Yobs are made to meet their victims

Yobs who vandalised cars in Stourbridge have been made to meet their victims by police as part of a rehabilitation project.

Two boys, aged 13 and 12, and a 15-year-old girl were also made to hand over a total of £776 to pay for repairs, as part of a ‘restorative’ justice scheme.

PC Reg Steele and PC Vivek Rai organised the meeting at Halesowen police station after damage was caused to a number of cars in the Lye area.

Scratched

The first offences dated back to June when a resident in Lye reported that his Mercedes and Hyundi cars had been scratched.

Investigations revealed the offence had been captured on CCTV, which led to the identification of the two. Both admitted using stones to scratch the cars.

In a separate act, a 15-year-old girl admitted throwing pink paint over a car belonging to a man on July 22. Police received a tip-off about the incident, which had been reported.

PC Steele said: “This trio all admitted their involvement and as none of them had any previous convictions we approached the owners of the cars to see if they would be happy to deal with the matter out of court.”

Chance to be in town panto

A THEATRE company is appealing for more people to trust the boards in its annual pantomime.

Halesowen-based Star-time Variety will present Robin Hood and the Babes in the Wood at the town’s Croxley Hall in January.

The group are hoping for a full house at its open evening on Tuesday, September 16, to generate cash for a children’s hospice.

Academy’s new boss is appointed

A NEW principal has been appointed at an academy after the previous head left after almost 40 years at the school.

Vince Green has been installed at Bristnall Hall Academy in Oldbury, by the Academy Transformation Trust, after the retirement of Steve Verroux in July.

Mr Green’s most recent role was as deputy headteacher at The Phoenix Collegiate school in West Bromwich. While there, he helped to increase the proportion of students achieving five or more A* to C GCSE grades including English and maths.

Prior to this he was deputy headteacher at an academy in Telford, where he helped the school rise from inadequate to outstanding status.

He said: “I’m delighted to be leading this inspiring academy and we will build on its current strengths and achievements to take it to the next level on its journey to outstanding.”

“A school like this is a dream of every teacher, however we must never get complacent, it is a very challenging world we work in,” he added.

The new headteacher will be working in partnership with our sponsor, I will ensure pupils have access to the best possible opportunities."

A 70-year-old farmer needed surgery after being attacked and viciously beaten with his own walking stick outside his home, near Halesowen.

The attack happened at Lapal Farm, Illey Lane, this week and the farmer suffered such serious facial injuries, including a broken nose, that doctors feared he would lose an eye.

He also had to have an operation on Tuesday to set his arm, which was broken during the attack by a young man.

The intruder grabbed the man’s walking stick and struck him over the head several times with it, breaking his nose, giving him deep cuts and causing severe blood loss.

His partner, who did not wish to be named, said he was recovering well in hospital.

Detective Sergeant Leighton Shingles, of West Midlands Police CID, said: “The farmer’s injuries are so severe that at one point doctors feared he may lose an eye.

Surgery

Fortunately, this is no longer the case but he still requires surgery for a broken arm and he also has a broken nose.”

Forensic experts are looking at the site and are treading the area for CCTV which may show an image of the attacker.

Academy’s Transformation Trust, after the retirement of Steve Verroux in July.

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Police are now appealing for information on the assault which took place at about 5am on Monday after the farmer saw a shadowy figure outside his home, opposite the Black Horse pub, and went to investigate.

He was confronted by a man who originally said he had stopped for a cigarette but, when questioned further, the man launched a brutal attack on the farm owner.

The attacker is described as a stocky, white man aged in his early 40s.

He was wearing a dark sleeveless bomber jacket over a check shirt and dark trousers.

Det Sgt Shingles added: “We are appealing to anyone who may have seen this man acting suspiciously in the area to contact us as soon as possible.

Anyone with information should contact the police on 101, or alternatively contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Eyes down — fundraisers get ready for the bingo bonanza in aid of Acorns Hospice

A ROAD in the Black Country has been closed to traffic as part of work to revamp gas mains.

Area of work

The project involves National Grid replacing gas pipes on Halesowen Road.

Traffic will be diverted via Pype Hayes Road, which is temporarily one-way, Redd Hill Road, and Lawrence Lane.

The project involves National Grid replacing gas pipes on Halesowen Road.

Road closed for gas work

By Jon Pritchard

A Bingo booster for charity

The group are hoping for a full house at its open evening on Tuesday, September 16, to generate cash for a children’s hospice.

FUNDRAISERS are holding a bingo night on Thursday, September 11, 2014, at Mecca Bingo on the wonderful work that Acorns does and to help raise vital funds.”

Isla received care at the Walsall hospice after an accident which caused to a number of cars in the Lye area.

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The show will run from January 28 to 31. Call 0212 503 0817.

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Meeting to air views on bus changes

Two teams of Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group representatives will meet next Thursday between 1pm and 4pm to discuss how the recent reviews have affected local residents and explain how people can change the local travel patterns they experience. The meeting, which is being organised by Labour’s parliamentary candidate for Halesowen and Rowley Regis, Stephanie Peacock, will be held at the Lady of Lourdes Church on Old Hill High Street from 9am on Tuesday, September 16. National Express have confirmed a representative will attend.

Spokesman, Jack Kelly, said: “This meeting will allow us to discuss how the recent review has affected local resident and explain in person how changing local travel patterns have required us to alter some routes.”

However, it is important to stress there can make no guarantee on service changes on the day that any of the changed routes are now much more reliable than prior to the changes.”

A YOUNG man who was knocked down in a hit-and-run has been able to take his first steps after the accident, his family have revealed.

Lewes Yale, aged 22, is conscious following the accident in Dudley Road East, Tividale, near Oldbury, in the early hours of August 31. He remained in Dudley’s Russells Hall Hospital with a spleen rupture saying he will have an operation to treat his fractured facial. Investigations are continuing into the circumstances of the incident, which happened at around midnight. Mr Yale was seriously injured in a road after being involvement in a motorbike and a silver Ford FOCUS, moments after getting off his bike on his way back home from work.

Officers revealed that despite several drivers round him he did not think it was at risk. It is alleged police officer came to his aid. A relative, who asked not to be named said: “He has been able to take a little walk, so he is improving. He has done really well so far but he still has to go further operation on his face and nose.”

Anyone with information is asked to call the police on 101.

Tony Smith with Gwen Timmins MBE and nurses from the ward at Russells Hall Hospital.

A HOSPITAL volunteer who has helped raise more than £100,000 for a ward has retired following 13 years of service. Tony Smith was initially admitted to hospital suffering severe back injuries in an accident at work. After seven years of treatment at the pain relief ward he began fundraising and set up the Support Group for Pain Relief with fellow patient Gwen Timmins. The group ran fundraising stalls at fairs in the region until the ward moved to Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley where sales are held in the hospital reception. In 13 years it raised a total £107,000. Last week Mr Smith, aged 66, from Halesowen, had to step down due to increasing chronic pain. The group will continue under the management of Mrs Timmins, aged 71, who was awarded an MBE for her work supporting hospitals. She said: “Tony has done a great job and will be missed.” Mr Smith added: “I am so be leaving but the pain has got to this I’m struggling to make it at the hospital on a regular basis.”

Victim is taking his first steps in hospital

F紫禁城里有大群官员。这些官员里面有各种各样的人，包括商人、有钱人和普通人。他们都来参加这个盛大的集会，目的是为了庆祝和庆祝国王的胜利。官员们在会上发表讲话，表达他们对国王和国家的感情。他们还通过各种仪式和活动来展示他们的力量和地位。官员们在集会上的言行举止都非常有礼貌，他们互相之间也都非常尊重。整个集会的气氛非常热烈和庄重。官员们在集会结束后都很高兴，因为他们通过这个集会得到了很多的好处。官员们的这次集会不仅展示了他们的力量和地位，也进一步增强了他的国家和人民的信心。
Landmark church is forced to close down

By Alex Ross

‘Baby’ Jenny meets IVF pioneer at graduation

Lord Winston pictured with baby Jenny in the 1990s

A CHURCH in Cradley Heath which has been part of the community since early Victorian times is to close due to costs.

A repair bill of £750,000 is forcing the closure of St Luke’s, after almost 170 years of worship. The congregation of the church at High Street will move to St John’s Chapel in Dudley Wood after a final service on next month.

The Rev Alicia Baker said work was needed to make the church ‘viable’ including replacing the roof. Church leaders decided they couldn’t afford the work. She said: ‘Because of the huge cost of repairs to the building, approximately £750,000, it’s time for the congregation to move on. The church council decided that the building was becoming in such a bad state of repair that it was going to become unusable.

Bills

‘The congregation was diminishing in size and we weren’t managing to pay our bills. We had to pay at the time £12,000 to the diocese every year, and we weren’t managing to pay that. It’s sad for people that the church is closing but at least there will be a building on the High Street to be used by the community.’

She was frozen for three months and then grew inside her mother for another nine and now Jenny Watkins says she was privileged to be among the first five babies born through a pioneering technique of IVF.

Her birth brought joy to parents Roy and Karen, who after borrowing money from friends and family for the £15,000 treatment, finally ended a struggle to have a child of their own.

And now, 21 years after her birth, Jenny, of Newlands Road, Halesowen, met the pioneer fertility scientist who helped make it possible. Lord Winston, who was awarded with a honorary doctorate by Birmingham City University.

After speaking to him, ahead of a graduation ceremony for business and healthy faculty students, she also had his call to make IVF treatment more accessible across the country.

Parenthood

She said: ‘IVF is a really positive thing. It can bring so much happiness to couples who otherwise would not be able to enjoy parenthood.’

Jenny’s parents had to save up and borrow cash to pay for the expensive treatment. They have five clydes at the Midland Fertility Clinic in Abingdon before success.

The former pupil at Leasowes High School in Halesowen, studied law at Birmingham City University, and was awarded first class honours this week. She works for the students’ union at the university.

She added: ‘I was a little nervous, and I wasn’t too sure what had happened, it was only when I got to 13 or 14 that I was able to get a grip of how I was born. I grow at a very good pace. I think I got my parents off guard a bit.’

Afterwards she joined Sir Jonathan as he celebrated 30 years of IVF.

Lord Winston said: ‘I am writing to say that I will be available to you at any time you need me, for any support or assistance you wish to have.

It is important for all of you to recognise that you should try and listen to the patient in front of you, that is a vital part of the health service to them.

Listen

I want you to remember that you are in front of someone who is deeply vulnerable, spiritually naked, full of anxiety and concerned about money for their family because of hospital.

They are also concerned there maybe something wrong with them. You must listen to them.’

Lord Winston has presented numerous award-winning TV and radio series, including The Secret Life of Twins, Child of Our Time and the RAFTA award-winning The Human Body.

He has also written 20 books and has published more than 300 scientific articles. In the 1970s he developed techniques to improve fertility treatments and later pioneered improvements in IVF.

He said: ‘In accepting an honorary degree at Birmingham City University, I am greatly privileged.’

The IBP, which held its annual conference in Cradley Heath this week, is in charge of training among doctors to recognise possible alternatives.

He added: ‘I can’t pretend it’s amazing meeting someone like Jenny because of the number of IVF babies I meet but its lovely to see people who have been born that way and how they have grown up.’

During the graduation ceremony, Lord Winston urged the graduates to provide quality patient care in their new jobs. He said: ‘It is not the NHS which is your responsibility, it is the patient in front of you. It is important for all of you to recognise that you should try and listen to the patient in front of you, that is a vital part of the health service to them.

Women injured

Two women were taken to hospital after a rowdy library after a car ended up on fire in an car park at Dudley junction. Emergency services were called to Castle Gate Island at 9.20am on Friday.
Don’t miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES
A READER asks, rather unkindly, “This ice-bucket challenge thing. Is it just a cheap alternative to a weekend in Wales?”

MEREDYDD Hughes, head of South Yorkshire Police between 2004 and 2011, was damned by one tabloid for concentrating on speeding offences instead of child abusers. So let us turn the clock back to 2004. Tony Blair is prime minister. Charles Clarke is Home Secretary. Harriet Harman is Solicitor-General. And Chief Constable Hughes suddenly declares: “My priority is to stop Pakistani men raping little girls.” He would have been sacked so fast you wouldn’t have seen him for dust. Cops may share the guilt but the blame for this nightmare goes all the way to Downing Street.

THERE’S just one snag with the new school targets on grammar. The teachers can’t teach. Alice Philips, president of the Girls’ Schools Association, says thousands of young teachers have “little or no grounding in English language or grammar.” We are steadily becoming an illiterate nation, blessed with the finest language this planet has ever seen but quite unable to use it.

The Czech Republic with a population of just 10 million has proton-beam cancer treatment but the United Kingdom, with six times the population, does not. Two million has proton-beam cancer treatment but the United Kingdom, with six times the population, does not.

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Airport has had busiest month yet

BIRMINGHAM Airport had broken a new monthly record, achieved back in August 2008, by 2.3 million passengers coming through the gates with most of them heading off on their summer holidays.

The figure of 1,104,831 smashed the previous monthly record for the airport, as April, May, June and July also saw previous monthly records smashed.

Last month’s numbers were also an increase of 5.2 per cent over August last year.

It also saw a one per cent increase in long haul passengers with flights operating to Beijing, Delhi, Dubai, Jakarta, Lima, Madrid, Johannesburg, Hong Kong and Toronto in August.

Chief executive Paul Kehoe said: “Passengers are flying to more long haul destinations than ever before.”

By Tim Spiers

RAIDALE CELEBRATING OVER 29 YEARS

YOU CAN BE SURE YOU HAVE MADE THE RIGHT DECISION

It’s simple customers’ satisfaction and quality. The quality of Rydale’s product, the quality of all Rydale personnel and the unbeatable service given to the public is second to none. We wonder Rydale has so many satisfied customers, just look at the facts. Every window and conservatory is custom made to the most rigorous quality standards you will find in the industry. We offer the best quality windows and doors.

We invite you to come to our showrooms to view all our products available, the showroom is open 7 days a week and if you would like we can assist you with any measurements.

How has Rydale built up an excellent reputation?

You can be sure you have made the right decision!

THESE are no such thing as a free lunch, according to the old saying.

And while younger up to the age of seven are now able to tuck into a school meal without their parents having to pay, as part of a drive to get kids eating healthier, it has come at a cost.

The Government has provided £1 billion to meet the costs of providing meals across the UK available to all pupils without means testing over the next two years.

A total of £100 million has been made available to improve schools’ kitchen and dining facilities, with an additional £22.5m specifically to help smaller schools.

It is also hoped that the availability of free school meals will help reduce the obesity problem, with around 20 per cent of children currently classified as obese when they leave primary school.

Around 57,000 children in the West Midlands are benefitting from the change which came into force at the start of the new school term, with families saving on average £450 per child across the school year.

The Children’s Society says the policy will help those who need it most with around 9,000 youngsters from low income families in the region that may not have previously qualified for free school meals.

Sandwell youngsters will argue with the principal of ensuring children get a healthy, balanced lunch, there have been concerns about the strains being placed on the local authorities which have had to put the plans in practice.

Councillor Tim Crampton from Dudley added: “We received £655,308 from the Government for the free school meals programmes. We are currently working out the best way of making sure we can provide a free school meals service using the money given to us. We believe we are giving the best service we can for all the families and reduced timeswe we had to do this.”

Children from deprived backgrounds getting their C-grade lunch, compared to A-grade in Walsall, 689 in Wolverhampton and 622 in Dudley.

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MORE than 2,000 people competed in various events of the Carver Wolverhampton City Marathon but only one took part in two.

Simon Groom became the first person in the history of the event to be allowed to both run and cycle.

The 41-year-old engineer from Whiston Aston did the 2.24 mile cycle ride with two-year-old daughter Emily on the back of his bike flanked by partner Amanda and daughter Maddie on their bikes – then ran the half marathon solo long after the other competitors had left the start line on Wednesday.

Race Director Mary Harding was, albeit, amazed. “We are trying to promote family participation so we allowed him to do both events.”

The marathon was won by Mike Fastley from Oldham in 2 hrs 40mins 26secs.

Phil Nicholls, 30, from Potter, a member of Wolverhampton and Bilston athletics club, strode to an emphatic victory in the 10k run in 31.12, nearly five minutes in front of the other competitors including second placed club mate Dan Brazier.

TWOK take to streets for city marathon

10K winner Phil Nicholls with Dan Brazier second, left, and Tipton Harrier Dean Hill third

2,000 take to streets for city marathon

Residends are being urged to have their say on zero-hour contracts. There has been criticism that staff given the contracts do not know if they have work from one week to the next.

Under the contracts employees agree to be available for work as and when required but no particular number of hours or times of work are specified. Up to a million workers are under those contracts.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin is urging people to have their say by visiting www.gov.uk.gov.uk, downloading the link for zero-hour employment contracts. He said: “People in Dudley on zero-hour contracts have told me it’s impossible for them to budget from one week to the next.”

Heritage sites opening for free

MUSEUMS and historic properties across the Black Country will be opening their doors to the public for free this week.

Access will be taking part in Heritage Open Days, an initiative to promote the region’s architecture.

For the first time Dudley Archives and Local History Library is taking part after moving to its new home next to the Black Country Living Museum.

Wolverhampton’s City Walls will be held at St Mary’s Church, plus events at the Snowshill Meeting House, Polesworth & Thompson and Dudley Crystal at Dall Grassworks.

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Brewery to spring back for university

DANIEL WAINWRIGHT reveals ambitious plans for a campus and school at the derelict Springfield site

THE derelict former M&B Springfield brewery in Wolverhampton is to be transformed into a university campus and school under £60 million plans.

The University of Wolverhampton has agreed to buy the fire-ravaged brewery to create a centre to educate students wanting careers in the construction industry.

There are plans to redevelop the site to become the home of the new West Midlands University Technical College (UTC) for Construction, which the university is sponsoring along with the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB).

Excellence

And the university also plans to relocate its own School of Architecture and the Built Environment there.

Vice-Chancellor of the University of Wolverhampton, Professor Geoff Layer, said: “This will provide a centre of excellence with the most comprehensive construction education and training not only in the country but in Europe.’’

An agreement to buy the 12-acre site which has been vacant since 1991 when the Mitchells & Butler brewery closed, has been reached with the aim to finalise the deal in the next few months.

It has not been revealed how much of the site, which dates back to 1873, will be preserved and which parts will be torn down. The brewery buildings were damaged by fires in 2004 and 2010.

The site had long been set aside for housing and more than £2 million was spent fringing buildings back to their former glory as they could become 140 flats, but the full plans never went ahead.

The UTC will provide education for 14 to 18-year-olds with a special focus on construction skills.

It will open in September 2015 on a temporary site before moving into new buildings at Springfield in September 2016.

The University’s School of Architecture and the Built Environment, which is based within the city-centre campus, provides courses in construction management, computer engineering, Quantity Surveying, and environmental management.

The university is aiming to have 1,000 students and is expected to grow by a third after the move.

Councillor Peter Bilson, Geoff Layer the vice chancellor of the University of Wolverhampton and Tom Macdonald. Principal Designate at West Midlands Construction Industry Training Board (CITB)
Letters to the Editor

Halesowen Chronicle
Thursday, September 11, 2014

ELAINE MURPHY, SEDGLEY

I am hoping to enlist the help of readers to make sure that a piece of Bilston’s history is not forgotten. I began as a driver for Bilston Service Laundry, Vulcan Street, Bilston, in 1959. I have provided a ‘bag wash’ service in the 50s and 60s for people in the Black Country, Wolverhampton and a large area of Birmingham. I was astonished when my search failed to provide any mention of Bilston Service Laundry. If readers have any memories contact me at trevor.worrall@blueyonder.co.uk or on 07932604893.

T WORRALL
STOURBRIDGE

Correction is a monster

It has long been my belief that political correctness is eating the very fabric of our society.

What was originally a noble attempt to clarify the way that all citizens should fairly interact in a society has spawned a monster that threatens free discussion and concurs truth.

A major element of the current Rotherham child scandal is the effect of the creature’s growth.

All should be treated as equal before the law. The colour of one’s skin or one’s religion should never enter into the equation. As it was, undoubtedly, a factor in this disaster. The fear of the word ‘racism’ which is now used as a shield to protect all manner of unacceptable practices. In this case it has resulted in 1,400 youngsters being scarred for life mentally and physically.

A M FETHERIDGE
SEDGLEY

Need to bag information

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STOURBRIDGE

Commissioner role is waste of money

YET another very low turn out to vote for a police commissioner which they believed on the holiday season and need for a quick election. The truth of the matter is that people are not interested in such a post.

Each candidate is affiliated to a political party and I would suggest there would have been a slightly better turnout if a candidate were a member of the public and their only allegiance would be to their role of police commissioner and not to political party. The public are very wary of politicians and what they say will do.

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Don’t force my hand

In the last election I stood as an independent and was elected to serve your electorate. To form a constitution and function can only be done properly. There are many towns across the county that I have never had the chance to visit and speak to the public.

TIME and time again the subject of immigration keeps coming up. When the Conservatives formed a coalition they blamed Labour for the amount of asylum seekers coming into Britain and Cameron said he was going to get it down below the hundred thousand mark. Four years on the latest figures show that 250,000 have come in.

None of the main parties seem to either be concerned about the number of people in the country or the fact that many of them are criminals. The majority of people in this country cannot understand why the coalition cannot get the numbers down. It has been said that if the present amount of people keep coming in, in the next 20 years we will need to create 20 more cities the size of Birmingham.

None of Parliament is listening. The people do not want the numbers coming in reduced, they want it stopped. Ask the MPs, ‘Are those green, zero’? This country is overflowing.

We are much smaller than Australia, America, France, Germany and Russia. This country would be so much better off in our NHS, schools and employment if the population was halted.

So, please Mr Cameron, Nick Clegg, Ed Miliband, listen to the people of this country and act on why the people of the country voted for you.

We are sick of all of the promises that you keep peddling out to us and fail to carry out. We want action.

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Asbestos link with death of carpenter

A FORMER carpenter died just two weeks after being diagnosed with an illness connected to working with asbestos, an inquest heard.

Leslie Cowley, 78, of Lichfield Road, Steurbridge, died at New Cross Hospital, in Wolverhampton, with mesothelioma on May 11.

Senior coroner for the Black Country Robin Balmain said a pathologist’s report found no asbestos fibres in his system but only a low level exposure to asbestos was enough to cause the disease.

His wife Hazel told the inquest at Smethwick Council House that he had been a self-employed builder and carpenter.

She said: “He never spoke to me about asbestos but he probably used it because he would take pieces out of old buildings.”

His son, Adrian, said: “It happened so quick. He went in for a heart operation and found this and in two weeks he was gone.”

Mr Balmain recorded that Mr Cowley died from an industrial disease.

His son, Adrian, said: “It happened so quick. He went in for a heart operation and found this and in two weeks he was gone.”

Mr Balmain recorded that Mr Cowley died from an industrial disease.

It's pot luck in the search for family’s tick tock treasures

They are family treasures worth more than £1,000 but were presumed lost forever. That was until the five watches in question were found sealed in a ginger jar set to be sold off with a price tag of just £20.

Steven Bubb was “gobsmacked” when friend and antiques dealer Phil Sims made the discovery. Mr Bubb had passed on the jar to the curator of the BBC Salvage Yard.

The watches were last seen by the 58-year-old cider firm boss more than 10 years ago and were feared lost after fruitless searches through his home in Clent.

Mr Bubb believed they had been mislaid by his mother Jean, who died three years ago, but it appears the Alzheimer’s sufferer had put them in the jar to keep them safe and then forgot all about them. The watches include two that belonged to Mr Bubb’s grandfather Henry Holland, one he had while serving in the First World War and the other a 22 carat gold pocket watch.

There was also a diamond watch Mr Bubb received from his grandmother Rentha Bubb and a silver chain watch given to him by a relative.

“Phil phoned up and said ‘I don’t think you realise what you have given me’,” said Mr Bubb. “I said what” and he replied all the watches you have been looking for over the years”.

It was completely gobsmacked. The watches meant so much and I had been really upset they had gone.”

Mr Sims started Sims Vintage Shop, near Belbroughton, this summer and BBC TV’s Antiques Road Trip will be visiting for its next series.

On track for square to become Goldbury

A TOWN square will be transformed into a sports arena as Oldbury becomes Goldbury in honour of triathlete Jodie Stimpson.

The event has been organised to coincide with a civic reception to celebrate Jodie’s success at the Commonwealth Games.

People of all ages will be able to take part in a mini-triathlon on Saturday.

There will be a running track, exercise bikes and rowing machines set up in the town square, while prizes will be up for grabs.

You can also meet Jodie, as well as gold-medal winning guide runner Mikal Huggins and weightlifter Jonni seaberry.

Reception

A bus shelter serving the town is also set to be painted gold.

Jodie – who took the Glasgow 2014 games by storm by winning two gold medals, including in the very first competition of the championships – will attend a reception at Sandwell Council House along with fellow athletes during the day.

She is a former member of the Oldbury Swimming and Triathlon Club.

Leader of Sandwell Council, Councillor Darren Cooper, said: “He said: “They are all wonderful role models and we hope they make young Sandwell realise that with hard work and dedication you can achieve whatever you want.”

“We want people to turn out on September 13 and celebrate our athletes’ success and have some fun with all the activities planned in the town square.”

During the event, which is scheduled to run from 10am to 2pm, there will also be free face painting, fair-ground rides and a bouncy castle.

2.7m visit Brum’s landmark library

AROUND 2.7 million visitors have been welcomed through the doors of the £130 million Library of Birmingham since it opened a year ago.

Given over Centenary Square, the library, which is the biggest of its kind in Europe, has become a landmark city centre.

More than 800,000 members are signed up to the library, 21,000 sessions are booked on the public computers every month and nearly 5,000 people are logging onto the free Wi-Fi.

Members have borrowed over 316,000 books, music, films and other items from the Library of Birmingham in the last year.

The library, which is home to almost one million books, has won lots of awards and accolades.

The building has also been designed to break the traditional rules of libraries as observed, as per the traditional notion that libraries are quiet places.

Brian Gumbles, director, said: “The number of visitors to the library since it opened on September 3, 2013 was dou-

The library is the biggest of its kind in Europe, has become a landmark city centre.

He said: “It has been an amazing first year for the Li-

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### Blind Dave joins Black Country Run

The Rotary Club’s Alan Bowler from Halesowen and Blind Dave Heeley promote the Black Country Run.

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- **“They gave us our perfect kitchen, a great local company.” Sandra Drummond, Kingswinford**

- **“The kitchen of our Dreams, we made so many changes but all was completed with so little fuss... I love showing off my new kitchen to everyone!” Norah & Chris Painter, Pedmore**

- **“A major project completed on time without any problems at all” Gill McKenzie, Codsall**

### “Great Black Country Run”

- **Heeley said: “It is the third year of The Great Black Country Run, they have asked me to take part the last couple of years but it has always happened on the same day at the Great North Run. This year it didn’t so I put my name down.”**

- **“To add some fun, me and some friends taking part have decided to dress up as characters from Shrek. We do a lot of the runs and we always see people dressed up but have never done it. We’re on the look-out for costumes.”**

- **The Great Black Country Run is organised by The Rotary Club of Halesowen & Rowley Regis in aid of local charities. As well as the 10km race, there will also be a 5km fun run. Last year the race raised £20,000 for charity. See www.theblackcountryrun.com**

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- **Panel Thickness: 28mm**
- **Chrome or white panel doors**

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- **Inliten 70mm single doors only**
- **Lever/handle and hook lock**
- **Supplied with Monaro half panel (top pane glazed)**
- **Panel Thickness: 28mm**
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- **White furniture/hardware**

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Rudy’s boys rock Rep with laughter

**REVIEW**

by Leon Burakowski

Rudy’s Rare Records, Birmingham Rep

**LENNY HENRY** may have given up stand-up comedy in favour of acting but there are still plenty of laughs in this warm-hearted story about three generations of the same family working in a struggling Handsworth record shop.

Dudley-born Henry and writer Danny Robins worked together on four series of Rudy’s Rare Records on BBC Radio 4 and have finally, and triumphantly, turned the story into a joyous and exuberant play. It won a standing ovation at the Rep.

The clash between father and son has long been a rich source for drama and comedy, think Steptoe & Son. Despite the bickering, one feels the affection from Lenny Henry’s dour son and failed actor Adam who has come home to look after his elderly dad Rudy and his chaotic vinyl emporium.

However, their ongoing war of words allows the script to be peppered with dozens of choice one-liners. These include Rudy’s dismissal of golf as “evacuated for people who can’t run” and Adam telling his father: “I’m not taking parenting advice from a man who blu-tacked an ashtray onto my pram.”

Lenny Henry is in full-on loveable mode as the astringent yet delightful son, eyes rolling in exasperation as his father berates the developers who want to demolish the shop over their “genital friction” (contraband) of the area.

Larrington Walker is superb as Rudy, the hip-swirling pensioner with a liking for tall tales, boxers and Caribbean cussing. But he meets his match in old pal Clifton (Jeffery Kissoon, clearly relishing his role) and girlfriend lavendrette boss Doreen (Lorna Gayle) who insists she is far more than “naughtiness and clean underpants.” Young actors Jovian Wade, as Rudy’s rapping grandson, and Natasha Godfrey, as Birmingham’s only Jamaican girl, give solid support.

The poignant scene in which three generations join in singing A Change is sure to leave you the best possible price. We offer a fantastic selection of bathroom suites to suit all style and budgets. Our showroom, located at 52 Lyde Green, Halesowen, is open to the public at trade prices. Although we still sell to over 100 tradesmen, our public interest is growing rapidly every day.

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‘No other family should have to go through this’

A GRIEVING mother has called for more to be done to help addicts who are leaving prison to make sure they don’t go back to drugs.

Beverley Bailey was speaking at Smethwick Council House after the inquest into the death of her son, Jason, the day after he was released from prison. The 34-year-old died at his mother’s home in Hedgrove Grove, Halesowen, on June 4 after overdosing on heroin.

Mrs Bailey said her son was released from prison following a 10-week stint for shop theft as having no fixed abode, and with around £100 he had earned from working while in prison.

Concerns
She said: “If a known heroin addict is released onto the streets with nowhere to go and £100 in his pocket, it’s not rocket science to work out what he’s going to do with the money.”

She said she wanted to make people aware of the lack of support given to drug addicts when they are released from prison, while Mr Robin Balmain, senior coroner for the Black Country, said he would write to the prison service to express his concerns.

Mrs Bailey – a former prison officer – has written to her MP, James Morris, about her son’s case. She said: “If one good thing can come from this then it is that another family doesn’t have to go through what we have had to.”

She told the inquest that she had been to visit her son a week before his release to tell him he was not allowed back to his parents’ house. However, when Mr Bailey was released on June 3 he arrived at her house later that day, but she told him to go away. He came back half an hour later and was sobbing so she let him in.

“I told him if he was going to live Jason Bailey — his mother says more must be done to help addicts here he was going to do as I say and he had to ask to do everything except flush the toilet,” she said.

“We spent a wonderful afternoon in the garden. It was like we had our son back. He went to bed and I went upstairs around about midnight and his door was wide open and his television was on. He never used to leave his door open so I thought he was finally being open with us.

She found him lying on the floor and called the ambulance. She said ambulance staff found her son with a syringe still in his leg.

Mr Balmain said Mr Bailey had 579 microgrammes of morphine, derived from heroin and methadone, per litre of blood. He recorded the cause of death as heroin and morphine toxicity.

He added: “This is a tragedy that I am seeing all too often. I do take on board what this young man’s mother has told me about the situation on release from prison, which seems to me to be a recipe for disaster. I have the authority to bring these matters to the attention of the relevant authorities and I propose to write to the prison service.”
Two locked up for roles in £1.7m tobacco racket

Two members of a gang behind a £1.7million cigarette and tobacco smuggling racket have been jailed.

Alan Nesbeth, aged 53, was put behind bars for five years while 28-year-old Jian Ning Yang was locked up for two-and-a-half years.

Some of the contraband was sent into the country through the post in packages and parcels from China and Korea disguised as tea. Wolverhampton Crown Court heard last week.

The rest was driven into the UK by the lorry load, explained Miss Heidi Kubik, prosecuting.

The racket was smashed by Revenue and Customs investigators who swooped to seize hundreds of thousands of illicit cigarettes and tons of rolling tobacco.

Jian Yang — cigarettes found in boot

Storage

A huge haul, on which £1.6 million duty had been evaded, was recovered after the juggernaut, in which it had been concealed using a load of steel wool, arrived at the Alligator Self-Storage unit in Portway Road, Wednesbury, in May 2013.

Fifteen months earlier another raid by officials on the Leavesley Container in Wolverhampton, Dudley, had unearthed tobacco and cigarettes on which £331,000 duty had been dodged.

That had been smuggled into the country as either freight or in postal packages of "tea".

Yang played an important role in the latter, acting as a link between the UK and Chinese arms of the operation because he spoke good English. Investigators had watched him transferring heavy boxes from the container to his car. His green BMW was then taken to a house in Greenhill Road, Handsworth, where more boxes and kraft liners packed with tobacco were found.

Yang admitted the offence.

Judge Michael Dudley told them:

"This was a highly sophisticated smuggling operation involving Chinese and Korean connections."

Alan Nesbeth — rented container

Yang had been an important player in the smuggling through Leavesley Containers while Nesbeth was a "facilitator" in the operation both there and at the Alligator Self Storage yard, the court was told.

Graham, of Bradley Lane, Bilston, had been paid £15-a-time to receive packages sent by the gang from China and Korea.

Conspiracy

She and Nesbeth were both convicted of conspiracy to evade Excise duty through the fraudulent importation of cigarettes and tobacco between July 2011 and January 2013 while Yang admitted the offence.

Graham was given a 15 month prison sentence suspended under supervision for 18 months.

Judge Michael Dudley told them: "This was a highly sophisticated smuggling operation involving Chinese and Korean connections."

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DUDLEY HOME IMPROVEMENT SERVICE

01384 815117
A FRAUDSTER who promised to pay his victims after making a deal with the Nigerian president Goodluck Jonathan has been jailed for two years.

Builder Mark Ware continued to trade for four months after his business encountered financial trouble in January 2010, leaving homeowners in the Stourbridge area thousands of pounds out of pocket. Ware took deposits from customers for work that was never finished and failed to pay suppliers, carpenters and plumbers.

Ware, of Button Coldbrook, pleaded guilty to three charges of VAT fraud and two of fraudulently trading earlier this year. He was due to be sentenced in June, and then in July, but the case was adjourned at the court heard that Ware was involved in a multi-million pound deal with the Nigerian president Goodluck Jonathan.

It was said the deal would have earned Ware £2 million in bonuses which he could have used to pay off the debt. He was sent to prison after Birmingham Crown Court heard last week that the deal had not been completed.

Judge Mary Stacey said the builder had been “utterly reckless”. She told him: “You have swung us along for many months with the hope and expectation of being put into funds so that people could be paid back. It turned out to be a hollow promise.”

Prosecutor Nicholas Cole told the court Ware launched four firms and took on building contracts in 2006. He could no longer pay his debts by January 2010 but continued trading for four months. Householders lost a total of £157,995.

Martin Butterworth, defending, said Ware accepted liabilities of up to £180,000. He added: “This whole venture was misconceived, that is, moving into an industry of which he had no experience.”

One of the victims, David Jerron, of Oldswinford, said a number of Ware’s victims had come together to bring him to court with the help of Stourbridge MP Margot James, Bromsgrove MP Sagaj Javid and a group called Suman Blasters.

Another victim, Peter Mitchelson, from Hagley, said: “This shouldn’t have taken four years to come through the justice system. If someone had walked into Oldswinford Post Office and stolen £160,000 they would get five years in prison, and that’s what Ware should have got.”

New grants available to boost business ‘vitality’

PLANS to offer business owners the chance to bid for cash to brighten up empty shops have been approved. A £50,000 cash pot will be made available for projects in Dudley.

People will be able to apply for grants of up to £5,000. Money will be available for projects which can be used to improve the appearance of vacant units and ‘grot spots’ across the borough.

“The cash is being offered by Dudley Council and has come from Government funding from the High Street Innovation Fund and Empty Shops Grant initiatives with former Area Committees Delegated Capital budgets £147,281. Regeneration boss Councillor Judith Foster has given the scheme the go-ahead. She said: “Applications are invited for a wide range of proposals, however, the main consideration for applications will be whether they will improve the appearance or economic vitality of an area.”

Cheeky teen achieves his naked ambition

Ben Grimley, assistant director for science at Stourbridge College, said: “We are all really excited by the plans to offer business owners the chance to bid for cash to brighten up empty shops have been approved. A £50,000 cash pot will be made available for projects in Dudley.

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Jail for builder who made ‘hollow promise’ over deal

A NEW speed limit was due to come into force on a busy dual carriageway in Quarry Bank this week.

The plans for Thorna Road – where a man died last year after being hit by a lorry – follow calls to make the road safer.

Signs showing the reduction from 40mph to 30mph should be going up this week. The new speed limit will cover all of Thorna Road, as well as parts of Pedmore Road.

Thorna Primary School, Stevans Park, Lye Railway Station are situated along the road, where 26-year-old Sartaj Azic was hit by a lorry last year.

Transport boss Councillor Khursid Ahmed said: “The new limit will come into force when the revised signs are in place. This work is about making the area much safer for pedestrians, especially children and parents walking to and from school.”
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Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, September 11, 2014

Polybags, Sacks & Sheeting on the shelf as always
A MAN who rented houses so a drug gang could turn them into cannabis factories, has been jailed.

Mazhar Pathan used a false name, forged documents and cash provided by the gang when dealing with landlords, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told. Houses involved in the racket included properties at Church Street, Halesowen and Dudley Road, Warley, as well as premises in Wolverhampton and Derby.

Pathan, of Besent Road, Walsall, who had no previous convictions, pleaded guilty to being concerned in the production of cannabis and money laundering. He was jailed for two years and eight months.

Mr Mark Phillips, prosecuting, revealed: “The production at the four properties involved the growing of up to 800 plants with a potential crop of 44 kilograms of skunk cannabis.”

The 28-year-old ‘fixer,’ using the name Mohammed Ali, paid five months of the £500-a-month rent in advance on the Heath Town address in August 2012. Police found it had been converted into a drug factory with 21 heat lamps and 70 plants growing when it was raided.

The defendant forked out £1,100 cash in May 2013 to rent the property in Halesowen which had 152 plants under cultivation in three rooms when officers swooped three months later. A Vietnamese ‘gardener’ tending the crop was jailed for 18 months.

The slip that cost Pathan his liberty involved the premises in Warley which had been transformed into a 312-plant cannabis factory. When an attempt was made to break into the property – possibly made by a rival gang – he reported the suspected burglary to police using his own mobile phone.

Mr Javir Mann, defending, said Pathan had been in need of cash having taken out a loan to build an extension at his home but then was made redundant. Mr Mann, added: “He found himself in a fix and acted wholly out of character. The offence was financially driven. He was being paid up to £3,000 to rent the property but had nothing to do with the growing of the cannabis.”

Recorder Geoffrey Kelly told him: “You had a crucial role. The criminal enterprise could not have operated without the properties provided by you.”

A stunning aerial shot of Sandwell Valley’s maize maze

It is a spectacular tribute to those who died in the First World War.

Nine acres of winding hedged passageways shaped into a poppy, as seen from the air in this stunning picture.

The bird’s eye view of the attraction was revealed by Sandwell Council which is urging more families to visit the new maize maze.

Situated at Forge Mill Farm, the maze opened last month and is the first of its kind in Sandwell.

Mayor

It was shaped as a poppy to commemorate the start of the Great War’s hundredth anniversary this year.

The attraction was opened by Mayor of Sandwell, Councillor Derek Rowley.

He said: “It is a fantastic win-win idea. The kids can enjoy it over the summer and then the animals at the farm will be fed from it later in the year.”

Visitors are advised to allow an hour and a half to complete the maze. It is open daily from 10am to 4.30pm, with last admission at 3.30pm.

Entry to Forge Mill Farm is free. Admission to the maze is £3 for adults and £1.50 for children and over 60s. Family tickets are also available.

Open day events

Thursday 25th September 6.00pm-8.30pm
Saturday 27th September 9.00am-12.00pm

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Founded in 2007, Skate Hut is a local family business, gone global! Currently the UK’s favourite online skate shop and shipping thousands of different products every day to countries around the world, the company began in the Rubery home of Managing Director Mark Johansen-Berg, before quickly expanding to its Halesowen Headquarters on the Shenstone Trading Estate.

It’s not just skateboards and scooters though, and it’s not just for the internet shopper. Skate Hut is also a great place to find the latest in streetwear fashion items; choose from over 700 styles of branded footwear, 200 styles of hoodie and 500 different rucksacks, plus unusual gifts, accessories and more. As well operating a busy warehouse to ship this ever-growing range of items to national and international customers, Skate Hut HQ also incorporates a store-front, opening its shop doors to a more local customer base 7 days a week.

What all this means for Halesowen shoppers is that they can get big brand T-shirts, hoodies, caps and beanies, plus footwear names such as Vans, Nike, Converse and Puma, right on their doorstep. Every item on the website can be checked out or tried on in the shop, with the help of Skate Hut’s friendly and knowledgeable staff. Need help selecting a new pair of skates, or finding the right replacement part for your scooter? Or perhaps you want the latest pair of Heelys or some Hunter wellies for the winter but are not sure of your size? Just pop in! What’s more, visitors to the shop will be able to take advantage of special offers, exclusive discounts and B-Stock sales not always available online. So, what are you waiting for? Get down there and have a look around!
£26m NIA revamp nearly complete

Birmingham’s NIA has been undergoing a major revamp and is due for its grand reopening in December

The NIA has hosted some of the world’s biggest names but is currently closed as the revamp nears completion.

The NIA redevelopment is transforming the arena so we can continue to attract national and international events to Birmingham, and give the one million plus visitors we draw each year the best possible customer experience.

As part of the revamp it will no longer be called the NIA, with naming rights sold to Barclaycard to help to fund the project. An official name is yet to be decided. The capacity will be increased from 14,150 to 15,992.

THESE pictures show the shimmering glass façade taking shape as the £26 million redevelopment of the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham draws to a close.

Work is progressing ahead of schedule in preparation for the grand opening of the new centre in December.

The stylish double glazed frontage, which is set to become an iconic image in Birmingham, is now almost complete while the three sky needles are yet to be fitted to the top of the arena. Once complete, the needles will be visible from across the city.

The glass frontage encompasses three mezzanine levels, divided by huge copper-plated ‘fins’.

Becky Humphries, spokeswoman for NIA, said: “The NIA redevelopment is making great progress. The £26m investment is transforming the arena so we can continue to attract national and international events to Birmingham, and give the one million plus visitors we draw each year the best possible customer experience.”

Ever thought about fostering for a charitable non-profit making organisation?

Do you have room in your heart to care for one, or possibly more, children so that brothers and sisters can stay together?

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Police are hunting man over link to robberies

POLICE are hunting a man wanted in connection with 12 armed robberies across the Black Country.

 Marcus Marcel Shaqool Morgan is suspected of taking part in raids on supermarkets and shops in in the Sandwell and Dudley boroughs in April and May.

In one robbery, at Staples, in Tildaskey Street, West Bromwich, on April 11, police believe he stormed the store with three other men armed with weapons and threatened staff for cash.

Subway

Officers also want to question him over two robberies at Farm Foods store in Tipton on April 27, and at Towsure Products Ltd in Long Lane, Halesowen and Subway, in Parsonage Street in West Bromwich, both on May 2.

He also faces questions over a raid on a Post Office on Axletree Way, Wednesbury on May 28.

Police believe he may also have taken part in raids on ASDA stores in Daisy Street in Coseley, Saltwells Road in Netherton and in High Street in Dudley over a two-week period in May.

Morgan is described as black with short dreadlocks and is around 5ft 7 inches tall.

Detective Constable Derek Cole said: “As part of our investigation three men have been arrested in connection with the robberies and remain on remand.

“We now need to trace Morgan, who we believe could still be in the Black Country, and we are urging people to call us with information of his whereabouts.”

Anyone with information is urged to contact the police by calling 101.

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<th>Sale Price £</th>
<th>Discount</th>
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- Fri 12th September 9.00 - 6.00pm
- Sat 13th September 9.00 - 6.00pm
- Sun 14th September 10.30 - 4.30pm
Rising star is on brink of the big time thanks to Saturdays

Faggots, Fizzogs and fun

THE Black Country Living Museum in Dudley has put together its own version of tapas dishes — delicacies such as grotty dick, faggots, gray paas and bacon — to celebrate its Black Country Night at the Tipton Road museum on Saturday from 6.30 to 10pm. This evening of food and fun will feature several acts including The Empty Can, who were behind the Black Country anthem I Wow to These My Black Country and internet sensations The Fizzogs, known for their Dancing Granaries comedy routine which went viral. Plus choir GotZing! Musicians such as Brett Harkfield and Linda Simpson will appear alongside tribute to local legend Dolly Alden, marking 70 years since her first stand-up routine in 1844. James Stevens, from The Empty Can, said: “There will be an outdoor stage so they will be a real festival atmosphere.” Call 0121 520 9054.

FOR Beth Sherburn it took one moment in the spotlight as a child to give birth to a dream. The nerves subsided as she took to the stage at The Stratts Primary School to give her first solo performance. Afterwards, as the audience cheered, she decided to follow her dream of becoming a singer. Fast forward to today and Beth, from Gornal, is ready to take her big step to stardom. The 23-year-old is celebrating being picked to support girl group The Saturdays on their Greatest Hits tour, arriving at Birmingham’s NIA on Monday.

It caps a meteoric rise for Beth over the past two years since being discovered singing while she worked behind the perfume counter at Debenhams at the Merry Hill shopping centre. She caught the attention of John McLaughlin — the man behind Take That, Girls Aloud and Busted — while singing the Michael Buble hit Christmas to herself in November 2012.

It was a fairytale story for Beth who quit her job to sign a record deal and within weeks was achieving fame after being featured on TV’s Loose Women. The former singer from Stourbridge Road, who was a member of girl group The Saturdays, says: “I was so happy. “It has been an amazing few months,” she said.”

Beth is now preparing for her Grand gig and the opportunity to sing some of her best-loved tunes from throughout her career. She will also sing songs from her latest album, which is due to be released later this year. Beth Sherburn, from Dudley, is preparing for her Grand gig and the opportunity to sing some of her best-loved tunes from throughout her career. She will also sing songs from her latest album, which is due to be released later this year.

James Stevens from The Empty Can and Craig Lewis who is head chef at the museum.

Adrian Slack who gave her the encouraging words of support when she performed at the Rep Door tonight, said: “There will be an outdoor stage so they will be a real festival atmosphere.”

Jane is preparing for her Grand gig and the opportunity to sing some of her best-loved tunes from throughout her career. She will also sing songs from her latest album, which is due to be released later this year.

Dudley singer Beth Sherburn is preparing for her Grand gig and the opportunity to sing some of her best-loved tunes from throughout her career. She will also sing songs from her latest album, which is due to be released later this year.

FOR Beth Sherburn, it took one moment in the spotlight as a child to give birth to a dream. The nerves subsided as she took to the stage at The Stratts Primary School to give her first solo performance. Afterwards, as the audience cheered, she decided to follow her dream of becoming a singer.

Fast forward to today and Beth, from Gornal, is ready to take her big step to stardom. The 23-year-old is celebrating being picked to support girl group The Saturdays on their Greatest Hits tour, arriving at Birmingham’s NIA on Monday.

It caps a meteoric rise for Beth over the past two years since being discovered singing while she worked behind the perfume counter at Debenhams at the Merry Hill shopping centre. She caught the attention of John McLaughlin — the man behind Take That, Girls Aloud and Busted — while singing the Michael Buble hit Christmas to herself in November 2012.

It was a fairytale story for Beth who quit her job to sign a record deal and within weeks was achieving fame after being featured on TV’s Loose Women. The former singer from Stourbridge Road, who was a member of girl group The Saturdays, says: “I was so happy. “It has been an amazing few months,” she said. “When I performed that first time I brought my mum and dad to watch and they said that’s be a singer.”

Her mother Sarah is a registrar in Dudley and father Graeme works for Rare Records at Birmingham before returning to scotland — £205

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fame after being featured
on TV’s Loose Women. The
former singer from Stourbridge
Road, who was a member of
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Cilla spots her chance to live the dream

After winning a Battle for her performances as the wife of a Bigg, you might think that starring in TV blockbusters is no weir for Sheridan Smith. But then, not many people were familiar with the real Chairman Biggs, whereas Smith’s latest role sees her playing one of the most well known actors on British TV – Cilla Black. So, it’s not surprising the actress admits to being apprehensive about taking it on. She says: “The drama is slightly more daunting because Cilla is so well known. It’s daunting thinking what Cilla will make of my performance.”

Even though she knows viewers will be comparing her to the genuine article, it seems Sheridan has resisted the temptation to slip in a lora, tons overshirt. “This dress is a great one, and I asked for a long time. We didn’t want it to be a miniskirt. It’s not an impersonator and that would be doing her a disservice. It’s done with much more respect than that.”

Of course, it also helps that when the three-part drama opens in the early 60s, the artist formerly known as Priscilla White is still a secretary with a sideline in performing on Liverpool’s club scene alongside such local luminaries as the Big Three. She is highly in demand, with hopes high for Cilla to make it as an exciting act. Sheridan says: “One of the great things about taking this story is that Cilla’s early generation have no idea about Cilla’s singing career. They know Blind Date and Surprise, Surprise onwards. This is the time of Merseybead – what an exciting era.”

Writer Jeff Pope also explores the singer’s relationships with two of the most important men in her life – her future husband Bobby, and her manager, Brian Epstein. Sheridan says: “Cilla wrote something in her autobiography which I thought was such a lovely thing... Bobby said ‘Every successful woman needs a good man behind her.’ When Cilla said ‘I love you’ it was the other way around. Bobby replied, ‘So? Why shouldn’t we break the mould?’ However, it seems she didn’t get off to the most promising start with the man who would go on to be the love of her life. When the two first met, Bobby didn’t quite make an impact. The couple could always rely on music business, so she put her out to later discover his kid about his job, and that even his car flash is firm. Fortunately, he gets a second chance to prove his worth, but will Cilla get off to a better start with impresario Epstein? (Still Stopped) when she lands an audition?

It seems there’s just one person’s approval that Sheridan is hoping for – Cilla’s. “We want to dinner and I was so nervous. When you’ve grown up watching someone on telly you just hope they’re going to be as nice as they come across. And she was. She gave me her blessing and I just hope she likes it.”

Sheridan Smith stars in Cilla, Monday, ITV, 9pm

**BEST OF THE REST**

**MONDAY**

Hot Fuzz, Friday, ITV, 10.40pm

**WEDNESDAY**

Win a Date with Ted Hamilton, BBC1, 11.05pm

A common id’s repulsion is damaging his career, so his manager comes up with a plan to rehabilitate his public image by giving ordinary women across America the chance to win a date with him. The prize eventually leads to two dates in one night. The boys then encounter people who leads to twod ates in one night. The boys then encounter people who marriage, such as swingers, and receive a answer. The boys then meet one couple who have been together for 54 years and then can see the norm when it comes to co-habiting and marriage, such as swingans, and receive an invitation to the wedding of a couple who have six months between them. Jon also arranges for Matt to visit one of the UK’s leading matchmakers, which leads to two dates in one night.

**THURSDAY**

Goodnight for Justice, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A boy witnesses his parents being murdered by bandits, and grows up to be a judge with the intention of seeing the killers pay for their crimes. When he finally tracks down the man responsible, his desire for revenge drives him towards breaking his oath to uphold the law.

**FRIDAY**

Hot Fuzz, ITV, 10.40pm

An overly zealous, by-the-book London policeman is reassigned to a sleepy country village where the crime rate is virtually zero. But just as the officer’s new environment begins to shift, a grisly series of so-called accidents gives him reason to suspect a conspiracy is about to begin. Action thriller, with Maryl Streep, Kevin Bacon, David Strathairn and Joseph Mazzello. (1994)

**PICK OF THE WEEK**

**FILM CHOICES**

**MONDAY**

The River Wild, Channel 5, 11pm

A headstrong white-water rafting expert embarks on a holiday with her family, but their fun comes to an abrupt end when two killers show up. They falsify their escape route from the lawn is a down a raging river, so they take the woman and her son hostage to act as guides. Meanwhile, her husband desperately tries to keep track from the riverbank, waiting for his opportunity to launch a rescue attempt. Action thriller, with Maryl Streep, Kevin Bacon, David Strathairn and Joseph Mazzello. (1994)

**TUESDAY**

Murder on the Orient Express, Channel 5, 9pm

A British detective is assigned to a wealthy country village where the crime begins to grate, with a series of murder attempts. Murder mystery, with Simon Pegg. (2007)

**WEDNESDAY**

Hot Fuzz, Friday, ITV, 10.40pm

**THURSDAY**

The World: Ireland’s Lost Babies, BBC2, 9pm

When Martin Sixsmith wrote The Lost Child of Philomena Lee, it inspired 2013’s Bafta-winning film Philomena, and generated fresh interest in the story of the woman who was forced by the Catholic Church to give up her son Anthony for adoption. In this film, Martin investigates the Irish Catholic Church’s role in a trade that saw thousands of ‘National Home’ children taken from their mothers and sent to be raised in Ireland and America. He hears the touching stories of lives that were changed for ever. He also discovers some of the tragic consequences which occurred when prospective parents were not properly vetted, and witnesses the struggle of a mother and child separated by continents who hope to find each other before time runs out.

**FRIDAY**

Storage: Flog the Lot, Channel 5, 8pm

Professional dealers meet for a secret auction at an empty warehouse to bid against each other for a series of mystery items in four storage lots, before attempting to turn a profit with their winnings. Will anyone be caught out by a red herr ing and risk losing up to £25,000 of their own money?

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Codeword

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

Double Crossword

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

Cryptic Clues:

Across
1. Reserve for assignment to a particular team? (3,3,3,4)
2. Keep the hundred left (5)
3. Tune keeping the strings working? (3)
4. Occurrences that provide openings out East (6)
5. Conclude it could be somewhat delicate (6)
6. From which she’ll engage a girl (5)
21. Indicate attention to exhibition dividend? (4,8)

Down
1. Ordinary soldier is alive to off-duty goings-on (7,5)
2. Why the station was hen-pecked? (3)
3. It’s nice to observe (6)
4. Cite verse about not divulging (9)
5. The rich man goes under (9)
6. Urge worker on strike to give statement, for papers (5,7)
7. Regal effort makes a big difference? (5)
10. Having information about content of letter at present? (2,3,4)
13. Given a coat by the printer (5)
14. Pay attention: 50 = 10 (6)
15. He is in general (5)
20. What is isn’t (3)

Quick Clues:

Across
1. Laudable (12)
2. Schedule (5)
8. Criminal (5)
9. Vase (3)
10. Profanation (9)
11. Force (6)
12. Inequitable (6)
13. Precincts (5)
14. Oak (6)
15. Show contempt for (5)
16. Joke (3)
20. Chris Smith on 01902 319536 or freephone 0800 389 1281

Down
1. Cinema (7,5)
2. City (2)
3. Spanish (6)
4. Villainous (9)
5. Bisect (5)
6. Questioner (10)
7. Taut (6)
10. Set apart (9)
11. Presents (5)
12. Memento (3,2,3,4)

Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

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This three-bedroomed traditional detached family home in Great Meadow, Tipton, comes with two lounges and a spacious conservatory at the rear. It is for sale through Skitts Estate Agents at £235,900.

Decorated throughout it has a front facing lounge with modern feature fireplace, a dining room as a set of French doors, a second lounge with French doors, a kitchen with a units and under stairs storage, conservatory, downstairs WC, four good sized bedrooms, en suite to master, bathroom, mainly levelled gardens, a garage and off road parking via a double width front drive adjoining the front lawn.

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Semi detached four bedroom property briefly comprising two reception rooms, large rear garden, garage and off road parking. Viewing recommended.

Thetford Close, Tipton
£180,000
Detached three bedroom property briefly comprising two reception rooms, conservatory, front and rear gardens, car port and off road parking.

Willetts Drive, Halesowen
£175,000
This modern detached house comprises three bedrooms, family bathroom, lounge/diner, kitchen, garden, garage and off road parking.

Toll End Road, Tipton
£160,000
Detached three bedroom property briefly comprising master bedroom with en-suite, front and rear gardens, garage and off road parking.

New Rowley Road, Dudley
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Manson Drive, Cradley Heath
£150,000
A spacious townhouse comprising three bedrooms, lounge/diner, fitted kitchen, garden, garage and off road parking. Viewing recommended.

Wrights Lane, Cradley Heath
£140,000
A modern three bedroom semi detached property comprising two reception rooms, conservatory, fitted kitchen, garden, garage and off road parking.

Mendip Road, Halesowen
£125,000
A rare opportunity to buy a coach house style flat with fabulous private rear garden on the Squirrels development. Viewing recommended.

Clent Hill Drive, Rowley Regis
£115,000
A modern house set in a popular cul-de-sac and offering vacant possession. Comprising two bedrooms and private rear garden.

Kendrick Place, Bilston
£110,000
Semi detached three bedroom property briefly comprising kitchen, utility area, rear garden and off road parking.

Highgate, Dudley
£105,000
Semi detached three bedroom property briefly comprising kitchen, utility area, rear garden and off road parking.

Bromsgrove Street, Halesowen
£100,000
Three bedroom semi detached property offering vacant possession. Comprising lounge/diner, kitchen, family bathroom, garage and rear garden.

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New Sorento breaks cover

By Graham Breeze

The third generation Kia Sorento was unveiled in Korea this week, delivering a premium look to build on the success of the outgoing model.

The new Sorento boasts a smoother, swept-back profile with more space and numerous innovative features. The styling changes alter the character of the new Sorento, highlighting its sleek profile and giving the new model a bolder on-the-road presence.

There are long, wrap-around headlamps and more prominent fog-lamps, as well as a larger, more upright 'tiger-nose' grille, with a distinctive three-dimensional diamond pattern, first featured on the 2013 Kia Cross GT concept.

In profile, the new model retains the Sorento’s hallmark long bonnet and characteristic wide D-pillar, but a lower roofline, higher beltline and swept-back shape give the car a more dramatic, muscular stance. Inside the all-new Sorento is where some of the most significant improvements are to be found.

The styling of the cabin follows a modern and wide theme with a wraparound dashboard with soft-touch materials and leather creating a modern luxury feel, giving the new Sorento a genuine premium vehicle feel.

Increase

Although the roofline is 15mm lower, repositioned seat cushions ensure increased headroom and legroom for occupants in all three rows. Cargo space also increases.

Available in five- or seven-seat versions, the new Sorento features 40/20/40 second row split folding for improved versatility, with a higher-looking centre armrest.

The model debuts a number of new, advanced on-board technologies such as an all around view monitor, with four cameras and a power tailgate which opens the tailgate automatically when the key is ‘sensed’ in close proximity to the trunk.

Five engines will be available depending on country, offering power outputs ranging from 172 to 270 ps.

These include a 2.4-litre petrol direct injection (GDI) unit, 2.4-litre and 3.3-litre multi-point injection (MPI) engines, and revised 2.0-litre and 2.2-litre ‘R’ turbo-diesel units.

Of these, only the 2.2-litre turbo-diesel and 2.4-litre GDI engines will be sold in Europe, with the diesel unit expected to account for the majority of sales. Final decisions on the UK line-up are yet to be made.

Buyers of the new Sorento will be able to choose from a wealth of safety technologies - depending on market.

Available systems will include: ASCC (Adaptive Smart Cruise Control); LDWS (Lane Departure Warning System); FCW (Front Collision Warning); BSD (Blind-Spot Detection); LCA (Lane Change Assist); RCTA (Rear Cross-Traffic Alert) and SLIF (Speed Limit Information Function) based on cameras detecting roadside signs.

Following its unveiling in Korea, the all-new Kia Sorento will make its European premiere on October 2 at the 2014 Paris Motor Show.
New car buyers are moving back towards petrol engines after years of diesel domination, if Ford’s latest sales figures are any guide.

The company has revealed that its multi-award-winning 1.0-litre EcoBoost turbocharged petrol engine now powers cars in every five cars sold in Europe, totalling 120,000 vehicles from January to the end of June.

That figure is an increase from 104,000 1.0-litre EcoBoost-powered cars sold in the same period in 2013. Within the statistics there is a clear move away from diesel in some sectors, with the B-Max showing 47 per cent of sales going to the smallest EcoBoost unit. One third (33 per cent) of Focus buyers also went for the same engine.

“Customers are clearly enjoying the benefits from a small engine that offers great fuel efficiency with no compromise to refinement or performance,” said Barb Samardzich, chief operating officer, Ford of Europe.

“The range of models offering the 1.0-litre EcoBoost engine will rise to 11 when the all-new Mondeo is launched in the coming months, and the new 140 PS version in the Fiesta Red Edition and Black Edition shows there is even more potential!”

The engine is the first to win the International Engine of the Year accolade three times running, and is available in 99bhp, 123bhp and 138bhp versions according to model choice.
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TOYOTA AVENSIS 2.0, Diesel, 140,000 miles, with Mot, 1,900 miles £1,350.00 07817 466588.

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RENAULT CLIO COUPE 2.0 2004, 34,000 miles, silver, alloys, airbag, electric mirrors, CD, alloys, black, full MOT £3,500.00 01902 740310.

VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT 2003, 114,000 miles, 4 door, black, long Mot, tax, 1.6 Diesel, £9,850.00 07828 186958.

FORD KA 1.3 TDCi 2005, 22,000 miles, £7,400.00 07768 229018.

FORD TRANSIT CONNECT 2005, 18,000 miles, black, electric, CD, airbag, long Mot, £7,000.00 07768 229018.

RENAULT CLIO COUPE 2.0 2004, 34,000 miles, silver, alloys, airbag, electric mirrors, CD, alloys, black, full MOT £3,500.00 01902 740310.

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- The Newspaper Society - Customer Guideline 2014

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Tipton Town 0 Workington 1
A bumper Non-League Day attendance of 780 packed into the Grove but Workington failed to break down a resolute Tipton defence.

It was a solitary second-half goal which sent the recently relegated Cumbrians home with all three points.

The Yeltz started brightly and the visitors had an 11th minute let off when Elliott Turner fired in an excellent shot from the edge of the area only to see it rebound off the inside of the post even with goalkeeper Jonny Jamieson beaten.

Home goalkeeper Matt Sargeant then saved low down after Scott Allison whipped in a 14th minute free-kick and a 27th minute header from Lee Andrews was cleared off the home goal-line.

After half-time, Turner hit a promising free-kick against Workington’s defensive wall and Robert Thompson-Brown’s clever cross was cleared to safety.

But both sides cancelled each other out for long periods with the game presenting few clear-cut goal-scoring opportunities and the deadlock remained. However, Matt Tymon snatched Workington’s solitary 65th minute winning goal with a far post tap-in.

The goal came after Sargeant saved Ty- mon’s initial effort and Connor Thomson’s follow-up was also kept out.

Sargeant was again called into action when he then had to tip another 20-yard Thomson shot at goal over the home bar.

In the latter stages Halesowen launched a series of long deliveries in an attempt to rescue the game.

However, the predictable approach failed to really trouble the solid Workington central defence and they held on to their single goal lead despite the Yeltz best efforts.

After a long throw-in from Tom Tonks fell for substitute Ben Hasley to chip just wide in the 81st minute, workman-like Workington were soon celebrating their first away win for 17 months.

Halesowen: Sargeant; Green, Charlton (Hall 89); Turner, Rettle, Tilt (c), Bragoli, Tonks, Christie (Hasley 77); Thomp- son-Brown, Lait (Long 67).

Workington: Jamieson; Simpson (May 86), Rovnerstow, Andrews, Wordsworth (c), Skelton (Smith 58), Allison, Hindmarsh, Tymon (Coleman 77), Wright, Thomson.
Tividale FC 1 Mickleover Sports FC 3
TIVIDALE'S unbeaten start in Division One South of the Northern League ended in disappointing fashion at the hands of Mickleover Sports.

Andy Taylor hit a well-taken hat-trick with the three rare moments of quality in an otherwise contest.

It took the visitors to The Beeches just two minutes to get in front when Dales took advantage of a poor punch from Tividale keeper Charles Price.

He pounced on the loose ball before lobbing it into the unguarded net from the edge of the box. Tividale failed to respond and it was Mickleover that enjoyed more possession.

They doubled their lead after 25 minutes when Dales hit a fierce dipping effort off Price from just outside the area.

It took the home side until the 41st minute to create their first real effort as forward Paul Edwards dragged a long range shot wide of the post.

Dales’ two moments of quality and the hard-working efforts of Sports’ Simon Oshosoke was the only difference as the half drew to a close.

Tividale started brighter in the second half as they looked for a way back into the game.

On 55 minutes, Jazz Luckie beat two men on the corner of the area but then fouled his rush effort past the near post. How-

ever, despite a good spell of possession, Tiv-

idal failed to create any real openings.

In fact, neither side worked the oppo-

sition goalkeeper until Dales completed his hat-trick and put the game beyond lan-

d 4-1.

FOOTBALL

Rushall Olympic 1 Halesowen Town 1

A superb individual goal from Nathan Roose-

ey kept the Yeltz from taking all the points in this hard-fought derby.

Roooney equalised with a goal his namesake would have been proud of when Elliot Turner had headed the visitors in front.

The game began with plenty of end-to-end play and Aaron Williams saw his shot saved by Matt Sargeant in the Halesowen goal in only the second minute of the game.

Halesowen responded with a shot of their own from Joel Kettle three minutes later but it sailed over Cameron Belford’s bar to keep the gameboard scoreless.

Belford had to act sharp, quick again to keep out a potential own goal after the ball rebounded off Liam Smith in the tenth minute.

Chipping

The visitors were now on top and took the lead in the 21st minute when Chris Lait got to the byline before chipping the ball back for Elliot Turner to head home.

The Pioneers responded well and Aas Charlton went into the referee’s book for a foul on Ryan Winwood and the home side made a substitu-

tion six minutes before the break when Aaron Farrell replaced Zak Martin.

Four minutes before the interval Aria Christodoulou went close with a 35 yard shot which Clive Smith had to tip over.

Six minutes into the sec-

ond half the home side were back on level terms when

Halesowen celebrate making history

Champions – Jordanne Whiley, left, and Yui Kamiji celebrate with their trophies after defeating Jiske Griffioen and Aniek Van Koot in their wheelchair women’s doubles final at the US Open

Tividale changes fortune

Norton United FC 0 Tividale FC 1
TIVIDALE overcame the苦苦的 first defeat of the season on Saturday with a gritty performance against a hard working Norton United.

The second half was a vast improvement to the first and both sides showed more of an attacking intent.

Tividale took the lead on 57 minutes when Jazz Luckie burst through into the box and was brought down.

Left back Zack Foster stepped up and sent Norton keeper Ryan Boot the wrong way.

Norton stormed back and their best passage of play culminated with an abso-

utely piledriver from Niall Green that looked to have been touched on to the bar by Price but the official gave a goal kick.

Tividale then had two great chances to extend their lead in the last 15 minutes.

Both times Luckie was denied by Boot but both times Boot pulled off tremendous saves.

In the end the visitors completely saw out the game and took away the three points.

FIFA ready to trial TV replays

A TV replay system – allowing the on-field referee to challenge a referee’s decision – may be trialled next year, FIFA president Sepp Blatter has promised.

The 78-year-old said he wanted coaches to be al-

lowed at least one challenge per game.

The trial could happen at next year’s FIFA Under-20 World Cup.

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Heathens hungry to keep hands on cup

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