Report by Jamie Brassington

A CAMPAIGN has been launched to tackle speeding on a Halesowen ‘rat run’ where it is feared that someone could be killed if measures are not taken.

Drivers are flouting the speed limit on Lutley Lane, which has a nursery on its route.

Councillor Andrea Goddard wants to install speed bumps to curb speeding. She said: “I believe there could be a fatality. People are using the road as a rat run.”

What concerns me is there is a nursery on the road. I’m worried a small child could be hit by a car. The speeding is dreadful.

Residents have raised concerns with me and some have reported accidents.”

Councillor Goddard, who represents Hayley Green and Cradley South ward on Dudley Council, wants to see ‘wires’ placed on the road to monitor speeding. She says speeding has been going on for years but is worried that it has got worse.

She is proposing that speed bumps could be installed to stop motorists breaking the law, but admitted that was a ‘difficult’ task.

She said: “Although I want to please everybody, I think people’s safety is important.”

A consultation with residents would be held before any safety action is taken, she added.

Horrendous

Melissa Rexworthy, who runs Tiger Lily Day Nursery on Lutley Lane, said: “The speeding is absolutely horrendous. Drivers are not speeding at 40mph, but at 60mph and 70mph.

“It is an accident waiting to happen.”

Lutley Lane has a 30mph speed limit along some of the road and then 60mph.

Speeding was also highlighted by fellow ward councillor Jeff Hill, who said HGVs often ‘raced down’ Lutley Lane.

“Speeding is in problem and there are a number of issues,” he said. “The size of vehicles is another. Although the road has a weight restriction, that does get ignored and the road is unsuitable for HGVs racing down there.”

Lutley Lane takes a considerable amount of traffic between Hayley Green and Stourbridge.

Councillor Hill said it wasn’t the only road in the area with a speeding problem, citing Portsdown Road. “People are often driving up and down at ridiculous speed,” he said.

“I have raised this with the council and they will be doing a traffic survey.”

A BLIND ex-serviceman from Halesowen is backing Blind Veterans UK’s campaign to spread awareness of its charitable services ahead of Remembrance Sunday.

Trevor Wellings, aged 78, who did National Service, has received support from the charity and wants other blind ex-servicemen to know help is out there.

New research from the charity has revealed 61 per cent of men, and 47 per cent of women, do not consider themselves a veteran despite having done National Service.

Trevor said: “I think it’s important that those who did National Service realise that they are eligible for the support of charities like Blind Veterans UK.

“Thanks to the charity I’ve been given equipment like a laptop with special software for people with a vision impairment, a colour detector device that helps me coordinate my clothes and a kettle that pours one mug of tea so I don’t scald myself.”

“These small things have really changed my life on a day-to-day basis.”

Trevor lost his eyesight in 2001 through diabetic retinopathy where he suffered bleeding behind the eyes.

He had been called up for National Service aged 19 in 1958. He joined the Worcestershire Regiment where he was posted to Jamaica and worked as a driver.

He was demobbed in 1960 and worked as a mechanic and in building conservation.

Blind Veterans UK’s Chief Executive, Major General Nick Caplin CB said: “At Blind Veterans UK, we want to send out the message loud and clear that whenever you served and however you lost your sight, you’re a veteran to us and deserving of our support.”

For more information, call the charity on 0800 389 7979 or visit the blindveterans.org.uk website.

FUNDING

Chiefs warn fire service faces crisis

WEST Midlands warn fire chiefs have issued a stark warning to Westminster that the service is at ‘tipping point’ as cuts bite deeper.

Chief Fire Officer Phil Loach, and Councillor John Edwards, chair of the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority, spelled out the dangers at a meeting with prominent MPs at Westminster.

They forecast that engine response times and vital prevention and protection work could be at risk.

HERITAGE

Canal network overhaul starting

AN £850,000 overhaul of canals in the West Midlands is set to get under way, including work on Parkfield Top Lock near Dudley

The Canal & River Trust is beginning the revamp across Birmingham and the Black Country as part of a five-month winter maintenance programme.

The works, taking place until late February, will see craftsmen repairing historic canal walls, locks and bridges.

EVENT

X Factor girl band to switch on lights

CHRISTMAS lights will be switched on in Halesowen next Saturday, November 18.

Festive events will take place in the town centre throughout the day, including a live performance from X Factor’s New Dyna-Mix. There will also be a festive market and free parking.

Elsewhere in the Dudley borough, Coronation Street actor Antony Cotton, who plays Sean Tully, will switch on Stourbridge Christmas lights on November 25, including a meet and greet at Ryemarket.

INSIDE

LISA BACKING FEED A FAMILY

National Service veteran Trevor Wellings, aged 78, with wife Carol, from Halesowen, has been helped by Blind Veterans UK

Price when sold 70p

We cover all areas including, Halesowen, Colley Gate, Old Hill, Blackheath, Hurst Green and Surrounding Areas

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www.facebook.com/expresshalesowen
Where to drop off your contributions

ALL your donations to the Express & Star’s Food A Family This Christmas appeal will be shared out between food banks and other charitable organisations across the Black Country and Staffordshire.

We are aiming for seasonal treats such as mince pies, chocolates and Christmas puddings, as well as basics including canned goods, long-life milk, fruit juice, pasta and rice.

We just ask that festive food has a best before date of the end of January. Non-food items such as toiletries, new socks and small gifts will also be gratefully received.

The good causes we will be supporting again this year include The Well (Home of Wolverhampton Food Bank). We are also helping the Good Shepherd Ministry based in Wolverhampton, and the Black Country Food Bank, which has centres across Dudley, Sandwell and Walsall. Other groups include Smethwick Food Bank, Walsall North Food Bank and Cannock and District Food Bank.

The appeal will also be supporting The Haven which provides support services to women and children who are affected by domestic violence and homelessness.

The drop-off points are: Express & Star Wolverhampton, 51-53 Queen Street, WV1 1ES; Express & Star Cannock/Walsall office, Queen Square, Cannock WS11 1EA; Oldbury office: Black Country House, Rounds Green Road, Oldbury, B69 2DG; Walsall office: Wolverhampton, Penn Road, WV2 4NJ. The Midcounties Co-operative Food Store Coalsall, 28-32 Wood Lane/Bakers Way, Essington, WV11 1JB. Donations dropped off here will go to The Well.

Further donation points may be confirmed in the coming weeks.

Give Vital gift of help for struggling families

FROM single mothers knowing there is nothing in the cupboard for tea to workers who suddenly find themselves out of a job – food banks are a vital lifeline.

Many have seen the number of people turning to them for help continue to rise with unemployment, changes to benefits and low wages all playing a part.

And, at this time of year, many are also faced with the heart-breaking choice of either putting food on the table or heating their home.

We have teamed up with sister daily the Express & Star to launch the Feed A Family This Christmas appeal to support the food banks.

The appeal was a huge success last year collecting 9,000 items for food banks, the homeless and children at The Haven refuge.

From now until December 16, we are collecting contributions of non-perishable food and toiletries as well as socks and hats.

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Loading up the vans – food being transported to where it is needed

Former Emmerdale star Lisa Riley, who will be appearing in Jack and The Beanstalk at Wolverhampton Grand, is backing the campaign.

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Two people were killed when a grey Kia Ceed and a white Peugeot collided on the A465 at Lye, near Stourbridge.

A man and a woman died in the crash, which happened at about 5.30pm yesterday, police said.

David Grimes, 41, of Black Country Road, was driving the Kia when the crash happened.

He went to hospital with critical injuries but later died. The 41-year-old driver of the Peugeot also died in hospital.

The two vehicles caught fire and the road was closed.

Road Policing Unit staff are investigating the crash and ask anyone who saw what happened to contact them.
Centres on right road after buses are sold off

TWO day centres for the elderly have been given a new lease of life after the sale of four minibuses raised £20,000.

The Age Concern-run Elton Day Care Centre in Stourbridge and Green Lane Day Centre in Halesowen have been kept running by the sales, which saw three minibuses sold to charity and another sold at auction for £2,700.

It follows Age Concern’s departure from the Mary Stevens Day Centre in Stourbridge after funding from Dudley Council was removed in April.

Chief officer Donna Legge said: “We are still here serving the elderly in the Dudley borough. Since we have come out of Mary Stevens Day Centre I think people thought the whole of Age Concern had closed down.

“We have a fantastic service in the Elton Centre and we’re still offering day care five days a week but its not located in Halesowen. We’re a smaller organisation, we have had to slim down but we’re still trying to carry on.”

Age Concern lost more than £21,000 after buses were sold off. Three of them went to charities done by, we accept that with happiness.

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A DRIVER from Dudley who killed a pedestrian while either too proud or frightened to admit his sight was failing has been jailed for three years.

Peter Scriven, aged 60, was blind in one eye and had reduced sight in the other. He did not see Arthur Fletcher crossing the road in the dark with heavy rain falling, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

The recently retired 65-year-old was near the centre of Picory Road, Dudley, when hit by the Nissan and thrown into the opposite carriageway where he was struck by another vehicle, said Mr Thomas Schofield, prosecuting.

The defendant, who had kept his sight problem secret from the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority (DVLA), did not know what he had hit and failed to stop. He returned to the scene once he realised the extent of damage to his car, which had been travelling at between 20 and 24 mph during the accident on December 10.

Tests had shown that Scriven could not read the registration number of a vehicle when more than three metres away. The minimum requirement for a motorist is 20 metres.

Blind

Scriven was diagnosed as blind in the left eye in 2002 and the sight of his right eye could be restored by cataract surgery. Scriven, of Forrest Road, pleaded guilty to causing death by dangerous driving, was jailed and given a three-and-a-half-year driving ban.

Boris Johnson hailed the Black Country’s proud manufacturing heritage and its move into hi-tech sectors at the region’s annual showcase in the Houses of Parliament.

Nearly 30 companies put their goods on display for MPs at the event, organised by Dudley North Labour MP Ian Austin and the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership.

Foreign Secretary Mr Johnson was among those to pop in, chatting with bosses and looking at the wide range of products on display.

Products ranged from traditional handmade ironwork by Kirkpatrick in Walsall to alloy wheels from West Bromwich’s Rimstock.

Brewery

Mr Johnson, who once worked as a journalist at the Express & Star, also visited a stand for Lye’s Sadler’s brewery, which among its beers makes a Peaky Blinders ale named after the hit TV drama.

Mr Johnson said: “I spent part of my early working career in Wolverhampton and I remember all the traditional industries in the Black Country, so it’s fantastic to see so many businesses in advanced manufacturing such as aerospace, automotive, digital media and film production.

Other businesses represented included Boss Designs in Dudley and Wolverhampton-based learning provider LearnPlay Foundation.

Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson donned a cap and declared himself a Peaky Blinders fan when he met Chris Lamb of Sadler’s brewery at Westminster.

Deal to save

Brierley Hill landmark civic venue

VOLUNTEERS are poised to take over the running of Brierley Hill Civic Hall securing its future and saving the council £190,000 a-year.

It will see keys to the 688-seat venue handed over to Dudley Council for Voluntary Service (CVS).

The charity has been managing the venue for the last 18 months on a trial. Now Dudley Council says it has shown that it can make a success of it.

Before the charity took control of the hall – a thriving venue in the 1960s to 80s – it had become under-used and was often shut during the day.

But CVS has built new relationships with existing users, schools, colleges, voluntary organisations, promoters, artists, businesses and entertainers.

Events such as the Live at the Civic comedy nights have been popular bringing hundreds of people back through the doors of the Bank Street venue to see such major TV comedy stars as Ross Noble and Seann Walsh perform.

Now Dudley Council chiefs have recommended the hall and its land is transferred to the CVS to run day-to-day in a ‘community asset transfer’.

James Challis, from the CVS and civic hall general manager, said: “From a CVS point of view it is very important we did our utmost to keep the Civic Hall secure.

“We had heard rumblings that there was a potential for the site to close and that would have been such a shame.”

The regeneration boss Councillor Ian Kettle said: “Brierley Hill Civic Hall is an asset to the area of £100,000 a year to run. As a charitable organisation, Dudley Council is eligible for funding streams to which the council does not have access.”

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Fewer parents in Dudley are hit with school holiday fines

PARENTS have been hit by more than £1 million in fines for taking their children on school term time holidays.

The figures were revealed as Dudley Council’s leader called on head-teachers to use more ‘discretion’ to help cash-strapped parents.

Figures released last week show discrepancies between councils for the amount of fines collected – with Walsall Council picking up almost £250,000, Wolverhampton around £128,000 and Dudley just £44,000.

More than 22,000 parents have been issued with the £60 charge over the last five years in the West Midlands, with another 2,000 being taken to court because of their child’s low attendance.

Figures obtained under the Freedom of Information Act show Walsall Council has collected £227,310 in fines since 2012/13, Wolverhampton council made £128,200, Dudley £44,100, and Sandwell £39,120. Staffordshire Council and the Friends of Brierley Hill Park received £102,000 over the past two years.

Grabbing

Sandwell council took 817 parents to court since 2012/13 rather than issue fixed penalties. Fines collected in court rather than through fixed penalty notices go to the Ministry of Justice instead of the council.

The councils were described as carrying out ‘scandalous money grabbing’ by West Midlands Liberal Democrat campaigner Sarah Quarmby, who compiled the data after submitting the FOI request. She demanded more flexibility arrangements to help parents.

Patrick Harley, leader of Dudley Council, said authorities had to enforce the law but called on head-teachers to use ‘discretion’. He said: “We understand the financial pressures on parents taking children on holiday during half term and school holidays.”
Brown revelations, and redhead Anne sparks anger

Price rise that leaves consumer smirking

Sinking feeling – David Attenborough. Too much slow-mo and mood music on his show

Not seeing sense – Gordon Brown. He has revealed he feared losing his eyesight as PM

Seeing red – Anne Robinson, causing untold outrage in the shape of, how many tweets?

Fire Dave, but forget the rhododendron in Blue

Thank you for your messages about misused commas. I loved the police drink-drive campaign one Christmas with posters reading: “Don’t drink, take drugs and drive.”

These days, criticising David Attenborough is the closest thing we have to heresy. But at risk of the rack and dismemberment, I think Blue Planet II (BBC1) overserves the music and the slow-motion.

I was surprised to learn this week that mental health professionals in London estimate more than 11,000 people could experience “difficulties of some description” as a result of the Grenfell Tower fire. Do we give thanks that modern psychology can detect traumatic stress in so many individuals? Or do we simply wonder what’s going on? I am reminded of an interview I did with a lady recalling her experience of the 1941 Blitz in Swansea, when she was nine. Her street took a direct hit. She and her family were buried in their cellar for hours. She emerged to learn that her best friend, also nine, had been killed in the house opposite. The next day she reported for school and her teacher asked why she was wearing plimsolls. The little girl explained that her school shoes were buried in the rubble of her house. Kindly but firmly, the teacher said she should go back and look at her shoes, “because we don’t want Mr Hitler to think he’s winning.” That was then and Grenfell Tower is now, and I wonder what the Blitz generation would make of it all.

“I CANNOT work with you any longer.” With those words, bus operator Sydney Hardy sacked his company in Somerset, leaving 27 staff jobless. We can only guess at the stress that led to such a decision, but never underestimates the difficulties of employing other people. I have a friend who runs a small company. I once asked him what it’s like having 40 employees. “Like having 40 children,” he replied.

New guidelines from the Good Housekeeping Institute say ice cream kept in the freezer for more than three months can lose its taste. Now, what taste would be? Ice cream used to be tasty in about 1957 but the modern stuff is taste-free which probably explains why they’re starting lacing the calendar varieties with that cheap, all-purpose flavour enhancer, salt.

In his memoirs out next week, former prime minister Gordon Brown speaks frankly about his falling sity. Fitty he wasn’t so frank when he was in power. I recall showing him a newspaper with headlines about the state of the economy. He brushed the paper away with one hand. With hindsight, I realise Brown was hiding the fact that he couldn’t read it. At the time, it seemed a rude gesture from a very odd bloke.

I am amazed that any politician can defend fixed-odds gambling machines, the devices that can bankrupt a punter in a matter of hours. These infernal machines are Robin Hood in reverse, robbing the poor to make the rich very rich indeed. One spokesman for the industry this week declared that if the maximum odds were greatly reduced, it would mean the closure of thousands of betting shops. And good riddance, too.
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Teenage soldier honoured 61 years after his death

A TEENAGE soldier who died more than six decades ago has finally been recognised for his service and sacrifice.

Joseph Anthony Hawker, of Brierley Hill, was one of almost 400 British servicemen who died fighting insurgents in Cyprus in 1956.

Private Hawker was one of a group of soldiers hurriedly sent to the then-British colony to help the island’s police deal with the National Organisation of Cypriot Fighters. But during an operation to capture the group’s leader Georgios Grivas, Private Hawker died in a forest fire caused by a mortar.

Keith Hawker, the one surviving sibling of Private Hawker’s seven brothers and sisters, received The Elizabeth Cross on his behalf on Tuesday. It was being presented by John Crabtree OBE, The Lord Lieutenant of the West Midlands, in Dudley.

Emotional

Mr Hawker, aged 76, said: “It is just so sad I’m the only one left in the family to finally see it. It is a big shame this did not come many years ago.”

Joseph Hawker was born in Lower Valley Road in Brierley Hill and attended Hawbush School. He left aged 15 and went to work for Stuart Glassworks in Brierley Hill. But he was called up to national service in 1956, joining hundreds of servicemen to serve in the four-year Cyprus Emergency. He had only been called up four months before his death and was buried at Wayne’s Keep, the British Military Cemetery on the island.

His brother said: “I was 14 at the time. We were devastated. Only weeks before he had written a letter saying he was enjoying serving on the island.”

Private Hawker had seven siblings – Derek, Keith, Gordon, Christine, Cynthia, Stephanie and Janet.

The Elizabeth Cross is given to the next of kin of members of British Armed Forces killed in action or as a result of a terrorist attack.
**School suggesting extra layer after heating breaks**

Veteran cycle champ launches race

Sponsors and cyclists join forces to launch the Round the Wrekin event 2018 with the aim of getting 1,000 signed up. Organisers are hoping to welcome more than 1,000 cyclists in 2018. The Bank’s Round the Wrekin cycle sportive is to take place in May 2018 and follows hot on the heels of the 2017 race.

**PUPILS at one of Dudley’s largest secondary schools have been told to work extra hours after the heating broke down. Elloughton Hall Sports College’s Owler Gornal has been without full heating since September.**

Headteacher Alan Jasper said the main boilers have stopped working, leaving the school, which has around 1,000 pupils, without heating and hot water in some areas.

Emergency repairs will take more than three months to complete, either side of Christmas, but temporary heating and hot water would be in place during this time.

Mr Jasper said the boilers had failed due to “age and wear and tear” and that a grant to cover the £270,000 repairs had recently been approved.

**Condemned**

“When school reopened in September the two main school heating boilers were condemned due to age and wear and tear. The school immediately applied for an emergency grant to cover the costs of the repairs.”

“We take the education and welfare of our students very seriously and, hence, we will endeavour to keep the school open if at all possible during this time. Currently, the situation is monitored every day and at present there is no need to close the school.”

“We will advise parents and carers when the temporary system is up and running, however, in the meantime, students are advised to wear an additional layer of clothing under their school uniform if required.”

More than half of the school has been left without any heating without full heating since September.

**Owler Gornal**

**A POPULAR fundraising cycle event has been launched for 2018, with sponsors and cycling stars joining forces. The Bank’s Round the Wrekin cycle sportive is to take place in May 2018 and follows hot on the heels of this year’s race, which amassed more than £28,000 for Wolverhampton’s Compton Hospice.**

Cycling champion Hugh Porter MBE launched the event surrounded by representatives from Marston’s Brewery. One special guest was managing director of the firm, Richard Woodford, who will be cycling the full 100 miles in 2018 after completing 60 miles on a tandem with his daughter this year.

More than 740 cyclists took part in the Round the Wrekin cycle sportive 2017, up by around 140.

Milk Life

Advertisements

The implant teeth are great and I can eat whatever I want and go out for a meal whenever I want.

I’d go to a restaurant and look at 20 things on the menu and was only able to manager four of the choices.

It’s a lifestyle investment for me and the difference it has made to my life is remarkable. It’s a new kind of freedom.

All the staff were fantastic. I felt so much at ease. The people you meet here say a lot about the place.

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What with a memorable manly handshake, John Clews exudes a quiet, deep-seated confidence. Articulate, transparent and at times philosophical, he’s sharply focused on why he’s agreed to do this interview: “I want to give people like me hope,” he declares.

The dis-sinker knows a thing or two about clever engineering – he’s been helping to construct specialised aircraft parts for more than 46 years – but with multiple failing teeth, instinctively knew that he too required the kind of skill that sets him apart as an experienced factory problem-solver.

For years, gum disease had insidiously invaded his mouth until toothache had become part of his daily routine.

Not unusual

Intuitively, he knew he needed a dentist – and a good one – but gripped by a crippling fear he’d “pop the paracetamol” – an acridting fear he’d “pop the paracetamol” – and gripped by the fear.

Explaining he could have changed his car, he adds, “The implant teeth are great and I can eat whatever I want and go out for a meal whenever I want.

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Work for the new Metro line is on track

Work taking place to clear the route for the Metro trams

WORK to clear a disused railway track ahead of the opening of a new Midland Metro line extension to Dudley is continuing.

This picture shows contractors for the Midland Metro Alliance working on a stretch of the former South Staffordshire railway line near Dudley Port railway station.

They are clearing vegetation from the track, last used by passengers in 1965 and officially closed in 1990. The track will form part of the Midland Metro Line from Wednesbury to Brierley Hill.

A Midland Metro Alliance spokesman said: “Preliminary works are currently taking place, which involve Network Rail being on site to remove the existing rails. This is required as the tramway will operate using different track to the previous heavy rail line.”

The £200m line will feature 17 stops between Wednesbury and Brierley Hill town centre, including The Black Country Living Museum, Dudley Zoo and Castle.

The seven-mile route is expected to open to passengers in 2023, with trams operating up to every six minutes during busy periods.

Veteran fly the flag
councillor dies at 80

A VETERAN councillor who represented a South Staffordshire village for more than 40 years has died, aged 80.

Councillor Bryn Whitehouse joined Essington Parish Council in 1973 and served on the district council. Paying tribute, Councillor David Clift said: “He was one of our community’s great characters.”

Councillor Whitehouse, a great-grandfather, flew the flag of St George from a 23ft pole on his front drive every day for almost half a century. He made one exception for the American flag on the election of President Barack Obama with the flag coming from Eastington, Pennsylvania.

There will be no let up in fines, says council boss

A COUNCIL boss in Dudley has insisted there will be no let up in parking fines after nearly 4,000 were issued across the borough in three months.

A total of 3,796 parking charge notices were handed out in Dudley between July and September, putting £82,225 into the council coffers. More were issued for parking violations in Dudley town centre’s Castle Street than anywhere else in the borough.

Councillor Karen Shakespeare, environment boss at Dudley Council, said: “Parking restrictions are in place across the borough and serve an important purpose in ensuring our roads are as safe and free flowing as they can be.

“It drivers ignore these restrictions or park illegally they must expect to receive a fine.

“Illlegal parking is a persistent problem across the borough and something that residents bring to their local councillors on a daily basis.

“Money generated from parking fines is ring-fenced to go back into the upkeep of the roads and improving road safety.”

Church buildings officer appointed

A NEW church buildings officer has been appointed to support religious leaders who are planning changes at their places of worship.

Mark Carter has been brought in by the Diocese of Worcester and will work with officials across Dudley and Worcester when they want to make changes to churches and churchyards. He previously worked as the operations manager at Hereford Cathedral.

Mr Carter said: “I am used to the processes involved in seeking approval for works on ecclesiastical buildings. I am looking forward to moving from a single site to working throughout the diocese and gaining a better understanding of the range of ways in which parish churches are used.”

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So many lovely pictures, soon time to decide

Countdown now on for the final judging

Well this is the last week we will be carrying pictures of all your adorable pets – for now.

But do not despair. If your pet has not featured on our weekly competition page that does not mean that it will not be included in the shortlist for the final judging.

Keep an eye out for the shortlist of 10 which will be appearing in our editions of Thursday, November 30 and Thursday, December 7.

Then it will be up to you readers to let us know what you think. We are looking for the most interesting picture. When we print the shortlist we will include details of how to vote so keep your eye out.

As well as the £100 prize the winner will feature on the front page of our Christmas week editions.

Over the weeks we have had hundreds of entries of all sorts of different pets. Some out walking, some playing, lots eating and enjoying a snuggle, but one thing has become very clear – just how much these pets are loved. Thanks for all your entries.

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THE SEDGLEY MORNING TG

Margaret Morgan and Maureen Hall with guild chairman Gaynor Ormerod

by giving them something to do with their hands. The bands will be part of a presentation to the Society at a Guild meeting in February.

Illustrated talk on secret garden

DEREK Higgett from Staffordshire gave an illustrated talk entitled ‘The Secret Garden’. Derek is a gardener with the National Trust at Shugborough Hall having previously for 25 years been a greenkeeper at Llangorse Golf Club.

If transgressed the secret garden is his own rural garden in Great Haywood near WOLLESCOTE HALL, ENVILLE.

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So many lovely pictures, soon time to decide

Civil war breaks out

Chairman Geoff Longmore welcomed visitors and members to a talk on the civil war and its local connections by retired local history teacher Max Keen.

Max entered the theatre in a civil war soldier’s costume. The audience was asked to guess which side he was on, explaining that both sides wore virtually the same except the officers who were a red or orange sash to distinguish whether they were Royalist led by King Charles I or Parliamentarian led by Oliver Cromwell.

Max illustrated and described local places connected with the war, such as the visit to Stourbridge by Prince Rupert who stayed at The Talbot. Other local places involved were Wellescombe Hall, Enville and Stourton Castle. Max showed his disapproval of no commemorative Heritage Blue Plaques in these prominent places.

After the battle of Worces ter in 1651 King Charles II fled via Stourbridge and Worsley on his way to Scotland. They were approached by a group of Parliamentarians, so Charles and his group dismantled and walked through Stourbridge, speaking French.

At the time the town was full of French speaking Huguenot glassmakers and the Royal group blended in to aid their escape.

His talk was accompanied by slides and references to the story teacher Max Keen.

It transpired the secret garden is his own rural garden in Great Haywood near WOLLESCOTE HALL, ENVILLE.

THE SEDGLEY MORNING Tg

Margaret Morgan and Maureen Hall with guild chairman Gaynor Ormerod

by giving them something to do with their hands. The bands will be part of a presentation to the Society at a Guild meeting in February.

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Diwali dance show is a celebration of light

JAIVANT Patel Dance bring a celebration of the festival of Diwali in Wolverhampton’s city centre Arena Theatre on Saturday 4 November, dancing to Wolverhampton University’s JAIVANT Patel Dance. "We are looking forward to celebrating our year," said Sue Bates. "We can get hysterical about this and think children are going to be filmed but that isn’t going to happen. What we know is that children are bullied and abused in private places."

The move to install cameras at toilets but if we have to go to these extreme measures to protect children then that is what we have to do. “It’s a sad day when a school has to do this but unfortunately they are dealing with more and more difficult behaviour.”

Sixty-six per cent of 1,000 visitors to Cake International who took part in a poll by The Chronicle’s sister newspaper the Express & Star poll said they would be more reassured by the presence of cameras, making the measure the wrong move.

Mr Bowkett added: “I must stress this is to monitor those who are entering and leaving the communal areas and I can reassure parents that no cameras are directed towards sensitive areas including cubicles or urinals.”

Rose Macfiefield, of Rose Marie’s Cakes and Sugarcraft in Coseley with her cakes, including Dobby from Harry Potter and ET, and Pastic Beasts and Groot from Guardians of the Galaxy. She was also holding an author’s stand for her book Sensational Sculpted Cakes.

Dobby

But that has not stopped her bringing her latest creations Dobby the House Elf and Fawkes the Phoenix from Harry Potter, a Niffler from Fantastic Beasts and Groot from Guardians of the Galaxy. Since decorating her first cake in 2007, Rose has gone onto win Overall Best in Show at Cake International in 2013 and at Cake Masters in 2014.

Mrs Macfiefield, aged 43, said: “I’m bringing along cakes to show students what they can achieve.

“I meet a lot of beginners who think they cannot do that, but they can.”

Fantasy cakes are out of this world
Val is inspiring others to Kinect with success

SHE lives in Los Angeles and is a leading light in technology – but Val Wright always has time for her old stomping ground. The University of Wolverhampton alumni was back where her journey began to inspire innovation at the event, she ditched the Kinect with success and ran to log in and play video games in a different way. The talk comes ahead of her second book, called Trifecta, which discusses the working relationship between creative business and technical teams.

Val started off at Dorothy Perkins and then moved to House of Fraser while studying at the University of Wolverhampton. She now lives in LA with her three daughters and her husband.

Val Wright spoke to University of Wolverhampton students and local firms

"Look at Blackberry for example, they were very successful but closed down almost overnight. You need to know how to be different in this day and age."

Val was part of the team behind Xbox Kinect which has voice command technology, motion tracking and facial recognition to login and play video games in a different way. To highlight the importance of innovation at the event, she ditched the powerpoint presentation and used a microphone shaped as a ball which could be thrown around the room for everyone to ask questions and have their say. She said: "I said by the time I am 40 I want my own business and to write a book. It is nice to know there are people that were me 24 years ago so they can see what is possible."

The talk comes ahead of her second book, called Trifecta, which discusses the working relationship between creative business and technical teams. Her first book, Thoughtfully Ruthless: Different is by far my favourite of the month of October, and give talks in LA and Silicon Valley to big time executives – but Val Wright always has time for her old stomping ground.

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New trends in fabric as winter draws ever closer

FABRIC appears in so many areas of our life – clothing, furniture and home textiles but also, in accessories, toys, ornaments and gifts.

Fabric has been used for clothing and textiles for thousands of years, cotton, linen and silk appearing in India, Egypt and China in about 5,000BC, and the first man-made textile, Rayon, in France in the late 1890s.

The newest weaving and dying methods produce technological advances in depth of colour, interesting textures and distinctive prints. Fabrics keep us warm and dry and have defined tribes, clans, military position and status for many years, they are incredibly important. Our history of producing fabric in the UK has all but disappeared and most are now imported from India and China.

This autumn/winter we see beautiful new fabric and textile trends. The first of these following the consumers ongoing interest in sustainability, social responsibility, recycling and energy efficiency and the textile mills need to show they are contributing to this practice and demonstrate a return to traditional solutions.

The second is the well-being and health trend, the “feel good” factor, athletic and sporty, visually exciting with great use of colour, fit and comfort as standard.

The final trend focuses on new technology, experimental and revolutionary fibres and finishes, new developments providing more smart textiles and now starting to be seen in high street clothing.

Clothing colours include black and white in checks, graphic twopiece, dog tooth and chunky knits and strong contrasts in patterns and prints. Turquoise and teal variations highlight strongly alongside ambers, mustards and deep yellows brightening those pieces and remembering that used in fun accessories but essentially in blocks of stand-out colour for coats, suits and casuals. Pre-Raphaelite florals feature in classic shapes and intense colours softening the sharp backgrounds.

Children should wear sensible shoes such as trainers. Flip-flops and sandals aren’t suitable. Avoid wearing baggy clothing which may get caught up in the bike or scooter.

Don’t hang anything on the handlebars or braces, this is bad for the balance of the bike or scooter.

When your child is scooting, it can also create good habits for an active adult life.

The reasons to cycle, scoot or walk the school run

TAKING your children on the run perfect opportunity to look at changing your family’s travel habits.

Perry and Phillips, England director, Midlands & East at Sustrans, the UK walking and cycling charity, shares his top 10 reasons to shake up your school run.

BUILD PHYSICAL ACTIVITY INTO THE DAILY ROUTINE

According to government guidelines, children and young people aged 5 to 10 need at least 60 minutes of physical activity every day, while adults should get at least 150 minutes a week. At 1.6 miles, the average primary school journey is a distance that can be cycled, scooted or walked as an easy way of building more activity into our busy lives.

IT CAN ALSO BOOST MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Physical activity can increase mental alertness, energy, positive mood and self-esteem, as well as reducing stress and anxiety, according to the Mental Health Foundation. IT’S A GREAT WAY TO START THE DAY

Teachers find that pupils who walk, cycle or scoot arrive at school more relaxed, alert and ready to start the day than those who were driven. Parents can benefit in the same way and burn some precious calories along the way – a 20 minute bike ride can use the same amount of calories as a cappuccino, a bar of chocolate or a 175ml glass of wine.

YOU’LL SAVE MONEY

If you’re on the road with children take a considerate approach. Encourage children to go slowly or to walk where possible. Setting a good example: follow the Highway Code and teach children road safety.

It benefits us all

From health to road safety, retail and tourism, there is a growing body of evidence demonstrating the economic benefits of cycling and walking. In England alone 10 billion annual journeys are undertaken every year by bike and on foot, with combined economic value of £14 billion (9).

The fresh air, freedom and fun

Taking time out of your day to cycle, scoot or walk together is a great chance to catch up on your child’s day and spend quality time with each other while enjoying the fresh air and freedom of travelling under your own steam.

CONNECT WITH THE WORLD AROUND YOU

Cycling, scooting and walking brings you closer to nature and the changes in the seasons. Whether it’s spotting wildlife or noticing the leaves changing colour on the trees, two wheels are better than four when it comes to connecting with nature and getting to learn from your local area.

MORE IS LESS

Up to 40,000 early deaths are attributable to air pollution each year in the UK – ten times the number of road deaths. Road transport is responsible for 80 per cent of the pollution where legal limits are being broken and children are particularly affected. What’s more, those who travel by car can experience five times higher pollution levels than those who cycle and walk and a half times more than those walking the same route. Not only is it a particularly harmful to humans, it also affects animal and plant life.

INCREASING CHILDREN’S AWARENESS OF ROAD SAFETY

Instilling a love of cycling, scooting or walking in children from a young age has lasting benefits – as well as developing road awareness to encourage independent travel as a teenager, it can also create good habits for an active adult life.

More children are walking, cycling and scooting to school – and Sustrans has advice to help them do so safely. Picture: Sustrans

Connect with the kids’ wardrobe

FITTED TIMES

WITH Christmas looming clear on the horizon many of us will be embarking on some festive shopping.

So why not boost that present budget with a little extra cash by selling some vintage items? Now is the time to sort out pieces that you think would sell well at auction and that also might make sense to sell now.

Nice pieces of china are always popular in the sales room, quality and condition being the watchwords.

Jewellery is again a good seller, especially at this time of year.

So decide whether or not you can part with quality pieces and remember that good costume items are also popular.

Military is right up there on the Christmas shoppers’ wish-list so do seek out medals, sweetheart pins, badges, postcards and “French Art”.

Collectable vintage books are sought after as gifts as are framed cigarette cards, walking sticks and even punch-bowls and candelabras are good sellers.

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One of the largest chamber choirs in the country is warming up to celebrate its leader’s 25th anniversary in style.

Renowned conductor Paul Spicer celebrates a quarter of a century leading Birmingham Bach Choir with a special anniversary concert on November 30 at Birmingham Town Hall.

Fittingly, for a choir named in honour of Baroque composer Johann Sebastian Bach, Paul has chosen Bach’s masterful Mass In B Minor for the performance.

“Bach’s B Minor Mass is quite simply one of the greatest creations of the human mind,” he said ahead of the concert.

“It has been central to my musical career ever since Birmingham Bach Choir’s previous musical director, Richard Butts, brought back a full score of the work from Leipzig as a gift for me back in 1986.

“Since then I have conducted the work many times. As I have said before, I feel that Bach is the only universal composer.” Completed in 1749, a year before JS Bach’s death, Mass In B minor (BWV 232) revisits previously composed passages and was only performed publicly, in full, a century later.

Since becoming Birmingham Bach Choir’s musical director in 1992, Paul has extended their repertoire to cover both contemporary and centuries old, lesser-known works alongside more popular, well-known choral pieces.

For the 25th anniversary concert, Birmingham Bach Choir are joined by the London Baroque Sinfonia, with Sarah Fox (soprano), James Laing (countertenor), Robert Murray (tenor) and Ashley Riches (bass) lending their voices to the ensemble.

Tickets for the choral spectacular start from £12.50 and range up to £25. The concert will begin at 7.30pm.

Tickets can be purchased via www.birmingham.bachchoir.com

Choir celebrate 25th anniversary in style

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**Peaky star Murphy up for film of TV drama**

**PEAKY Blinders star Cillian Murphy has said he would be up for a big screen adaptation of the hit show – but not a musical**

There have been reports that the BBC drama, which has filmed at the Black Country Living Museum, could be adapted for the West End stage.

Asked about taking part, Murphy, who plays Thomas Shelby in the gangster drama, said: “I heard about that... that’s not for me.”

He is more likely to sign up for a big-screen version of the Birmingham-set drama. Murphy added: “In theory, yeah. Absolutely. If the writing is as good as it is for the show, then for sure.”

Peaky Blinders, also starring Helen McCrory as Aunt Polly, returns to BBC Two with Adrien Brody joining the cast. The US actor said: “I have many experiences and truths to draw from, that you might think are far fetched to be in a film, and I find it remarkable what there is to draw from and I’m grateful for that,” the star of King Kong and The Pianist said.

Meanwhile, McCrory said that she would never tell a director her character would not do something in the script. “I have no problem with actors that come on set and they go ‘my character wouldn’t say that’ and you go ‘guess what, your character just did’,” she said.

The latest series, set two years after the third season in 1924, follows the gang’s attempts to expand internationally. It stars Murphy as leader Tommy Shelby, Anderson as Arthur Shelby and McCrory as Aunt Polly.

Newcomer Aidan Gillen, famous for being Petyr Baelish in Game of Thrones, is Aberama Gold. Creator and director Steven Knight was born in Birmingham.

The story of the Blinders, including the likes of Murphy, descended on Birmingham for the premiere of the fourth season of the show recently.

The fourth series sees Tommy Shelby pursued by a new enemy who threatens to annihilate his entire family.

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**Awards handed out for help to fight loneliness in city**

Volunteers have been rewarded for the work they are doing to battle loneliness.

Citizens at the heart of Ageing Better in Birmingham, a programme set up to tackle isolation in the over 50s, have received awards recognising their work setting up activities and supporting older people. So far, more than 100 volunteers started projects within their communities to help people lead more fulfilling lives.

Stephen Raybould, Ageing Better in Birmingham programme director, said: "Increasing sadness of loneliness can be a cruel and crippling feeling, which affects more people than we realise. Never underestimate the power of human contact and how many people may not have that day to day.

"To have all three volunteers recognise the importance of helping others who feel alone and working hard to tackle loneliness in Birmingham is overwhelming. All of our volunteers have gone above and beyond in their communities. Their hard work and dedication is truly commendable and I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to everyone involved.

"This is a great opportunity to recognise individuals for everything they have done for the lonely people of the city."

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**Warehouse gym plan**

A FORMER warehouse in Wednesbury will be transformed into a gym and cafe. The empty site on Old Park Industrial Estate will work alongside businesses in the region to create jobs and better lifestyles for families.

It is a new venture for Wednesbury businessmen Polly and Satnam Sagoey. They said: “We want to work alongside Sandwell Council in this venture and hopefully create a base that will be social as well as health and well-being.”

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**Birmingham Bach Choir**

The Birmingham Bach Choir will be performing at the city’s Town Hall venue.

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**Cillian Murphy in civvies**

17 Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, November 9, 2017
Homes & Gardens

Start to plan now for solar eclipse - in nine years

FEW residents are worried about their energy bills every year. But some National Grid is already planning for possible problems in 2032.

On August 12 that year there will be a significant eclipse in Britain with the moon passing in front of the sun over Europe which will cause a temporary stalling of power generated by the UK's solar panels.

The National Grid, which balances the country's supply and demand to keep the lights on, is already working on a model to determine the impact of the panels and also the effect on a surge in power as millions of people return inside their homes to put their kettles and ovens on watching the eclipse.

"The shock to the electricity system of a sudden loss of solar power, followed by a big increase could cause problems to grid operators," said energy expert Jon Fox of Noreus Ltd.

Fortunately the UK, Ireland and France will be spared the worst potential effects of the partial eclipse because of its late timing, whereas Spain will have a total eclipse. It will cast the greatest shadow over the UK at about 7.45pm by which time the sun will be lower in the sky and the solar panels will be generating well below their peak output.

"But the event is still forecast to eliminate up to 3.5 gigawatts of solar power generation for at least an hour, a figure which is equivalent to more than the proposed capacity of Hinkley Point C nuclear plant in Somerset, which may still be built then."

In a report the National Grid said another problem was Britain could have more than double the capacity of solar panels in 2032 compared to today. Now the country has 12 gigawatts of solar panel capacity, but in nine years' time that could rise to 26 gigawatts as the costs of technology plummet.

The National Grid believes the fluctuation will be manageable with "careful planning" and through lessons learnt from the eclipse in the USA on August 21.

Mr Fox said natural events like this showed case holders should plan ahead by switching to green energy and using a thermodynamic solar heating system.

So much of lives spent in the outdoors

GREEN-FINGERED Brits with a fondness for the outdoors spend the equivalent of over three years of their working lives out in the temporary preening and maintaining their gardens during their lifetime, according to new research.

The research has been carried out by garden furniture specialists BillyOh.com, which discovered that UK gardeners spend an average of 5,876 hours getting their lawns and flowers looking pristine over 50 years.

Taking into account that Brits usually spend about 27 hours per week at work for 48 weeks of the year, this means that the UK’s garden enthusiasts will spend the equivalent of just over three years of their working lives in the garden.

The figures were compiled to see once and for all how much time the UK spends getting their gardens to look their best.

Even though Brits are less likely to venture into their gardens during the winter, their love for getting their ears, paint pots and lawnmowers out of the shed, and laying dormant throughout the colder winter months.

The garden furniture specialists took in to account inquiries to the RHS than any other plant disease or pest in Britain.

Honey fungus can be devastating for trees and plants, says Ross

ROSS UNDERWOOD
Head Gardener at Hodnet Hall

The skies they were ashen and sober;
The leaves they were withering and sere;
The leaves they were crisped and sere -
In the ghoul-haunted woodland of Weir.

There are some that are harmful to plants as well as people. The most notable of these and the one that accounts for more inquiries to the RHS than any other plant problem is Honey Fungus or Armillaria. Armillaria is a genus of parasitic fungi that live on trees and woody plants as well as some herbaceous plants. They are some of the longest lived and largest organisms in the world, the largest of which covers more than three square miles in Malheur National Park and is more than 2,500 years old.

The honey fungus is also known as the bolelact fungus because of the black rhizomorphs by which it spreads and which look like bootlaces. Otherwise a white coating of mycelium that smells strongly of mushrooms can be seen beneath the bark. Symptoms include cracking or peeling away of the bark just above the ground, chlorosis or discoloration of the leaves and the death of twigs, branches and whole plants. Often this reveals itself in the later stages of the problem when plants either fail to come leaf or leaf off or wither entirely. Sometimes death is blissfully rapid or at other times it is a long drawn out process.

Often people ask me why their honey fungus is not having the same effect on their plant as the one I have just described. I would say there are several reasons. Firstly it may have been planted wrong. Secondly it may be suffering from lack of moisture or nutrients. Lastly it may be suffering from pests or disease.

Honey fungus can spread quickly, so it is important that you act quickly to control it. The best way to do this is to dig out the affected area and replace it with new soil. If the problem persists, you may need to consider chemical treatments. However, these should only be used as a last resort as they can harm the soil and the environment.

If you suspect honey fungus is present in your garden, it is important to act quickly to prevent the problem from spreading. The sooner you can remove the affected area and replace it with new soil, the better chance you have of controlling the problem.

Knotweed lying in wait – so you should tackle it now!

IT’S that time of year again when Japanese knotweed’s growing season draws to a close and the plant dies away. But homeowners are being urged not to delay tackling the weed as it remains very much alive, waiting to emerge bigger and stronger with new shoots next March.

Although still standing, the bamboo-like canes now will be turning brown and brittle, which can fool homeowners into believing the plant has died or that their own efforts at treating it have been successful. But, like many plants, the rhizome system beneath the ground is healthy and lying dormant throughout the colder winter months.

Herbicide treatments cannot be used during winter, either they won’t work or the plant to be in leaf, but that doesn’t mean treatment needs to be postponed until spring. Japanese knotweed can be dug out at any time of year using the environmetally friendly Resi-Dig-Out method, which involves digging out the rhizome roots and shifting out every viable piece before returning the clean soil to the ground. An insurance-backed guarantee can then be secured for the treatment which will ensure the property can be bought or sold without difficulty.

Nic Seal, MD and founder of specialists Environment, said: “Each winter we see inquiry levels fall, but we know Japanese knotweed hasn’t magically disappeared, it’s simply a case of out of sight, out of mind. Savvy homeowners will take action through the autumn and winter to tackle knotweed on their land, ensuring they don’t face an even bigger problem next spring. Digging knotweed out of the soil is an instant solution, giving homeowners complete peace of mind and the freedom to sell their property if they so wish.

Homeowners should be particularly vigilant when viewing properties during the winter months, when property owners may have taken advantage of the plant’s apparent demise in order to deliberately conceal it. Often the canes have been removed but the crown is still viable in the ground.

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Camra branch chairman Ryan Hunt and Tim Batham thank Mel Wood, centre, for his work at The Vine

Art treasures to be sold

HISTORIC artefacts that were on show at Dudley Museum are to go under the hammer for thousands of pounds.

The Chinese and Japanese pieces, bought by the Trust of the late Dudley MP Brooks Robinson, are being sold after the closure of the town’s old museum in the town centre.

The centrepiece of the collection is a Chinese Qing Dynasty Qianlong Buddhist Emblem Altar Vessel expected to fetch up to £20,000.

There is no room for the 92 pieces at the Archives building in Tipton Road where the museum’s collections have been moved.

The Brooke Robinson Museum Trust is to use cash from the sale to buy pieces more suited to the Brooke Robinson story. It is working with the council on plans to celebrate the former MP’s life at a display in the town centre.

Councillor Anne Millward, cabinet member for children’s services, said: “This is money spent by schools, not by the council directly. Supply costs generated from First for Education to ensure children did not miss lessons.

Sickness absences and maternity leave faced by schools in relation to teacher absence."

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Jules and Hayden have recently taken over The Olde Queens Head and it’s been going from strength to strength since.

Offering fantastic meals from pub grub to Carvery's there's something for every pallet which have people coming back week after week clearing their plates each time. As well as the superb food on offer they also have a brilliant entertainment week in week out, from open mic nights, motown nights, DJ'S, live bands and their upcoming 80's fancy dress night where prizes are up for grabs for the best dressed. Monday club is a great success with drinks being served at bargain prices from 12-11pm.

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Back in the day – Slade in the early 70s

Noddy and I have had a hell of a life
done the thing which I do best: went back on the road with Slade. I’ve seen more of the world, and more fans, in the last 25 years than I did when the band were at their most famous.”

Dave’s autobiography, inevitably, was created in his beloved Black Country. He met a writer, from Walsall, who was a big Slade fan and encouraged him to jot down his memories. Publishers were slow on the uptake so they took it to Unbound, the pledge-funded organisation. Dave smashed his target – achieving 116 per cent funding from 564 backers.

“I didn’t know what I was going to do. But I’d got a good wife and three children. I had a lot to carry on for.”

Dave is more candid in his book about the break-up than others have been.

“I spoke to Nod about it, he keeps in touch. He said nobody’s really written how the split was. So I did my best to write about how it was. Nod and myself have one heck of a life. We have a love for each other. We didn’t agree with everything but we agreed with one thing, to be in a great band. We achieved that. Slade were a great rock ‘n’ roll band. We had uniqueness and an honesty. “With Nod, there was the realisation that he was going to go. And back then, when I weighed it up, maybe there wasn’t any love for him in the band any more. He had to do what he had to do. In the early days it was like we were glued together. But we loved it and we’re mates now. We’ll always be known for it, especially Nod and myself.”

Dave’s book is equally remarkable for his exploration of depression, which followed routine surgery.

“I was in a dark place for a while. I had two years of really bad depression and was wondering whether I would ever feel good again. It was scary, it was hard on the family. I didn’t trust medication. I found the right person who helped me, a great psychiatrist, who knew about medication. She was a specialist in her area and great to talk to. She told me I was 100 per cent depressed.

The joy returned when he listened to some old 60s music in his car. “The music gave me that joy inside. I went on a shopping spree buying clothes. I was Dave Hill again, that bloke, going out and getting stuff. The dark areas faded away. But I’ve wrote about that in the book.”

Andy Richardson

● So Here It Is: How the Boy From Wolverhampton
Rocked the World With Slade, by Dave Hill, is published by Unbound on November 16.

● For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.
Lions of Dissent are the complete package

Lions of Dissent self produce and create everything themselves, including the lyrics, music, studio production, video production, art design and website as well as screen printing T-shirts and curating photo shoots. Currently with 10 members, the group which formed in 2015 features a creative director, songwriters, musicians, producers, filmmakers, web developers and graphic designers.

Speaking about the group’s collective philosophy, lead songwriter Tim Baker says, “It’s not only through absolute necessity, but an essential part of the ethos that we create everything ourselves – constructing and expanding our own universe piece by piece and inviting everybody to step inside as they pass us by.”

Having gained praise from the likes of Simon Raymonde (owner of Bella Union Records), Anton Newcombe (Brian Jonestown Massacre) and Simone Marie Butler (Primal Scream) the group have also attracted international interest.

After releasing seven videos on YouTube, tracks such as X Y Z and Heaven Sent have amassed over 6000 views to build an audience and reputation. This has allowed them to release their debut EP ‘What Would It Feel Like To Be Free’ this week on their own label Lion Rebel Recordings.

Now Lions of Dissent have announced their debut live show taking place in their home city at the Newhampton Arts Centre tomorrow night (Friday).
Legitimate Tommy struggles to leave the past behind.

Whether being buried alive by a friend turned enemy, or a collapse or beaten to within an inch of his life by a bitter old acquaintance, every bajo, every street, is a potential threat. Tommy Shelby has found himself in plenty of tight spots.

However, the Birmingham crime boss might just have bitten off more than he can chew as Steven Knight’s acclaimed saga Peaky Blinders returns for a fourth series. Cillian Murphy, who plays Tommy, said of the new action-packed punch: “to the classic gangster era, the last season was sort of all about the wealth, the house and all that material stuff. This season is sort of a return to the roots. At the end of the last series, set in 1929, we saw Tommy at what Knight has called the character’s ‘most ruthless’.

Having ascended into high society from his humble beginnings in Small Heath, Tommy seamlessly threw his own family under the proverbial bus for the law and the criminal acts he made in the effort to save his captured young son, every Shelly except Tommy was removed at the leader’s sebuah, a farmhouse near where they defined the Roux brothers in a Jewish hotel and blew up a train. Whether or not they have all wriggled out of the charges will become clear, as the series begins in December 1925. Thomas Shelby OBE has now acquired unprecedented legitimacy – but his enemies are still around, estranged from his family and focused on business.

However, when he receives a mysterious letter on Christmas Eve, he realises that his in-laws and his empire are in danger of annihilation. As the enemy closes in, Tommy flees his country house and returns to the only safe place he knows: Small Heath, the slum where he grew up.

Facing a more determined and sophisticated threat than ever before, the Shelsby must pull different sides, take up arms and fight for survival.

So far, we know little of this new danger other than it is a new criminal organisation, “of a different dimension”, headed by ruthless crime boss (Adrien Brody), and according to Knight, it will represent the Shelsby’s “biggest threat” in the saga to date.

Knight is thrilled to have Oscar-winner Brody on board as the story develops. He says: “Adrien genuinely was the actor that I cared to cast in this role when I wrote the part. I’m sure he will be a formidable presence.”

Other new cast members this time around include Aidan Gillen (Game of Thrones) and Charlie Murphy (Happy Valley), who will be joining the likes of Michael, Helen McCrory, Tom Hardy and Charlotte Riley.

Knight adds: “We have a dream team gathered for series four, coming to us for love of the show, which is great.

“Adrien Brody, Aidan Gillen and Charlie Murphy give us a wealth of talent to work with, and with Tom Hardy and Charlotte Riley returning we couldn’t have hoped for more.”

Legitimate Tommy struggles to leave the past behind.

W

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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:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Across</th>
<th>Down</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Woolen material for a head-dress the French sent back (6)</td>
<td>1. In addition, a toff! (2,4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. They are used for securing a body of sailors in the ship (8)</td>
<td>2. &amp; 12A. Use every device when playing the organ! (4,3,3,3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Properly managed, like a successful orchestra (4-9)</td>
<td>3. Plants displaying a bit of xenophytic activity (5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. It's routine for the sailor to be included in strike (5)</td>
<td>4. Puts in a form of words - they are used for lying (7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. See 2 Down.</td>
<td>5. Number of staff allowed for the household (13)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. One in dole</td>
<td>7. At home, I leave Jones, the architect (5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Cotton cloth? (8,5)</td>
<td>8. Grazing land (which one puts up a tent?) (7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Water container for one who puts up a tent (7)</td>
<td>9. Spikes will cause a broken piston (9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Country clothes? (8,5)</td>
<td>10. Use a rose for a cluster of flowers (5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Skewers, we hear, for pieces of meat (8)</td>
<td>11. Decisive events will provide an increase in the Civil Service (6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Criticises what may be used for house cover (6)</td>
<td>12. Currently variable (5)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Quick Clues:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Across</th>
<th>Down</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Cotton cloth (6)</td>
<td>1. Careless (8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Impede (6)</td>
<td>2. Actually (5,2,4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Holding irrational beliefs (13)</td>
<td>3. Pulsate (6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Friendly (7)</td>
<td>4. Object (7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Christmas hymn (5)</td>
<td>5. Defar action (13)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Outcome (6)</td>
<td>6. Scattering reduced (5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Adhere (5)</td>
<td>7. Make less expensive (7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Holding irrational beliefs (13)</td>
<td>9. Earlier (5)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Last week’s solutions:**

1. 2 Sir Henry Morgan; 3 Russia; 4 Methodism; 5 Achilles; 6 Hamilton; 7 Dog; 8 Basketball; 9 The Loch Ness Monster; 10 Selective breeding.

**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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Across</th>
<th>Down</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. One jump ahead; 2 Fed; 3 Endear; 4 Voiceless; 5 Cache; 6 Franklin; 7 Swelt; 8 Carollers; 9 Haven; 10 Person of note.</td>
<td>1. Shortcomings; 2 Ire; 3 Hollow; 4 Amygdala; 5 Meteorite; 6 Captcha; 7 Meuse; 8 Water; 9 Puts; 10 Propagate; 11 Optium; 12 Limpid; 13 Ensign; 14 Ensign; 15 Hardlince; 16 Rouse; 17 Lac; 18 Amuse; 19 Ivory; 20 Off.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Last week’s crosswords solutions:**

**CRYPTIC** — Across: 1 Out of service; 7 Sided; 10 Prominent; 13 Plain; 14 Sights; 16 Spoor; 19 Haven; 21 Protestation. Down: 1 One jump ahead; 2 Fed; 3 Endear; 4 Voiceless; 5 Cache; 6 Franklin; 7 Swelt; 8 Carollers; 9 Haven; 10 Person of note.

**QUICK** — Across: 1 Straight away; 7 Swell; 8 Peen; 9 Tie; 10 Propagate; 11 Optium; 12 Limpid; 13 Ensign; 14 Ensign; 15 Hardlince; 16 Rouse; 17 Lac; 18 Amuse; 19 Ivory; 20 Off.

---

**Quiz**

1. On which island is Tokyo? 2. Which South American revolutionary was known as The Liberator? 3. Who formed the Free French in the UK in WW2? 4. Which Gothic horror story is subtitled The Promethean Modern? 5. Which OT prophet was carried to heaven in a fiery chariot?

6. For which fish is Canada’s Fraser River famous? 7. With which football team did multi-millionaire Sir Jack Hayward enjoy a long association? 8. In Scandinavian mythology, who were the three goddesses of fate? 9. In which country is the yuan the standard monetary unit? 10. Which peninsula contains much of Denmark?

**Last week’s solutions:**

- Quiz: 1 Mole; 2 Sir Henry Morgan; 3 Russia; 4 Methodism; 5 Achilles; 6 Hamilton; 7 Dog; 8 Basketball; 9 The Loch Ness Monster; 10 Selective breeding.

- Niner: SYNGOPATE

---

**Sudoku**

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

---

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I could barely believe my eyes!

WE peered out through the window of the hide and waited. This was the heart of brown bear territory in eastern Finland, close to the Russian border.

Our extended weekend break had taken us to Europe’s last great wilderness to re-connect with nature. We didn’t have to wait long. Within minutes, a dark lumbering figure emerged from the forest of ancient pines into the marshland before us, sniffing the peaty earth and glancing cautiously around.

Within moments a second bear lolloped onto the scene, followed by a third. “Bears are very shy creatures,” said our host Kari, who runs the nearby Boreal Wildlife Centre where we were to stay the night. “They spend their time deep in the forest away from humans. It would be very rare to experience one while hiking. You have to come to the hide.”

Early autumn is a great time to see wild bears

The privately-owned lakeside Kalevala Hotel

where we were staying, is not just home to brown bears. Wolves, wolverine, elk, wild reindeer, golden eagles and capercaillie all roam this vast wilderness. Kari regaled us with tales of the forest until late into the evening. It’s not hard to see why Lonely Planet places Finland as the third best travel destination in the world. It is the world’s cleanest and greenest country, according the Environmental Performance Index. Its air is among the purest on the planet and the water so clean you can drink straight from most of its lakes. It has a population of barely six million, yet covers an area larger than France. It is 70 per cent forest. Nature-loving Finns have learned to live off the land and this is reflected in their culture. The right to roam – known as Everyman’s Right – is set in law and means you can walk, ski, cycle or ride freely in all natural areas, even if they are privately owned.

We had arrived in Finland the day before our bear adventure. The connecting flight from Helsinki to Kajaani in the Kainuu region was by prop aircraft, a clue we were travelling somewhere remote. As I stepped off the plane, the pure, clear night air filled my lungs – and a far cry from the polluted haze I had left behind in London just a few hours ago. Our taxi flashed past countless shimmering black lakes and the dark silhouette of limitless pine forests. It was midnight when we arrived at our first port of call, the lakeside Kalevala Hotel in Kuhmo.

Pulling back the curtains the next day, was the first of many breathtaking moments of our four-day trip. The view was spectacular. A vast lake sparkled in the early morning sun, surrounded by ancient pines as far as the eye could see. A treat not to be missed. KIM BENNETT
**Fees**

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- **Not to be missed.**

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- **A large corner plot with garage & driveway parking.**

**Description:**

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- **Halesowen Town Centre, offering generous accommodation including 2 reception rooms, large fitted kitchen, 3 double bedrooms, master bedroom with en-suite, further well appointed bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazed. EPC: C.**

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Local Information

Public Notices

John Edward Bolwell (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 12 Berkeley Close, Halesowen, West Midlands - BL3 who died on 24/09/2017 are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the Executors of the Estate of John Edward Bolwell, care of George Green LLP, 195 High Street, Cradley Heath, West Midlands, B64 5HW (Deceased) no later than 15th September 2018 after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.


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Ford Edge makes its presence well-known on the open road

By Dave Brown

You certainly feel in command of the road in our long-term Ford Edge. It's a car that's not to be trifled with.

A chunky five-seater SUV with handsome, imposing looks, it tells other road users: "I'm in charge and I'm not to be messed with."

I've found this to be the case in all sorts of driving environments lately. I'm the last person you would describe as aggressive behind the wheel, dutifully adhering to 70mph speed limits on deserted midnight motorways, and always being ultra-patient with the learner drivers who seem to spend every rush-hour bumbling along the lane.

But other road users do seem to be somewhat in awe of the EG17FKH. Fellow motorway drivers move left even if I'm approaching them from behind only very gradually, and those slow-moving learners do seem to be inclined to turn off if their instructors can see me in their rear-view mirrors. I'm not complaining, of course. If people are moving out of my way—and, true, it could all be in my imagination—it means the Edge is being noticed

And if nothing else, that's excellent news as far as my safety is concerned, as well as that of my passengers.

The Edge has front, rear and side body styling.

So, from the outside, yes, the Edge looks a little different, and as well as that general air of dominance, our car stands out for other reasons.

It boasts front, rear and side body styling with dark exterior detailing, and snazzy 20-inch platinum grey alloy wheels. A rear spoiler helps to make the back easy on the eye. All good.

Inside, however, it's a slightly different story. Sure, everything the driver needs is close at hand, easy to operate, and sensibly laid out.

And the kit list is impressive, including a Sony DAB navigation system with 12 speakers, alloy pedals, a rear-view camera and a 'Quickclear' heated front windscreen. An intelligent all-wheel drive system can determine how much grip, cornering balance and responsiveness is required in wet, dry or icy conditions and on varying terrain. Definitely a useful feature for more adventurous buyers.

It's just that whenever I get into a car for the first time—and I'd never driven a Ford Edge until a couple of weeks ago—I'm looking for the nifty design touch that catches my eye; something a little different—quirky, even—that raises a smile, and makes you think to yourself, "I really like that." I must confess, I didn't really find one in this car. What does help lift the mood, however, is our model's panoramic roof with sunshade. It's part of the ST-Line Lux Pack which adds £1,275 to the base price.

Something else that helps make the Edge a pleasure to pilot and which is definitely worth a mention is active noise control. Microphones detect and measure specific sound waves while a control unit can separate the noises you do want to hear, such as conversation and the radio (Absolute 80s every time, please), from those you don't. The system then creates inaudible 'white noise' to cancel out any unwelcome sounds, and provide you with a real sense of tranquillity when you're driving.

Go on, give it a try.

This car was well worth the £40,000 while our car, an ST-Line example with extras like that ST-Line Lux Pack which adds £1,275 to the base price. And as far as general levels of comfort are concerned, I've no complaints whatsoever. Impressive amounts of interior space will mean no-one will mean about feeling cramped and it's easy to find the perfect driving position.

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THE building of an £850,000 new facility has a football club believing they can prove life begins at 40.

Bilbrook Juniors Under-11s East are one of the many teams to wear the club colours.

The impressive £850,000 development

New facilities enable life to begin at 40 for club

Sporting Feature

By Matt Maher

“We had to put our case forward. At times it felt like we were moving one step forward and then two back.”

THE building of an £850,000 new facility has a football club believing they can prove life begins at 40.

Bilbrook Juniors fielded their first team back in 1978 and will next year enter the fifth decade stronger than ever thanks to the new state-of-the-art pavilion at their Pendeford Lane home which features changing rooms, a clubhouse and bar.

Constructed with the aid of grants from the Premier League, the FA and Wolverhampton City Council, it has club members hailing a new dawn.

The club has been in existence for nearly 40 years but in many ways this is the starting point,” said chairman Dave Maydew.

Reality

“Having a facility like this has been a long-term goal and it has taken the hard work of too many people to get it over the line. We needed to get funding in order to make it a reality. “But in many ways the big job starts now. Until now all the money has gone into keeping the club going. Now we are in a position where we can start giving back.”

The new facility is the result of a decade-long campaign and replaces the club’s previous clubhouse, which had fallen into a state of disrepair.

It was made possible thanks to a £484,529 grant from the Premier League & The FA Facilities Fund, which had fallen into a state of disrepair.

It was possible thanks to a £484,529 grant from the Premier League & The FA Facilities Fund, which had fallen into a state of disrepair.

The facility is also set to benefit both the community and clubs. Otter and Vixen FC and Gornal Colts will also use the site, while Wolves Community Trust are set to deliver training and community outreach programmes.

“I am just the club but for the community too, particularly for the children,” said Maydew.

“There is now a facility which can host functions. The old clubhouse was a drain on us. No one wanted to go in but we were still paying for the gas and the electric.

“That is money which can now be reinvested into the club and help us build toward the future.

“In many ways this feels like a new beginning.”

Speedway bosses to hold key talks

WOLVERHAMPTON Speedway have lined up a couple of key winter dates for fans. With the AGM of all promoters fast approaching, the club will be hosting a winter talk-in at the Cleveland Arms on Stow Heath Lane, close to Monmore, on Monday, November 27.

Representatives from the club management will be on hand to discuss developments and the impact decisions will have on Parrys International Wolves team building. The event is expected to start at 8pm.

Meanwhile, the traditional pre-Christmas season ticket day has been arranged for the stadium on Saturday, December 2, between 9.30am-1.30pm with the usual big turnout expected.

In Birmingham Brummies star Liam Carr announced his shock decision to quit speedway at the club’s end-of-season presentation on Saturday. The 21-year-old broke the news after picking up three awards as he told fans “that’s me done”.

Globetrotters tour to stop off in Brum

THE world famous Harlem Globetrotters will bring their spectacular show to Birmingham next year during their 2018 World Tour.

The players have shot hoops with President Obama, played with Manchester United and much more. And they will be showing off their skills at the Genting Arena on May 18.

The players have shot hoops with President Obama, played with Manchester United and much more. And they will be showing off their skills at the Genting Arena on May 18.

The Harlem Globetrotters® are legendary worldwide, synonymous with one-of-a-kind family entertainment and great basketball skills.

Matches switched for live TV coverage

TWO Wolves games and three Villa matches have been switched for live broadcast on Sky Sports.

Wolves now head to Sheffield Wednesday on Friday, December 15 (7.45pm) instead of the following day.

As a result of that game being later, the visit of Brentford has been moved back to January 2 (7.45pm), not on TV.

Villa’s home game against Sheffield United on December 23 has been put back to 5.30pm. The trip to Brentford on Boxing Day is now a 7.45pm start and the match at Nottingham Forest on January 15 has been changed to a 5.30pm kick-off.

Even the lower divisions are finding their fixtures list tweaked for television. Walsall took a break from their League One campaign on Saturday when they took on Newport County away in the FA Cup. The match was shown live on S4C with a 5.15pm kick-off.
BULLY FOR YOU! LEGEND OPENS CLUB PAVILION

Page 35

SPORTS DESK 01902 319531

Colts are the Star turn for Old Hales

Old Hales 0 Peterborough Lions 90

THIS Midland Premier fixture was a seriously challenging outing for the young Halesians team who continue to be ridden with injury issues.

The early exchanges saw Hales controlling the game, with the visitors unable to get a foothold in the game. A series of soft scrummages further injured to Kieran Haynes and a yellow card for promising back-row Craig Howells only compounded the issues. The visitors were too strong in all areas and won.

Luctonians 2nds 40 Old Hales 2nds 5

With injury and unavailability continuing to make selection difficult, a young team of age from teenagers to 40 plus went ahead to take on Luctonians. Old Hales started poorly allowing Lucs to take a commanding 21-0 lead. As the half progressed Old Hales became more competitive but couldn’t prevent Lucs adding a further score before the break, 28-0.

Hales started the second half well and after recovering the ball from kick off went through the phases with the forwards edging closer to the Luca line before centre Craig Jaklitsch crashed over to score.

Lucs retained possession and hit back straight away. The remainder of the half was dominated by the defences. The final play of the game saw Lucs break away for a further try.

Harborne 2nds 30 Old Hales 3rds 5

Hales third XV took the pitch with more than a few players in unfamiliar positions. A blistering run from Ian Smith well in the right play with the LuLu try. Connor Lush bulldozed over from a few metres out. The hosts were to be the only score from the visitors.

Striboridge Colts 3 Old Hales Colts 49

All players gave noble performances against Stourbridge with tries from Dan Smith, hat-trick, Dan Corcoran, Thomas Hay, Josh Woodburn, Rhys Arthur, Luke Willetts and Joe Yarnall.

Sibling successes at the aquathlon

At the weekend some of the Black Country Triathletes juniors came home with medals at the Burtonwater Aquathlon.

It was a family effort for both the girls and boys.

B Chin, Sisters Scarlett and Sidney Williams both came home in first place in the T1 and T3 age groups and brothers Ben and Tom Lucas finished 3rd and 5th in the T2 age group.

There was one adult entry from B with Lucy McNeil-Briggs finishing in 33:39 following a 7:44 400m swim and a 25:25 5km run placing her fifth in the Open Age group.

Old Hales coaches are preparing themselves for the annual BCT Splash n’ Dash event which will be held on December 3 at Oudenside Leisure Centre, Wombourne. Entries are open on line at www.entrycentral.co.uk for both adults and juniors.

CHEMISTRY

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KEEPER GOULD EARNS A POINT FOR GLASSBOYS

Stourbridge 0 Wilton Albion 0

STOORBIDGES boss Gary Hackett admitted he made tactical mistakes in the disappointing goalless draw against Wilton Albion.

The Glassboys were below par and had Matt Gould to thank for getting a point from the game against a fellow Evo-Stik Premier play-off contender.

Last season’s top scorer Luke Benbow returned to the club on a short-term loan from Solihull Moors on Friday but the Glassboys didn’t pose much of a threat.

Hackett said: “I didn’t get it right tactically. I make mistakes as a manager.

A lot’s been said, the only saving grace is that when you play as poorly as we did you make sure you don’t lose the game.”

Hackett’s side did start reasonably well and their best opportunity of the game arrived in the ninth minute but Leon Broadhurst saw his shot blocked beyond good work down the left by Luke Shepperd.

Gould was first called into action just after the half hour mark and the keeper did well to deny Owen Dale before Prince Haywood fired wide from distance.

Wilton took control of the game after the interval and almost went ahead in the 50th minute but defender Nick Ryan’s back-post header was kept out by Gould.

The shot-stopper, whose father Jonathan is the Glassboys’ coach at West Brom, then did brilliantly to get down to winger Steven Tomasi’s low effort.

Gould once again was called into action, denying James Foley from close range with five minutes left, leaving the Glassboys thankful for a point.

Meanwhile, Stourbridge has banned a number of supporters from matches after abusive comments were set off and thrown onto the pitch.

The club has taken tough action against several fans in the past.

A woman was injured during a league game when a flare was thrown while there were more unsavoury scenes in a Birmingham Senior Cup tie two weeks later on October 23. Stourbridge said in a statement: “Following investigations, we can confirm that a number of people have been re- fused entry to the War Memorial Ground at subsequent matches, and the club is in the process of formally notifying these people of indefinite bans from all future matches at the War Memorial Ground.”

BELTING! TEAM STRIKES GOLD

Rushall Olympic 3 Halesowen Town 1

GOALS from Richard Brodie, Wes Atkinson and Mathis Fonovich were enough to give Rushall Olympic three valuable points against Evo-Stik League Premier Division relegation rivals Halesowen Town.

After a quiet start to the game at Dales Lane, Jaquil Hill kept the Yeovil at bay with a fantastic save from Danny Udoh on 33 minutes after the forward got in behind the home defence.

Brodie carried on where he left off by converting his second penalty in three games after being fouled inside the area by Aja Clarbon on 35 minutes. The striker sent Danny Platt the wrong way to put Rushall into the lead.

The Yeltz got an instant reply, with Udoh sliding in to nip the ball past Hali after a précise through ball found him 10 yards out on 41 minutes.

Pinpoint

The Pics were back in front three minutes later, when a pinpoint Danny Waldron cross from the right found Atkinson, who nodded home from close range.

Fonovich doubled the Pics’ lead on 61 minutes with a fine finish. The Frenchman received the ball on the edge of the area before curving a sublime effort into the top corner to make it 3-1.

The Pics’ defence stood strong for the rest of the game, with the Yeltz struggling to get a foothold as Rushall protected their lead manfully until full-time.

It was a scrapey game,” admitted Olympic manager Liam McDonald. “We knew what they would come with in terms of being a threat from set-pieces and on the counter attack.

“I was pleased with how hard we worked against a team who had good shape. We were not so great in the first half but after the break we were the better side and deserved the win.”

WITH JASON CHARLESWORTH ARE THE SUCCESSFUL CMA VILLAINS TEAM THAT STUCK TOURNAMENT GOLD

BEARWOOD VETERINARY CLINIC

Supercali-fragilisticexpi-halitosis?

Bad breath could be a sign of dental disease

A PROUD kickboxing coach took his squad to the world championships and saw his charges win 15 medals.

Jason Charlesworth’s team, known as CMA Villains, returned with 10 golds and five silvers.

Kiya Charlesworth, Alfie Tromans, Mitchell Wood and Jacob Channs all picked up two golds apiece, as did Luke Ashley and Connor Moffitt on the winner’s podium.

There were two silvers each for Michael Rogen and Shannon Oxley and one Alex Warner.

The Villains followed up in the World Open Weight Championship, where Oxley made amends to land the crown and Ben Beech Charlesworth won the Open Weight for the second year running.

More glory followed with a mixed team title.

Jason said: “My guys all train hard and it pays off. We travel around Europe a lot and this was the icing on the cake.”

To the Chronicle, a Midland News Association publication printed by the company of Kelsey, Telford.

Thursday, November 9, 2017
Halesowen Christmas lights

THE BIG SWITCH ON!
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9AM - 5PM

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WHAT IS A BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Every single one of us will play an instrumental role in shaping the future of Halesowen Town Centre which will inevitably affect the success of your business in the forthcoming future.

The BID Proposal set out a five year strategic plan, from 2017 – 2022; This will generate over £600,000 that will be spent on improving our great town centre and the surrounding areas. All the funds that businesses contribute will be spent on generating awareness and attracting shoppers, visitors and businesses to the town so that we can all prosper together.

Since 2005 BIDs have been appearing all over the UK resulting in positive change for more than 200 towns and cities. Over £300 million pounds of much needed funding has been generated as a result which has been used to make improvements to increase their appeal and profitability.

So what is a BID? A Business Improvement District (BID) is an initiative that is funded by the businesses located within the defined BID area. The revenue generated is managed by a BID Company, which is independent from the local governing body (Dudley MBC), which is invested in projects with the sole aim of generating more business for the companies involved.

These projects are in addition to any that DMBC are currently undertaking or planning, it is not instead of those undertakings or plans. BIDs establish baseline agreements with the local authority and other statutory service providers (Police, Fire etc.) regarding the current level of service provision in the area. As the BID projects are separately managed it means that they cannot be pulled at a later date if the funding is required elsewhere by the government, the money is completely protected. The net revenue generated is your money and will only be spent on the agreed projects outlined within this Business Plan.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN?

- **A Stronger Positive Image:** We aim to put Halesowen firmly on the map by developing a holistic approach to marketing the town. We will invest in high profile marketing projects to promote and encourage new businesses and key customer segments to attract more visitors. Telling the West Midlands and beyond what a great place Halesowen is to shop, do business, enjoy leisure and above all, and become a great place to locate your business.

- **A Brighter More Attractive Place:** We will tackle the local environment and enhance the general appearance of Halesowen by offering a clean, safe and modern town centre to be enjoyed morning, noon and night.

- **A Thriving Business Hub:** We wish to entice new businesses to choose Halesowen as their first choice business location by providing professional support in order to help them succeed, employ local people and to invest in our town.

- **A Visitor Magnet:** To organise and host events that enable Halesowen to create a reputation of being a fun, vibrant and an atmospheric town centre.

FIND US ONLINE

Website: [www.halesowenbid.co.uk](http://www.halesowenbid.co.uk)

Facebook: [Halesowen BID](https://www.facebook.com/HalesowenBID)

Twitter: [@halesowenbid](https://twitter.com/halesowenbid)

Linkedin: [Halesowen BID](https://www.linkedin.com/company/halesowen-bid)

CALL US

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Since launching in September...

The Halesowen Business Improvement District (BID) has been commended by other BID management teams for its fast approach in tackling issues faced by local businesses.

From its formation on the 1st September 2017, the Halesowen BID has immediately tackled high priority issues raised through a short survey posted on their website – www.halesowen-bid.co.uk. The speed in which the Halesowen BID has engaged in support activity for local businesses impressed BID managers from across the Midlands in a recent meeting.

Businesses across the town highlighted security, footfall and parking as the three major factors preventing a secure future for their business. In response to the issue of free parking, The Halesowen BID has formally written to Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council requesting the recent 1-hour allocation of free parking to be extended to a minimum of 2-hours.

Security has also played a huge part of the BID’s recent actions on behalf of Halesowen businesses. The BID is currently in discussion with the local police force regarding high levels of crime in and around the town centre.

The BID’s online survey has provided businesses in Halesowen with an opportunity to give details on reported criminal activity over the past 12 months. The results of the survey will be used in talks with the local police on how to improve services for the town. In addition, the BID is also turning its attention to assisting individual businesses with the development of a security radio network working in partnership with The Cornbow Shopping Centre, set to be launched later this year.

Working with a view to increase visitors to the town, Halesowen BID recently partnered with local charity, Get A-Head, to run a ‘Trick or Treat Trail’ in the town. This event not only increased visitor retention in Halesowen, but also incentivised those taking part to visit shops which many admitted they had never previously been in to.

Furthermore, during the festive period, the BID will also work alongside the Halesowen Chamber of Trade in the annual Halesowen Christmas Lights Switch On by providing marketing and partnership support. The BID has also approached each food trader in the town for special offers to promote during the event, ensuring that visitors support our local businesses. Please find these special offers on the back page.

What do our local traders say?

Dean Ford, of Full Range Print Solutions, said:

“We have an opportunity, as a region, to invest a considerable amount of money in developing Halesowen. This investment will benefit all businesses, not just those located in the town centre”.

Dave Dancer, of Dancers Halesowen, said:

“The BID can bring Halesowen’s businesses together, we can create a network that can help businesses old and new not just survive, but thrive.”
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<th>Trish’s Cafe Deli &amp; Takeaway</th>
<th>Cocktails</th>
<th>£5.00</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mocktails</td>
<td>£3.00</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>SWANKYS</th>
<th>Hot Drink &amp; A Cake</th>
<th>£3.50</th>
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<tr>
<th>The Town Cafe</th>
<th>Breakfast</th>
<th>£3.60</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Salad Box</td>
<td>£2.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jacket Potato</td>
<td>£2.80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| the grill | Spend £10 - get a free kids meal or Buy any drink or food & get a FREE mince pie |

| COFFEE WORX | Any regular hot drink any cake | £4.00 |

| Miss FISH | Mini Fish & Chips or Any Pie & Chips | £3.50 |

*Available only on Saturday 18th November at the Christmas Lights Switch On*