CAR-JACK DUO SENT TO PRISON

Report by Richard Guttridge

TWO robbers who grabbed a woman from her Audi as she waited for her windscreen to clear before using it to raid a cash delivery van at a supermarket have been jailed.

The victim was pulled from her car in Linnet Close, Halesowen, around 7.30am on January 14 last year.

Chad Davis and Jordan James dressed dark clothing and walked up to the Audi A3, pulling the 39-year-old victim out and then jumping in and driving off.

Police revealed the woman was ‘still haunted’ by the attack and thinks about what happened every time she gets into her car.

Two weeks after the attack, the crooks used the vehicle as a getaway car – using false plates – after targeting a security van parked outside Tesco in Biscot Hall Road, Oldbury.

Detective Constable Derek Cole, of West Midlands Police, said: “The actions of these two were completely unacceptable and it is pleasing that they have been handed lengthy sentences whenever she gets into her car.”

The victim of the car-jacking continues to be haunted by what happened that day. Fortunately she escaped with only minor injuries but has a constant reminder of what happened whenever she gets into her car.

Chad Davis

Dye

But it wasn’t long before the pair were rumbled.

Police quickly located the stolen Audi parked behind a restaurant in Long Lane, Halesowen.

Security dye, believed to have come from the cash box, was found in a nearby outbuilding.

James, aged 24, was spotted going into a shop and was arrested by officers.

Investigators discovered from his phone that James had been at the location of the car-jacking and the cash box robbery and also found he had been working with 25-year-old Davis – who was then arrested on April 10.

At Wolverhampton Crown Court they admitted two robberies, Davis, of Higgins Walk, Stourbridge, was jailed for seven years and James, of Albion Road, West Bromwich, for four-and-a-half.

James will begin his sentence in 2018 when he completes an unrelated jail term he is currently serving.

Detective Constable Derek Cole, of West Midlands Police, said: “The actions of these two were completely unacceptable and it is pleasing that they have been handed lengthy sentences whenever they get into their car.”

Offers of Help after Catering Firm Collapse

MORE than a dozen cake and catering firms have stepped in to help save the day of brides and grooms-to-be following the sudden closure of a Black Country firm.

Couples were left fearing for their wedding days after Bake A Cake announced it was closing. Now more than 15 generous suppliers have got in touch with customers on Facebook to help ensure their big days still go ahead successfully.

The ‘devoted’ father had supported his wife through cancer treatment.

Amanda who suffered serious head injuries after falling from a quad bike died three days after the accident.

Ricky Hudson fell while riding along Quinton Road West, in Quinton, near Halesowen, last Tuesday, August 11, at around 6.50pm.

The 41-year-old father of three, from the Quinton area, was taken to Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham, but died on Friday morning.

The ‘devoted’ father had supported his wife through cancer treatment.

FUNDING

Glass museum in £2m cash boost

AN MP has welcomed a major funding boost to secure a new museum celebrating Stourbridge’s glass making heritage.

The British Glass Foundation has secured £2m from the European Regional Development Fund to transform the former Stour Crystal site, opposite the Red House Glass Cone in Wordsley.

It will become home to a new Museum of Glass at the heart of Stourbridge Glass Quarter.

Stourbridge MP Margot James said: “I am certain the renowned collection which will be held on the site will draw in thousands of glass enthusiasts.”

INSIDE:

QUARRY FENCE SAFETY WORRY

WRANGLE

Mosque row rumbles on as offer rejected

A PROPOSED cash deal for a new Dudley mosque has been rejected by the council.

Dudley Muslim Association (DMA) had made a £325,000 offer to bring an end to the dispute over plans for a replacement mosque. It was unanimously rejected by the council’s cabinet.

It means the long running saga will rumble on with the two sides now set to return to the High Court in October.

An action group of councillors and mosque leaders could be formed to look at sites other than that proposed off Hall Street.
Top honour for terror victim Joel

POLITICIANS have called for Government intervention after it was revealed hospitals in the region charge up to six times more for an hour’s parking than at their nearest public car parks.

Visitors have to fork out up to £2.60 for short stay parking at their local hospital – but are charged as little as 40p for a council car park.

Sandwell Hospital and Dudley’s Russell Hall Hospital currently charge the most for an hour’s parking at £2.60, while council car parks across Sandwell charge just 40p for an hour.

In Dudley, motorists can pay just 60p for an hour at Sandwell or at the town’s bus parks. Rates at Russell Hall Hospital were recently increased, with an hour’s parking rising from £2 by another 60p.

Charges are slightly lower at Wolverhampton’s New Cross Hospital, where visitors pay £2.30 for an hour. City centre council-owned car parks charge as little as 60p for the same amount of time, though buses at New Cross pointed out that long stay prices are cheaper than many city centre car parks.

Private

In Walsall, the Manor Hospital charges £2 for an hour. People parking on council car parks in the town must pay for up to two hours, which costs either £1 or £1.10.

Private car parking firm NCP allows motorists to park in church Street, Wals- well, for an hour for free.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin said he would call the Government on the taxation, while Councillor Bill Ritheridge, who famously quit his role as a hospital governor over the issue, branded the price hike “utterly disgusting”.

He said the charges ‘go against the principles’ on which the NHS was founded.

The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, which runs New Cross, said tariffs were compared with others throughout the West Midlands and that the “charges reflect this comparison”.

Walsall Healthcar NHS Trust said its rates were “comparable to trusts in the local area” and offers weekly concessionary passes. The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, which runs Russell Hall, declined to comment.

MEMBERS of Dudley Little Theatre are gearing up for their 69th annual season with a performance of Arthur Miller’s classic drama All My Sons.

All My Sons is the story of a family living in post-Second World War America, struggling to come to terms with deeds they may have committed during the conflict.

The play is being staged in Net- leton Arts Centre from September 9 to 12, Christine Ridgeway, press and publicity officer, said: “It is a powerful family drama and dealing with the aftermath of grief and guilt. It’s good acting and there’s some really good folk in it.

“It’s got a very experienced de- nter and it is a real value for money and in the lovely old Victorian theatre with delightful facili- ties.”

Tickets are priced at £8 and £7 for concessions.

Book online at www.dudleylit- theatre.org or call Rebecca Clee on 01384 566077 or 07954424655.

As part of the new season, the theatre company will also be performing Treasures Island. The adap- tation of Robert Louis Stevenson’s adventure by Phil Wilmott will be presented from December 2 to 6.

The programme continues in the new year with Bouncers and Cocktails by John Godber and Jane Thornton from March 9 to 12 and finishes with Boeding Boening by Marc Camoletti from May 11 to 14.

The group is on the lookout for new members to act and help be- hind the scenes.

Action demanded over hospital parking fees

CURTAIN UP ON THEATRE GROUP’S SEASON

Members John Luccock, Mary O’Toole, Robert Gough and Karen Whittingham
DANCING grannies have taken the Edinburgh Fringe Festival by storm with a series of acclaimed performances.

Audiences flocked to The Space venue to watch the Dudley comedy group stage a 45-minute extract from their Fifty Shades of Fizog show.

Members also performed their routine, which has become an internet sensation, on the streets of the Scottish capital and proudly flew the Black Country flag. All their shows were near sell-outs and have been received with standing ovations.

As a result, Sue Hawkins, Deb Nicholls, Jackie Fellows and James Collins gained an army of new fans. Stephanie Bowers, from Cumbria, said: “They are so clever. Their humour is mischievous but in a way they remind you of the things you want to forget about yourself.”

Mary Bevan, from South Wales, added: “The Fizogs were recommended to us by some friends in Wolverhampton and we were not disappointed.”

Reviews have also been strong with the website Chortle saying the performance was a highlight. Fringe website Fringebox Baby said: “This year’s breakthrough sketch show is not just another bunch of students. This year it is the turn of the Fizogs.”

They perform the full version of Fifty Shades of Fizog” at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre on September 2.

Top results

Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, August 20, 2015

3

Get their results are Lucy Edwards and Joely Wade

Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, August 20, 2015

3

1

The number of boys and girls awarded the coveted A* and A grades dipped to 25.9 per cent, down 0.5 per cent on last year. But the overall pass rate has risen to 98.1 per cent.

University admissions service UCAS said 409,410 people had already been accepted on to higher education courses in the UK, up three per cent on last year.

Official figures also suggest that 30 per cent of entries at A2 level achieved a grade A or A*, while half of all maths results were A-B.

According to the school's highest ever average points score and more than 50 per cent of entries at A2 level achieved a grade A or A*. That means students could have had a lower grade at GCSE, but now have an extra 50 points at A-level to compensate. That means students could have had a lower grade at GCSE, but now have an extra 50 points at A-level to compensate.

A RECORDED number of students are heading to university this year despite a narrow drop in the number of top A-level grades nationwide, official figures show.

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Official figures also suggest that 30 per cent of entries at A2 level achieved a grade A or A*, while half of all maths results were A-B. At The Royal School Wolverhampton, one in five A-levels were graded as either A or A*, while half of all maths results were A-B.

A report by the school's headmaster, as well as other schools in the area, quoted that 83 per cent of students gained grades A*-C, while those grades were awarded at other schools.

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Ten men, including one from Halesowen and two from Sandwell, have appeared in court charged in connection with a child prostitution sex ring investigation.

They appeared at Birmingham Magistrates Court for a series of brief hearings to formally hear the charges against them.

Nine of the men are alleged to have facilitated the prostitution of a 14-year-old boy. Six also face charges of child rape.

The men were led to the dock in groups of two and threes or appeared alone. They spoke only to confirm their names, addresses and dates of birth.

All ten were remanded in custody.

Some survivors face an uphill battle to get their lives back on track after being targeted in the恋童 abuse.

Plodding through the trials, the judge’s comments had a heart-breaking effect on the survivors.

BRAZEN thieves stolen more than 200 bricks from a footpath at a Quarry Bank home.

Homeowner Gary Brookes, aged 53, discovered the theft as he put out his bins.

The ‘Brick Nicker’ ripped up more than 200 historic bricks from the footpath at the side of his property, off New Street.

“The whole thing has been bizarre,” he said. “I am the cheek of it really. I couldn’t believe it.

“Just fragments of some of the 200 bricks are left scattered with weeds and mud around where the narrowing pathway once was.

Mr Brookes believes the bricks may have stolen to order as they were manufactured by a firm with significant local heritage, Moulders & Perry of Stourbridge.

He said: “The insurance company did his report and gave him his opinion that he thought the bricks had been taken to order. He said they were communistic bricks and quite irreproachable.

The bricks were taken from Mr Brookes’ home site, Elm Road, Moseley, on July 31 or while he was at work the following day.

Gary Brookes, with bricks left behind by the thief.

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A BURST water main caused major flooding to a number of homes on a road in Rowley Regis.

Firefighters from Hadwen Cross, Oldbury and Smethwick were called to Throne Road, Rowley Regis just before 7am on Sunday following a 999 call by a resident.

The burst water main caused floods of water to rise on the road stretching about three feet deep and it affected at least three homes.

Engineers from South Staffordshire Water were working to repair the broken underground pipe on the road throughout the day.

Resident Pauline Terry, 76, whose home was left flooded following the incident said her husband had not been allowed to leave her home.

“I came downstairs and saw the floorboards were one foot deep down of water going to my conservatory – I couldn’t believe it,” she said.

“The clumpy bog garden has also been flooded.

“I’m really upset, my husband is ill and it is not what I need.”

Another Thorne Road resident, who did not wish to be named, said: “Luckily we were not affected but I feel sorry for those who were.”

Justin Bayliss, watch commander at Haden Cross Fire Station, said: “The burst water main has lifted the pavement on the road and we would like to thank the public for their patience while we repair back gardens. It was quite an unusual call out for us.”

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

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

The death is announced, at the age of 101, of Frances Kelsey. Her claim to fame is that in 1962, working for the US Food and Drugs Administration (FDA), she was asked to review an application from a US company to make Merthiolate under licence to a sedative invented in Germany. Kelsey was not convinced it was safe.

The company put pressure on FDA officials who in turn put Kelsey under pressure. She would not give in, even when the company threatened to sue the FDA for libel.

And then, as she had feared, reports began coming from Europe of children born with terrible defects.

The new drug was called Thalidomide and Frances Kelsey was the woman who saved America from the agony and anguish which this drug created in the rest of the world.

ALL eyes are on Benedict Cumberbatch playing Hamlet at the Barbican in London. The play’s most famous line “To be or not to be, that is the question” now has another echo.

Polonius says: “This above all: to thine own self be true.”

The line has been discussed for 400 years and is usually pres- ented as a bit of a moralising trip from a bit of an old fuddy. And yet it contains a gem of truth.

If you believe something to be wrong, don’t let anyone round you into thinking it’s right. Frances Kelsey was true to herself and millions of American's names her name.

ANYBODY else puzzled by the use of the term “ball out” to describe the EU supporting the Greek economy?

You ball out when a boat is sinking; the aim to remove as much water as possible. In the Greek crisis, the EU is try- ing to pour as much money as possible into the Greek treasury. It’s not so much a ball-out as a ball-in.

TAUTOLOGY corner. I referred recently to “generations without a history in the head.” As a num- ber of you have pointed out, where else would they do it?

As the Edinburgh Festival and Fringe is under way, there is an unusual call out for us.”

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Gary Brookes, with bricks left behind by the thief.
Damaged fencing prompts safety concerns at quarry

VULNERABLE fencing around a dangerous quarry needs to be fixed to convince youngsters not to break in, according to a worried Rowley Regis resident.

Boos at Edwin Richards Quarry released a warning to youngsters of the dangers of the site, with security patrols stepped up to deter youths from trespassing.

But John Hadley, 76, who sits on a quarry liaison committee made up of residents and councillors, said the fences surrounding the site needed to be fixed to stop youngsters accessing it.

Mr Hadley, of Springfield, said: “I’m worried that the fence has been like this for years. They’re clearly going to have to do something about it.”

Quarry management warned that rocks lie beneath the surface and someone could easily be killed. Fears youngsters were heading to the quarry to take part in the craze of tombstoning – leaping from a cliff or other high point into water – were also raised.

Improvements

The land has been earmarked for a housing development, with work due to start next year. The firm behind the proposals says it is taking action to secure the 100,00 sq ft site.

Councillor Maris Crompton, who also sits on the committee, reiterated calls for improvements to the fence.

She said: “It’s a big site and I’m sure it’s difficult to maintain the fence, but it’s the quarry’s responsibility to do it.”

“If people are really determined they will break through a fence anyway, but generally I think young people are less likely to try to get through if the fence is good.”

The company refused to provide an updated comment, but have stepped up patrols at the site.

Troubled club is set for new lease of life

A FORMER snooker club with a “dark history” that closed after a string of concerns including violence and alleged drug-taking could reopen to host bing and wrestling.

The On Cue Snooker Club, in Cradley Heath, had its licence taken away in 2014 after worries about youths from trespassing.

Bosses at Edwin Richards Quarry released a warning to youngsters from the site, with security patrols stepped up to deter youths from trespassing.

The company refused to provide an updated comment, but have stepped up patrols at the site.

Bank branch closure announced by bosses

BARCLAYS is to close its branch in Halesowen Road, Old Hill, in November.

The bank has already revealed plans to close sites in Lower Gornal and Hagley. Bosses cite a fall in customers and the fact there are other branches nearby.

Barclays Community leader Raj Elahi said: “Dogs must wear a collar and identity disc with name, address and telephone number so that they can be reunited with their owner if lost.”

John Hadley, of Rowley Regis, at the damaged fencing that is meant to keep people out of the quarry site.

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IN MY VIEW

Another fine name with Stan and Olly

Who would have thought it? Far from being the bumbling, slapstick figures of fun portrayed in their films, they were also trendsetters, way ahead of their time. According to the Office of National Statistics, Oliver and Stanley are among the most popular names for boys today, with Elsie and Ivy making a comeback for girls. Now I knew Oliver had been popular for a while, but I thought the others had died out long ago.

Seth, popularised by the old rogue in Peckham, also makes the top 100, as does Finley, the doctor with the rather large casebook. And who, a few years ago, would have thought Austin, Albert and Frederick would be the monikers of choice for trendy parents?

Strangest of all, though, is that the biggest gainer is Ellis and Jackson, which makes the top 100 for the first time in history. I knew I’m not supposed to be up on these things, but aren’t they supposed to be something?

NOBODY goes to hospital if they can avoid it. In destinations go, the average hospital ward ranks some way below Blackpool during the stag party season and the dole office on a Monday morning.

People have to visit hospitals either because they are unwell themselves, or to visit sick loved ones. Yet despite this, or maybe because of it, hospitals in the Black Country are changing visitors up to £2.50 an hour to use their car parks.

Imagine you have a seriously ill relative, and spend three-to-four hours a day visiting them. Isn’t that traumatic enough, without paying more than £50 a week for the privilege? And then, of course, you will be charged for an extra hour because of the absurd queue at the paypoint when visiting time finishes. This is exactly what a man queuing at the pay station told me he was having to do while wife was in hospital.

It is outrageous enough that councils charge shoppers to use the car parks we already own, but at least we can take our own.

Another element of the pedestrianisation frenzy gripping our towns is the forced council takeovers of family owned and thriving businesses to make way for the “new” look.

Strangely, Mr Taylor from Olivers, has been taken over by a “progressive” and he was actually a bit better at the family business than we were. It was a haulage business and he ran it well. He died at the age of 94 and everyone who knew him is very sad.

His family have certainly made their mark on the world, writes DEBORAH HARDIMAN.

Together, they have created a family of 153 members – 13 children, 65 grandchildren, 61 great-grandchildren and 12 great-great grandchildren.

But that is not their only legacy. They are leg-

dery in Wolverhampton for helping families from Jamaica settle in the city, find new homes and thrive.

The couple were known for providing housing for new arrivals at a time when many landlords put up signs saying No blacks, No dogs, No Irish.

They met and married in Jamaica before Burchell followed his dream of a better life and moved here in 1954.

He found digs in a house in St John Street, belonging to the Mander Centre owners who tasked him with finding more tenants. But he soon became a landlord in his own right. He also sent for Cynthia, who he had left back home with their seven eldest children. She arrived in 1955 with the youngsters and they went on to have six more.

All together, the couple had Clarence, now 74, Kenneth, 72, Madge, 70, Claudette, 68, Gloria, 65, John, 64, Adrian, 62, Joy, 59, Chris, 58, Carlton, 56, and twins Byron and Dennis, 52. Another son, Glen died in infancy.

The Taylors also branched out to set up the haulage business. BL Taylor and Sons and the Caribbean Express coach firm that ran trips to Jamaica. Their haulage company was in Himley Road, Dudley, which Sir Lenny Henry owned, and I used to go around with dad doing build-

ing and some of my grandchildren together in the same place at the same time. I’m having a good time.

Burchell and Cynthia Taylor certainly made their mark on the world, writes DEBORAH HARDIMAN.

Cynthia sits at head of a family of 153

Another

family that held traditional values. “My mum and dad were very loving parents,” he said. “They taught us the meaning of love and respect. Mum is practising Christian and goes to the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Oxford Street.”

The celebration saw the Taylors take part in a photoshoot in the park followed by a meal at Wolverhampton Sick Care Cell, where daughter Claudette is the centre director. Granddaughter Annobelle Taylor, 23, an administrator, of Clark Road, Compton, says: “There are no words to describe today. It’s just been amazing to meet up with everyone. Granny is also here. Days like this are a celebration.”

Celebration organiser son Dennis, of Goldthorn Cres., Goldthorn Park, concluded: “Our family has come a long way since the early days here.”
Spain drain on forces’ resources

SO, we now have fewer police officers on the street, thousands of PCSOs are to go. Police are not attending burglaries, and to cover for the lack of officers there has been an increase in over-time payments and police stations closed.

Now a chief officer is telling us to e-mail evidence to the police so that they do not have to attend.

However what they are doing is sending West Midlands Police officers to Spain and paid in full uniform alongside the local police.

This we are told to is assist British victims, witnesses and offenders and to help them with respecting local laws and customs.

I think someone should wake up and smell the coffee. I have news for this government; we can’t get our own lanes to respect local laws and customs! So I don’t believe a two week July loyal to Spain will make not one jot of difference.

P LOWE
Brierley Hill

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Recalling aunty who ran Swans

WITH regards to your article “Town’s History”, which featured on Monday August 10, and referred to the bomb explosion in 1940 opposite “Top Church”, it was my auntie who kept the pub which was mentioned – The Three Swans.

I wrote to Carl Chinn to ask if he could find anything about it.

His reply was he couldn’t find any record of it, but my letter was printed in the Express & Star.

I was just nine years old when this happened.

Also I would like to say that in August 1915 my grandfather was killed in Turkey during fighting in the Great War.

His name – Joseph Cotter – is carved in stone under the clock tower in the council building in Dudley.

I used to go and visit, but now gates are locked.

He received a commendation from Buckingham Palace.

M JONES
Dudley

A-bombs dropped needlessly for war

LET’S NOT forget it was the Europeans that started WW2 and not the Japanese people.

Seyfort years ago an American B-29 bomber dropped “little boy” – the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima, though less than 10 feet long and less than 10,000 pounds in weight in less than one minute 80,000 people instantly died and another 70,000 horribly injured and despite the sheer horror of what they had done, the Americans still dropped a second atomic bomb called “Fat Boy” on Nagasaki only three days later killing another 70,000 people.

The Americans had already mass conventionally bombed the people of Tokyo and other parts of Japan and invented napalm, even though the European countries that caused the war in the first place had stopped fighting each other leaving an estimated 1,400,000 people dead and thousands of other generations suffering the physical effects of A-bomb radiation for a war that ended before they were even born. The only unanswered question is, if the Japanese had not surrendered to the apocalypse and devastation of the first two A-bombs, how many more A-bombs were the Americans prepared to drop on the Japanese people?

G E FANTHOM
Swindon
**Welcome Guest for housing scheme**

More than 150 homes will be built on the site of a former hospital in Dudley, after plans were given the green light.

Proposals for the old Guest Hospital site in Tipton Road were unanimously approved at a meeting of Dudley Council’s development control committee.

A massive noise-reducing ‘bund’, or embankment, covering one-ninth of the site will be constructed to block noise from the neighbouring Thomas Dudley Ltd Foundry.

Two historic buildings from the old hospital — the administration block and the porter’s lodge — will be retained and converted into homes as part of the plan. The remainder will be demolished to make way for houses and flats.

Plans have been in the pipeline for almost four years with negotiations between developers Waters Living Space and Dudley Council over the number of homes.

The council’s public protection manager Tim Gloves said: “It’s been a long, hard battle to get to this stage.”

Concerns were raised by Thomas Dudley that future residents could complain about noise, resulting in the need to reduce the noise.

There are 400 people employed at the foundry, which has been operating for nearly a century.

Councillor Colin Elocok said: “We need to do everything in our power to protect this factory as it provides hundreds of jobs in this area.”

He praised the plans, adding: “The site is very well set out, it’s been beautifully planned.

“They’re also looking after the old site, which is good as Guest Hospital is a really iconic site.”

The Victorian hospital closed more than a decade ago after most departments moved to Russells Hall Hospital.
Enjoyable occasion at Vesuvio
Kingswinford TWWG

KINGSWINFORD Townswomen’s guild met on August 10 in the community centre following apologies for absence, a quick resume was given on the progress of sick members.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, agreed and signed. The treasurer gave her report and reminded members of the benefits to the guild of Gift Aid.

Joyce Robin read the federation report. It was agreed by all who had attended the Annual Lunch at Vesuvio that it was a very enjoyable occasion. Members were told that the 11 tickets for the Federation Harvest Lunch were paid for, but if anyone else wished to attend it is possible that there are still places available.

New guild is formed
WEST Midlands Federation of Townswomen has successfully formed a new guild which will be known as Gospel Wood Morning Guild. The first meeting is at the Darby and Joan Club in Gospel Wood which is next to the Library. This meeting will be on September 16 commencing at 10am. Further meetings will continue on the third Wednesday of the following months.

A number of ladies have already shown a lot of interest and would like to invite any other interested ladies to come along and join them at the first meeting.

THE guild business, various notices and federation report were completed and chairman, Mrs Ursula McInnes welcomed everyone and introduced the entertainment for the evening, Gabrielle the Ukulele Lady.

We were treated to a world tour of songs from her on a selection of ukuleles and she finished the tour with a medley of George Formby tunes with everyone joining in.

The gardening group visited the Woodhouse at Wombourne where we had coffee and a guided tour. Social studies evening was a strawberry supper.

Formby fun with ukulele lady
Penn TG

THE winners of this year’s Sedgley Bridge Club Pairs Cup competition Gordon Grovenor and Anthony Lane are pictured with their trophies.

Sedgley Bridge Club

They are always welcome to Wednesday Group for Rubber Bridge sessions, Friday Group that teach the basics of the game and help to teach enough to play social bridge and the Thursday Group for duplicates. Group sessions are played from 1 or 1.30 to 4pm approximately at a cost £1 Wednesday and Friday and £1.50 for Thursday.

For more details contact Stanley on 01902 561908 or Keith on 01902 671276.

“Everyone’s a winner in pairs competition

"A beautiful new kitchen…

like magic everything was in place… tiling, electrics, and beautiful appliances… a fantastically designed kitchen… Graham made everything simple” Audrey Butterfield, Halesowen.

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

“The kitchen of our Dreams, we made so many changes but all was completed with so little fuss… I love showing off my new kitchen to everyone!!” Tony & Beryl Rhead - Halesowen.

“A major project completed on time without any problems at all” Norah & Chris Painter, Pedmore.

"Like magic everything was in place... tiling, electrics, and beautiful appliances... a fantastically designed kitchen... Graham made everything simple" Audrey Butterfield, Halesowen.

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"A major project completed on time without any problems at all" Gill McKenzie, Codsall.
A GANG which clocked the mileage on cars and sold them with forged documents have been ordered to pay back more than £110,000 from their ill-gotten gains.

Between December 2009 and February 2011, the group duped unsuspecting customers to rake in almost £300,000 between them.

At a Proceeds of Crime hearing at Wolverhampton Crown Court, sitting at Stafford, the gang was given three months to pay back what can be retrieved before 3.30pm.

An approach the cyclerack on platform one. Shortly

worth £200, had been locked to the

leased a CTV image of the man they

want to speak to. PC Alex Beasley

said: “The bike, a blue mountain bike

around 3.30pm on July 7.

The thief cut through the lock

locked to the cycle rack on platform

way station.

Following an assessment of their as-

sets Sohal was told to pay back £700

and Shinh £40,000 of which £13,000

would be compensation.

Pardip Shinh, 35, from Tanaacetum,

Drive, Walsall, was given 36 months

after pleading guilty to conspiracy to

defraud and received a confiscation

order of £8,500. Jatinder Sandher, 29,

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Lenny’s script a little too close to home for his sister

DUDLEY- spinach comedian Sir Lenny Henry said opening up about his childhood for a drama was so raw that even his sister will not read the script.

The Comic Relief funnyman stars in and wrote BBC drama Danny And The Human Zoo, a ‘fantasy memoir’ of his life as a talented teenager in 1970s Dudley.

‘Because a lot of people in my family are alive, if I’d written it exactly the way my life had been, I would have annoyed a lot of people,’ the actor said.

‘It’s a bit like a parallel universe Lenny. My sister still won’t read it because she thinks it’s too rude.’

Sir Lenny, 56, portrays Samson Pearson in the one-off drama, which stars newcomer Kaceen Franklin as aspiring impressionist Danny and Celia Noble as his mother Myrtle. His comments come as the BBC revealed scores of lucky residents from Dudley will get the chance to attend a red carpet screening of the new drama in the town this week.

Sir Lenny said: “The storyline with my mum and dad is based on the truth. I didn’t want to write it in a way that was pedestrian. I talk about my mum and dad in every interview I do. The dad I talk about is the person that raised me. I wanted something that was truthful about the way we grew up and our family. It wasn’t like it was a big deal or anything. I’m glad I have written about it and it was about time.”

Sir Lenny – who has openly spoken about his estranged relationship with his father, who died when he was 19 – said it has been ‘great’ imagining alternate scenarios.

A preview of Danny and the Human Zoo takes place at the Showcase Cinema, Castlegate, tonight (Thursday).

Ex-Villa player joins the college team

FORMER Aston Villa and Albion defender has a new role at Dudley College.

Andy Comyn – who started out in Manchester United’s youth team – has signed to the college as its new vice-principal for financial strategy and control.

The 47-year-old started his career in professional football with Villa after completing a physics degree at Birmingham University.

He also enjoyed spells at Derby County, Plymouth Argyle and Albion, but studied a book-keeping course during his playing days to ensure there was life after football.

Albion offered him a contract in 1996, but he instead moved to Reddwarf Town – where he was able to balance playing football and working as an accountant in Walsall.

In addition to his career in finance, Mr Comyn has also enjoyed a five-year spell as a governor at Halesowen College.

He said: “It’s great to be here and part of such an ambitious, dynamic forward-thinking organisation.

Mr Comyn replaces Gary Turton.

TAXI bosses trained to spot child abuse

TAXI operators in Dudley will be made to attend training sessions in a bid to help drivers spot signs of child sexual exploitation.

Dudley Council said it had made the move in the wake of the Rotherham child sex scandal.

Under the changes, base operators will need to have attended sessions before they can receive a private hire licence.

Operators will be told how to spot the signs that a child may be in danger and how to report it. They will then be told to pass the information on to their drivers.

Councillor Richard Body, chairman of the taxis committee said: “Child sexual exploitation is a horrendous crime and it is important we all know how we can help protect children and young people by being able to spot the signs.”

“This is a vital role in spotting and reporting suspicious behaviour.”

Fruity ale going down a treat

A STOUBRIDGE ale has proved a hit with customers after more than 40,000 bottles were sold by Aldi stores in just three months.

The discount supermarket has an exclusive deal with Sadler’s Brewery, Stourbridge, to stock its Boris Citrovale.

Aldi shoppers have snapped up the pale golden brew which is made with American and English hops combined with buckets of real orange marmalade and orange peel to give it a sweet taste.

The name of the ale is based on a fictional Russian bear created by the firm.

Ian King at Sadler’s Brewery said: “Our Boris Citrov marmalade ale is one of our most popular beers thanks to its zesty and refreshing flavour.

“We’ve absolutely thrilled to be quenching the thirst of Aldi shoppers in the Midlands – the ale has gone down a storm.”

Levi’s script a little too close to home for his sister
ONE GOAL.
YOURS.

Courses for school leavers

- A Levels
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- Beauty Therapy & Media Make-up
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- Business & Finance
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IT’S NOT TOO LATE

to enrol at Bournville College

24th August - 4th September 2015 | Monday - Thursday, 9.30am - 7pm | Friday, 9.30am - 4pm
7th September - 11th September 2015 | Monday - Friday, 12.30pm - 4pm
Travel to Bournville College

Halesowen to Bournville College

- Halesowen Bus Station (Ring & Ride stop) 8.10am
- Mucklow Hill / Kent Road 8.20am
- Romiley Road / Adams Hill 8.30am
- Merritts Brook, Frankley Beeches 8.38am
- Longbridge, Bournville College 8.45am

Bournville College to Halesowen

- Longbridge, Bournville College 4.15pm
- Merritts Brook, Frankley Beeches 4.22pm
- Romiley Road / Adams Hill 4.30pm
- Mucklow Hill / Kent Road 4.40pm
- Halesowen Bus Station (Ring & Ride stop) 4.50pm

No bus pass is required. All you need is 10p for each trip and your Bournville College student ID pass. This service is hail and ride.

Why choose Bournville College?

- Wide choice of courses leading to careers
- Careers and employment service to guide you towards your goal
- Special bus service for only 10p
- Additional learning support
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- Starbucks and a variety of other food and drink outlets on site
- Urban Chill – an area with student activities
- Free breakfast for early birds
- Student discounts

Get the funds you need to achieve your dream career

Are you aged 24+ and thinking about studying a Level 3 course or above?

Bournville College can help you get the funds you need to cover the cost of your course.

To qualify you need to be...

- Aged 24 and over at the start of your course
- Resident in the UK for 3 years prior to the start of the course

Enrolling on a course at Level 3 / above, such as:
- A Levels,
- Access to Higher Education Diplomas,
- Other diplomas / certificates,
- Advanced or Higher Apprenticeship.

What you should remember when making an application

- Your household income is not taken into consideration
- There is no credit check
- The minimum loan amount is £300
- You don’t have to pay anything back until your income is over £21,000 a year
- If your loan is for an Access to Higher Education course, you don’t have to pay the loan back if you progress to and complete higher education study

Repayments

You’ll only start making repayments when or if your income is more than £21,000 per year. See below for the repayment amounts depending on your salary:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEARLY INCOME (BEFORE TAX)</th>
<th>MONTHLY REPAYMENT</th>
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<td>£34,000-40,000</td>
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Contact the Student Funding Team at Bournville College

Tel: 0121 477 1722
Email: studentfinance@bournville.ac.uk
Visit: bournville.ac.uk/24-advanced-learning-loan

How to apply: Download an application form from gov.uk/advanced-learning-loans/how-to-claim

bournville.ac.uk/10p

bournville.ac.uk/10p
ARMED raiders who stole £30,000 by smashing fruit machines with a lump hammer at more than 30 pubs, have been jailed.

Noel Lacey and Adam Power had tried to give police the slip by mov- ing south, Birmingham Crown Court was told. The court heard the gang were in and out within two minutes and were caught when they rammed a blockade of unmarked police cars in their hired BMW.

Their raids began at The Copcut Elms, Droitwich, on January 22, when they stole £1,000. On January 26, they stole £2,000 from fruit machines at the Unicorn in Apley Lane, Coventry.

They targeted pubs across Dudley, Sandwell and Birmingham including: The Hunting Tree, Alexandra Road, Halesowen; The Glassworks, Audham Road, Stourbridge and The Phoenix Inn, Abbey Road, Smethwick.

False

Police say Lacey, aged 40, and Power, 38, moved further afield to avoid detection. But, after securing hours of CCTV, West Midlands Police were waiting for them as they pulled into the car park of The Man in the Moon, Harrow, Eaves, on April 1.

The BMW hire car had false plates, while two holdalls containing pounds coins and two lump hammers were found in the boot. A stash of fruit ma- chine takings were found in a search of Power’s home.

Lacey, from Sibdon Grove, West Heath, and Power of Crychurch Close, Hawbailly, both Birmingham, admis- sed conspiracy to burgle and a charge of robbery at the Royal Hop Pole pub, Tewkesbury. They were jailed for seven-and-a-half years. Accomplice Wayne Hawkins, 20, from Hollybank Road in Billesley, admitted robbery at the Royal Hop Pole pub, Tewkesbury, and was jailed for three years.

Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, August 20, 2015

TRAVELLERS who moved on to land in Rowley Regis have been served with an official notice to move on.

Nine caravans pitched up on land off Angela Avenue and were joined by six more as residents complained about the length of time it had taken to have them removed.

Police tried to stop more caravans getting through by parking a van across the entrance to the road, but their efforts proved to be fruitless as the new arrivals simply mounted the pavement and drove round.

Sandwell Council leader Darren Cooper insisted the authority had done everything it could to shift the travellers as quickly as possible.

He said: “We have now got the court order to shift them. I know it’s frustrating for people but if we don’t follow the process properly the courts will throw it out.”

He said he would be meeting with police as a more robust plan was needed to deal with the issue.

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NOTICE served for removal of travellers

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Hammer gang jailed after pub fruit machine raids net £30k

A COMMUNITY quilt celebrating the heritage and culture of the Black Country has been created and is on display in Dudley.

The quilt was an eight-week pro- ject by adult learners at Artspace in Dudley and features the town’s coat of arms as well as a crown, flowers, chains and the slogan ‘unity and progress’.

It is currently on display at Dudley Archives and Local History Centre on Tipton Road.

Pat Coburn, Artspace secretary, said: “We were thinking that with the Black Country Day being so popular, it would be a nice idea for us to get to- gether for a couple of hours a week to produce a community quilt that cele- brates our heritage.

“It turned into a real social event with people coming together to sew, chat and make friends. Everybody re- ally enjoyed doing it.”

The project was funded by Cad- bury’s in Birmingham, which gave Artspace £500.

The quilt was finally pieced together by Artspace artist Elena Thomas. The quilt will be on show in the archives centre until September, before travel- ing to Stourbridge, Brierley Hill and Halesowen.
OCEANIC Bathrooms Ltd, which was established in Birmingham 2011, has now expanded to open a second new showroom in West Bromwich.

It is a contemporary company with a fresh approach, aiming to offer customers the best quality of products at the most competitive prices. It thrives on providing the best products, best service and best price, resulting in complete customer satisfaction. Such expertise and attention to detail means customers can be assured of peace of mind when making their purchase.

Savings
An Oceanic spokesman said: “We are an independent bathroom company and are unique in nature. We do not have huge grand showrooms and we keep our supply chain to a minimum.

“This simply means that we do not have the vast costs of running and maintaining these expensive showrooms which many bathroom companies have and need to sustain, therefore eliminating most of the overhead costs which result in amazing savings for you.

“We also sell directly to you, many bathroom companies sell to wholesalers, who sell to retailers and then sell to you, so you can easily see why costs increase along the supply chain.

“However by buying and sourcing in bulk directly from the factories, we can transfer these savings to you whilst keeping with the high standard of products we endeavour to provide. This strategy helps us achieve our aim in providing you with the most competitive prices and quality has not been compromised.

“We have friendly staff with great knowledge to assist with your purchases. There is a flexible delivery service available and we guarantee you will receive the best quality products at amazingly low prices.

“We also offer a professional, trustworthy, good value installation service on request reducing the hassle of seeking your own. All our fitters are professionally qualified and are ready at hand should you want your bathroom items installed immediately.

“You can discuss things with our staff at anytime, where we will then arrange for one of our fitters to carry out an assessment and offer you a free competitive no obligation quote.

“Oceanic prides itself on its professional and efficient fitters, and there are always enough on hand to meet demand, with a one year workmanship warranty offered every time which means any leaks or faults found within the year will be repaired free of charge.

SUMMER BLIND MADNESS!

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<thead>
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<th>Vertical Blinds Only 89mm &amp; 127mm Louvers</th>
<th>Replacement Louvers up to 1500mm drop including</th>
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<tr>
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Fully Fitted

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Opening Hours: Monday to Saturday 9.00am-8.00pm Sunday 10.00am-4.00pm

All offers valid until 30th September 2015

__**Oceanic sets sale with new premises**__

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Recalling days of Operation Pied Piper

VIVID news film of the conflicts in Spain, Abyssinia and China of the mid-1930s onwards brought home to the British people the awfulness of modern warfare. Mostly because it not only affected those in the Armed Forces, but it also devastated the lives of countless numbers of civilians.

Distressing footage showed the panic of old men, women and children as they fled air raids and the onslaughts of enemy troops. It made plain the gruesome injuries, maimings and corpses. And it revealed clearly the havoc, desolation and inhumanity of war.

The effects of aerial bombing in particular affected the considerations of the British government. As early as 1935, when appeasement was pursued vigorously and rearmament was still resisted, procedures were put in place for training experts to co-ordinate civilian responses if war broke out and there were raids on Britain’s cities. Accordingly, organised evacuation was a major feature of wartime preparations. On September 1, 1939, two days before war was declared, national and local plans were put into operation in Operation Pied Piper. It was the biggest movement of people in the history of Britain. Those who went away did so with their schools, and around 100,000 teachers were involved, acting as guardians for their pupils. Some of these were as young as five. In later evacuations, Tettenhall, Wolverhampton and Smethwick were places to which London evacuees were sent.

Among those involved was the family of Des Stokes, who asks: “Since 1946 from time to time I have tried to locate the three children who stayed with my family. There was a boy named Cornelius and his two sisters, Pamela and Patricia, all from Croydon, Surrey. I never gave up hope of finding them and recently our search was rewarded, all due to my youngest grand-daughter Poppy, aged seven.

The school that she attends in St Albans in Hertfordshire gave her a book to read about the Second World War. My daughter suggested that Poppy should contact me because I had experienced what it was like during the air raids. Poppy was communicating with me via an iPad. Whilst I was talking to my granddaughter, I was interrupted by my own daughter who suddenly said ‘He is still alive!’

Who?, I said, and she read out details of a man named Cornelius.

“She had been using her computer and his name was followed by his address and contact number. I made a note of this and next day phoned the number, which was answered immediately. We had a good chat and it was revealed that this was one of the evacuees, and both of his sisters were still alive. “He also gave me the telephone number of Pamela, who was overjoyed to hear from me when I phoned her, as she too had been trying to find us to say thank you for caring for them all during their stay as evacuees. “We hoped that we could meet them soon. After 70 years, we had a lot to talk about, and it all started with my seven-year-old grand-daughter and her question about evacuees. We finally contacted one of the evacuees on March 3, 2015 and a date was fixed for her to visit us on April 21. Between the two dates I had tried to find out any details of the dates that evacuees had arrived in Smethwick, also to which school they had attended. I tried the Archives in Smethwick and Sandwell and ‘Smethwick Heritage’ magazine, all to no avail. It was looking as if there was no such thing as evacuees in Smethwick."

Des adds: “Inquiries directed me to the Thimblemill Library where I spoke to a lady who was on the board of governors and she promised to make a few phone calls.

“She had our phone number and contacted us the day after to say that my wife and myself together with the evacuee could visit the school on April 22. Whilst conducting this search, I was also looking into records on the evacuee’s brother, who had spent eight months in the Hollies (also known as Coopers Lane Open Air School), but with no result at all.

“At long last the evacuee arrived on April 21 and next day we all went to Uplands School. On arrival the evacuee immediately recognised the school and proved that she had attended during her stay in Mansion Crescent.

“The guide showed us around and at the end produced documents for the evacuee and her sister which clearly showed her date of birth, when they started and when they left.

“One of the classes intended to do a project on the Second World War, and both my wife and I will be invited to sit in front to answer questions.”

MEMORY LANE

Report by Carl Chinn

Children among London evacuees who arrived in Wolverhampton on July 11, 1944. The Express & Star said they ‘crooned all the way’

Among those involved was the family of Des Stokes, who asks: “Since 1946 from time to time I have tried to locate the three children who stayed with my family. There was a boy named Cornelius and his two sisters, Pamela and Patricia, all from Croydon, Surrey. I never gave up hope of finding them and recently our search was rewarded, all due to my youngest grand-daughter Poppy, aged seven.

The school that she attends in St Albans in Hertfordshire gave her a book to read about the Second World War. My daughter suggested that Poppy should contact me because I had experienced what it was like during the air raids. Poppy was communicating with me via an iPad. Whilst I was talking to my granddaughter, I was interrupted by my own daughter who suddenly said ‘He is still alive!’

Who?, I said, and she read out details of a man named Cornelius.

“She had been using her computer and his name was followed by his address and contact number. I made a note of this and next day phoned the number, which was answered immediately. We had a good chat and it was revealed that this was one of the evacuees, and both of his sisters were still alive. “He also gave me the telephone number of Pamela, who was overjoyed to hear from me when I phoned her, as she too had been trying to find us to say thank you for caring for them all during their stay as evacuees. “We hoped that we could meet them soon. After 70 years, we had a lot to talk about, and it all started with my seven-year-old grand-daughter and her question about evacuees. We finally contacted one of the evacuees on March 3, 2015 and a date was fixed for her to visit us on April 21. Between the two dates I had tried to find out any details of the dates that evacuees had arrived in Smethwick, also to which school they had attended. I tried the Archives in Smethwick and Sandwell and ‘Smethwick Heritage’ magazine, all to no avail. It was looking as if there was no such thing as evacuees in Smethwick."

Des adds: “Inquiries directed me to the Thimblemill Library where I spoke to a lady who was on the board of governors and she promised to make a few phone calls.

“She had our phone number and contacted us the day after to say that my wife and myself together with the evacuee could visit the school on April 22. Whilst conducting this search, I was also looking into records on the evacuee’s brother, who had spent eight months in the Hollies (also known as Coopers Lane Open Air School), but with no result at all.

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V Fest preview
See Page 19

For full listings see Express & Star every Friday

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Listings August 21-27
Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, August 20, 2015
18

Until Sept 5
Hippodrome, B’ham
The Bodyguard continues its run in Birmingham this week with X Factor star Lauren Bennett joining the lead role as Rachel Marron. Tickets are still available.
www.birminghamhippodrome.com

Thursday, 7pm
Kate Fitzgerald’s, Stourbridge
Martyn Joseph has often been called “The Welsh Springsteen”, but there are also shades of John Mayer, Bruce Springsteen and Dave Matthews in his music. A brilliant songwriter and vocalist.
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OPEN MICS

Lizzie And The Banshees: Siouxsie And The Banshees Tribute
Sat at 8pm, £6
The Roadhouse Birmingham, Kings Norton, Birmingham, B30 3DZ. Call 0121 246 2273
Supreme Queen: Queen Tribute
Sat at 7.30pm, 7.30pm, £6
The River Rooms, Stourbridge, DY1 1JN. Call 01384 397177
The Decades Band
Sat at 7.30pm, £8
The River Rooms, Mill Race Lane, Stourbridge, DY1 1JN. Call 01384 397177
Deerhoof
Sun at 7-11pm, £12
The Narrow, 400 Argyle, Birmingham, B12 0LD. Call 0121 753 1818
Eric Martin (Mr Big Singer)
Fri at 8.30pm, £12.50
The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY. Call 0121 643 0428
The Straight Aces
Sat at 8pm
Kate Fitzgerald’s, Wollaston, ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

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Lichfield Garrick, B5 4TD. Call 01922 654400
Animal Architecture
Wed at 10am-5 pm, Thu at 10am
The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

ART GALLERIES

The New Art Gallery Walsall
WS2 8LG. Call 01922 654400

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Wolverhampton Record Fair
Sat at 10am - 4pm, £3
Wolverhampton Civic Hall, WV1 1RQ. Call 01902 322700
Create Your Own Victorian Portrait: Workshop
Thu at 2pm - 5pm, Wedsworkwick Museum & Art Gallery, WS10 7DF. Call 01902 560666
Active Afternoons: Workshop
Mon at 2pm - 4pm, Tue at 2pm - 4pm
Moseley Old Hall, Heartsease, Wolverhampton, WV10 7YH. Call 01902 782808
Fun And Games
Thu at 2pm - 5pm,
Wolverhampton Museum & Art Gallery, WS10 7DF. Call 01902 566066
At The Movies: Workshop
Sat at 2pm - 5pm, £2
Wolverhampton Museum & Art Gallery, WS10 7DF. Call 01902 566066
Cookie Party Days
Thu at 11am - 3pm,
Haden Hill House Museum, Cradley Heath, B64 7JU. Call 01384 569444
Bug Hotel: Workshop
Fri at 11am - 3pm,
Kinver Edge and the Rock Houses, Stourbridge, DY7 9LB. Call 01384 725533

Check out full listings in TheFastticket in Friday’s Express & Star.
Bescot Sunday Market

BIGGEST SUNDAY MARKET IN THE MIDLANDS

Friday 21st August
CRAIG HALFORD
Saturday 22nd August
DEAN TORKINGTON....
TRIPLE TRIBUTE SHOW
SUNDAY NIGHT KARAOKE
Monday 24th August
THE QUEST FUN QUIZ & KARAOKE SHOW
Tuesday 25th August
PREDESTINATES: TUESDAY NIGHT KARAOKE
WEDNESDAY 26th August
LEE O’SULLIVAN
THURSDAY 27th August
STARMAKERS KARAOKE SHOW

The biggest Sunday market in the Midlands

The line-up also includes Sam Smith, Paloma Faith, Ellie Goulding, The Script, Muse, Mumford & Sons, Olly Murs, James Bay, Stereophonics, Clean Bandit, Sir Tom Jones, Neve, Jessie Ware, Sigma, and Ella Eyre. They will line up with a host of other star names across four stages. The popular Glee Club Comedy Tent is returning with top acts including Russell Kane, Frankie Boyle, Sean Walsh and Matt Richardson.

The festival’s northern site was originally in Leeds but moved to Wolverhampton, near Albrighton, in 1999 when Stereophonics also featured, alongside headlining fellow Welsh rockers Manic Street Preachers and acid legend James Brown. Festival director Simon Moran said: “It is incredible to think what V Festival has achieved in two decades.”

For more information visit the www.vfestival.com website.

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Black Country rock band’s debut ready

HOTLY-TIPPED Black Country rockers EoE have announced details of their first album.

The Dudley band will release their self-titled debut on October 9 through Cream Records following a year of relentless touring.

The release comes off the back of the group’s performance at Download Festival earlier this year and will feature all of their singles released to date.

EoE have toured with Glamour Of The Kill and supported McBusted at the LG Arena.

Fronted by singer Tom Harris, the band’s sound has been described as thunderous stadium rock with addictive pop melodies. For more information see www.eoe.co.uk website.
Capital gain for families thanks to a range of great attractions

MY daughter Rachel, 14, and son Matthew, 12, had never been to the ‘big smoke’, so when the opportunity arose to spend some quality time in Londinium, they were thrilled.

Travelling by train is, in my opinion, the best option. Book online early and you can save a small fortune, reserving a seat in the process – an absolute must with regular trains from the likes of Wolverhampton, Birmingham, Shrewsbury and Telford.

Catching the train at Wolverhampton, we arrived at Euston station within two hours and transferred to St James’s Park Tube Station directly opposite our hotel – the stunning five-star Conrad London St James.

Sitting on the doorstep of Westminster, Big Ben and Buckingham Palace, not only does it have a prime location, but also comes with chic design and wonderful service. Visitors can enjoy a distinctive, locally sourced selection of culinary delights at the Blue Boar restaurant. And then there is the elegant Emmeline’s Lounge, ideal for afternoon tea.

There is complimentary WiFi and Nespresso machines in every room and, as we were executive floor guests, complimentary breakfast and other treats throughout the day. Rachel and Matthew had never seen anything quite like it.

In around five minutes, we had walked past Westminster Abbey, Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament, crossing Westminster Bridge with the London Eye prominent in view. The South Bank is vibrant, with tourists enjoying a bite to eat with a fabulous vista. Many, like us, were there to see pre-booked attractions. First on the list, The London Dungeon.

Even Matthew, who can be a little hesitant with such scary stuff, thought it was great fun. Rachel particularly enjoyed the ‘public lynching’ we endured at the end. A short walk and we were at our next venue. Sea Life London Aquarium is home to one of Europe’s largest collections of marine life from around the globe.

New for 2015, Sea Dragon Kingdom has some of the ocean’s most weird and wonderful fish and intrepid adventurers can follow a fun Lego-based trail with a free deep sea explorer activity pack, helping to find missing equipment hidden amongst the sharks, starfish and shoals of bright tropical fish.

Towards the end of the attraction, I enjoyed the history of London unfolding in the new Thames Walk. Our final visit of the day was to the all-new Shrek’s Adventure London. Based on the popular Dreamworks animated characters from the Shrek movies, plus Kung Fu Panda and Madagascar, it combines a brilliant 4D bus ride/fight to the kingdom of Far, Far Away and a walk through of the fantasy land.

On returning to London from the fairy-tale kingdom, visitors can have photos with Shrek and friends before exiting through a shop laden with ‘Shrektastic’ goodies.

The summer evening allowed us plenty of opportunity for further sightseeing, including a stop off at Nelson’s Column and Buckingham Palace. We returned to the Conrad, ready to take on our next day’s fun outing to Madame Tussauds.

I recommend going to London with your children and experience for yourself the range of great attractions. You might knock a few years off your own age in doing so.

By Paul Naylor

Are you looking to advertise a Christmas Menu or a Christmas Party? will you be having a Halloween Party or a Bonfire Celebration and need to let people know?

Then Call Ryan Cooper on 01384 353 227 to advertise in our entertainment section in the chronicles or express and star.
and donning dafto utfits to win straight face as families from Keep It in the Family lead as usual. The two clans will compete to win as election of or keep it in the family. This
Bradley Walsh 6.00 BBC News. 6.10 Regional Programme. 6.20 Film: Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade (1989). 7.00 Proms Extra 2015. 7.30 Great Canal Journeys. 7.45 Atlantic: The Wildest Ocean on Earth. 8.00 Keep It in the Family. 8.45 Dad’s Army. 9.00 The Simpsons. (R) 9.30 Cricket on 5. 10.00 The Simpsons. (R) 10.30 Film: Rush Hour 3. 11.00 How I Met Your Mother. (R) 11.30 Cowboy Builders. 12.00 Cowboy Builders. 12.30 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 13.00 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 13.30 Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from the Circuit de Catalunya. 13.45 Film: Calendar Girl (2004). 14.15 Dino Dan. (R) 14.45 Come Dine with Me. 15.15 Football League. 15.45 Come Dine with Me. 16.15 Football League. 16.45 Come Dine with Me. 17.15 Football League. 17.45 Come Dine with Me. 18.15 Football League. 18.45 Come Dine with Me. 19.15 Football League. 19.45 Come Dine with Me. 20.15 Football League. 20.45 Come Dine with Me. 21.15 Football League. 21.45 Come Dine with Me. 22.15 Football League. 22.45 Come Dine with Me. 23.15 Football League. 23.45 Come Dine with Me. 0.00 Milkshake! 0.30 Tipping Point. 0.55 Weakest Link. 1.25 Film: Sahara (2005). 1.50 TheX Factor: Live Weekends At Wembley. 2.05 Film: X-Men. 2.30 Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from the Circuit de Catalunya. 2.45 Film: The Spirit (2004). 3.00 The Simpsons. (R) 3.30 Sounds of the Eighties (2004) pt 2. 3.55 The Simpsons. (R) 4.15 Lost Land of the Volcano. 4.45 The XF actor: Olly & Caroline’s Top 10 80s Dance Tracks. 5.00 Nothing But The Best Of Series 22. 5.30 Best of Series 22. 5.55 The Everyday Jeeves. 6.00 BBC One News. 6.30 ATV News. 7.00 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 7.30 Tipping Point. 7.45 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 8.15 Tipping Point. 8.45 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 9.15 Tipping Point. 9.45 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.15 Tipping Point. 10.45 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 11.15 Tipping Point. 11.45 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 12.15 Tipping Point. 12.45 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 1.15 Tipping Point. 1.45 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 2.15 Tipping Point. 2.45 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 3.15 Tipping Point. 3.45 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 4.15 Tipping Point. 4.45 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 5.15 Tipping Point. 5.45 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 6.15 Tipping Point. 6.45 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 7.15 Tipping Point. 7.45 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 8.15 Tipping Point. 8.45 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 9.15 Tipping Point. 9.45 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.15 Tipping Point. 10.45 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 11.15 Tipping Point. 11.45 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 12.15 Tipping Point. 12.45 The Jeremy Kyle Show.
A new volunteer opportunity has arisen at local research centres. Liz discovers why conservation of endangered species, and looks at the history of raising fish in a smallholding at a farm, and finds that new-born lambs have plenty of problems.

Are you a member of a local voluntary group?

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DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 Fringe

1.00 Film: T2: Trainspotting (1996)

10.00 Top Gear

SUNDAY'S TV AUGUST 23

the fastticket

Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall

Big Blue Live

ITV

22.00 Casualty.


11.30 Film: Fight Club.

9.30 Young, Free & Single

10.00 Football League Tonight. (R)

10.00 ITV News

12.00 Regional Programme.

10.00 E4

11.15 Film: The Great British Bake Off (R)

12.00 Sooty. (R)

12.05 Film: The Mr & Mrs Show.

12.30 Film: Mr. Bean: Holiday

5.00 Weather for the Week Ahead.

10.20 Regional Programme.

7.30 Weather.

10.00 ITV News

1.05 Crime! (TF)

10.15 Man and Beast with Martin Clunes.

2.00 E4

11.15 Film: The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus (2009)

12.05 Film: The Mr & Mrs Show.

6.05 Film: The Mr & Mrs Show.

9.30 Song of Praise.

11.05 Film: The Mr & Mrs Show.

2.55 Location, Location, Location. (R)

10.15 Film: The Mr & Mrs Show.

11.15 Film: The Barista. (R)

11.30 Film: The Mr & Mrs Show.

2.15 Film: The Mr & Mrs Show.

3.00 The Great British Bake Off. (R)

11.15 Film: The Mr & Mrs Show.

1.30 Film: The Mr & Mrs Show.

3.15 Film: The Mr & Mrs Show.

11.15 Film: The Mr & Mrs Show.

4.15 Film: The Mr & Mrs Show.

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7.15 Film: The Mr & Mrs Show.

11.15 Film: The Mr & Mrs Show.

7.30 Film: The Mr & Mrs Show.

11.15 Film: The Mr & Mrs Show.
Katie and guests hit all the right notes

Appropriately, just as a performance about to begin, acclaimed as a choral musician performer and professor of double-bass studies at London’s Trinity College of Music, Kayla Ewell features as if she’s taking her rightful place on the Main Stage, starting blocks on an all-time high.

Then, when the conductor’s baton comes down, Neenoe is straight out of the blocks, working towards the finishing line.

Actually, his admission from the London-based mansion of Nigerian and Irish descent isn’t that surprising, because from the age of eight, Chi-Chi was destined for an international career as a 100-metre sprinter.

At 16, she started seriously training for the 1972 Munich Olympics, and two years later on track for the next Games in Moscow.

And then, a knee injury meant that she could never again compete at a national level.

Determined, she returned to school and thankfully discovered that fate had something positive in store for her - music.

Nowadays, Neenoe is established as principal bass with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, as well as being a choral musician performer and professor of double-bass studies at London’s Trinity College of Music.

She is also the host of a weekly requests programme on BBC Radio 3 and was a jury member of BBC2’s Classical Star: Tonight, she give Kayla Derham for this week’s semi-pack edition of weekly magazine Proms Extra.

The pair will be joined by baritone Patrick Williams, who may be finding a little sting as performing Bach’s Le Petit Ménélis in C minor and Brandenburg Concerto No. 2, alongside the BBC Singers and the Academy of Ancient Music during last night’s Night Live Prom at the Royal Albert Hall.

Williams will also be looking forward to his next Proms appearance on September 11 when he is taking to the stage alongside conductors Simon Rattle and the Vienna Philharmonic to launch The Dream of Gerontius.

Among the other Proms highlights up for discussion tonight are Bach’s a cappella works, which were performed so memorably by violinist Alina Ibragimova and pianist Enrico Pace.

Katie, Chi-Chi and Roderick also took the opportunity to visit the National Youth Orchestra’s annual visit to the Proms a fortnight ago where they focused on Mozart’s gloriously beautiful Ninth Symphony.

Their concert also-speared with the world premiere of Tansy Davies’s Re-imagining, a celebration written specially as a complement to Roderick’s astonishing work.

Finally, there is footage and insights into the life and work of legendary conductor Sir Simon Rattle.

So, it’s a night of highlights from the UK’s musical hotspots and the International Cadet Proms.

As always, the Night Live Prom offers an opportunity to explore the forward-thinking and adventurous side of the orchestra. Not only a chance to hear live music performed with passion and commitment, but also an opportunity to learn about the orchestra’s commitment to education and outreach.

So, if you’re looking for a night of musical entertainment, look no further than the Night Live Prom at the Royal Albert Hall. It’s sure to be a night to remember!
Delightful country home dates to 19th century

Spacious home comes with single-bed annexe

A DELIGHTFUL 19th century detached country home has 0.25 acres of gardens and is for sale through Allan Morris at £559,500. Poppoill Cottage, Norchard, Crossway Green, Stourport, has a lengthy driveway with WC off, a lounge with bay windows and a log burner, a dining room with a log burner, a large sitting room with a log effect LPG fire and French doors and a breakfast kitchen. There are five bedrooms and two bathrooms. The garden includes a greenhouse, shed and a substantial garage/ workshop. Call 01299 825522 or visit www.allan-morris.co.uk

A SPACIOUS three/four bedroom house with a one-bedroom annexe, Hersens Nest at Be dewley is for sale through Philips & Pritchard at £395,000 with no chain. It has an entrance hall, a WC, a living room, a dining room, breakfast kitchen with a breakfast island, a utility/launder room, three bedrooms (one en-suite and one with a dressing area) and a family bathroom, garage, annexe with a lobby, shower room and a bedroom. Call 01299 820960 or visit www.philipsandpritchard.co.uk
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Picanto is pitched perfectly

It’s not uncommon to assess a vehicle and wonder why it has been launched.

Some manufacturers get their product design cycles out of phase with economic conditions, while others launch into a once fashionable market that’s gone cold. Then there are those that arrive plum square with the right product at the right time and the second-generation Kia Picanto citycar is most definitely one of the latter.

No model in this class has a sniff of a chance unless it can guarantee tiny day-to-day running costs and the Picanto certainly answers that particular call.

Both engines have been designed to offer maximum efficiency, from their continuous variable valve timing to their low-friction cylinder block, and they use the latest common rail technology. The 1.0-litre unit emits just 99g/km of carbon dioxide in standard trim. Kia goes one stage further with its suite of EcoDynamics technologies (automatic stop-start - ISG, advanced alternator control, upgraded starter motor and low-rolling resistance tyres), cutting emissions even further – to between 85 and 102 g/km. Combined fuel economy for the 1.0-litre model teamed with the EcoDynamics gear is 67.3mpg.

Priced between £8,145 and £12,595, the Picanto doesn’t do anything that’s particularly fresh or radical but it’s blend of affordability coupled with solid engineering, impressive build quality, generous equipment and clean styling build upon its tiny ongoing running costs to form a convincing buying proposition. Back that up with a great warranty and the Kia Picanto emerges as one of the very best citycabs we’ve seen in quite some time.

The all-New Kia Sorento has ambition.

While the third generation Kia Picanto citycar is a product at the right time and the second generation model looks to have the finish and build quality, generous equipment and clean emissions even further – to between 95 and 102 g/km. Combined fuel economy for the 1.0-litre model teamed with the EcoDynamics gear is 67.3mpg.

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The all-New Kia Sorento has ambition.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Specification</th>
<th>List Price</th>
<th>Price Saved</th>
<th>Our Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Vauxhall Meriva Techline 1.4</td>
<td>Specification includes: Electrically heated front seats, Front fog lights, 17-inch alloy wheels</td>
<td>£13995</td>
<td>£2500</td>
<td>£11495</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Vauxhall Zafira Tourer 1.8</td>
<td>Specification includes: Air conditioning, CD player with MP3 format, Radio, AUX-input socket, DAB digital radio, Steering wheel-mounted audio controls, Cruise control, Electric front windows</td>
<td>£20575</td>
<td>£4580</td>
<td>£15995</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Vauxhall Astra GTC 1.4 Sport</td>
<td>Specification includes: Daytime running lights, 17” seven-spoke alloy wheels, CD400 CD / MP3/ CD player with stereo radio, DAB digital radio, Cruise control, Electric front windows</td>
<td>£19355</td>
<td>£3360</td>
<td>£15995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Vauxhall Mokka Techline 1.6</td>
<td>Specification includes: Air conditioning, CD player with stereo radio, Bluetooth® connectivity, DAB digital radio, Cruise control, Electric front windows</td>
<td>£22200</td>
<td>£4205</td>
<td>£17995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Vauxhall Antara Diamond 2.2 Cdti</td>
<td>Specification includes: ABS, ASC+T, ESC, Traction control (TCS), Hill start assist (HSA)</td>
<td>£14995</td>
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<td>£14995</td>
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An elite band will travel in comfort

Forget the Ferrari, banish the Bentley; if you want to stand out from the crowd you need the new Volvo S60 Cross Country. It’s going to be a very rare sight indeed on British roads.

Volvo reckons it will sell only 100 of these gently toughened saloons here each year, while explaining they will be much more popular in India and South America. They’re both areas of the world where a saloon car shape is seen as prestigious; here in the UK we favour the practicality of a hatchback or estate and buy fewer booted saloons. Volvo meets part of that market by offering the new Cross Country as an V60 estate alongside the S60 saloon and expects to sell 850 of them in any ear; rendering it as rare sight but not in the hen’s teeth way of the saloon.

Both sit near the pinnacle of a road S/V60 range that starts at £21,005 for the S60 with 2.0-litre petrol power (the V60 estate is another £1,200) and are aimed at owners who want a car that stands out from the crowd, while offering a little more country lane ability. That latter attribute comes from suspension that pushes the Cross Country versions 65mm higher above the road (or grassy field) than standard cars and should help if you live along a bumpy, rutted lane.

That’s the only genuinely useful upgrade for the ‘active lifestyle’ sort of buyer so beloved of car companies these days. The alloy looking skid plates under front and rear bumpers are styling touches only, helping onlookers tell the car apart from non-Cross Country versions if they’ve not already clocked its unique design of alloy wheels, black radiator grille or modest plastic wheelarch extensions.

For the £36,525 AWD Geartronic Cross Country Lux Nav, you gain all-wheel drive and automatic gearbox, although the engine is an older 2400cc five-cylinder unit that produces notably poorer economy and emissions figures than the car tested here.

It makes the same 187bhp as the newer 2.0 litre engine in the test car but with a little more low-speed pulling power and the benefit of auto gears if you’re happy to pay at the pumps for an easier life.

Slipping into the driver’s seat of the S60 Cross Country brings you face to face with a dashboard that looks a lot like those you’ll find in most other current Volvos – and that’s a good thing. It means the instruments are big and easy to read, and the switches for everything from heating to adjusting the radio are bold and obvious.

My brief drive showed promising 41mpg on the trip computer (67.3mpg is the official, but always optimistic average) after a journey that gave no space to test the car’s 130mph top speed or sprint to 62mph in 7.7 seconds. What was tested on some poor Cotswolds roads was a ride that delighted with the way it soaked up the bumps and constant little surface irritations. So the modest band of S60 Cross Country owners are going to reach their weekend holiday cottage in some comfort.

By Ian Donaldson

Our Low Mileage Selection

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- 13 Note 1.6 CDI Exlusive Auto Red Only 5000 Miles £8,495
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- 12 Venga 2.1 1.6 Auto Blue Only 7000 Miles £7,695
- 62 Note 1.6 N-Tec+ Auto Blue Only 7000 Miles £8,495
- 59 Fiesta 1.4 Titanium Auto Blue Only 10000 Miles £8,495
- 10 Berlingo 1.6 HDI XTR Grey Only 10000 Miles £7,995
- 11 3008 1.6 HDI Sport Black Only 11000 Miles £8,995
- 10 Or Modus 1.5 Dynamic Auto Red Only 11000 Miles £5,495
- 14 VW Golf 2.0 TSI R DSG Blue Only 12000 Miles £29,995
- 12 Agila 1.2 SE Auto Blue Only 12000 Miles £7,295
- 12 Hyundai i30 1.4 Classic Sgl Grey Only 13000 Miles £7,795
- 10 Note 1.6 N-Tec Auto Caffe Latte Only 13000 Miles £8,295
- 12 Micra 1.2 Acenta Auto Blue Only 13000 Miles £6,995

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- 12 C3 Picasso 1.6 HDI Exclusive Grey 31k £7,995
- 09 C3 Picasso 1.6 HDI Exclusive Grey 29k £6,795
- 61 C3 Picasso 1.6 HDI VTR+ Black 23k £10,495
- 57 C3 Picasso 1.6 HDI VTR+ Purple 9k £4,295
- 07 Picasso 1.6 VTX Grey 45k £2,995

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- 12 Fiesta 1.4 Titanium Green 23k £7,995
- 12 Fiesta 1.6 TDCI Zetec Ink Blue 23k £8,495
- 12 Focus 1.6 105 Zetec Blue 24k £8,795
- 12 Focus 1.6 Zetec Auto Ink Blue 24k £8,795

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- 58 Note 1.4 Visia Silver 63k £3,795
- 10 Note 1.5 DCi N-Tec Black 16k £8,995
- 63 Navara 2.5 DCi Tekna Auto Silver 20k Plus VAT £14,995

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- 12 Corsa 1.2 SE Black 18k £6,795
- 12 Corsa 1.4 SE Auto Silver 18k £7,295
- 12 Meriva 1.4 SE Waterwind Blue 20k £7,995
- 12 Meriva 1.4 SE Brown 21k £7,995
- 60 Meriva 1.4 Exclusive Brown 26k £5,995
- 10 Meriva 1.4 Exclusive Grey 30k £5,495
- 55 Astra 1.6 Club Auto Silver 57k £2,495
- 12 Astra 2.0 CDTI Elite Auto Black 10k £9,995

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- 12 Chevrolet Orlando 1.8 LT Auto Silver 19k £8,295
- 58 Chevrolet Lacetti 1.6 SX Est Silver 87k £2,495
- 54 Mercedes CLK 270 CDI Avant Coupe Auto Black 81k £4,995
- 61 Peugeot Riperre Tapee 1.3 HDI EGC Grey 18k £8,495
- 58 Peugeot 308 1.6 GT Coupe Cat Blue 29k £8,495
- 58 Peugeot 308 1.6 HDI Access Shark Grey 32k £7,995
- 12 Renault Clio 1.2 Dyn Tomtom 3d Silver 32k £5,995
- 61 Renault Grand Espace 2.0 DCI Dyn S 150 Beige 41k £8,495
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The S60 Cross Country D4 Manual Lux Nav/Tug tested here comes in a single specification at £33,695 (hardly worth the bother to offer more with predicted sales so tiny) but it’s a pretty luxurious take on country living.

Standard kit includes leather upholstery, satellite navigation, 18in alloy wheels, headlight washers, climate control, cruise control, auto dimming interior mirror and rear centre armrest with storage and cupholders. Surprisingly, heated front seats are extra, as part of an optional £675 winter pack. Another £150 buys a slimline spare wheel in place of a can of gloop.

Stepping into the driver’s seat of the S60 Cross Country brings you face to face with a dashboard that looks a lot like those you’ll find in most other current Volvos – and that’s a good thing. It means the instruments are big and easy to read, and the switches for everything from heating to adjusting the radio are bold and obvious.

Then you start up and move off, surprised to find an al- gearchange in a car that seems posh enough to take the auto route. But it’s an easy change to use and the engine is responsive enough to let you hang on to higher gears around town. It will also help on the economy front.

What was tested on some poor Cotswolds roads was a ride that delighted with the way it soaked up the bumps and constant little surface irritations. So the modest band of S60 Cross Country owners are going to reach their weekend holiday cottage in some comfort.
Honda's revised Jazz and new HR-V

Honda's got a lot to look at for new registration and two of the latest in the pack are the new HR-V and revised Jazz.

The all-new Jazz builds on the strong reputation of its highly successful predecessors. The newcomer rethinks the Honda City, bringing a contemporary styling, including a powerful new face and strong character lines. A new platform increases overall length by 95 mm, but highly efficient packaging means that the latest Jazz is proportionally even bigger on the inside than the previous generation model. Occupants will benefit from both boot space and passenger space that are unrivalled in the class. The all-new Jazz offers exceptional versatility, retaining Honda's highly practical Magic Seat system which allows for numerous cargo configurations.

Specifications are generous across the range, with base-grade S models fitted as standard with convenience features such as air conditioning, cruise control with speed limiter and dual sensor auto lights. Every grade comes with Honda’s City-Brake Active to help avoid low-speed accidents.

The mid-grade SE model, priced from €14,595, adds front and rear parking sensors, electrically adjustable and heated door mirrors and 15” alloy wheels. Honda’s Driver Assistance Safety Pack is also included, giving owners the extra reassurance of five advanced active safety aids.

Those opting for the top-grade EX model (from €15,715) will appreciate smart entry and start, automatic climate control and six-speaker audio upgrade. Stying is enhanced with 16-inch alloy wheels and front fog lamps.

Access

Customers opting for the SE or EX models will also benefit from the Honda Connect in-car infotainment system as standard. This Android-based system features an app-based ‘pinch, swipe and tap’ interface accessed on a seven-inch touchscreen in the centre of the dash. Honda Connect comes with pre-installed apps, with others available for download from the Honda App Centre. These give rapid access to internet-based services such as web browsing, real-time traffic information, news and weather, social media, and internet music stations.

A new, highly efficient, highly responsive 1.3-litre i-VTEC petrol engine from Honda’s Earth Dreams Technology series delivers 102 PS at 6,000 rpm. This power unit delivers a more natural ‘muli-gear’ feel through the use of new control software exclusive to Europe which simulates seven speeds and provides optimised gear change mapping.

The subcompact hatchback will be priced from €13,495 on-the-road for the entry-level S model.

The new Honda HR-V subcompact crossover will be priced from €17,995 on-the-road for the entry-level S model featuring a 1.5-litre i-VTEC petrol engine.

The all-new HR-V blends characterful coupé looks merged with the tough, solid stance of a robust SUV. Occupants will find class-leading boot space. Thanks to its highly practical Magic Seats system, allowing for numerous loading configurations.

Buyers opting for the base-grade S model are well catered for, with convenience features such as climate control, cruise control and dual-sensor automatic headlamps fitted as standard.

Honda Connect comes with pre-installed apps, with others available for download. These give rapid access to internet-based services such as web browsing, real-time traffic information, news and weather, social media, and internet music stations. Integrated Garmin navigation is standard on all Civic models. Honda Connect comes with pre-installed apps, with others available for download. These give rapid access to internet-based services such as web browsing, real-time traffic information, news and weather, social media, and internet music stations. Integrated Garmin navigation is standard on all Civic models.

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Nissan goes back to future

Nissan goes back to the future and brings us an honest to goodness fast hatchback.

The sporty Pulsar is back! This time Nissan has done without all-wheel drive and rally styling and instead given us a lower-key but high efficiency quick hatch, in this case powered by a 190PS 1.6-litre DIG-T turbo engine. It’s available in a couple of trim levels and is one of the more discreet fast hatchbacks.

Nissan was last here way back in 2000. By ‘here’, we’re talking about selling a recognisable quick hatchback, in that case the Almera GTI. After that the Almera was facelifted and got a bit boring before Nissan decided that it didn’t need fast hatches any more and started selling us all sorts of wacky crossovers and SUVs.

So it’s Nissan’s return to the hatch sector with the Pulsar an admission that it got that call wrong? After all, despite the encouraging sales of the Qashqai, it still only peaks at around 50,000 units sold per year, against around 90,000 for the Ford Focus.

The 1.6-litre DIG-T engine has been the secret weapon that’s powered the most underrated Nissan Juke, so plumbing it into the front of a Pulsar was always going to make an entertaining hatch, maybe a little bit on the warm side rather than hot. Still, it more than merits your attention.

Those of you with longer memories might remember the Pulsar GTi-R, launched in Japan in 1990. It boasted a 227bhp turbocharged version of the famous SR20DET engine used in the 200SX driftmobile. It deployed its power through a five-speed gearbox and all-wheel drive to quite devastating effect. Born for rallying, the GTi-R also made a fantastic, if slightly fragile, road car.

This time round, the sportiest Pulsar hatch sends drive to the front wheels only and makes 181bhp, or 190PS metric.

**Flexibility**

It makes this peak power output at 6,600rpm, so it enjoys a few revs, although the turbocharger starts developing its 240Nm torque maximum all the way from 1,500rpm through to 5,600rpm; one reason why this DIG-T engine is so easy to drive. It’s engineered to provide exceptional flexibility at low engine speeds and in doing so, delivers performance that outshines rivals units with six gear transmissions.

Against the clock, expect 62mph to arrive in around 7.8 seconds with a top speed of around 135mph. Riding on Nissan’s state of the art CMF2 chassis, a modular system that’s very similar in its concept to the in-house Volkswagen MEB platform, the Pulsar’s lowered and stiffened and rides on either 17-inch alloys in the Acenta model or 18-inch rims if you choose the Tekna range-topper.

Nissan has given the 1.6 DIG-T models a little bit of tinsel to set them apart from the less sporty cars in the Pulsar range. They can be identified by their distinctive alloy wheels, finished in a diamond cut two-tone black and silver and a sportier headlamp design which comes with a black finish to the bezel offering a greater contrast to the chrome finished projector.

At the rear, a chrome exhaust finisher is standard. The interior features higher quality materials than we’ve seen on Nissan hatchbacks of late.

The sporty Pulsar is back! This time round, the sportiest Pulsar hatch may remember the Pulsar GTi-R, launched in Japan in 1990. It boasted a 227bhp turbocharged version of the famous SR20DET engine used in the 200SX driftmobile. It deployed its power through a five-speed gearbox and all-wheel drive to quite devastating effect. Born for rallying, the GTi-R also made a fantastic, if slightly fragile, road car.

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This time round, the sportiest Pulsar hatch...
Halesowen win over Stour raises tally to six on bounce

A CRICKET club in Halesowen has been chosen to host its first-ever Women’s County Championship match.

Romsey & Hunnington will host Worcestershire’s tank Holiday Moscow club by 20 points.

And losses are hoping for a bumper turnout for the milestone occasion.

Chairman Bernard Williams said: “It is the first time we have ever been chosen to do this and it should be quite an occasion.

“It is a big coup for the club to have been selected.

“We have been chosen to host some local district games for younger players before but this will be a first for us and we are really looking forward to it.”

The match, which is 50-overs-a-side, will start at 11am and the club is encouraging as many people as possible to visit and take in the action.

Williams said that the club had been recommended by someone at the Worcestershire Cricket Board after receiving several good reviews about the facilities at the ground.

He said: “Our facilities and surroundings are superb, so we have a lovely clubhouse and the standard of our wicket is first class.

“The recommendation came from an umpire who came here for a youth district match.

“His recommendation to us and we hosted a couple of their team’s games. It just snowballed from there and I think it is going to be a great day.”

Club bosses will put on a barbecue to add to the occasion and they are keen to encourage families to the venue in particular.

Worcestershire ladies are currently sixth in Division Two, which contains nine teams overall.

They will face stern opposition at Romsey as the Stour solidarity leaders, having lost just one of their five matches so far.

Worcestershire, who face Devon at New Road the day before, have had a more patchy record with two wins and three losses.

Halesowen grab a strong victory

Halesowen Chronicle August 20, 2015

Wolves show best form so far

Stourbridge 1st XI 201-8

Halesowen 1st XI 203-2

Halesowen 1st XI produced a convincing victory against Stourbridge to help them in their bragging rights.

Hopes were high as Stour posted their second consecutive double hundred having put in their century.

But the conditions favoured Halesowen as any wicket that may have been around in the pitch dried out after the previous day’s deluge.

Stour’s opening pair Alex Bingham and Steve Game gave their side a sound base putting on 52 for 2 overs.

Game was first to go LBW to first change bowler Faisal Shahid for 37.

The first wicket opened up the flood gates for Halesowen capturing six wickets for 137 runs in the 32nd over.

The key wicket of Alex Bingham (55) who batted for 2 hours 10 minutes fell to spinner Masnurri Shazad in the 31st over.

Rocked

But it was skipper Richard Brooker who rocked the Stour innings taking four wickets for 47 off his 10 overs.

He cut short a promising innings of Andy Al- mohammed for 30 caught once again attempting to regain the Stour momentum. Nelson Ali (3).

Aiden Avey (34) with races again and looked at the final 18 overs to set the scene a decent target.

Skipper Matt Bradley tried out seven bowlers including bowling five overs himself despite being injured.

The eighth bowler, Alex Bingham, bowled the final over and had Kester Mosely LBW for 6 and summed up Stour’s plight.

Stour’s bowlers struggled to remove Halesowen pro Edward Kilbee who batted through the 44 overs for his 109 off 139 balls.

Second wicket partnership of 163 between Kilbee and Mosely off 33 overs left Stour in dire straits.

The defeat leaves Stour 18 points adrift of Bredwood in third position from bottom and with a lot of relegation down to Division three of the Birmingham and District league.

Last man remain rooted at the bottom of Division one will play away at Stourbridge on 29th August.

Wolves played their best football of the opening three games of the season and carved out enough opportunities to have won two games.

Relegated Hull City, with seasoned Premier League players such as Tom Huddlestone, Michael Dawson and Nikica Jelavic still in their ranks, looked on paper to have the toughest opposition.

Wolves will face in the opening two months of the season.

And Wolves more than held their own, only struggling to contain the hugely impressive Chuba Akpom who created several chances for himself.

For this game the head coach called for a better start after some sluggish openings in recent weeks.

He also demanded his team to defend better.

They did both in spades and also improved in midfield where duck’s wingless experiment yielded its best football thus far.

James Henry continued where he left off at Blackburn, constantly looking to get Wolves on the front foot, Edwards popped here, there and everywhere in a tireless performance.

Four points from two tough fixtures is certainly a good start for Wolves.

Halesowen Chronicle August 20, 2015

Halesowen grab a strong victory

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Wolves, Baggies and Saddlers get cup draw dates

Wolves, Albion and Walsall have all been handed home ties in the Capital One Cup second round.

The draw is as follows: VILLA vs Notts County, WALSALL vs Brighton, Palace in Shrewsbury, Sheff Wed in Oxford, Portmouth in Reading, Hartlepool in Bournemouth, Fulham in Sheffield Utd, MK Dons in Cardiff.

The first leg is on September 22nd and the second leg will be on September 29th.

Wolves Albion and Walsall have all confirmed they will play their Capital One Cup second-round ties on Tuesday, August 25th.

Wolves and Saddlers’ games will kick off at 7.45pm and Albion’s home clash with Port Vale will be an 8pm kick-off.

Villa and Blues have yet to confirm when they will take place.

Sports Desk 01902 319531

Cricket side make certain of win

Aberdare.

Motorphone Damaged?

Call us today and in need to strongly look at the options available to me for our final three matches of the season.

Rotherham vs Orwich, Swansea vs York, QPR vs Barnsley, Vauxhall Motors

“Every meeting is obviously very important for us now with Birmingham holding that healthy lead at the top of the table.”

Decisive high-five for Sports squad

Dudley Sports 5 Smethwick 1

We've got to do better” said Gareth McAuley.

The Hawthorns after just one season at

Speedway

Wolves, Albion and Saddlers have three Cup second-round ties.

But our tail end were really poor again, we threw away some stupid points when in scoring positions and that ultimately cost us the win.

The Baggies have all-but agreed terms with Spars for the transfer of the 28-year-old

Pulis said: “We have lots of business to do and lots of work to do.

Third place will see them take part in the third qualifying round of the FA Cup.

New Boys Get Two on Yeiz

Mickleover Sports 2 Halesowen Town 0

Halesowen men were well beaten by a goal in each half at newly promoted Mickleover Sports.

In early pressure, Mickleover won the first corner in the 14th minute but Dwayne Wiley was well off target with his attempt on goal.

The baggie shaves all-bu t a greedy

Pulis is also close to agreeing a deal with Cardiff to sign Scotland interna-

The Hawthorns after just one season at

Fazio this week to kick off a hectic finale to the season.

Albion hope to complete the £5m

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Mockridge piled up the points in last week's Pitts top scorer award when he bagged a hat-trick in the 3-0 win at Tamworth.