the newspaper and print industry.

The inquest held in Smethwick recently with a view to bringing two men to justice over the death of an elderly Wolverhampton woman.

A NEW crackdown on yobs causing a nuisance in a Stourbridge shopping centre car park is to take place.

Police have applied to use a Public Space Protection Plan (PSPO) to deal with anti-social behaviour plaguing the Ryemarket, which includes skateboarders and BMX riders getting in the way of motorists, sometimes causing dangerously down ramps. Walls have been defaced with graffiti.

The PSPO is a new power under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, which enables councils to deal with problems in public spaces by imposing conditions for the use of that area.

It was one of a number of measures recently gathered together in a Public Space Protection Order which enables councils to deal with problems in public spaces by imposing conditions for the use of that area.

Staff and shoppers have complained about the problems in the car park. Now members of the Rollaston and Stourbridge town police teams have pledged to tackle the issue.

Sgt Andy Holder, who is leading the police team tackling the problem, said: “We receive reports from shoppers and staff at the Ryemarket shopping centre of youths acting in an anti-social manner in the multi-storey car park. It has been decided to include this as an issue for the team to address.

“We are in the process of potentially applying for a Public Space Protection Plan (PSPO).

“Police have also applied to use a Public Space Protection Plan (PSPO) to deal with anti-social behaviour in the Ryemarket, which includes drug takes, Willie, vandalism.

“We have an issue with the multi-storey car park and have also liaised with partner agencies, Dudley Council, youth services and other partners. We have issued 14 anti-social behaviour warning letters. We will continue with regular patrols in the area at various times during our tour of duty.

“Margaret Scott, chairman of the Stourbridge Towncouncil, said the problem of vandalism and anti-social behaviour in the Ryemarket had been a nuisance for many years.

“We saw an increase when the multi-storey car park was demolished and the Tescos were built. They could not go anywhere else so they moved to the Ryemarket.

“You do see them, late at night, causing problems with their skateboards and in the stairwells.

“Now these new protection plans are quite new but we have spoken to the police and discussed them at meetings and I am 100 per cent behind the idea.

“Not only is there a concern about the behaviour, but my worry is that with the way they treat the ramps, we could also see a serious accident.” Mrs Scott said.

The zoo’s registrar and research co-ordinator, Dr David Beeston, said: “We had planned to increase the group after the terrible sad death of great favourtie Deisy, a 22-year-old male, who passed away last July.

“Female sea lions in particular do like to hang about together.”

The facility is a great attraction for both locals and visitors.

The event will take place at West Midlands Safari Park, from 11am until 4pm.

Attraction on the day will include a session from theOstrich Family, where visitors will have the opportunity to interact with the birds. The facility is home to over 200 birds from around the world, including the waddling Toco Owl and the beautiful, flightless Ostrich.

Admission is free.

Road to shut for works

FART of the busy Hagley Road near Stourbridge will be closed for nine nights for roadworks to be carried out.

The road will be shut in both directions near its junction with Birmingham Road. It will be closed between 8pm and 6am from today (Thursday).
Andrew Tutton caught up with Blind Dave Heeley before he started on another massive challenge in the Sahara.

**BLACK Country charity champ Dave Heeley is blazing a trail once more to inspire a generation, as he nears to the end of a grueling 160-mile run through the Sahara Desert.**

**Whether it is climbing soaring 5,000ft high sand dunes, battling swirling 120°F temperatures or tucking into a packet of Black Country pork scratchings to keep his strength up, Dave is once again a superb ambassador for the region.**

With his last minute packing—before flying out to Morocco— including his trusty Black Country Flag, Dave has completed weeks of tough training in preparation for the six-day event.

The father-of-three, who is a devoted Bagpiper fan, has already helped raise almost £20,000 for West Brom’s charity The Albion Foundation which supports community projects including disability sport. The foundation established the Tri-Challenge to bring in vital funds through endurance events including a charity hike ride and a walk between schools in Sandwell.

And now the final leg of this awe-inspiring challenge will take Dave, aged 57, and his two guides Tony Ellis and Rosemary Rhodes to the desert.

He is being cheered on by his family including with Lou, who has been married to him for 20 years, and daughter Grace, 24, George, 11, and 11-year-old Danny. Dave is carrying a jacket with him containing silver impressions of their fingerprints to help him remain in contact with them more than 1,400 miles away.

After touching down in north Africa, Dave took a five-hour coach journey to the edge of the Sahara. Around 1,000 competitors from all around the world come to take part in the Marathon Des Sables which is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year.

But Dave will be the first ever blind athlete to take on the challenge.

“I’m the first blind bloke and I’m from West Brom,” he said, “I just a sense of pride from it and that helps spur me on.”

**SCORCHING temperatures in the Sahara during the high season can reach up to 120°F (49°C).**

During the Marathon Des Sables a minimum daily intake of 2,000 calories is recommended. Most participants take between 3,000 to 4,000 to compensate for daily losses.

There are snakes in Morocco but competitors rarely glimpse them. Instead they may encounter scarabas and mosquitoes. Sun hats with nets, cloths are essential as well as Factor 50 sun block.

Athletes are told to eat a breakfast each day and eat high-energy snacks every 20 to 30 minutes during the race.

At least four litres of water are available to drink every day with checkpoints set up to replenish thirsty athletes.

People carry up to 15kgs of kit including their tent, cooking equipment, food and water during the day.

Each day stage starts from 8am and runners are forced to cope with the high temperatures in the middle sun.

Competitors are only told their route on the first day. One stage will be 50 miles long.

“‘I’ll have my Black Country flag with me and hopefully I’m representing us today.”

“Everyone’s been fantastic with their support. I can’t thank them enough. Especially my family, they have been amazing.”

Ahead of the challenge Dave had acclimatized to the harsh conditions by training in a humidity chamber at the University of Birmingham.

Athletes sleep under tents in the desert and face different terrain and conditions every day— including huge sand dunes, desert rivers beds and rocky routes. Each athlete is given a GPS tracker so that the organizers can monitor the competitors can make their way through the vast desert.

Dave has had a full medical and a electrocardiogram and was told he could encounter heatstroke, dehydration and bites from creatures like scorpions.

His kit bag weighs around 8kgs and carries all his essentials. The only supplies that are given are four litres of fresh water each day.

The only items he will eat each day consists of dried food like noodles, fruit and even cottage pie and chilli con carne.

The team have to take in a minimum of 2,000 calories a day and are instructed to use tablets to replace essential nutrients and electrolytes.

But Dave added: “I’m also taking a Peperami and some pork scratchings too. They will help with replacing salts and they are a treat too to keep me going.”

Dave was born with the hereditary disease of the eye of Retinitis Pigmentosa which was diagnosed at the age of 10. The condition brought the gradual deterioration of his sight.

“At the time I was diagnosed it didn’t affect me as maybe I didn’t really understand it. From 16 my sight just nosedived. But it had gone by my 20s.

“Because you get so busy and you learn to cope. It still stagers me that just a few years ago I could see. Now I can see millions and millions of lights in the dark. You can’t see but then almost a honeycomb and it is bright.”

“Blindness is not a failure. You never get used to being blind but you learn to accept the fact that there are no worries in the world that will bring it into your life."

Dave said: “I’ve been told the kids look up to their dad so that is that. Even if that old codger can do it, what can we do. I want them to look it in the face. If that spurs them on then fantastic.”

To donate visit www.justgiving.com/blind-davemeds or go to www.thealbionfounda tion.co.uk
Trains not trees would help us all

NETWORK Rail, the West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority, Centro and DfT should no longer fund the re-opening of rural lines but get to work in the re-introduction of stations and tracks that literally run alongside or near to bumper-to-bumper commuter traffic in our own densely populated urban conurbation.

Stations are urgently needed at Waterfront and Merry Hill, Dudley Castle Hill, Wednesday cottages on the scrub and woodland, 21km Black Country rail line. Trains not trees would be more of a help to us all.

What’s the purpose of debates?

WHAT is the big deal with those TV debates? What is all the fuss about?

We managed prior to 2010 without them. Even after them what did we learn? Not one thing.

More than 20 million people watched them, yet the turnout was still low.

For one watched out of curiosity for the first one. The debates offered nothing in enlightening me into voting for any of the parties, in a lot of ways it turned me off politics because of their childish bickering.

Debates serve no more purpose than allowing TV producers to decide who to broadcast much drivel, rather than first decent programmes for viewers to watch.

This is just cheap TV and if those that think for a second the debates will make people vote, then they are deluding themselves.

The politicians just use the time to attempt to convince the public and later deny them what did we learn?

Dudley Chronicle Thursday, April 9, 2015

Intrigued at reaction to scooter comments

WHEN I wrote about mobility scooter owners generalised comments not an attack on any specific user.

I am not sure why D Robinson, who is 83 and cannot walk more than 20/30 yards before losing balance, seems to have taken it as a personal affront.

Quietly, but so-called petty comments should niggle him intriguos me.

The point I was trying to make was not so much about who should use mobility scooters or not, but how they can be seen to be used for purposes for which they are not intended, and in doing so they can present a hazard.

By his own admission D Robinson’s scooter can only travel up to 8mph, so he implies that I exaggerate when I say people have whizzed past me pretty quickly.

In my book this is a pretty brisk walking pace and in towns with its congested or restricted pavements, and at that speed, there is a chance of serious injury, especially concerning the elderly and infirm.

For me, totally deaf and with a balance problem, changing direction on a pavement and with a scooter travelling at that speed behind me, it could be a quick route to A&E. This to me makes it difficult to accept at face value the assertion that most, if not all, motor scooter owners have third party insurance.

J B Waldron
Sloughbridge

Reason why we need a zoo

REPLYING to my letter about the closure of Dudley Hippodrome, M Laws asks “Why do we need a zoo?”

The answer of course is that in 2014 it was visited by 280,000 people.

In his letter he does acknowledge what an eyesore and anachronism it is by suggesting a way of disguising it.

Another correspondent gave their reason for preservation the fact that they had performed there.

Mr Cameron please Mr Cameron get to core issues like this before trying to preach for better things.

T Mills
Dudley
STAIRLIFTS
STRAIGHT AND CURVED
“We will beat any genuine quote”
Try our in-store stairlift before you buy
FREE! Home survey and fitting on all stairlifts.
All work carried out by fully qualified engineers

- A wide range of new and used mobility scooters available
- p/x welcome
- On site workshop
- Rise & Recliner chairs, Wheelchairs and daily living aids in stock

Come and visit our large Showroom at:-
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Open Mon-Fri 9.30am - 4.30pm Sat 9.30am - 12.30pm Closed Sunday
FREE PARKING
01384 356 356

AGM takes up whole of meeting
Wollaston 'E' TWG

THE March meeting was taken up completely by the AGM.
Chairman Jean Latham took the chair and there were 51 members in attendance. Apologies were read, followed by the secretary with the annual reports from all of the sub-sections. These included arts and craft, floral art, bowls, tea and talenta, luncheon club and Worland Ambler. All reported a successful and interesting year, including many social events. The treasurer then gave a favourable financial report.
In her report, the chairman said she was happy with an active and successful past year, and that the officers and committee were to remain the same for this year.
The annual awards, namely the Bowls Shield and the Competition Cup, will be presented to the respective recipients at the next meeting.
The Macmillan fundraising walk is to be reorganised with a new format this year, the trip to Bath has been arranged for August 12.
A home team will be represented in the inter-guild quiz, to be held at Stourbridge Football Club on June 1. Finally, knitters are required to make blankets and hats for premature babies – details from committee members.

Raffle prizes went to Jean Tomkins and Joan Brooks.
The next meeting is at 7.30pm on April 14, at St James Church Hall, Wollaston.

Novice players Roy Jennings and Barrie Tykiff, winners of the Express & Star Trophy
ROY Jennings and Barrie Tykiff won the Wolverhampton Bridge Club’s Express & Star Trophy with an impressive score of 73 per cent in the 2015 competition for novice players.

John Whilton and Barrie Jones were second among the 30 players competing on Tuesday March 24. The trophy was first presented in 1972.

Wolverhampton Bridge Club welcomes experienced players and beginners and meets every weekday evening and Mon–Fri.

Tales of mystery and intrigue
At the next guild meeting, 10am on Monday, April 20 at Wordsley Green Community Centre, Chris Smith brings humour and unusual, factual, local tales with his talk entitled “Would You Believe It!” There are prizes to be won during his talk which includes tales of mystery and intrigue.
Zoo boss suspended as investigation launched

THE chief executive of Dudley Zoo has been suspended pending an investigation into his conduct.

Peter Suddock, who has been in charge of the zoo for more than 20 years, has been suspended on full pay. It is understood the suspension relates to financial matters.

The investigation will be monitored by the Charity Commission, officials have announced.

Dudley Zoo, which is a registered charity, is governed by a board of trustees who are answerable to the Charity Commission.

Serious

Officials at the commission have confirmed that they received a ‘Serious Incident Report’ from the trustees.

Officials from the attraction, which was visited by more than 290,000 people in 2014, said the investigation was into Mr Suddock’s “conduct of certain affairs of the zoo.”

A Charity Commission spokesman said: “We have received a Serious Incident Report from the charity making us aware of the suspension of the chief executive.

“The charity did the right thing in submitting this report to us. We are in contact with the trustees, who will be providing us with further information as their investigation progresses.”

Further details of the allegations have yet to be revealed.

It is also understood that Mr Suddock’s wife Jill Hinchman has left her post as head of media at the attraction. She told a follower on Twitter that she was “no longer based” at Dudley Zoo.

One of the trustees, former Dudley Council leader Councillor David Sparks, said he could not comment on details due to “legal considerations”. He added: “I have kept the leader of the council and the chief legal officer informed of events to my knowledge.”

Dudley Zoo said: “Peter Suddock, the CEO of Dudley Zoo, has been suspended on full pay pending an investigation into his conduct of certain affairs of the zoo.

“The suspension does not constitute disciplinary action by the zoo. Whether or not disciplinary action is taken will depend upon the outcome of the investigation.”

Mr Suddock’s business career began at Wolverhampton NHS Trust, before he became chief executive of the attraction in 1993.

He has overseen major restoration projects at the site in Castle Hill, including the renovation of itschairlift and famous Tecton enclosures.

In the past decade more than £1 million of the zoo’s own funds have been spent on a revamp of the site. A further £3.5m has been in place for a four-year programme of improvement as the attraction has become increasingly popular.

“April & May Fitting Dates Now Being Reserved”

April & May Fitting Dates Now Being Reserved

Zoo boss Peter Suddock at the gates of the popular Castle Hill attraction
Mr Blue plaque as ELO star is commemorated

FANS joined family and friends of Electric Light Orchestra star Kelly Groucutt at the unveiling of a commemorative blue plaque outside the house where he was born and brought up.

Dudley Mayor Counsellor Margaret Aston performed the honours and then spoke of the love and respect for the bass player, vocalist and father-of-four who died from a heart attack in 2009.

A quarter of bells rang out from nearby Christ Church, where he was christened, for 45 minutes. The occasion drew such a large crowd that Gough Road, Coseley had to be closed in both directions.

Kelly’s sister Mrs Pamela Whale, aged 74, from Upper Gornal said: “It is a magic moment to see his work and music recognised in this way by so many people.”

Their tours offered a perfectly balanced combination of the ‘must see’ classic hits and delightful ‘hidden gems’ – uncovered through extensive research of local areas.

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Embracing a newly found confidence, keen gardener Shirley says sharing smiles is now so totally natural.

SHE laughs easily, smiles a lot and loves company, with this 70-something-year-old enjoying a fresh confidence in her day-to-day living.

Fun-loving Shirley Foster, a passionate gardener and keen modern dancer can’t wait for some sunshine and watch her collection of blooms spring into life.

“I love my collection of poppies. They look stunning with their large colourful flower heads and gardening is a real therapy,” she says.

Admitting she is “very privileged to be so fit”, Shirley walks wherever she can – she doesn’t drive – and for the first time in years is living with spontaneity she has not known for years. Not that she has ever failed to embrace the chance to string every last drop of living out of life, but troublesome teeth and ill-fitting dentures were ever eroding confidence.

Her problems began when she was at school and a lifelong dogged with dental issues followed.

“My two front teeth went bad and had to have crowns fitted on posts. It was the days of the school dentist and I had to go – everyone dreaded it. I had never been in so much pain with the treatment.”

“I religiously attended the dentists every six months to try and keep out of trouble, but as the years went by it seemed to pick up more problems and gradually started to lose my teeth one after another.

“For 30 years or more, I’ve had a partial top plate, but it kept breaking. The bottom plate was worse as it seemed to have a mind of its own.”

Refusing to be beaten by her ill-fitting dentures, Shirley, a former employee at Wolverhampton’s New Cross Hospital, carried an essential denture rescue package wherever she went.

“I was always putting my hand in front of my mouth and raising a finger to my top denture to make sure it was in place. Unable to do anything more for me, my dentist referred me to see someone in Birmingham but it was too far for me to travel from Wednesbury,” she adds.

It was then Shirley discovered the Denture Clinic after reading an article in her local free paper.

Hoping for a solution, she booked a free consultation. Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) GDC108353, principal at the Denture Clinic, says: “She came to us out of Wolverhampton and it was clear she had stabilisation problems with her dentures. A guaranteed solution for her bottom prescription was for over-dentures to be secured by a couple of implants. We made a high quality top denture and the combined effect of using both therapies is excellent. Not only do Shirley’s teeth look great, they are also functional.”

Addes Shirley: “It’s lovely to have the freedom now of not having to worry about whether my teeth would pop out if I coughed or sneezed. I love to talk to people, but now I can smile as well.

“I feel confident that my teeth are secure, my bottom denture being firmly on the implant ‘press stud’.”

In recent years Shirley has found love second time around. “I lost my long-term partner a few years ago, but now I have a very special friend. I met him at a tea dance. Ironically, he’d just been to his dentists and heard the music and decided to pop in. I’m very privileged and my daughter helps keep my outlook young especially when I’m shopping for clothes,” adds Shirley.

“I can’t fault the treatment I received and I’m very pleased with my teeth. Steven was lovely and so were all the staff at the Denture Clinic and Jon Pugh’s practice in Wolverhampton where the implants were fitted. Jon Pugh BDS MSc (Implant Dentistry) GDC 62663, is principal of Total Implant Solutions in Tettenhall Road, Wolverhampton.

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DAVID Cameron and Ed Miliband are likely to have been losing sleep over the rise of Ukip – and the three constituencies in Dudley borough are a major target for Nigel Farage.

His party has seen a surge in support with council seats and the European Parliament elections. And issues surrounding immigration are top on the list of concerns for many of the borough’s voters.

Of all the seats in the Black Country, none ran closer at the last election. Labour’s Ian Austin was made to wait while votes were counted, and then counted again, but emerged with a slender majority of 649 votes.

This time around the seat could be a three-horse race between Labour, the Conservatives and Ukip.

Conservative hopeful, Councillor Les Jones said his party’s chances were “as good as they had ever been” in Dudley North, but regaining the trust of voters could be an uphill battle for him.

Labour’s Ian Austin is standing for a third term in parliament having re-presented the constituency since 2005.

Also fighting for Dudley North as UKip’s Bill Etheridge, a Sedgley councillor and a Member of the European Parliament.

Comfortable

The trio will be joined by former deputy leader of the Green Party, Will Duckworth, Liberal Democrat Mike Collins and fire-fighter David Pitt representing the Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition.

Dudley’s other parliamentary constituency, Dudley South, could also be a close-run race despite a comfortable victory for the Conservatives in 2010. Provost for West Midlands, Chris Kelly is standing down after just one term, with the candidate to replace him being Dudley Councillor Mike Wood.

Father-of-two Mr Wood, aged 38, is a barrister who spent seven years working in the European Parliament. Fellow councillor Paul Brothwood is standing for UKip, while

Question time for candidates

Radio WM presenter Adrian Goldberg chairs the debate at High Arcal School

ELECTION candidates in one of the Black Country’s key battlegrounds went head-to-head in a ‘Question Time’ style hustings event.

The debate was the first official engagement for former council leader Les Jones who will stand for the Tories in Dudley North following Afzal Amin’s resignation.

He was joined on the panel by Labour’s Ian Austin, who held the seat in 2010 with a majority of 649 votes, UKip’s Bill Etheridge MEP, who has been shown by an opinion poll to be in second place for the seat and Green Party candidate Will Duckworth.

Councillor Jones is seen as a ‘trusted’ replacement having stood for Parliament in 2001 and 2005 in Halesowen and Rowley Regis.

He also stood in the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner by-election last year and represents the Pedmore and Stourbridge East ward on Dudley Council.

The biggest clash of the debate at High Arcal School, Sedgley was between Mr Austin and Mr Etheridge.

Mr Etheridge told the audience of pupils it was a ‘fantasy’ that everyone needed to go to university and called for a policy of ‘academic selectivity’.

He said: “If everyone goes to university who will be doing the plumbing, who will be doing the manual work?”

But Mr Austin said he wanted to see more people from Dudley in higher education and he would support the creation of an university in the town.

The Green party’s Will Duckworth said it was his party’s policy to extend the vote to 16-year-olds and asked the UK should not limit immigration into the country.

But Andy Liddle was unimpressed by Ukip’s candidate for former council leader Les Jones. The 17-year-old is too young to stand in the election but called for greater redistribution of wealth.

Conservative chief whip Michael Gove over the rise of Ukip – and the three constituencies in Dudley borough are a major target for Nigel Farage. David Cameron and Ed Miliband are likely to have been losing sleep over the rise of Ukip – and the three constituencies in Dudley borough are a major target for Nigel Farage. His party has seen a surge in support with council seats and the European Parliament elections. And issues surrounding immigration are top on the list of concerns for many of the borough’s voters. Of all the seats in the Black Country, none ran closer at the last election. Labour’s Ian Austin was made to wait while votes were counted, and then counted again, but emerged with a slender majority of 649 votes.

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A ROYAL British Legion club which had its future hang in the balance when a devastating break-in has been saved thanks to the generosity of the public.

The ex-services charity’s Kingswinford branch in Summerhill was targeted by burglars who stole £2,500 and caused £5,000 worth of damage in the early hours of March 27. They took a TV along with charity money.

Chairman John Bennett feared for the future of the club. However, treasurer Bob Townsend said the branch has received offers of help as well as pledges of donations from generous members of the public.

He said: “We have had a terrific response from the public and from members of other Royal British Legion clubs who have offered to come along and redecorate and sort the place out.”

Debra Claridge, of Kingswinford, launched a campaign after claiming carers who look after people at their homes are not getting overtime or travel costs.

She says they end up barely getting the minimum wage for the hours they work.

Mrs Claridge is still locked in a battle to get £500 after insisting she is owed by Prestwood Care – and a deadline for her to get the cash has passed.

She is now being represented by HMR&C and says she will decide what action to take next if she does not receive the money.

Contracts

Dudley Council’s adult and community services boss Councillor Dave Brans said restrictions will be tightened on care firms used by the council.

He added a contract between the council and Prestwood Care will not be renewed when it expires.

Mrs Claridge’s campaign began when she realised only a small proportion of the hourly rate paid towards care by council actually got to workers on the frontline.

Mrs Claridge says workers are being paid below the minimum wage in some cases, and many are losing out on pay for up to 10 hours a week, with those travel costs often not even being covered. Prestwood Care was unavailable for comment.

Latest figures show West Midlands councils are paying among the lowest in the country per hour for people to be cared for at home. A minimum of £15.74 an hour should be paid for home care, according to the UK Home Care Association.

The average price in the West Midlands as a whole was £13.90 per hour, with Sandwell, Walsall and Birmingham in the lowest 25 per cent in the UK.

Dudley Council paid £13.74 an hour and Staffordshire £14.39. The lowest average price in the region, paid by Birmingham City Council, was £11.96.

PRIVATE care firms in the part of the Black Country will be forced to pay the minimum wage amid fears staff are losing out on hundreds of pounds.

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A FORMER pupil of The Kingswinford School has taken a lead role in a new film highlighting the dangers of sexual exploitation.

The film called Any- One’s Child follows the character of 14-year-old Charlie Owen who gets exploited by her older boyfriend Dan Harris, played by Lewis Hughes.

Halesowen College drama student Lewis said: “Portraying the character of Dan was terrifying. I hated the character and it opened me up. I’m sure people who have watched the film with also hate Dan as that is the only way people will notice the signs and dangers of sexual exploitation, so people can do something about it.”

Kurt Cook, Drama Lecturer at Halesowen College, said: “Lewis is studying A level drama at College and it is great to see him putting his skills to the test.”

A NOVELIST will be telling about her work at Kingswinford Library on April 1.

Kate Hamer from Cardiff is the author of The Girl in the Red Coat, the story of an abduction.

She grew up in Pembroke and did a creative writing MA at Aberystwyth University and won the Rhys Davies short story award in 2011.

The talk is at 7pm and tickets are £3. Call 01384 812740.
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From silver screen to diamond wedding

It was a love match made thanks to the silver screen after friends brought them together for their first date.

Sixty years on, Vincent and Shirley Witton are very much in love as they celebrate their diamond wedding anniversary.

Shirley was invited by friends to the Regent Cinema, in Tipton, where they watched the epic King Kong. Romance was to blossom when she met her husband-to-be who was still sporting his Army uniform having come back from National Service.

“He was the smartest soldier around. He captured my heart,” said Shirley, now aged 78.

Vincent, 81, worked as a window cleaner when he left school before serving two years in the Army based around Worcester. The couple courted for two years and tied the knot at St John’s Church, in Princes End, Tipton, on March 19, 1955.

They went to live with Mr Witton’s mother Sarah off Wrens Hill Road, in Dudley. They later lived in Brand Court, in Coseley.

Mr Witton went on to work as a welder and the couple have two sons, James and John, a daughter Julia a well as 28 grandchildren, great grandchildren and great, great grandchildren.

They have now moved in with James and his wife Diane in Holly Hall, Dudley.

The couple celebrated their anniversary with a party at The Lodge, in Dudley, attended by more than 60 of their family and friends.
**Hairdresser trimline after cutting pounds**

A HAIRDRESSER says his life has been turned around after losing the equivalent of 42 packs of lard in weight.

Gareth Page is now sharing his own experiences to help others do the same.

The 34-year-old, of Wrens Nest Road, Dudley, dropped from 17 stone to 13.8 stone on the Slimming World plan last year. Mr Page, who went from a 40 inch waist to 32, has now started his own group to help others.

“My weight loss has changed my life,” he said. “I was becoming increasingly concerned about my health as diabetes runs in my family and I didn’t want to develop that in later life.

“I was hiding how I felt about myself, I lacked self-confidence and was ashamed of how big I had become.

“The crunch came when I was looking for something new to wear for a New Year’s Eve party in 2013 and I couldn’t find anything I liked in my size. I vowed there and then to do something about it.”

**Gareth was a hefty 17 stone before his weight loss**

**The hairdresser after losing three and a half stone**

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Dr Richard Beeching has a bad reputation among rail enthusiasts. His name has become a dirty word.

On the back of his 1963 report 'The Reshaping of British Railways’, more commonly known as the Beeching report, the government ripped up around a third of the country’s rail tracks.

It was a move which devastated the network, costing 97,000 people their jobs and closing 2,363 railway stations in the process. But much less widely known is Beeching’s second report, which marks its 50th anniversary in 2015. Just don’t expect to see rail enthusiasts celebrating.

Entitled ‘The Development of the Major Railway Trunk Routes’ the report cemented much of what had been achieved by the earlier publication and further concentrated future plans for the network around a handful of main lines.

Between the two reports, the West Midlands was hit as hard as anywhere. Dr Beeching had been tasked with making savings. Big savings.

British Rail was losing £140 million a year when he took over as chairman of the British Transport Commission in 1963. His strategy was to implement wholesale route closures in an attempt to concentrate resources on the core routes and close down the sections which were losing money. "Inevitable"

So in the West Midlands, some of the closures were inevitable. It emerged from Dr Beeching’s studies that the Windmill End station, just outside Dudley, had been used by just one passenger a day, and it was surely little wonder that the town’s three-mile Bumble Hole line was to close. But Beeching did not stop there.

While most people expected that some of the smaller towns would lose their rail links, he proposed the closure of all passenger services to Dudley and Walsall.

Dudley was one of the biggest communities in the country to be hit when its station at the bottom of Castle Hill was closed in July 1964. Walsall station managed to avoid the full force of the axe, but had its services drastically reduced with just one line being retained to Birmingham New Street. Cannock, Aldridge and Wednesbury would also lose their stations along with Darlaston, West Bromwich and Great Bridge.

Across the country, 4,500 miles of railway tracks were put out of use. In their place motorways were being built at a rapid rate and the car was seen as the future.

No longer would rural areas have immediate access to the rail network. In many places replacement bus services were established, but few stood the test of time.

It is often argued Dr Beeching took a narrow-minded view of how money was generated on the rail network. David Williams, editor of the Severn Valley Railway News, explains: “His remit was to reduce the deficit that the railways had at that time,” he said. “It has been said since that what he did was to cut off the bits around the core of the network.

“The trouble was that those fed into the main system. What Beeching didn’t take into account was just that.

“He had got a scientific background and not a background in the railways. He considered the lines and stations independently not the cumulative affect his measures would have. His view was a very narrow one.”

The second Beeching report concentrated on stimulating traffic on the core routes. Rather than branch line closures it set out which sections of the main line would be developed, and which would not.

Dr Beeching felt the “bloated” network was a misnomer and that it was more than possible to run a national network more efficiently. Expectations were high.

His conclusion was that 7,500 miles of “trunk” railway only 3,000 miles “should be selected for future development” and invested in. It resulted in traffic being routed along nine lines.

Dr Beeching estimated it would save between £50-£100m.

Dudley Port Low Level

Dudley Windmill End

Baptist End

Withymoor Goods Yard

Darby End

Old Hill High Street

Longbridge (current station built 1978)

Cannock

Aldridge

Darlaston

West Bromwich
Guilty plea on fraud after brides let down on big day

Man given fine after rubbish is disposed illegally

Money raised in late wife’s memory

**A BUSINESSWOMAN** behind a wedding company that left brides in the lurch on their big day has pleaded guilty to fraud.

Disgruntled women set up a Facebook page called Burned Brides to vent about Sarah Cawthorne and her 'A Little Bit of Bling' business.

Cawthorne, from Hawksmoorlands Lane, Sedgley, pleaded guilty at Wolverhampton Crown Court to fraudulent trading between July 2012 and September 2013.

Mr Mark Jackson, prosecuting on behalf of Dudley Trading Standards Department which launched an investigation into the 31-year-old's business dealings, said she had defrauded customers.

"But we accept that it was not set up for fraud," he added.

Couples paid up to £1,400 for the services of 'A Little Bit of Bling', which advertised its ability to provide a wide range of decorations for wedding receptions such as bespoke bouquets, table centrepieces and chair covers. It also offered chocolate fountains, starlit backdrops and snow machines.

But scores of upset couples claimed the business had not honoured bookings to provide the promised decor and launched a Facebook campaign demanding their money back.

At least one claimed to have been left in tears on the morning of her wedding on September 20 after the firm failed to turn up with the decorations she had chosen.

No details were given to the court after her guilty plea and the case was adjourned for a pre-sentence report to May 30 when the facts are expected to be outlined in full.

Cawthorne was given bail.

"We are currently collecting scrap metal along the A4190 (A4042) near the Stead area, the waste and also charged with Road, Dudley, admitted the facts of it properly. At Dudley Magistrates’ Court, the 52-year-old, of Wellington Road, Dudley, admitted dumping the waste and also pleaded guilty to not being a registered waste carrier.

He was fined £150 for the fly-tipping charges and a further £35 for failing to have a licence to carry waste.

He was also ordered to pay £415 in court costs and £250 compensation.

In a separate case, Lee Evans, of Springfield Grove, Sedgley, was fined £175 and ordered to pay £170 in court costs after being spotted collecting scrap metal last year.

The council made a major collection of waste along the A4190 (A4042) near the Stead area.

A number of parishioners, children, people who play a number of roles in running the church and their activities there have seen the mural during its development and their comments have made a heart felt impression on her.

A DEVOTED husband has marked an annual fundraising event by raising more than £1,500 for two charities in memory of his late wife.

Gurchan Singh Bedi, of John Street, Brierley Hill, said: “These are both really good charities to try and help. I just do what I can and I’ll keep doing it for her.”

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A MAN has been fined after he was paid to dispose of waste but dumped it in Dudley.

David Hart dumped rubbish in Stafford Street and on the car park of the Saltwells Nature Reserve in Netherton.

The pile of waste was traced back to two people who had paid Hart to dispose of it properly. At Dudley Magistrates’ Court, the 52-year-old, of Wellington Road, Dudley, admitted dumping the waste and also pleaded guilty to not being a registered waste carrier.

He was fined £150 for the fly-tipping charges and a further £35 for failing to have a licence to carry waste. He was also ordered to pay £415 in court costs and £250 compensation.

In a separate case, Lee Evans, of Springfield Grove, Sedgley, was fined £175 and ordered to pay £170 in court costs after being spotted collecting scrap metal last year.

"We do everything we can to pay £415 in court costs and £250 compensation."

AN artist has been redecorating a Black Country creche with the story of Noah’s Ark.

Vanessa Jackson has been redecorating the creche at Christ Church in Lye with scenes from the Biblical tale.

About a year ago she experienced a dramatic change in her life and has been using her talents to express this in painting.

Christ Church children’s creche has been undergoing a substantial makeover during the past eight weeks.

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## Courses Available

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Courses Available</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
<th>Day/Time</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>No of Weeks</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>COMPUTERS &amp; ICT</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Photoshop – Mixed Abilities</td>
<td>May</td>
<td>Monday - 6.30pm</td>
<td>£52.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Computers for Complete Beginners</td>
<td>May</td>
<td>Wednesday - 4.00pm</td>
<td>£52.50</td>
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<td>Computers for Improvers</td>
<td>May</td>
<td>Wednesday - 2.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mastering Your Ipod/Iphone – A Simple Beginners Guide</td>
<td>May</td>
<td>Tuesday - 6.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mastering Your Ipod/Iphone – Improvers</td>
<td>June</td>
<td>Tuesday - 6.30pm</td>
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<td>Mastering Your Android Phone/Tablet</td>
<td>May</td>
<td>Wednesday - 7.00pm</td>
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<td>How To Buy and sell on Ebay</td>
<td>June</td>
<td>Wednesday - 7.00pm</td>
<td>£20.00</td>
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<td><strong>ARTS &amp; CRAFTS</strong></td>
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<td>Flower Arranging – Beginners</td>
<td>May</td>
<td>Monday - 7.00pm</td>
<td>£52.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flower Arranging - Improvers</td>
<td>May</td>
<td>Wednesday - 7.00pm</td>
<td>£52.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fashion Sewing/Dressmaking</td>
<td>May</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fashion Sewing/Soft Furnishing</td>
<td>May</td>
<td>Wednesday - 7.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cake Decorating &amp; Sugarcraft – Beginners</td>
<td>May</td>
<td>Thursday - 7.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cake Decorating &amp; Sugarcraft – Improvers</td>
<td>May</td>
<td>Tuesday - 7.00pm</td>
<td>£52.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jewellery Making – Mixed Abilities</td>
<td>April</td>
<td>Tuesday - 7.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Art – Portraits</td>
<td>May</td>
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<tr>
<td>Art – How to Draw and Paint – Beginners</td>
<td>May</td>
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<td>Stained Glass – Mixed Abilities</td>
<td>May</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stained Glass – Mixed Abilities</td>
<td>May</td>
<td>Thursday - 7.00pm</td>
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<td>Bridal Flowers – Flower Arranging Workshop</td>
<td>May</td>
<td>Saturday - 10.00am</td>
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<td>Fathers Day – Flower Arranging Workshop</td>
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<td>Art - Drawing Master Class</td>
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<td>Art – Acrylics Master Class</td>
<td>August</td>
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<td><strong>MUSIC</strong></td>
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<td>Guitar for Beginners</td>
<td>April</td>
<td>Thursday - 6.00pm</td>
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<td>Guitar for Improvers</td>
<td>April</td>
<td>Wed/Thurs - 7.00pm</td>
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<td><strong>LANGUAGES</strong></td>
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<td>Sign Language Level 1</td>
<td>September</td>
<td>Monday - 7.00pm</td>
<td>Contact Centre</td>
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<td>Sign Language Level 2</td>
<td>September</td>
<td>TBC</td>
<td>for Fees</td>
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<tr>
<td>Introduction to Sign Language</td>
<td>September</td>
<td>Monday - 7.00pm</td>
<td>£80.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spanish – Level 1</td>
<td>May</td>
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<td><strong>BEAUTY</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Gel Manicures &amp; Nail Art</td>
<td>May</td>
<td>Thursday - 7.00pm</td>
<td>£60.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WRITING</strong></td>
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<td>Creative Writing</td>
<td>May</td>
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<td><strong>HEALTH &amp; FITNESS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nifty Keep Fit</td>
<td>May</td>
<td>Tuesday - 9.45am</td>
<td>£26.25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zumba</td>
<td>May</td>
<td>Tuesday - 11.00am</td>
<td>£26.25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gentle Zumba</td>
<td>May</td>
<td>Wednesday - 11.30am</td>
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<td>Zumba</td>
<td>May</td>
<td>Wednesday - 12.30pm</td>
<td>£26.25</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## OPEN EVENING – Tuesday 14th April 2014

Come Along, Enrol and meet our Tutors 6.00-8.00pm

Enrolments can be taken via telephone 10am-8pm Monday to Friday to secure your place!
Cancer fight teenager in donor call

A TEENAGER battling leukaemia is facing a race against time to find a suitable bone marrow donor after being told a transplant is his best chance of overcoming the illness.

Omar Al-Shaikh, 16, of Brierley Hill, is being treated at Birmingham’s Queen Elizabeth Hospital for acute myeloid leukaemia and is undergoing chemotherapy to prepare him for the transplant.

A suitable donor needs to be found by the time the treatment is finished in three months’ time. But the teenager’s hunt for a potential lifesaver is complicated by the fact he has an unusual ethnic heritage, being half-Romanian and half-Middle-Eastern.

Tiredness

His mother Mirabela has launched a desperate plea for potential stem cell donors to join the Anthony Nolan register at www.anthonynolan.org.

His condition deteriorated and his mother took him to the GP after he fainted playing football. He was sent to hospital for tests and was given the diagnosis.

People aged 16 to 30 and in good general health can join the register.

Love blossomed for a diamond couple after a chance meeting at the cinema sparked 60 years of wedded bliss.

Now Jack and Norma Washington have marked the marriage milestone with a family gathering.

As a teenager Norma visited The Savoy Cinema in Netherton with her friend Dorothy Cartwright when she saw her husband-to-be.

The pair exchanged a smile but it was two years later when they met properly while out at Netherton Park in 1952.

The couple remained inseparable ever since and wed at St Andrew’s Church in Netherton on March 26, 1955. They celebrated their diamond anniversary with a surprise party at Brewers Wharf pub, in Brierley Hill, on March 29.

Mrs Washington, now aged 85, worked at different places over the years including Hampton Shoe Factory in Netherton where she was a seamstress. She also worked for sportswear company 4x4 for 13 years and the International Food Store in Netherton for nine years.

Her husband, 83, was an engineer. They continued to live in Netherton after marrying and now live in Darby End Road.

Mrs Washington said: “I think the key to a long marriage is trying to do things together. I know we have our ups and downs, but I would do it all again.

The couple have two daughters Jacqueline and Yvonne, five grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

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Thurs 16 Apr. 18.00-19.00. 12 wks. £42.00#
Fri 24 Apr. 10.00-11.00. 11 wks. £41.60#

PILATES—Improvers
Tues 14 Apr. 19.00-20.00. 12 wks. £42.00
Wed 15 Apr. 18.30-19.30. 12 wks. £42.00
Thur 16 Apr. 19.05-20.05. 12 wks. £42.00
Thur 16 Apr. 20.10-21.10. 12 wks. £42.00

ADULT SWIM—BEGINNERS
Mon 20 Apr. 19.00-19.45. 10 wks. £31.50#
Tues 21 Apr. 19.00-19.45. 11 wks. £37.75

ADULT SWIM—IMPROVERS
Mon 20 Apr. 19.45-20.30. 10 wks. £31.50#

ADULT SWIM—INTERM/ADVANCED
Mon 20 Apr. 20.30-21.15. 10 wks. £31.50#

DANCECISE
Tues 21 Apr. 19.00-20.00. 11 wks. £38.50#
Tues 21 Apr. 20.00-21.00. 11 wks. £38.50#

FITNESS YOGA
Tues 14 Apr. 20.50-21.05. 12 wks. £42.00

BALLROOM DANCING—BEGINNERS
Mon 20 Apr. 18.45-19.45. 10 wks. £36.60

BALLROOM DANCING—IMPROVER/INT
Mon 20 Apr. 19.45-21.00. 10 wks. £45.75

MUSIC

PLAY THE GUITAR—BEGINNERS
Thurs 23 Apr. 19.00-20.00. 11 wks. £41.60#

PLAY THE GUITAR—CONT.BEGINNERS
Thurs 23 Apr. 20.00-21.00. 11 wks. £41.60#

PLAY THE GUITAR—IMPROVER
Tues 21 Apr. 19.00-21.00. 10 wks. £65.00#

QUALIFICATIONS

DUDLEY INDUCTION TRAINING FOR POOLSIDE ASSISTANTS
Mon 15 Jun. 09.00-12.00 3 hrs. £19.20
Mon 20 Jul. 09.00-12.00 3 hrs. £19.20

EMERGENCY FIRST AID
Mon 27 Apr. 09.00-16.00 1 day. £38.40

PAEDIATRIC FIRST AID
Fri 8 May. 09.00-13.00 1/2 day. £25.60

LEVEL 2 AWARD FOOD SAFETY IN CATERING
Thurs 7 May. 17.30-21.00 2 wks. £48.00#

Reduced Fees: Where you see this # sign the course is supported by The Skills Funding Agency. If you are in receipt of certain benefits fees are reduced to 25%. Price in brackets () includes additional costs.

Course Dates: Courses are suspended during 16th –22nd Feb, 2015 unless stated otherwise.

This programme is subject to change: particularly if we are unable to recruit minimum class numbers.

* Accreditation fee included where you see this sign.

While every effort is made to ensure that this programme and the pricing is accurate at the time of publication, changes and errors may occur. We reserve the right to change without notice.

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Bosch DWA06E650B
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29 June | Killarney & The Ring of Kerry | Brehon Hotel | 4 | £399.00
17 July | Cardiff & Gloucester | Hilton Cardiff | 2£159.00
19 July | Cotswolds & Stratford | Mercure Shakespeare | 1 | £99.00
26 July | Chester & Liverpool | Novotel Liverpool | 1 | £99.00
27 July | Leuven & Diamonds | Novotel Leuven | 3 | £199.00
14 August | Romantic Paris | Hilton Only | 3 | £239.00
16 August | Waldorf & Afternoon Tea | Hilton Waldorf | 1 | £145.00
23 August | Chester & Liverpool | Novotel Liverpool | 1 | £89.00
31 August | Killarney & The Ring of Kerry | Brehon Hotel | 4 | £399.00
19 September | London & Windsor | Hilton Dartford Bridge | 2 | £159.00
20 September | Cotswolds & Stratford | Mercure Shakespeare | 1 | £99.00
25 September | Romantic Paris | Hilton Only | 3 | £239.00
28 September | Paignton | Palace Hotel | 4 | £299.00
2 October | Harrogate, Durham & Beamish | Redworth Hall Hotel | 2 | £169.00
2 October | London - BBC & London Eye | Marriott Cheshunt | 2 | £179.00
26 October | Scenic Snowdonia | Hilton Bracknell | 2 | £159.00
26 October | Solent Waves & The New Forest | Celtic Royal | 4 | £199.00
2 November | Bruges - Venice of the North | Marriott Mean Valley | 4 | £315.00
23 November | Paignton | Novotel Bruges | 3 | £225.00
4 December | London - BBC & Christmas Shopping | Palace Hotel | 4 | £275.00
4 December | Scenic Snowdonia - T & T | Marriott Cheshunt | 2 | £159.00
19 September | London & Windsor | Celtic Royal | 4 | £189.00
**ROCK & POP**

Paul Simon & Sting  
Sun at 7.30pm,  
Genting Arena, National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, B1 2EA.  
Call 0121 780 3333

**CLASSICAL & OTHER MUSIC**

Michael Ball  
Sun at 7.30pm, Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA.  
Call 0121 301 2480

**JAZZ & BLUES**

Steve Howe – Solo Tour  
Thu at 7.30pm, E -20  
Theatre, Wolverhampton, WV1 1DE.  
Call 01902 401211

**OTHER EVENTS**

Who Do You Think You Are?  
2015  
Thu at 9.30am - 5.30pm, £16 - £33  
National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, B40 1NT.  
Call 0121 780 4141

**FAVORITE QUOTE**

"Who do you think you are?" - Unknown

---

**Listings for April 10 - 16**

**Afternoon at the Museum**  
Fri at 11am, £1.50 - £5  
Lichfield Garrick Theatre and Winterbourne House and Garden, B28 7PE.  
Call 01543 412121

**Birmingham Science Week**  
Wed at 11am, 2pm, 3pm, 4pm, £2.50  
University of Birmingham, B15 2TT.  
Call 0121 414 3003

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**FAMILY EVENTS**

Chris and Pui Roadshow  
Saturday at 11am, 2pm, 3pm, 4pm, £12.50  
Artrix Arts Centre, Bromsgrove, B60 1QX.  
Call 01527 537700

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Tour has X-Factor for star Alexandra

X FACTOR winner Alexandra Burke will reprise her West End role as soul star Rachel Marron in Thea Sharrock’s hit musical The Bodyguard at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre. The stage version of the 1992 Oscar-nominated movie, that starred Whitney Houston and Kevin Costner, will be at the Grand Theatre from April 21 to May 2.

Miss Burke said: “I couldn’t be happier to be joining the team and I’m really excited to get started. Being on the theatre stage has brought me great joy and happiness.

“It is an honour to have been asked to join the team and I look forward to creating new and long lasting memories with the cast.”

She rose to fame winning the fifth series of The X Factor and her debut single哈利路亚 went on to sell more than one million copies in the UK. Her first album Overcome also featured the chart-topping single Bad Boys and Start Without You. She has toured the world, of which she is an expert. She has even sent a personal message to theatre-goers.

ON one of his previous appearances in Birmingham the bespectacled buffoon who is Count Arthur Strong had difficulty navigating his way through the theatre curtains and was convinced the stage was facing the wrong way until he turned around.

Since then the Harry Worth throwback, has made the leap from radio to the gogglebox and has won critical acclaim.

The twisted world of Count Arthur, played and written wonderfully by Steve Delaney, is littered with characters who are as out of touch with modern society as he is.

Disasters

Strong’s Radio 4 comedy shows started 10 years ago and have run for seven series so far and focus upon the everyday disasters of the once “famous” star of variety who has never really lost his sense of being a showbiz master, even though he is the only one who holds that opinion.

The mixed-up character never misses an opportunity to express his extensive knowledge about entertainment and the rest of the world, of which he is an expert. He has even sent a personal message to theatre-goers.

If you only buy one ticket for something this year buy a ticket for this one twice and bring a friend. I promise you won’t regret it. And if you do there must be something wrong with you. No refunds.”

He brings his Somebody Up There Licks Me show to the New Alexandra in Birmingham on April 17.

Electro dub pioneers in exclusive live date

Electro dub pioneers Dreadzone are returning to the Black Country with an exclusive live appearance at The Robin 2 in Bilston.

The core members Greg P Dent, original bassman Lee Williams, the unmistakable MC Spire, legendary reggae vocalist Earl 16 alongside Chris Compton on guitar and Bazil on technology make up the current Dreadzone line-up.

As well as live favourites from their back catalogue the band will be playing tracks from Esopuscope at their show tomorrow.

Tickets are £15 advance and £17 on the door. Call the box office on 01902 401211 or book online at www.therobin.co.uk

Musical feast is on the Cafe menu

LARKIN Poe take the stage at the Kitchen Garden Cafe, King’s Heath, Birmingham on Wednesday, April 15 with support from Rascassion Hushandies.

This is a standing only show which is being staged at the Hare & Hounds, York Road, King’s Heath and tickets are £13 in advance or £15 on the night. Doors open 7.30pm and the show starts 8pm.

Stourbridge Folk Club host founder member of The Bushbury Mountain Daredevils, Eddy Morton for the launch of his new album, Rainbow Man, on April 14. Tickets are £5 and doors open 8pm.

New Wulfrun date for Dr Hook gig

THE Dr Hook gig – postponed after lead singer Ray Sawyer was injured in a fall – has been rearranged for Thursday, May 14 at the Wulfrun Hall in Wolverhampton.

The show was meant to take place in March but Sawyer broke his arm so the remaining eight dates of the Hooked on Hits tour had to be postponed. All tickets for the original date remain valid for the new date.

Dr Hook enjoyed considera-

ble success in the 1970s with hit singles including When You’re in Love with a Beautiful Woman. Tickets, £29.50 are available from Midland Box Office: 0870 320 7000.
WHAT’S ON GUIDE ...

Fri 10th April
Michael Buble

Sat 11th April
Abba

We can take your leaflets to selected homes in your area

Deliciously light – Garstang Blue cheesecake with pear jelly and toasted hazelnuts

Classy joint – The Fox at Chetwynd Aston

Coriander and lime chicken, pak choi and noodle salad with thai coconut dressing

Sitting comfortably in welcoming surroundings

By Andy Richardson

IF The Fox had a trophy cabinet, it would look something like the one Sir Alex Ferguson filled during his tenure at Man Utd.

In recent years, The Fox at Chetwynd Aston, Newport has enjoyed wins from five respected guide books.

Since 2007, it’s featured in the Good Pub Guide, winning its County Dining Pub of the Year more times than any restaurant ought.

It’s a perennial feature of the AA Pub Guide, it never misses a spot in the Good Beer Guide, Alastair Sawday rates it as though it had some sort of divine right and even Michelin has included it in its listing for the UK’s best pubs.

They say that when you find a successful recipe, you ought to bottle it. Not that that advice has reached The Fox. They tend to bottle ales, fine wines and a deliciously fruity juice called Bumbleberry. Recipes are saved for the kitchen.

The Fox is part of the Brunning and Price group, which also owns The Armoury, in Shrewsbury. It’s one of the region’s finest pub groups, coupling decent, generously-portioned food at affordable prices and an impressive selection of drinks with good standards of service. The quality of both food and service at The Fox is resolutely high.

It’s been the foodie equivalent of some sort of 21st century winning machine, notching up success after success as it continues to out-gun, out-run and out-strip the competition.

I’m not convinced with the Good Pub Guide’s adjudication that it’s the very best dining pub in Shropshire – I can think of others where food is of a higher quality – but it certainly deserves its recognition. It is undoubtedly one of the very best.

The Fox is a large Edwardian-style pub with a mix of quiet nooks and crannies, bright sunny rooms and a busy central bar. During weekends, high days and holidays, its largest vaulted room leads out onto a south-facing terrace, with views over the gently-rolling countryside and wooded hills beyond.

Strengths

When my friend and I visited, our thoughts couldn’t have been further from al fresco dining on summery afternoons. We met for dinner a deux on a decidedly chilly evening, when the wind was blowing a hooley.

One of the key strengths of The Fox is its staff. Overwhelmingly well-mannered and polite, they are well-drilled and pay attention to detail at all times. Despite the invariably rush at the bar, they remain relatively unfazed and their youthful exuberance and energy transmits itself to diners.

It’s a classy operation. But the food is my favourite part. And on my most recent visit, it didn’t disappoint. The Fox isn’t at the standards of, say, a Michelin Bib Gourmand venue. Nor is it particularly finessed. It does, however, offer an innovative and creative selection of seasonal food at reasonable prices.

It’s no surprise that The Fox notches up accolades like a lothario adding notches to a bedpost. It consistently achieves high standards, provides a great environment for meeting-and-eating and a menu that offers more than same-same staples like fish-and-chips, or lasagne with garlic bread.

Deliciously light – Garstang Blue cheesecake with pear jelly and toasted hazelnuts

Classy joint – The Fox at Chetwynd Aston

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Hospital drama with the staff of a fireman who is making his life a misery, although it backfires when both his tormentor and his teacher are badly injured. Cal is hurting following Taylor’s disappearance, making his life misery, although a feud begins to warm up, there’s plenty of something illegal, Mike and Sarah Capes get a sniff of something illegal, Mike appears to still be at large. (R)

10.10 Film: Independence Day. (R)

11.00 Foyle’s War. (R)

11.15 Film: The 100. (R)

12.00 How I Met Your Mother. (R)

**MONDAY**

**Guaranteed!** We can have the money in your account within 7 days or to your timescale - GUARANTEED!

**TUESDAY**

Moonlight Mills, BBC1, 11.35pm

A man who is destitute after his fiancée’s murder goes to stay with her parents, while they sort out her belongings and cancel the wedding arrangements.

Drama set in the 1970s, starring Jake Gyllenhaal, Ellen Pompeo and Dustin Hoffman. (2002)

**WEDNESDAY**

**Wild Hogs**, BBC1, 11.15pm

Four friends going through midlife crises decide to ditch out their old motorcycles and hit the open road on a 2,000-mile cross-country trip. However, a run-in with a bikers gang disrupts their adventures.

Comedy, starring Tim Allen. (2007)

**THURSDAY**

**Look Again**, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A woman survives an encounter in her home with a masked intruder, who murders her partner. The police quickly apprehend a suspect, but she believes they have made a mistake in identifying the wrong man. When she meets her friend’s new man, she becomes convinced he is the real killer. Thriller, starring Monica Raymund. (2011)

**FRIDAY**

**Sex Drive**, Channel 4, 12.20am

See-starved teenager Ian meets a woman on the internet who agrees to relieve him of his virginity. Too much about what happened to them.

Comedy starring Andy Townsend, and analysis by Paul MacQueen, Aisling Bea and Llewella Gideon. (2015)

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The day of execution arrives for Tommy

So far, 2015 is shaping up to be a good year for period musicals, whatever its BBC two’s prestigious adaptation of Wolf Hall or the score accompanying the parents shopping action film in the same vein. Blackbird, which follows the first prose novel in the series, has offered plenty of drama and, as you’d expect given its premise and the fact that it was written by Cracker maestro Jimmy McGovern, plenty of grit.

Julian Rhind-Tutt, who stars as convict Tommy Bartlow, certainly seems glad that Blackbird hasn’t gone in for the pristine costumes and sweeping romance of some other dramas – for a start, it meant he was cast again type. He’s explains: “It was a very interesting opportunity to play a convict. Tommy is more of a man than any role I’ve had the chance to play recently. I’ve been playing aristocratic roles, politicians, advisors, people like that. But Stu [Williams] our producer, who I worked with 15 years ago, kindly remembered that there were other areas that we might like to explore, and it was interesting for me to have a look at Tommy Bartlow.”

In fact it seems just being on the set was an education. I read that they sent those 700-old people and 300 soldiers out to Australia with only as many. And with that they were expected to start their own agricultural community. There is, of course, the potential danger that the authorities didn’t really care that much about what happened to them.

“...but what struck me most as I stood on the set – surrounded by only a small collection of lavender canvas tents and the most basic amenities to survive – was how swiftly and miraculously today’s modern metropolis of Sydney has evolved.”

Rhind-Tutt even picked up a few new survival skills of his own to put on his CV. He says: “To a full driving licence and scuba diving fit be adding ‘see’ work – I had excellent training from some real Australian men, and I can now spout windsurfing with some degree of efficiency.”

“I can also say I have worked with snakes. In this moment where they actually suck the blood and engorge themselves that you have to get used to being up close and in good heart as part of our many adventures there.”

But he will get to put those skills to use if Blackbird comes back for a second series. It’s not looking promising, as Tommy shows a tender ambivalence with his wife Elizabeth on the morning of his hanging. They are he at that the last moments together, but not everyone is really happy. Tommy’s friend and Blackbird palides with the Governor to spare his friend’s life, and the Reverend Johnson preaches over Private Bobby to forgive his attacker. However, his spirit that’s taking the most direct action as he line the convicts to make it clear how they feel about the execution...
BRAIN GYM No.320

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.

Alphabet Grid:

Across:
1. Clot
2. Docile
3. Docile
4. Docile
5. Dial
6. Distance
7. Edge
8. Elbow
9. Edge
10. Edge
11. Edge
12. Edge
13. Elevator
14. Escape
15. Escape
16. Leader
17. Long
18. Flat
19. Magician
20. Magician
21. Comprehension
22. Comprehension
Down:
1. Providence
2. Pistol
3. Plan
4. Squeened
5. Street
6. Long
11. Codlings
13. Relative
15. Second
16. Leader
18. Flat
20. Impolite
22. Making believe

Quick Clues:
Across:
1. Drifting (3)
2. Strange (3)
3. Odd (4)
4. Repulsive (9)
5. Pouncy (7)
6. Top (6)
7. Amazing (9)
8. Leap (6)
9. Go round (7)
10. Stop (5)
11. Film (4)
12. Exquisite (3)

Down:
1. Opposed (7)
2. Opposed (7)
3. Happening (5)
4. Happening (5)
5. Rim (4)
6. Rim (4)
7. Faint (5)
8. Stop (5)
9. Ring (5)
10. Ring (5)
11. Opposed (7)
12. Opposed (7)
13. Leap (6)
14. Go round (7)
15. Stop (5)
16. Stop (5)
17. Competitor (9)
18. Creative went wrong (4)
19. Becomes master of 16 without me (3)
20. Again a manuscript is out to be shock... (7)
21. Do they light un-touched (5)
22. Wet seen to re-... (4)

Last week’s solutions:
Quiz: 1 Providence; 2 John Stuart Mill; 3 Herman Melville; 4 John Candy; 5 Gunmetal; 6 Eleanor of Aquitaine; 7 Hyde Park; 8 Council; 9 Ash Wednesday; 10 Alaska.
Niner: MANDIBLES

Thinking space

PUZZLES

Sudoku

32 8 6 9 7 4 1 2 5
6 9 5 3 2 1 4 7 8
4 1 7 8 5 9 2 3 6
5 2 6 4 1 7 3 8 9
9 3 8 2 6 5 1 4 7
7 4 3 9 8 1 6 5 2
2 6 5 7 3 4 8 9 1
8 7 1 5 4 2 9 6 3
1 5 2 6 9 3 7 4 8

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.

7983 gives a bird, 7654 gives an animal.
Stunning five-bed home on market at £249,900

This refurbished five-bed-roomed semi-detached in Moat Road, Oldbury, is finished to a high specification. It includes a speaker system and CCTV. It is on the market for £249,900. It features a new kitchen/diner with soft close units and granite working surfaces, under floor heating, double doors to the garden, a five-ring gas hob with extractor above and marble splash back, an electric oven and grill, utility, downstairs shower room, five bedrooms and a bathroom, shower room and rear garden. Contact Bairstow Eves on 0121 5444554 or visit www.bairstoweves.co.uk

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Call us today for a FREE property valuation!

Call 01384 733 150 or visit www.estatesdirect.com
HALESOWEN, Lapal Farm House
Outstanding detached residence in large grounds of fields/paddocks and gardens, providing impressive well proportioned accommodation with gas radiator heating and double glazing, having 5 BEDROOMS, 5 RECEPTION ROOMS, fitted kitchen with Range style cooker, fantastic large bathroom, 2 additional shower rooms and cloakroom, cellars. Substantial detached DOUBLE GARAGING. EPC D. HALESOWEN OFFICE

New price

OFFERS AROUND £649,950

WALL HEATH, Enville Road
A VERY INDIVIDUAL AND SUBSTANTIAL DETACHED FAMILY HOUSE within the heart of Wall Heath, having been EXTENDED AND IMPROVED to offer unbelievably spacious accommodation including FOUR EXCELLENT BEDROOMS plus a LARGE EN-SUITE and together with a DRIVEWAY, TANDEM GARAGE and pleasantly laid out rear garden. EPC E

New price

£294,950

WOMBORNE, Bumblehole Meadows
This DISTINCTIVE ‘DAVID PAYNE’ DETACHED FAMILY HOME forms part of this exclusive development and offers a SPACIOUS THREE BEDROOM layout with EN-SUITE, plus a LARGE BLOCK PAVED DRIVEWAY / GARAGE and an EXCELLENT Sized REAR GARDEN. EPC D

New price

£229,500

KINGSWINFORD, Sanderling Rise
Superbly located within this cul de sac upon extremely popular ‘Sandpipers’, this IMMACULATE, EXPENSIVELY IMPROVED DETACHED FAMILY HOME is greatly enhanced by a VERY LARGE BEAUTIFULLY LANDSCAPED GARDEN and offers an attractively appointed / presented layout, complemented by a tasteful theme of decor and which is ‘READY TO MOVE INTO’, plus a TARMAC DRIVEWAY and GARAGE. EPC D

New price

£219,950

QUARRY BANK, Dunns Bank
FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY TO ACQUIRE A LARGE, MODERN, FOUR BEDROOM, DETACHED HOME within this TRULY DESIRABLE address. Comprising: Hall, Guests Cloakroom, Sitting Room, Dining Kitchen, Four Bedrooms (Master with En Suite), Bathroom, Driveway, Garage, Garden. EPC C

New price

£219,950

LOWER GORNAL, Milton Crescent, Straits
Gas centrally heated, double glazed, detached bungalow requiring some sympathetic updating comprising: porch, reception hall, cloak, THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom, lounge, breakfast kitchen, pantry, through vestibule. Near garden abutting on to open space. EPC: T.B.A. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £189,950

KINGSWINFORD, Rangeways Road
A MODERN LINK-DETACHED FAMILY HOUSE pleasantly located upon the fringe of ‘High Acres’, offering a spacious layout requiring cosmetic updating, yet providing FANTASTIC POTENTIAL, plus a DRIVEWAY GARAGE and an attractively laid out garden. EPC D

New

£169,950

COSELEY, Maslin Drive, Hurst Hill
Improved, Freehold, gas centrally, uPVC double glazed detached BUNGALOW conveniently situated in quiet backwater (private driveway approach) comprising: entrance hallway, lounge/dining room, kitchen, LARGE CONSERVATORY, inner hallway, two bedrooms, shower room. Parking, garage. garden. EPC: T.B.A. SEDGLEY

New

Offers in the region of £164,950

KINGSWINFORD, Newfield Drive
Located within this highly sought after cul de sac address, this TWO BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED BUNGALOW offers an attractively presented layout and occupies a generous position with LARGE SIDE / REAR GARDENS plus a REAR GARAGE. EPC C

New

£159,950

No upward chain
GORNAL WOOD, Prospect Road
Quaint, fully modernised, gas centrally heated & double glazed semi-detached Cottage of character lovingly restored to provide sitting room, kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, garage, parking, lawned garden. EPC: D

DUDLEY, Cardoness Place
ENLARGED, tremendously improved, Freehold, gas centrally heated, double glazed semi-detached with GOOD DISTANT VIEWS, comprising: hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, shower room, three bedrooms, bathroom. Garage. Gated driveway with BRICK GARAGE, garden. EPC: D

LOWER GORNAL, Grafton Gardens, Stralls
Gas centrally heated, UPVC double glazed, intermediate “family home” within walking distance of village briefly comprising: hallway, lounge, dining room, rear hallway, store, upgraded kitchen. THREE GENEROUS BEDROOMS, reappointed bathroom. Garage, sheltered garden abutting on to woods. EPC: D

Offers in the region of £149,950

WOODSETTON, Parkes Lane
EXTENDED, gas centrally heated, double glazed semi-detached with GOOD DISTANT VIEWS, comprising: hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom. Garage. Gated driveway. EPC: D

UPPER GORNAL, The Paddock
 This LARGE, TRADITIONAL, END TERRACE HOME is in an IDEAL LOCATION, offering an exceptionally spacious three bedroom home with attractive frontage to the rear, comprising: hall, living room, lounge, kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, garage, lawned garden. EPC: D

KINGSWINFORD, Sycamore Road
EXTENDED, gas centrally heated, double glazed end terrace to the rear, briefly comprising: living room, lounge, dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, store. Gated driveway, garage. EPC: E

COSELEY, Andersleigh Drive
A SUPER CONTEMPORARY STYLED ONE BEDROOM FIRST FLOOR APARTMENT providing a LARGE LAYOUT of BEAUTIFULLY APPOINTED accommodation. Set within beautifully maintained gardens and grounds including ALLOCATED CAR PARKING. EPC: B

NEW

GORNAL WOOD, Bank Road
WALKING DISTANCE OF VILLAGE Centre heated, double glazed semi requiring some upgrading, comprising hall, staircase, kitchen, Lounge/dining room, THREE BEDROOMS (en suite), bathroom, garage, parking. EPC: D

LANESFIELD, Ward Grov
EXTENDED, gas centrally heated, double glazed semi detached & refurbished briefly comprising; hallway, lounge, kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom. EPC: D

PENSNETT, Bell Street
Newly decorated & refurbished, three bedroom semi-detached with NO UPWARD CHAIN and must be VIEWED EARLY! FEATURING AS TUNING, WELL LAYOUP OF ACCOMMODATION including TWO RECEPTION ROOMS, plus a GARAGE and a second rear garden. EPC: D

DUDLEY, Denbigh Close
Lounge, Dining Room, THREE BEDROOMS, Bathroom and Pretty Rear Garden. EPC: C

NEW

NETHERTON, Round Street
The LARGE, TRADITIONAL, END TERRACE PROPERTY is delightfully decorated throughout and comprises: TWO RECEPTION ROOMS, Cellar/Wine Store, kitchen, Lounge, Dining Room, THREE GENEROUS BEDROOMS and Rear Garden. EPC: D

UPPER GORNAL, Priores Mill
 Mostly UPVC double glazed gas centrally heated mid terrace briefly comprising: hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, lawned Gardens and secure PARKING to rear. EPC: C

BRIBERLEY HILL, Cooper Avenue
Within the close end of the Avenue, this MUCH IMPROVED SEMI-DETACHED HOME has GAS CENTRAL HEATING AND DOUBLE GLAZING to comprise: Hall, Sitting Room, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms and White Bathroom. Drive way parked for visitors. EPC: C

COSELEY, Yew Tree Lane
75% SHARE FOR SALE! A GROUND FLOOR flat within walking distance of COVENTRY TRAIN STATION. Renting 35% owned by Housing Association who charge a fair market rental. Individual front door to 1st floor lounge with kitchen section beyond. TILED FLOORING throughout. Parking. Offers around £67,000 for 75% share. EPC: C

RUSSELLS HALL, Peace Close
This beautifully presented, TWO BEDROOM, Semi-Detached Home is an IDEAL FIRST TIME BUY available now on a 50% SHARED OWNERSHIP for £52,950 but also has the option to buy the full 100% share. Comprising: Lounge, Open plan Dining Room, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathrooms, Driveway and Garden. EPC: C

NEW

Offers in the region of £70,000

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Four-bedroom residence is just like a show home

IMMACULATE four-bedroomed home, 71 Vicarage Road, Wollaston, is presented to show home standards in a prestigious address. It is for sale through The Lee Shaw Partnership at £235,000.

With central heating and majority double glazing, it has a porch with a tiled floor and ‘port-hole’ window, a dining area with a fire surround and mantle, stairs off and WC, a lounge with a bay window and feature fire surround, a garden room with French doors, a kitchen with solid oak tops, breakfast bar, Rangemaster cooker hood and integrated fridge, freezer and dishwasher, four bedrooms (two with fitted furniture), an enlarged bathroom, a garage and driveway, paved patio with BBQ, conservatory and garden with pergola and pond. Contact The Lee Shaw Partnership on 01562 888111 or visit www.leeshaw.com.

Deceptively spacious and well-presented

A WELL-PRESENTED, improved and deceptively spacious extended semi-detached home in a cul-de-sac, 37 Leslie Road, Tividale is an ideal first time purchase. It is for sale through Braithwaites at £124,950.

With gas central heating and double glazing it has a porch, an entrance hall with laminate flooring, a spacious through lounge/dining area, with patio doors and laminate flooring, extended kitchen with a dining area with part tiled/part laminate flooring, three bedrooms with laminate flooring and a bathroom with a bath with a shower and a front and rear garden. Visit www.braithwaites-estate-agents.co.uk or call 0121 4211180.

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- Three bedrooms
- THREE BATHROOMS
Corner-plot detached can boast that ‘wow factor’

A DETACHED corner plot residence with outstanding and highly deceptive accommodation in Hough Way, Essington, Wolverhampton really has the “wow factor”.

Beautifully decorated throughout, it is for sale through Berriman Eaton priced at £379,999.

The accommodation briefly comprises generous lounge area with a bay window and a wall mounted living flame fire, family dining kitchen with central island and French doors to the garden and a separate utility, five generous bedrooms and three en-suite/bathrooms. There are front, side and rear gardens with a feature decked area and a double detached garage.

For further details contact 01902 326366 or visit www.berrimaneaton.co.uk

Traditional home in sought-after location

NUMBER 44 Springhill Park, Lower Penn, Wolverhampton, is an extended traditional three-bedroomed semi-detached home in one of the most sought after positions in the area.

Having many original features it is for sale through Berriman Eaton at £250,000. It has a dining room with a walk-in bay window and a Victorian open fireplace, a lounge with French doors and a feature fireplace. The kitchen has a range cooker and a dining area, a main bedroom with a walk-in bay window, bedrooms two and three and a bathroom. There is a gravelled driveway and gardens with patio and shed.

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Autonomous driving now even closer

By James Parker

Autonomous driving has been much in the news recently but it’s nothing new – Mercedes-Benz have been developing it for years.

The marque has demonstrated a commitment to autonomous driving for 30 years and now an autonomous future is closer than it has ever been before with a range of semi-autonomous technology available across the line-up.

This semi-autonomous technology – under the banner ‘Intelligent Drive’ – is available across the range from C-Class to S-Class.

Examples include DISTRONIC PLUS with Steering Assist and Stop&Go Pilot – the vehicle automatically brakes and accelerates based on the car in front and can even follow the car ahead without any steering input from the driver, whilst Active Parking Assist with PARKTRONIC helps detect suitable parking spaces and can automatically manoeuvre the vehicle into the space.

While this technology brings Mercedes one step closer to an autonomous future the mobility revolution has to take place in a series of steps.

Despite this Mercedes-Benz has demonstrated autonomous driving capabilities since 1985 with the EUREKA-PROMETHEUS research project, S 500 INTELLIGENT DRIVE and F 015 Luxury in Motion.

1985

Daimler-Benz and a group of European Manufacturers kick-started the research into autonomous cars with the EUREKA-PROMETHEUS research project (Project for European Traffic with Highest Efficiency and Unprecedented Safety). The project – over an eight-year period – addressed issues surrounding the future of mobility and suggested ways to improve vehicle safety, efficiency and traffic flow.

The result was the VITA-vehicle (Vision Technology Application) which used miniature video cameras behind the front and rear windscreen to capture the traffic around the vehicle enabling it to brake, accelerate and steer accordingly. The origins of a broad range of innovations, such as lane change, parking assistance and navigation systems can all be traced back to this research project.

1995

An A-Class prototype test vehicle – equipped with an early supercomputer – travelled from Munich to Copenhagen all automatically on motorways and was able to change lanes, overtake and keep a safe distance from the vehicle ahead.

As a result of this prototype in 1998 Distronic adaptive cruise control entered production in the S-Class.

2010

A broad range of driver assistance systems were introduced in 2010 – now under the banner ‘Intelligent Drive’ – enabling vehicles to detect many hazardous situations and react in line with the situation.

2013

In 2013, Mercedes-Benz demonstrated that autonomous driving is already possible, even in complex traffic. The close-to-production Mercedes-Benz S 500 INTELLIGENT DRIVE completed a 62-mile journey from Mannheim to Pforzheim fully autonomously using production-based sensors – following the route taken in 1988 by Bertha Benz on the first ever long-distance car journey.

2015

With the F 015 Luxury in Motion (Pictured above in San Francisco), Mercedes-Benz demonstrates what form ‘Intelligent Drive’ might take in the future.

The car’s role is evolving from merely a means of transport towards a comfortable place for passengers to utilise their newfound free time. The electric-hybrid system has a total range of 684-miles and can operate in manual or autonomous modes.

The driver is connected to the outside world via a choice of six screens integrated throughout the interior, controlled via eye-tracking, gesture recognition or touch. This autonomous concept car is based on a future scenario – Vision 2030+ – where the already limited space in today’s cities becomes more restricted and autonomous driving is socially accepted.

A major part of everyday trips will be covered in autonomous mode – creating a new driving culture – freeing up time for the driver and creating a retreat for passengers.

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Sure-footed when going gets tough

By John Griffiths

SEAT’s latest model is certainly different: it’s the first car I’ve ever driven that’s fitted with air-cooled 12v turbochargers!

Another gadget for drivers, or an indication that the Spanish company is currently one of the real high-fliers in the car world?

Its UK sales were up 16 per cent last year – well above the 8 per cent average – thanks in no small part to the much-admired Leon.

The family hatchback was joined last year by the sporting Cupra, which has made a big impact on the saloon car market.

Now there’s another new version, the X-Perience: a little more of the 5l8 than the ST but a lot more of the VW Group’s proven Haldex four-wheel drive system.

It also heralds the launch next year of a new to SEAT at this time of year – due to arrive here next year, which are likely to be similar in appearance to the larger ST.

Recognising that, it has 15mm extra ground clearance and a “4x4 Sport” version, which can add to the appeal for family or business users.

Essentially all the power goes to the front wheels in normal use, which avoids the need for a complete rear drive system. It is the latest incarnation of the Haldex system which is entirely automatic and helps to keep you safe on road in all weather conditions.

The car is available in 2.0 litre petrol and 1.6 litre diesel versions, with prices ranging from £12,995 to £28,870.

The entry point to the 4x4, the X-Perience isn’t designed as a mud-plugger but more of a softroader, intended for those who do a lot of off-road driving.

It packs in the size of a huge SUV with the standard of a real high-flying family car, and it’s going to be a real challenge for the many established market leaders.

The car is available in 1.5 litre and 1.6 litre petrol and 1.6 litre diesel versions, with prices ranging from £12,995 to £28,870.

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3. Before agreeing to purchase a puppy from any other location or breeder, ensure that you have access to relevant documentation.
4. If you are in any doubt about the origin or health of a puppy, do not proceed with the purchase.
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Single rooms subject to availability – supplement applies.
Luke Harris, one of the Cradley newcomers, is relishing the prospect of pushing for a third successive league title for the club.

Harris, who commutes from his West London base for Heathens matches at Perry Barr, has found life tough in the early stages of the season.

But he insists he wants to play his part and is looking for plenty of points when they next line up against Earthquakes on Wednesday, April 22.

He said: “I’m looking forward to the challenge of trying to retain the title for Cradley. Obviously they have done a great job in the league the last two years, so we really want to try and make it three in a row.

“It looks tough this year and we know it won’t be easy, but we have some great riders in the team and we are aiming to do it again.

“Hopefully I can have a good year and play my part to help make sure Cradley are up there challenging for the title.

“I’m honoured to be riding for Cradley because it’s such a big club and the fans are amazing. I’m looking forward to the season.

“Experience is obviously key in speedway, and I think the fact I’m coming into my second season in the National League should help.

“There are quite a few riders who haven’t got any experience at all at this level this year, so the fact I know what to expect and know what it’s about a little bit should help.

“I’m still young and still need advice and guidance myself, but I’ve already learnt a lot riding for Kent and with the few guest bookings I did last year.

“We have a great bunch of lads this year, so hopefully we can all pull together to help each other and I can learn a lot over the course of the season.

“I’m obviously going to be partnered with Clugy (Max Clagg) riding at No.2, so I’m looking forward to riding alongside him.

Heathens skipper Max Clagg will take his place in the British Under 21 Final at Coventry next Tuesday, April 14.

Harris relishes shot at third title

Springs looks like making a downer as car leaves the track in rally

STOURBRIDGE rally driver Richard Sykes had a disappointing end to the Rally of Britain weekend when his Subaru Impreza WRC car leaves the road on the third stage.

Sykes was using the event to gain valuable mileage in his new car or ahead of starting the STREDA Mixed Surface championship in mid-April.

The rally started with two stages in Gartheiniog forest total-ling almost 14 miles. Sykes made steady start, ending the two stages sixth in class. It was all to fly for wrong for Sykes and co-driver Emma Morrison on stage three though as they approached a corner too quickly and crashed into a ditch.

“The first two stages were ok, I was gaining vital experience in the car and not pushing too hard,” said Sykes. “Unfortunately we didn’t have time to recce the stages and fine tune our pace notes before the event and we paid the price for this in stage three when Emma called one of the notes too late. I couldn’t get the car slowed in time for a corner and we went off. The car was stuck in the ditch and we couldn’t get it out so that was our event over.

“It’s very disappointing not to have got further but we managed to learn the car more but it wouldn’t’ve been better to have finished. We’ve got no more time now in the car with the STREDA championship challenge starts. It’s going to be tough to get the car ready in time for the Welsh rally but we’ll keep trying.

“Last year in the Somerst Stages takes place on April 18 and is based in Minehead.

Late goal brings 0-1 off placing

Wolves 4 Leeds 1

Dave Edwards’ thrilling last-gasp header sealed a pulsating victory for Kenny Jackett’s side and propelled them into a play-off place.

And it got a raucous Molinex bouncing and believing in the force that is with their side.

Three goals by Wolves, including two from star man Nouha Dicko, were cancelled out by a trio of gifts handed to their disjointed visitors who looked set to claim the odds of points.

Dicko’s brace and Benik Afobe’s 29th goal of the season had put Wolves 3-1 up after Charlie Taylor’s opener for Leeds was handed to him on a plate.

Then Wolves imploded with a Danny Batth own goal and another present that was accepted by Emma clouded too.

Crazy

Leeds went ahead out of nowhere when an inexcusable piece of play from Kevin McDonald gifted the visitors the opening goal.

The Scottish midfielder dwelled on the ball in the process of heading for goal in the opening minutes when he restored parity with a crisp finish.

In the first minute of stoppage time the hosts claimed the lead.

Leeds’ defence was rammed and Sol Bamba played Dicks inside as he raced onto Sako’s chipped pass and fired home.

On the second half a third goalarrayed in scraggy fashion on 44 minutes after Sam Byram failed to deal with a McFadaid cross.

Leeds scrambled it away as far as Batth, whose shot deflected wide while Arnison closed in.

Pearson also produced an excel-

Luke Benbow getting in on the action during the home game against Workington

Workington 1

STOURBRIDGE’s slump continues as they lost out to third placed Workington thanks to a solitary Gavyn Skilton strike.

It leaves the Glassboys with just one win in their last 14 games going into today’s Evo-Stik Premier local derby with Halesowen Town.

Workington made most of the early running, Alex Newby firing from close range at goalkeeper Dean Coleman after three minutes while prolific striker Gareth Arnison put the ball wide of the mark moments later after Coleman had failed to hold from a corner.

But Coleman came to the rescue on 26 minutes, diving full stretch to keep out Anthony Wright before Stourbridge’s quick on-loan centre defender Will Richards managed to scramble the ball away while Arnison closed in.

Stourbridge weathered the early storm and went on to create the best chances of the half.

Chris Lait had a shot deflected wide while Workington goalkeeper Jonny Jamieson pulled off a wonderful save to keep out a Leon Broadhurst header.

Luke Benbow then produced the mess of the match when he ballooned a shot out of the ground.

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Red card was harsh, says Mulumbu

ALBION midfielder Youssouf Mulumbu claims his red card for elbowing QPR captain Joey Barton was harsh and insists: “I never meant to hurt anybody so we will speak with each other and I’m still young and still need advice and guidance myself, but I’ve already learnt a lot riding for Kent and with the few guest bookings I did last year.

“We have a great bunch of lads this year, so hopefully we can all pull together to help each other and I can learn a lot over the course of the season.

“I’m obviously going to be partnered with Clugy (Max Clagg) riding at No.2, so I’m looking forward to riding alongside him.

Heathens skipper Max Clagg will take his place in the British Under 21 Final at Coventry next Tuesday, April 14.

Yeltz reach a dozen without a victory

Blyth Spartans 2 Halesowen 1

HALESOWEN’S worrying run of games without a win stretched to 12 matches as they lost 2-1 to Blyth Spartans in an Evo-Stik Premier derby with Stourbridge in poor form.

The Yeltz failed to create many chances against a team who are well within reach of the play-offs.

The Yeltz went close again early in the second half when he collected a loose ball midway after the Yeltz half and burst forward but fired past Pearson’s far post. Spartans began to dictate play and took the lead on the hour when Maguire was brought down in the area by Curtis Till and Stephen Turnbull converted the penalty.

Richardson hit the top of the crossbar with 20 minutes remaining but on 76 minutes he made no mistake when he volleyed into the bottom corner who did the hard work in the build up.

Jysenad Christie did bring some twice for the Yeltz but Halesowen’s consolation late on with a brilliantly curling free-kick after Danny Bragoli had been fouled.

Georgia grabs a ton but can’t save England

WOLVERHAMPTON all-rounder Ed Dawkes fired a quickfire hundred but could not save Eng-

land Women’s Academy cricketers from defeat to Australia’s ‘Shooting Stars’ in Dubai. Dawkes reached 106 from 89 balls as England were all out in 45 of their 50 overs.

But Australia came and ended the innings by wickering with seven deliver-

ies to spare.

England said: “We ended up 30-50 runs short of what we could have got further and managed to learn the game more but it wouldn’t’ve been better to have finished. We’ve got no more time now in the car with the STREDA championship challenge starts. It’s going to be tough to get the car ready in time for the Welsh rally but we’ll keep trying.

“Last year in the Somerst Stages takes place on April 18 and is based in Minehead.

It is,” said Mulumbu, who received his red card on 25 minutes after he was dismissed just 11 minutes after joining the game as a substitute.

“When it’s harsh but that’s how it is,” said Mulumbu, who received support from Barton after the game.

“I don’t know if we’ll appeal. I will speak to the team manager and look at the video it’s a very harsh card.

“I think I just wanted to hurt anybody so we will speak with the coach and the club and see what is the best way to sort this out.

“Mulumbu received support from Barton after the game, who thought he was guilty of any suggestion of a deliberate elbow.

Harris relishes shot at third title

Late goal brings 0-1 off placing

Miserly for Glassboys goes on
**Wrens' run of wins seems unstoppable**

**Wem Town 2 Wrens Nest 5**

WRENS Nest continued their great run in a hard-fought Midland League Division 1 contest with another decisive win, this time over Shropshire side Wem. They came away from Wem Town with a great result to continue their push up the League table.

Wrens Nest took the lead after five minutes when Stuart Hillman lobbed the ball over the home keeper. Wem Town equalised after 22 minutes after a great through ball to Shaun Butler who ran through and scored from a great pass from Joe Lawley.

Stuart Hillman was then fouled in the penalty box after 40 minutes and got up and duly slotted home the spot kick.

Wrens Nest were not to be denied and were awarded a free kick outside the penalty box and Joe Lawley stepped up and hit a scissor kick from 25 yards to the top right-hand corner of the goal just before the half-time whistle blew.

In the second half, both teams had opportunities to score but it was Wrens Nest and Stuart Hillman who completed his hat-trick to score again after 77 minutes.

The home side battled on right up to the final whistle but the visitors ran out deserved winners.

Wrens Nest FC also have a Birmingham FA Cup entry in the first round proper with their final four fixtures to be confirmed.

**Tividale 2 Lincoln Utd 0**

**Foster’s double penalty spot scores win it for Tividale**

T Autodesk3 Lincoln Utd 0

TWO penalties by Jack Foster gave Tividale an Evo-Stik North Division One Smith double over play-off contenders Lincoln United.

Tividale started the stronger on a very hot day at The Beeches and were ahead after just two minutes. Jordan Archer collected the ball on the left, raced into the Lincoln area leaving two defender stranded and was allowed a shot on goal by Unbeaten By Matthew Cotton.

Foster steered home the spot-kick and Lincoln, having equalised just before half-time, were on the back foot. Lincolns best chance came from a 25-yard shot by Ben Haseley from the right.

Asa Charlton attacks the Stourbridge goal during the derby in which the Yeltz came out on top

At the other end George Roberts maintained the lead from a corner after 77 minutes when Dan Pricer reduced the arrears.

Oldswinford tactics pay dividends

Oldswinford (129-5) beat Enville B (88-5) by 31 runs

**Halesowen Town 4**

**1,748 watched Halesowen claim a deserved victory in a keenly-contested local derby.**

**Both mid-table sides entered the game – dubbed the No.9 derby – in different form but it was Halesowen who took the bragging rights with their greater desire and team spirit in front of their best home attendance since 1991.**

The Yeltz started on the front foot as a first-half free-kick from Luke Connolly was clawed away by Glassboys goalkeeper Matt Sargeant.

As Halesowen heaped on the pressure, Ben Haseley was then denied and Brian Smikle made a great save from Joe Lennon.

Kris Green’s seventh minute goal-bound effort was clawed away by Glassboys goalkeeper Matt Sargeant.

Jody Miles then scored the opener with a powerful effort from 25 yards to the top left-hand corner of the goal.

As Halesowen heaped on the pressure, Ben Haseley was then denied and Brian Smikle made a great save from Joe Lennon.

The home side battled on right up to the final whistle but the visitors ran out deserved winners.

Oldswinford did a fair job of doing just that with Lee Nightingale taking 21 from Trevor Spears second-ever opening and retaining. At the other end George Roberts maintained some decorum, but clearly Oldswinford were up for this match in which victory clinched the league title so long-awaited went after the bowling.

Wasser Ahmed (25 no) and Tom Bhui (31) were the main contributors with the blade and again a notable spell from Kate Partlett whose 3 overs of flight conceded only 20. Rhodie Partlett (51) made his customary 25 before retiring but whilst Kate Partlett and Alex Hale put together a partnership of 25 for the fifth wicket, otherwise Enville B found themselves a little short of batting and fell too far behind the rate.

Having lost the title won in 2013 to Pedmore last year, Oldswinford remain undefeated and claim back the trophy and take their place in the County finals right on 19th April at RGR Worcest – playing for the Grupo Trophy.

Hagley (113-4) lost to Enville A (115-3) by 3

A match with nothing but pride at stake was a little relaxed at the start and Hagley found them selves 3-3 which Included an unusual early exit for Joe Lennon.

Paul Morgan (4tho) however batted through and added值守ability to Hagley’s total. En ville A also started poorly losing Matt Branch and being 19-2 after 2 overs.

Final games of 2015 season are on 13th April from 8 pm. Swindon to play Pedmore B and Pedmore A play Belbroughton.

Oldswinford tactics pay dividends

Oldswinford (129-5) beat Enville B (88-5) by 31 runs

**Cricket**

**Enville B decided to let Oldswinford do their worst and chase their total. Oldswinford did a fair job of doing just that with Lee Nightingale taking 21 from Trevor Spears second-ever opening and retaining. At the other end George Roberts maintained some decorum, but clearly Oldswinford were up for this match in which victory clinched the league title so long-awaited went after the bowling. Wasser Ahmed (25 no) and Tom Bhui (31) were the main contributors with the blade and again a notable spell from Kate Partlett whose 3 overs of flight conceded only 20. Rhodie Partlett (51) made his customary 25 before retiring but whilst Kate Partlett and Alex Hale put together a partnership of 25 for the fifth wicket, otherwise Enville B found themselves a little short of batting and fell too far behind the rate. Having lost the title won in 2013 to Pedmore last year, Oldswinford remain undefeated and claim back the trophy and take their place in the County finals right on 19th April at RGR Worcest – playing for the Grupo Trophy. Hagley (113-4) lost to Enville A (115-3) by 3 A match with nothing but pride at stake was a little relaxed at the start and Hagley found themselves 3-3 which included an unusual early exit for Joe Lennon. Paul Morgan (4tho) however batted through and added值守ability to Hagley’s total. En ville A also started poorly losing Matt Branch and being 19-2 after 2 overs. Final games of 2015 season are on 13th April from 8 pm. Swindon to play Pedmore B and Pedmore A play Belbroughton.**

**Alvechurch 2 Tipton Town 4**

**Tipton then enjoyed a big surprise by fighting back from trailing 1-0 to claim victory at mid-table Alvechurch in the Midlands Premier.**

Town, bottom of the table, fell behind after just 3 minutes when Connor Dobbs’ smart header beat goalkeeper Jack Hazell.

Dimitri Dunkley then went close for the home side, but the visitors promptly turned the game around. They were level on a minute when Matt Ganderton worked the ball to the fleet-footed Gurjitt Singh who rode two tackles before crashing his shot in off the bar.

The Lye Meadow club, several years ago, were famed for helping such luminaries as Arsenal’s, Alan Smith and Wolves’ David Kelly on their way to stardom with Tipton Town’s player of prominence, Steve Bull, of course so there was some common ground between the two sides which invited comment before kick-off.

Tipton, solid at the back where Lucan Spittle was imperious, were by now playing with much more belief than they have generally shown in this wretched season.

They went ahead in the first minute of the second half when the effervescent Singh fired in a low ball from the right edge of the penalty area which Sean Pugh gracefully stabbed home.

Tipton then withstood the spell of home pressure before Adam Hill made it 3-1. Home left-back Mitch Morgan got the assurance in the 78th minute, but just three minutes later Singh clinched the win by walking through and firing past Edwards.

The second half began with a bang.

**Premier place is Jackett’s focus**

KENNY Jackett insists Wolves can be a Premier League regular and urges Molineux to roar his team towards the play-offs.

Jackett believes Wolves can become an established top-flight club if they force their way into the Championship play-offs or even promotion.

And he has challenged his side to use the Momentum support given to their advantage.

He said: “It is a fantastic club which has the potential to be in the Premier League but that doesn’t mean you have to earn it in football.

“Wolves have Premier League potential.”

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