**FATALLY**

Motorist is killed in crash on major route

A MOTORIST was killed following a crash on a major route from the Black Country into Birmingham on Monday morning. The man died in an accident on the Quinton Expressway in the early hours. The crash happened between junction three of the M5 and the Quinton island. No other cars were involved.

Paramedics arrived to find the car on fire and the driver could not be saved. The A456 Quinton Expressway, which joins onto Manor Way, Halesowen, was closed until 10am as an investigation into the crash was launched.

**FRAUDSTER**

Warning over bogus council worker con

A WARNING has been issued after a 95-year-old was targeted by a caller pretending to be a council worker.

The fraudster tried to con the elderly resident on Grace Road, in Tipton, on Monday. The conman was male, in his 40s and he was wearing dark overalls.

Councillor Pete Lowe of Sandwell Council, said: “Council officials don’t turn up without making a prior appointment. Our advice is not to open the door to people you don’t know and to ask people to show ID”.

**DEVELOPMENT**

Tycoon plans new patients’ car park

A MULTI-MILLIONAIRE developer who founded Merry Hill shopping centre wants to build a low-cost public car park opposite Dudley’s Russells Hall Hospital.

Property tycoon Roy Richardson has revealed he is considering building a car park on land he owns off the A4101 High Street – opposite the hospital.

The wealthy businessman, whose family is reported to be worth £450 million, said the site would either be free or have low charges in comparison with the hospital.

The proposals could cause friction with hospital bosses, given that the car park would be in direct competition.

**INSIDE**

MASTERCLASS

WITH SIR LENNY

**GADGET SHOW TOY SPECIAL GOES TO SCHOOL**

Presenter Jason Bradbury, who was filming with pupils playing with Christmas toys, at Lapal Primary School, Halesowen

CHRISTMAS came early for pupils at a Halesowen school when the Gadget Show team turned up with a haul of goodies for them to play with.

Youngsters from Lapal Primary School on Priory Road were filming playing with the toys alongside presenter Jason Bradbury and his team for the Christmas special.

The show previews and reviews the latest gadgets.

Amongst a huge array of toys were Furbies, Barbie dolls, Pokemon gadgets, Nerf toys and also a Skylander video game.

Joanna Turner, headteacher, said: “Jason and his team turned our school hall into a Christmas wonderland with Father Christmas himself coming to visit and bringing all the latest gadgets.

“The children, aged between six and eight, played with the latest toys so the team could get their thoughts and opinions on what’s cool and what they think about them. It was lovely to see the children being allowed to investigate and play with some of the latest toys that are set to be some of the best presents for children this Christmas.

“The presents and team set down and played with all the toys next to all the pupils. They loved playing with everything. It was really great to see them working out how the latest gadgets work.”

The pupils favour The Razer Crazy Cart Shift, a mini go-kart designed for younger drivers that allows children to drift and spin at safe speeds. Prices for the Razor Cart started from £220.

The Christmas episode of The Gadget Show featuring the Halesowen pupils will air on Channel 5 on December 16.

**CRITTER SERVICE NOW ON THIN ICE**

Report by Richard Guttridge

THE number of gritting lorries taking to the roads in the Dudley borough this winter could be cut to save money.

Gritting services will be reviewed, with cash-strapped Dudley Council aiming to save more than £100,000 over the next three years.

Further cost-cutting measures have also been revealed by the council, which needs to save £25 million by 2020.

These include closing public toilets which are underused or in a poor state of repair and dimming street lights on residential roads.

Council staff could also be forced to take five days of additional unpaid leave each year, at a time to be decided by their bosses.

This comes on top of more job losses announced at the council, which blames reduced government funding for its cuts.

The measures are included in the council’s budget proposals for the next financial year.

Bosses have also said they will consider increasing burial fees as well as hiking charges to improve value for money.

Councillor Hillsy Bills said: “People don’t need to worry about the gritting service. We employ an awful lot of lorries and we have managed to keep them in good condition. We have also introduced improvements in technology meant the borough was never needed lorries covering every road in the borough.

She said: “People don’t need to worry about the gritting service. We employ an awful lot of technology now which knows when and where we should be gritting. We don’t do a blanket grit anymore. Those days are gone. The lorries know where to grit and that’s where the savings will come from.”

Street lights could be dimmed to 60 per cent power between 11am and 5am, a move the council says could save almost £300,000.

Finance bosses have said they need to deliver savings wherever possible in order to achieve its saving target. The latest cost-cutting measures come on top of previous announcements about the closure of the Dudley Art Gallery and Museum building, while a controversial plan to axe school crossing patrols is currently out for consultation (see page 5).

Council leader Pete Lowe said: “These are difficult times we continue to find ourselves in and we have had to look at how we deliver services to make them leaner and more efficient than ever before.”

● More job losses – page 4
A RELIGIOUS leader who went on the run after being found guilty of indecently assaulting two young girls at his mosque has been sentenced to 11-and-a-half years behind bars in his absence.

Hafiz Rahman, 58, was convicted of five charges on October 7 in his absence, claiming he was too ill to attend court. But he fled the country to Bangladesh the following day.

Police are working with officers in that country to try to track him down.

Rahman, of Boulevard Road, Netherton, had been working at Queens Cross mosques in Bradley Heath in the 1980s when the abuse took place. Wolverhampton Crown Court heard how he assaulted two girls at the mosque, where they had gone for religious instruction. The victims were aged under 10 at the time.

Sentencing Rahman, Judge Nicholas Cartwright said: "There was no need to be suspicious that he would not attend his sentencing hearing so no warrant was issued for his arrest after he was convicted."

The judge said the first victim was touched in the chest area through clothes and he touched her thigh.

"He stopped when she told her mother. She has largely buried this abuse," he said.

"His other victim was in a more serious way. 

"There is clear evidence that her ability to forge relationships has been blighted, and she finds it especially difficult to enjoy the intimacy of an adult relationship."

One of the sex offender's victims said after the sentencing: "I am pleased with the sentencing. For me, this is over now."

"I just hope the police can get him back here."

A CHILDREN’s charity has questioned border controls after a Black Country mosque leader was convicted for abusing two young girls, was able to flee the country.

The NSPCC has hit out after Hafiz Rahman, of Boulevard Road, Netherton, fled to Bangladesh after being convicted of five charges of indecent assault at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

The 58-year-old claimed he was too ill to attend court and was convicted in his absence. The following day he flew to Bangladesh and has since been given a jail sentence in his absence (see left).

West Midlands Police said Rahman boarded a flight to Bangladesh on October 7, after officers had visited his home to ensure he complied with bail conditions. His name was also placed on the Police National Computer, advising officers should be alerted if he is attempted to flee the UK.

An NSPCC spokesman said: "Rahman used the trust and authority he commanded as an Imam to abuse two vulnerable young girls. These girls would have gone to the mosque believing they would be safe, but in Rahman's subject them to appalling attacks.

"Even worse, he made his victims endure the trauma of a court trial by denying the charges and causing harm and distress.

"Questions clearly needed to be answered as to how and why he managed to leave the country."

A police spokesperson said: “The police are not responsible for border checks so we cannot comment.”

Fugitive abuser sentenced in absence

Questions over how sex offender was able to flee

Drunk started fire at his ex-girlfriend’s flat

Chelsea is made up over award

A DRUNKARD whose life had been destroyed by booze started a fire at the home of his former partner, a judge heard.

Robert Gordon lost his job and 45-year marriage as a result of drinking, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

His four-year relationship with Lisa White had also hit the rocks, revealed Mr Howard Squirrel, prosecuting.

Months after that break up, the 62-year-old was found on her flat in Sydney Road, Codsley Heath, and was allowed to stay until he could find permanent accommodation.

On March 15, Ms White left the living room to prepare some food for him and returned to find the fire on fire.

Gordon, who had been drinking heavily, told her: “I am going to burn you out.”

Mr Squirrel said: "He suggested that he had lost everything because of her and now she was going to lose everything too.”

A sustainable future

Questions over how sex offender was able to flee

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Firm’s takeover is start of a new era

A STOURBRIDGE company making extraction systems has been taken over by the Telford-based Filtermist group.

Multi Fan Systems, based at Wassell Grove Business Centre, has taken ventilation and extraction systems for the likes of the University of Birmingham and Ricoh Products. Multi Fan Systems managing director David Elkins announced a deal to retire from the business, while fellow director Kevin Hood and contracts director Richard Field will continue to oversee Multi Fan contracts alongside the existing team of workers.

Mr Hood said: “The agreement with Filtermist marks the start of a new chapter for Multi Fan Systems. We are confident that Filtermist will benefit both our employees and our customers.”

Anastasia has a Brum concert date

AMERICAN singer Anastacia has announced a year-long UK tour including a concert at Symphony Hall, Birmingham, on February 8.

The Left Outside Alone singer was recently voted ‘most attractive’ by BBC TV’s Strictly Come Dancing.

Award-winning make up artist Chelsea Moore, 18, vowed judges at the Midlands Fashion Awards in Birmingham.

A TALENTED graduate from Dudley has made up for a fire at the home of his former partner, a judge heard.

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Firesighters

A cushion was set alight and the blaze spread to a chair. The flames were quickly extinguished by firefighters but the property authoried minor damage.

Gordon and his ex-partner were treated for smoke inhalation.

She later told police: “There was no reason for him to do this. We had not been arguing or anything like that.”

Mr Simon Wardlock, defending, told the court: “He has little memory of what happened. He had been drinking and is not alcohol the root cause of his problems.”

“He had been drinking heavily and did something he would normally stop. He knew he could not go back to drinking again. It explains the ending of a 45-year marriage and the fact that his two daughters, who he cares for very much, have spoken to him for a few years.”

“The seven months he has spent in custody waiting for this case to be resolved has given him time to think.”

Gordon, of no fixed address, pleaded guilty to committing arson when reckless as to whether life was endangered.

He was jailed for 18 months and banned for having contact with his former partner.

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COUNCIL bosses say they are consulting with schools across Dudley borough on the future of lollipop wardens.

The move comes in Dudley as a petition to keep them continues to gather support. The service is currently funded by Dudley Council but is set to get its funding axed because the council claim they can no longer afford to pay for it.

The council blamed budget cuts imposed upon them by a reduction in Government funding.

The council has no legal duty to fund the creating patrols and suggests that schools could fund them instead.

But more than 480 people have signed a petition to try to save the patrols and many claim schools do not have enough money to pay for them.

However, the council argues that the consultation will give schools a greater say in how they want the service to run.

Under proposals, which sees the council aiming to save £95,000, schools would fund the patrols which serve their pupils and the council would maintain the operation of the service.

But of the 125 schools invited to participate in the consultation as part of the review, as at last week only 26 had responded. The consultation closes in two weeks.

Defended

Councillor Hilary Hills, the council’s cabinet member for environmental services, has defended the authority’s move.

“The decision to review the school crossing patrol service has not been taken lightly,” she said.

“With national government continuing to reduce funding, it is inevitable that there will be an impact on local authorities. Any key services cannot be delivered in the future.

“However, it is understood that some concerns raised by schools and parents but ultimately I would remind people that it is a parent’s guardian’s responsibility to ensure children are safely taken to school. The council does not have a statutory duty to provide the service.

“As a responsible authority we will always take the safety of children very seriously. We have invested heavily in safer routes to schools which include fixed pedestrian crossing points with other measures. Drivers have a responsibility to take extra care at these locations.

Sir Lenny Henry working with pupils at Shenery Academy in Northfield, Birmingham, on their drama skills and theatre trip to Birmingham with his family. The Comic Relief co-founder said: “My mum was very hard-working and once a year she took us to watch a pantomine – the first one I saw was at the Alexandra in Birmingham.

Generation

He told the audience of young actors at Shenery Academy that the current generation have access to more opportunities to get involved with the arts at a young age and urged them to take advantage.

He added: “I think the best art is probably the art you make yourself – learning how to make up your own plays, learning how to improvise and do something you can be proud of.”

Sir Lenny was launching a National Theatre project to broadcast live productions from the London, theatre for school audiences.

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On the one hand...
A GROUP of thieves who used an imitation firearm to target four shops in one evening have been put behind bars.

Lee Cartwright, 25, from Brompton Road, Brierley Hill, Wesley Bristow, 27, from Church Road, Stourbridge, and a teenager who cannot be named for legal reasons, attempted to steal from four shops in the Brierley Hill area on the evening of September 27 last year.

They only managed to get away with cigarettes and cigarette papers from one of the shops.

The group targeted three off-licences and a fish and chip shop but were only successful in stealing from one of the off-licences. Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

Prosecuting, Graeme Molloy, said: “Across roughly two and a half hours they attempted to rob four shops at gunpoint.

“At the Premier Off Licence in Stourbridge, two of the group entered the shop and threatened the member of staff working at the time, who tried to defend himself by grabbing a glass bottle. As he did this, another bottle fell from a shelf and smashed, startling the pair and forcing them to leave.

“At the Wine Cabinet in Quarry Bank, they asked a member of staff to give them money, but the alarm was raised; they ran out of the premises.

“At King’s Way Stores in Stourbridge, they got away with an amount of cigarettes and cigarette papers.

“Their final stop was at the Rock Fryer in Brierley Hill, a fish and chip shop where again they asked a member of staff to hand over money. When one of the group attempted to grab the till, they became involved in an altercation with the manager, before running out of the shop.”

Police later found the Peugeot car, used to travel between shops, containing the cigarettes and papers.

The three were jointly charged with three counts of attempted robbery, one count of robbery and four counts of possessing an imitation firearm when committing an offence.

Each pleaded guilty, with Cartwright given a six year sentence, Bristow jailed for six years and four months and the teenager given a four years and six month sentence.

“Dad is also being protec-tive over his youngest off-spring and the baby seems very alert. We’ve even spotted Billie and Ambo both grooming the little one, so it’s likely they’re doing the right things and we’re all excited with the newest addition.”

A baby baboon is the latest arrival at Dudley Zoo

DUDLEY Zoo are welcoming a new addition to their baboon family.

The zoo’s third baboon baby was born on October 19 to first-time mum, nine-year-old Jumma and dad, Ebanu, aged 11, at the Castle Hill attraction.

Keepers are busy trying to determine the gender of the youngster and will begin brainstorming ideas for a name.

Gelada gestation is usually around six months and mothers will carry the baby on their stomach for the first few weeks, before transferring it to their back.

The youngster will begin to gain more independence around five-months-old.

Judge Reddall, primate keeper, said: “Jumma is doing a fantastic job nur-sing and caring the new-born and after having Addis and Tuna care for Billie and Ambo for the last two years, she will have picked up a thing or two.

“Dad is also being protec-tive over his youngest off-spring.”

Police found thousands of pounds worth of stolen property at the home of Ram and Ramone Treleven, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

The good had been taken during burglaries close to their address in Baylie Court, Green Road, explained Mr Howard Searle, prosecuting.

The haul, valued at more than £4,000, included jewellery, mobile phones, bicycles and games consoles stolen between July 8 and September 16.

A further wallet found at the 20-year-old’s home was linked to one of the burglaries.

There was no proof that the brothers were responsible for the burglaries but both admitted six charges of handling stolen property.

Mr Jon Roe, defending, said: “The property had been bought by them. They knew it had not been legiti-mately obtained.”

Judge James Burbidge QC told them: “Because you are young, pleaded guilty at the first opportunity and have served a few weeks in custody while the case was settled, I will suspend you for two years and ordered to do 100 hours unpaid work.

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

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

OUR changing language. I’ve lost count this week of the number of times radio and TV commentators have told us that the gap between Clinton and Trump is “tightening.” A spardier tightening, gaps narrow.

Only a few years ago, we were assured that eating eggs caused high cholesterol and clogged your arteries. Then we were told the theory was nonsense. And this week we are told that a review of 300,000 patients suggests an egg a day keeps strokes at bay.

A moment’s silence, please, for those who put their faith in the experts, stopped eating eggs and died of strokes.

Do you detect the sickly whiff of hypocrisy? Home Secretary Amber Rudd rules out a full inquiry into the 1984 Battle of Orgreave and some Labour politicians cry out for justice for the injured and convicted police.

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**New weekly market switches to Saturday over concerns**

A NEW weekly market will launch in Stourbridge town centre after the plans were backed by councillors.

The food and craft market will be held each Saturday on Lower High Street and Coventry Street.

LSD Promotions initially wanted to hold a market on Thursdays in High Street and Market Street, closing off the roads to traffic but the company was forced to rethink the proposals following opposition from traders who were concerned about the impact shutting two main streets to traffic would have on businesses.

The company went back to the drawing board and came up with new plans to move the market it already holds twice a month in the town to the pedestrianised Lower High Street and Coventry Street, and to make it a weekly event each Saturday.

Dudley Council’s licensing committee gave the revised plans the go-ahead last week.

**Boost**

Committee member Councillor Michael Evans believed the market would be a boost for Stourbridge. He said: “We felt it would be very good for the town. They are a very professional company.”

Original plans for the Thursday market were unveiled last year. LSD wanted to have stalls lining High Street and Market Street in a bid to attract more shoppers to the town and offer something different but the chamber of trade voiced concerns.

Speaking following the changes to the original plans, Dermot McGilligan, from LSD Promotions, said: “The traders were not opposed to the market but they didn’t want High Street closed. We want to get the Saturday market running then maybe look again at the Thursday market.”

**Warning after schoolgirls are approached**

SCHOOLCHILDREN have been warned not to walk alone after a man tried to lure two girls into his car in the Black Country.

The teenagers were approached by a man in a silver Peugeot near Earl’s High School, Halesowen. They managed to get away and alert teachers.

A letter was sent to parents following the incident at 7.45am on Monday last week advising children walk in groups. The teenagers were walking to the Furnace Lane school when they were approached by the man.

Assistant head Nigel Ford said the girls “skillfully managed to remove themselves from the situation”.

In the letter to parents, Mr Ford said: “We have taken advice from the police and they have asked us to inform parents and carers that it is of the utmost importance, particularly during winter months, that students commute in groups.”

**Further job losses and service cuts**

MORE than 100 jobs will go at Dudley Council during the next financial year – but the council tax will still rise by nearly four per cent, it has been announced.

A total of 110 roles will be axed at the cash-strapped council, bosses said as they revealed their budget proposals for the 2016/17 financial year.

It means that the jobs cut will be spread across the authority, which has already axed around 150 staff over the last two years. Another 60 posts are due to go by 2020.

Chiefs have also revealed that they are proposing to increase the council tax by 3.99 per cent, the maximum rise allowed without triggering a local referendum.

The move is expected to bring in £4 million for the council, which must at the same time save £15m over the next three years.

This will mean increased charges and increased parking fees set to rise across council-run car parks, burial fees likely to rise and the council to halt its funding for school crossing patrolled wardens.

Leader of Dudley Council, Councillor Pete Lowe said: “These are difficult times we continue to find ourselves in and we have had to look at how we deliver services to make them leaner and more efficient than ever before.”

**Sandwell Mayor to light up Cradley Heath**

MAYOR of Sandwell Councillor Julie Webb will switch-on the Christmas lights in Cradley Heath High Street on Saturday at 5pm.

Events get under way on the High Street from 3pm, including a festive market and funfair, while Cradley Heath Creative’s One Box will be decorated as Santa’s Grotto.

IT’S one of the famous Black Country stories. A Tipton lad, by the name of Stephen George Bull went, in the space of a few years, from working in a bullder’s yard to being in the England squad that reached the World Cup semi-final.

And now the Wolves legend and record goalscorer is telling all about his remarkable career in a new book.

Bully, Forever Wolves includes untold tales and unseen pictures from his three decades at Molineux.

The current Wolves vice-president, who scored 306 goals in gold and black, joined Wolves in November 1986 and the book will be launched on November 16 to coincide with the anniversary.

Bully tells of how he nearly died on a pre-season tour, how close he came to getting the Wolves manager’s job – and what really happened between him and Gary Lineker.

Bully also tells of how he didn’t want to leave West Bromwich Albion, whose ex-manager Ron Saunders famously discarded him, and what it was like swapping the Hawthorns for Molineux.

The book has been produced in association with the Express & Star and Wolves.

**Bully opens up about life on and off pitch**

**Nursing**

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Tel: 01562 710809

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MAYOR of Sandwell Councillor Julie Webb will switch-on the Christmas lights in Cradley Heath High Street on Saturday at 5pm.

Events get under way on the High Street from 3pm, including a festive market and funfair, while Cradley Heath Creative’s One Box will be decorated as Santa’s Grotto.

IT’S one of the famous Black Country stories. A Tipton lad, by the name of Stephen George Bull went, in the space of a few years, from working in a bullder’s yard to being in the England squad that reached the World Cup semi-final.

And now the Wolves legend and record goalscorer is telling all about his remarkable career in a new book.

Bully, Forever Wolves includes untold tales and unseen pictures from his three decades at Molineux.

The current Wolves vice-president, who scored 306 goals in gold and black, joined Wolves in November 1986 and the book will be launched on November 16 to coincide with the anniversary.

Bully tells of how he nearly died on a pre-season tour, how close he came to getting the Wolves manager’s job – and what really happened between him and Gary Lineker.

Bully also tells of how he didn’t want to leave West Bromwich Albion, whose ex-manager Ron Saunders famously discarded him, and what it was like swapping the Hawthorns for Molineux.

The book has been produced in association with the Express & Star and Wolves.
Truth of school name is in historian's sights

IN MY VIEW

banks come up with, nothing convince would be right up Comrade Mugabe's attorney general Dominic Grieve has democratic vote to frustrate the will of voters general customers' accounts.loid press over its coverage of last week's Mugabe's Zimbabwe.main's withdrawal from the EU.

all dance to a "safe space" while the lags turned after stuffing their pillows under the bed- old lags a grade two back and sides?

TO AUTUMNSALE

IN MY VIEW

ALL does not seem to be well in HM Pris-

Summer Houses FREE FITTING

Sheds

IN MY VIEW

ONLINE VIEW

JUDITH HAWKINS speaks to author and historian Terry Price about the potentially much older origins of the Guns Village place name

A picture from the 1970s of the infants entrance in Turner Street

The former Guns Village Primary School on Earl Street

Author Terry Price, with one of his West Bromwich books

It states: "Camp Bank, on West Brom-

Mr Price has highlighted a pertinent passage written by Joseph Reeves in his 1836 History of West Bromwich, which re-

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Suitable for the wall of the Cross Guns Inn during the early 1900s.

IN MY VIEW

IN MY VIEW

The sign seen outside Guns Village Primary School, which could soon be Hanbury Primary

it is our heritage and it makes me so angry that somebody is trying to eradicate it.

Instead we should be teaching our chil-

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Earnhardt's siege against Dudley Castle, AD 1644, but this was too far for execution.

This is a reference to the Cross Guns Inn, where it was said musket ball holes were still visible in the walls right through to the early 1600s.

This pub then underwent its own name change in the 1970’s to The Markman, be-

Fitted prices from

eliciting more questions on why the school’s name change, is former pupil Joyce Clarke, who said: “I think this decision has been made without having any understanding of our culture and our her-

Forest Wardens’ Books' shows Cross Guns Lane as a lane named after a nearby pub, as probably this area was. Swan Village and Swan Lane are also named after an Inn, the Swan dating from 1550.

Woods Map of West Bromwich shows the lane opposite The Cross Guns Inn as ‘Snow Hill’, neither Guns Lane or Guns Village are shown. It appears therefore that the Guns Village and district name must have come into use around 1840. It is not unusual for lanes, roads, and streets to be named after a nearby pub, as probably this area was. Swan Village and Swan Lane are also named after an Inn, the Swan dating from 1550.

383 – Reeves’ first history and trade directory shows five pistol makers in West Bromwich, but these were located at Bull Street, Churchfield, New Street, Sandwell Road and Virgins End. There were none in Cross Guns Lane. On the High Street an auctioneer listed at Protector Cottage – a reference to Oliver Cromwell, the Lord Prote-

It states: “Camp Bank, on West Brom-

Concrete Garages FREE FITTING

Concrete Garages FREE FITTING

Dudley Castle, and has written several books on the town as well as on Great Bridge.

One of those who is particularly angry at the school’s name change, is former pupil Joyce Clarke, who said: “I think this decision has been made without having any understanding of our culture and our her-

Terry Price is a meticulous re-

Mr Price says he is disheartened to see the historic name of the Guns Village Pri-

Looking at the old trade directories you can see that gun makers were actually based in other parts of West Bromwich, not north.

Mr Price said: "A lot of people have said that it is called Guns Village because guns were made in the area, but this just isn’t the case. Looking at the old trade directories you can see that gun makers were actually based in other parts of West Bromwich, not north."

Deserter

Mr Price has highlighted a pertinent passage written by Joseph Reeves in his 1836 History of West Bromwich, which re-

The Cross Guns motif or emblem was used by military

The Cross Guns Inn during the early 1900s.

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Brownsholmes Zealham School go, but highlights that it is the historic name of the Guns Village Pri-

Bob Price about on Strictly Come Dancing first of all, we have had the riot at Bed-

This is a reference to the Cross Guns Inn, where it was said musket ball holes were still visible in the walls right through to the early 1600s.

The sign seen outside Guns Village Primary School, which could soon be Hanbury Primary

On taking this into account, Mr Price has his own suggestions for a replacement name, adding: “If the name is to change, a better one would be ‘Hamblet’s Primary School’, I have never heard of ‘Hamble’ historically. “And to solve interest problems, why not call it ‘New Guns Village Primary School’?”

One of those who is particularly angry at the school’s name change, is former pupil Joyce Clarke, who said: “I think this decision has been made without having any understanding of our culture and our her-

Mr Price: “It is our heritage and it makes me so angry that somebody is trying to eradicate it.

Instead we should be teaching our chil-

FOREST WARDENS’ BOOKS’ shows Cross Guns Lane as a lane named after a nearby pub, as probably this area was. Swan Village and Swan Lane are also named after an Inn, the Swan dating from 1550.

Mr Price said: “A lot of people have said that it is called Guns Village because guns were made in the area, but this just isn’t the case. Looking at the old trade directories you can see that gun makers were actually based in other parts of West Bromwich, not north."

Mr Price said he is disheartened to see the historic name of the Guns Village Primary School go, but highlights that it is a misconception to think it relates to gun manufacturing in the area during the world wars.

Deserter

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Mr Price has highlighted a pertinent passage written by Joseph Reeves in his 1836 History of West Bromwich, which re-

Mr Price: “It is our heritage and it makes me so angry that somebody is trying to eradicate it. Instead we should be teaching our children about the past.”
Think about it before you criticise elders

Hardly a week goes by without some reference to the problems caused by the ‘baby boomers’ taking valuable facilities. This is not just upsetting and unfair but inaccurate. Ask yourselves, do older people fill our schools until there are not enough places for everyone? No, of course not. Do they seek to take all the jobs? No, of course not. Do they want to do what the average age of the inmates in our overcrowded prisons is, but I would bet it is not 65 plus?

So I say to the media, especially television, think before the term ageing population is used because as far as I know there is no thought being given to what is to happen to all the babies forming the present population explosion, many of whom will never experience work because technology has removed most of it.

Finally the prisons, I have no idea what the average age of the inmates in our overcrowded prisons is, but I would bet it is not 65 plus.

I think about it before you criticise elders.

Bostin’ busking for Action Heart charity

October 22 saw a group of performers from John Langford’s Maverick acoustic night come to the Cosy Café in Churchill precinct in Dudley. Under the banner of the Emma a Chain Show and Black Country Radio with John’s help and the support of Paul and all his staff at the café we held a Buskin’ For Local Charity day.

On this occasion we decided to support Action Heart Dudley. We all have family members or friends who for one reason or another have heart surgery or related treatment. Action Heart play such an important role in getting individuals back on their feet. John was in fact part of the team that worked on the original concept for the incredible unit at Russells Hall so it was great to see the day to support a movement close to his own heart. I can only thank all the performers, young and old who gave up their time.

A special thanks to James Telf from one of my favourite bands Missing Link for handling the sound all day and to John for using his social media influence to get all the people involved.

It was more like a pantomime and don’t think it will ever get to be a classic.

Ballet was more like a pantomime

Unfortunately, I missed Leon Burakowski’s review of The Tempest ballet however, I did read the letter from Jackie Adams in last week’s paper defending the ballet production.

Considering I could not wait to leave at the first interval I think he hit the nail on the head, as my head was thumping from the discordant and physically painful score!

I have been a fan of both traditional and modern ballet and was so looking forward to this new production.

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

“They gave us our perfect kitchen, a great local company,” Sandra Dronnelly, 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!!” Sarah & Chris Painter, Pedmore

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

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Mrs Taylor of Halesowen

“I am very happy with the kitchen... it is absolutely fantastic”

Mrs Gould of Hurst Green

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“We will Beat ANY Genuine Written Quote”
How the power of prayer saved a soldier’s life

By Luke Bartlett

A BLACK Country man survived being shot by a sniper during the Battle of the Somme – because of a small prayer book in his pocket.

It was September 1916 when Private Edwin Harris from Darlaston stormed German lines with the South Staffordshire Regiment.

After three or four weeks living in muddy, rat-infested conditions near Thiepval, his unit were sent ‘over the top’ and as they advanced towards the German lines, Private Harris was hit by sniper fire.

A bullet pierced his groin and exited just underneath his ribcage – but the prayer book took some of the potentially deadly momentum out of the projectile.

His colleagues carried him to safety on a stretcher while dodging gunfire. The story has been told for the first time by Private Harris’s son Ray. He remembers being sat down at the age of 10 by his father who wanted to explain the war wounds on his body.

Ray, who is now 87, said: “Their Sergeant called for them to keep down because there was a German sniper. The sniper had already shot several men. Apparently my dad didn’t keep down enough and he was hit.

Pocket

“The bullet went straight through the book in his pocket and then into his groin. Dad heard one of them say ‘Good God it’s gone right through him’.”

Ray, who lives in Kingswinford, explained: “They had to lift him up above the top of the trench and carry him like that. There were places the men couldn’t get the stretcher around him. He was conscious during all of it. He said there were bullets flying about him.”

After the ordeal, all of Private Harris’s possessions were sent back to his parents while he recovered. Included was the prayer book that saved his life, a bullet-hole torn right through its core.

“It’s only a little red book, about half an inch thick. It was given to me by his father – my grandfather,” said Ray. “The book is still something I look at occasionally. It’s stored away in a leather case.

“It’s just something that means an awful lot to me.”

Lucky enough to make it home, Edwin found himself battling the scars of war – both physical and mental.

“Dad did suffer from the wound for a long time afterwards,” Ray said. “As the years went on I think he might have suffered something they call Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. In those days it was different, they just had to get on with it.”

“He ended up as an insurance agent. He was a very ordinary man but it was an extraordinary experience that he went through.”

The family still care for Private Harris’s medals for his war service.
We offer a free no obligation home visit and on the spot price within 48 hrs of your call. Extra discount for our retired & disabled customers. We do the lot in 5 days.

TWO drug dealing brothers had over £6,000 worth of cocaine and cannabis along with nearly £6,000 cash at their home when it was raided by police, a judge heard.

By John Scott

Two brothers admitted possessing a set of drug paraphernalia, a grinder and several dealer lists when they were stopped by police on June 20 in Stourbridge Road, Dudley. Police discovered a set of digital scales, a grinder and several dealer lists when they swooped on the property in Stourbridge Road, Dudley, and a car parked outside on June 20.

Mr Jasvir Mann, defending both men, said: “They rue the day that they became involved with drugs. These offences were blips in what has been otherwise productive and law abiding lives.”

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Garden waste bin collections are having a break for the winter. There will be no green bin collections from 5 December 2016 until 24 February 2017

Garden waste can be taken to the Household Recycling Centre, (the tip) in Shidas Lane, Oldbury, B69 2BP. Open 8am to 4pm every day.

For your bin collection dates visit:

www.sandwell.gov.uk/binday

Niron Parker-Lee – suspect is dangerous and should not be approached by the public

POLICE have named a key suspect wanted in connection with a murder in Brierley Hill.

Niron Parker-Lee, 19, from Brierley Hill, is wanted in connection with the death of 24-year-old Mansoor Mahmood. A murder probe was launched after Mr Mahmood was found stabbed in the stomach on the High Street at around 4.45pm on October 15, when he staggered bleeding into a shop. Fatally wounded, he later died in hospital.

Detective Inspector Harry Harrison, from West Midlands’ Police homicide team, said: “It’s important we locate Niron Parker-Lee as soon as possible. I would urge anyone with information about his whereabouts to contact us. Someone knows where this man is and I’d remind them that harbouring a wanted man is a criminal offence.” Parker-Lee is described as dangerous and should not be approached the public. Anyone who can help is urged to contact police on 101 or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111. Any sightings of Niron Parker-Lee should be reported to police immediately by calling 999.

Suspect is named in stabbing murder case

By John Scott

Thursday, November 10, 2016

Halesowen Chronicle
Mountain of rubbish is finally cleared away

IT has cost £2 million to remove a notorious rubbish heap that once towered 40ft near homes in Brierley Hill.

The mountain of waste has finally been completely cleared after blighting the area for seven years.

The former RDF site off Moor Street has been an infamous eyesore since 2009, after the firm allowed tonnes of waste to mount up.

The dispute over who was responsible went all the way to the High Court and in 2013 RDF company director Robert McNaughton was jailed for failing to remove the rubbish.

Even after this legal action the gigantic waste heap remained, much to the frustration of residents whose homes overlooked the site. It has now been removed after agreement between the Environment Agency, the council and landowner, which saw the latter pick up the £2 million bill.

The rubbish was piled high and left so long that plants had started to grow on it.

The clear-up was overseen by the Environment Agency, and conducted by contractors Broad Environmental, with the equivalent of 10 Olympic-sized swimming pools full of rubbish removed over 10 months.

“The final scraps of rubbish were moved by a digger last week, leaving a clear expanse of land and empty warehouse now likely to be used for homes,” said Mr Lidderth.

“In total there was 25,000 cubic metres of waste and to put that into context, that’s around about the size of 10 Olympic-sized swimming pools.”

The team from contractors Broad Environmental, who were given the mammoth task, also discovered that there was about 10,000 cubic metres more rubbish than initially thought, meaning that the whole operation has taken even more time.

“The landowner has effectively paid for the complete removal of this waste from the site, which has meant there has been no expense to the taxpayer. The landowner has had to spend in the region of £2 million,” said Mr Lidderth. “This is clearly a strong reminder and warning to landowners out there about the consequences and ultimately the responsibility they have about clearing waste from their land.”

The chocolate fountain and freshly made Crepe/pancake table always go down very well with guests and make great show pieces at any party or group get together.

Remember, your going to need More Storage Space after Christmas!!!
Donations pouring in for family after crash tragedy

A FUNDRAISING campaign in memory of motorcycleist who died in a road accident in Halesowen has now passed the £6,800 mark.

A commission has been launched by the family of Mr Winters after the accident last year which killed his adored father. He had been riding his motorcycle on October 30, when he was struck by a car near Kidderminster.

Mr Winters’ family said they were devastated by his death. He was father to two boys, Freddie, aged three, and one-month-old Rupert.

Pledged

Paramedics and passers-by battled to save Mr Winters after accident but he was pronounced dead at the scene.

Hundred have pledged cash after Mr Tisdall, from Kidderminster, set up the JustGiving page. He said: “Tom was an adored father, son, husband, brother and friend. Tom touched the lives of many with his kindness, compassion and beautiful humour. He will be missed greatly.

We are raising money to go to Tom’s partner Daisy and two young boys.

“The money will help them with unexpected expenses and will also be used to help the boys have a special Christmas during this traumatic time.”

Two ambulances and the Midlands Air Ambulance were called to the scene at Manor Way after the crash happened near the Hagley Road junction at around 9.30am.

Family appeal to trace teenager

An appeal has been launched by West Mercia Police to trace a teenage boy who went missing from his home.

The teenager went missing at 8pm on November 4, 2016, from his home in Hawthorn Coppice, near Hagley, but has not been seen since.

“Those on board knew the Cold War was over, but carried on for at least 10 minutes.”

Mr Windridge continued, “Those on board knew the Cold War was over, but carried on for at least 10 minutes.”

Neither 38-year-old Burton, of Balsall Heath, Birmingham, nor his passengers – a Simon Lovo, 39, from Dale Close, Tipton and Thomas Tible, 21, of Clinic Drive, Stourbridge – admitted stealing the red traffic light or careered through Warwickshire without sirens, knocking down a road sign, and then clipped the kerb and tore off at speed. They were unable to get help when they became homeless and it’s time we took action.”

Adeveloper has now come forward with plans to demolish the derelict pub and build nine apartments in its place.

Nothing has been empty for more than 10 years.

A campaign was launched by West Mercia Police to trace a teenage boy who went missing from his home.

Police are appealing for information after a lorry was stolen.

The incident happened just after 7pm on Saturday, October 22, in the area of Halesowen, near Stourbridge.

A spokesman for West Mercia Police said: “The incident happened just after 7pm on Saturday, October 22, in the area of Halesowen, near Stourbridge.

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Nothing has been empty for more than 10 years.
Night sparks 350 calls

BONFIRE Night brought double the number of incidents for the West Midlands fire service this year – with over 350 call-outs.

As thousands of people braved the cold on Saturday to catch a glimpse of some of the Black Country’s best firework displays, authorities reported that they received 350 calls during the evening, up from 197 the previous year.

However, the majority of the calls were to small secondary, outdoor fires, mostly after people had lit bonfires on grass. They were also called to instances of smoke going into people’s homes.

At Himley Hall, crowds gathered to celebrate the event’s 40th year. Its biggest bonfire to date saw more than 1,500 wooden pallets used to build the bonfire and two kilometres of fuse wire was used to electronically spark the impressive fireworks.

Wolverhampton Racecourse’s display was led by Signal 107 and included Stavros Flatley and heard Britain’s Got Talent stars Stavros Flatley and included a music stage. However, the firework display at Dartmouth Park, West Bromwich, left some visitors disappointed.

The event, which was the busiest in years, allegedly saw some visitors turned away by security who were trying to keep control of the crowds.

Sandwell council released a statement on their Facebook page regarding the event. It said: “We’re sorry to hear from people who were disappointed by the bonfire night at Dartmouth Park. It was incredibly busy and we’re taking on board your feedback to understand the issues and help us organise future events.”

An explosion of colour at the Walsall Arboretum’s fireworks display

Crowds seen enjoying all the fun of the fair at Walsall Arboretum

A fantastic silhouette of fireworks revellers at Walsall

Himley Hall seen during the attraction’s big event, which was in its 40th year
That’s spooky! We just got engaged on Halloween night.

A COUPLE who are horror movie fans got engaged at a spooky Hall- o-ween night in a first for the Black Country Living Museum.

Jade Jones, from Wolve- hampton, agreed to assist during a knife- throwing show, when she thought she had been randomly chosen as a volunteer from the audience by the performers at the Tipton Road at- traction.

Little did she know that the two knife throwers were in on the act as they blindfolded the 21-year-old.

Propose

Boyfriend Daniel Guy, 21, from Can- neck, got down on one knee to propose in front of an excited crowd.

A surprised Jade said yes.

Jade and Daniel first met five years ago as friends when students on an animal care course at Rock- has- ton College. They only recently got back in touch with each other after a personal tragedy saw Jade lose her baby Alfie.

Sam, who comes from a travelling community and asked her mother’s permission first, said they’re now set for a big fat gypsy wedding in sum- mer 2018.

“I want to thank the museum for everything they did,” Jade, who wasn’t expecting the proposal, said. “It was a total surprise. And we’ve gone viral online – it’s had 8,200 views.”

Knife thrower Stephen Harley said: “It was a great honour to be a part of Black Country Living Mu- seum making dreams a reality.”

Drugs farm in house was found by chance

POLICE found a drugs farm in Dudley capable of produc- ing up to £10,000 worth of cannabis by chance.

Officer’s attention to the address on an unrelated inquiry, Wolve- hampton Crown Court on November 28.

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Bags of help boost community projects

TWO nature reserves and two community garden pro- jects in the Dudley borough will receive cash windfalls. Saltwells Nature Reserve, Pens Pool Nature Reserve, the Growing our Community Together project and Jas- mine Road Community Gardens will each receive a min- imum of £8,000 from the Tesco Bags of Help scheme.

The scheme is being run by Tesco and Groundwork under the 5p shopping bag levy.

People can help to boost the amount for each project to £10,000 or £12,000 by voting in participating Tesco stores.

The money will be used to create a sculpture trail at Saltwells Nature Reserve and to make improvements to footpaths and signs around the Backpool at Pens Pool Nature Reserve.

People can vote in store on Sunday at the Cradley Health Extra store and the Bowley Regis Express store for Saltwells and at Tesco stores on Bromley Lane, Moss Grove and Pensnett High Street for the community garden or Pens Pool project. People can vote in the Tesco Extra store at Burnt Tree for the Jasmine Road gardens.

School pays tribute to crash victim Georgie

A SCHOOL is mourning a former student who died in a car crash in Dudley.

Georgie Ann Evans – former Kinver High School pupil

13HalesowenChronicleThursday, November 10, 2016

She was a genuinely lovely girl who worked really hard and was a very kind person,” said her former teacher in year 7, Luke Trowbridge. “She was always smiling and had a great sense of humour.”

Kuba Oles, 24, of Beacon View Road, West Bromwich, appeared at Dudley Magistrates Court charged with causing death by dangerous driving.

The 21-year-old had his driving licence revoked and was sentenced to 15 months in prison and told to perform 150 hours of unpaid community work. Judge Marcus Tregilgas-Davey said: “I don’t think there is one reasonable offer refused.”

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Failed uprising created shockwaves that were felt in Wolverhampton

IT lasted less than three weeks but the Hungarian uprising that convulsed Budapest exactly 60 years ago sent shockwaves throughout Europe that reverberated even as far as Wolverhampton.

It was to this Black Country city that dozens of Hungarian refugees, fleeing Russian tanks sent in to quash the rebellion, found sanctuary. Among them was an eight-year-old boy and his mother who had escaped by rail and foot across the Austrian border and arrived in Tettenhall via the Cannock Chase wartime training camp at Brotton.

Now 69, Imre Tolgyesi still vividly remembers the day the uprising reached Gyor, the town, about the size of Wolverhampton, where he lived with his mother and grandparents.

“I was playing with friends when the Russian tanks came,” he said. “The Monopolist troops were shooting at the demonstrators. I was so frightened, I ran home and hid until my mother, who worked as a cinema usherette, came home. A few days later she told me we were going for a train ride, she didn’t say where to. We left with nothing.”

Hungary, cold, fear and exhaustion followed but there were also many acts of kindness that made the journey across Germany and Belgium, and, by boat, to England and the Black Country, tolerable.

But Imre Tolgyesi’s life is extraordinary not only for his perilous escape from the Communist dictators who took over his homeland.

Just as remarkable is the life he made for himself in Wolverhampton, as an upstanding citizen of his adopted home and a pillar of the local Hungarian community.

Such has been his contribution that the Hungarian government has just awarded him the Order of Vitez, the equivalent of a British knighthood, in a ceremony in Budapest. The terrified eight-year-old could not have imagined he would one day return to the capital to receive his country’s highest civic honour. But it is clear that despite a distance of more than 1,000 miles and six decades, part of Imre Tolgyesi never left Gyor.

Eclectic

His terraced house in Tettenhall, just off the village green, is crammed with moments of his life and love, an eclectic mix of both cultures, for he has also embraced his adopted country.

There are richly-coloured tapestries, an Hungarian banjo’s hat hanging from a peg and statuettes in Hungarian national costume but there are also quintessentially English artefacts such as horse brasses, a photograph of the Queen and, greeting visitors from the front door, a Beefeater figurine.

Among his extensive archive material is an essay he wrote at Wolverhampton Secondary Modern in 1963. The essay is entitled Escape From Hungary, which included the darkest moments of that journey, being followed by the secret police after he and his mother found themselves lost in a forest, as well as the light-hearted, like their amusement at the sight of the double-decker buses that were sent to Dover to pick them up.

After leaving school, he worked as an apprentice plumber and then a silver service waiter and cocktail bartender at The Mount Hotel, Tettenhall before starting his own takeaway sandwich business. But for 35 years of his working life, he was employed by Wolverhampton social services, initially as an ambulance driver and later as a day centre officer, looking after the elderly and people with learning difficulties.

Alongside his paid work, the married father-of-three volunteering as a boy scout leader, has been a justice of the Peace since 1989 and has assisted Hungarian elders in the city for the last three decades.

In 2003 he helped establish the Hungarian Cultural Association.

MEMORY LANE

Report by Marion Brennan

Honoured – Imre Tolgyesi Stanley, of Tettenhall
Jaws 2 as Brum band bite back

BY LEON BURAKOWSKI

SIMPLICITY, second album from Jaws, is a Brummie blend of dream pop with swirling shoegazer rock.

Formed in the Second City four years ago, the trio have been identified with the ‘B-Town scene’ which also produced Peace and Swim Deep, and they toured with the former after the re-release of their debut album Be Slowly in 2014.

Simplicity is likable but not perfect, Connor Schofield’s voice seems low in influence but is let down by some baggy production, the latter with four extra tracks.

Murs is due to play three consecutive nights in Birmingham Academy 2 on November 19.

Birmingham indie band Jaws are back with second album Simplicity — Alex Morris’ band bite back.

Jaws 2, their debut album, was released in standard and deluxe versions, the latter with four extra tracks.

Jaws 2 as Brum in 2014.

Connor Schofield’s voice seems low in December 2.

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Swirling shoegazer rock.

Jaws, is a Brummie blend of dream pop with swirling shoegazer rock.

From pop punk to stadium rock, Oakland’s over-rated Green Day have become the kind of rock dinosaurs they once wanted to subvert. Well, that’s getting older for you. And probably nobody would have guessed that their back catalogue would have provided a musical theatre hit in American Idiot.

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Swirling shoegazer rock.
Getting to the point with winter flu jab facts

Flu season is here again—and so is the debate about whether or not we should sign up for a vaccination. Abi Jackson gets to the point.

They may share some similar symptoms—like a sore throat, runny or stuffy nose—but the flu and colds are two different things, and neither is as easy to shake as you might think. Far more than just a ‘bad cold’, the flu can leave you feeling pretty run down.

While a cold can bring on aching limbs, headaches, general exhaustion and make you feel pretty run down, a flu is generally much more severe, you’ll probably struggle to get out of bed and there’s often a fever as well.

For some people, flu can be quite debilitating and possibly lead to serious complications. The World Health Organisation estimates that, globally, flu causes up to half a million deaths each year, which is why it’s a good idea to be clued up about the vaccines available.

The NHS offers flu jabs for free to certain groups, while others not eligible can opt to pay for it.

Up-to-date advice if you experience symptoms. It’s best to try and avoid contact with others, and if you can, stay at home. If your symptoms are severe, or you have pre-existing health problems. Complications can arise, including worsening of any ongoing health conditions, such as asthma and diabetes.

Who is eligible for a free flu jab?

The NHS provides free flu jabs for people deemed more at risk from flu. As well as the over-65s, and those with long-term health conditions, there are certain groups who also have a strong and up-to-date immune system, they are also eligible to receive a jab. A free flu jab is also available for young children.

I had a job last year - do I need another jab?

Yes - because flu viruses are constantly mutating, so new vaccines are developed each season. "With many illnesses, one jab will keep you immunized for the rest of your life. Unfortunately, the flu virus is very clever and changes, so it is important to build up an immune response to the vaccines we produce," explains Dr Simon. "That’s why you need to have a new flu jab every year to stay up to date.

Preparing the food for a second time, adding the herbs, lemon zest and olive oil and vinegar and to the dressing, pour it over the char-grilled leeks. Garnish with pine nuts and rocket. Toss together well. Taste to check the seasoning and tip onto a serving dish, sprinkling with pine nuts just before you serve the salad.

By Sophie Madden

THE British Leek season has begun!

We head into colder months, the Leek Growers’ Association is urging people not to forget the benefits of the British leek as the fat-free, nutrient rich answer to staying healthy and helping combat colds this winter.

From keeping shores threats at bay by improving the quality of the environment, this ‘upmarket onion’ or ‘poor man’s asparagus’ is a must have on shopping lists across the country as the British leek season kicked off on November 1 and runs through to April. Mere reduced, subtle and sweet than the average onion and packed with anti-oxidants, the leek has long been treasured in Europe and the Mediterranean where it has been grown and cooked for more than 3,000 years. Rich in iron, vitamin B6, vitamin C and folate it is used in traditional medicine to treat a variety of ailments including the common cold, gout, ‘bad’ cholesterol, kidney stones as well as protecting against heart disease.

Both the France and England call the leek, ‘poireau’ which also means ‘simpleton’ in Europe.

Agatha Christie named one of her most favorite characters, the French detective Poirot, after the leek.

The Greek philosopher, Aristotle, credited the clear voice of the partridge to a diet of leeks.

It is widely reported the Roman Emperor Nero (37-68 AD) ate leeks in quantity, cooked in oil, to improve his singing voice. He became known as Porophagus or ‘leek eater’.

Even the bible mentions leeks. The Levites lamented the loss of one of their favorite foods as they searched for the Promised Land.

St David, the Patron Saint of Wales, ordered his soldiers to wear leeks on their helmets in battle to differentiate themselves from the invading enemy, the Saxons.

The leek is widely recognised as the national symbol of Wales.

In Hamlet, Shakespeare refers to the custom of wearing a leek as ‘an ancient tradition’. Shakespeare tells Hamlet he is wearing a leek, "for I am Welsh, you know, countryman."

In traditional medicine, the leek is highly regarded as a cure for the common cold, alleviating the pains of childbirth and a tasty, healthy ingredient in cawl, the traditional Welsh broth.

The leek has long been treasured in Europe and the Mediterranean...

LEEK RECIPES

Chargrilled leek, courgette and herb salad

SERVES 4

400g baby leeks
400g courgettes
Zest of ½ a lemon
12 basil leaves, shredded
Small handful parsley, chopped
20g pine nuts, toasted
½ tsp honey
1 tbsp white wine vinegar
3 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
A handful of rocket
Salt and pepper

Remove any tough outer leaves from the baby leeks. Bring a pan of salted water to the boil and blanch the leeks for 2 minutes. Drain and refresh under cold water. Drain once again and pat dry with kitchen paper to remove any excess water.

Slice the courgettes into eight lengthways and remove the seeds with a sharp knife. Place in a large bowl with the leeks, drizzle with a little oil and season with salt and pepper.

Heat a char-grill pan until smoking and add the vegetables, in batches, so you don’t overcrowd the pan. Cook for 2-3 minutes on each side until lightly charred and keep to one side.

To make the dressing, whisk together the honey, mustard, olive oil and vinegar with a little salt and pepper.

Pour the dressing over the char-grilled vegetables, adding the herbs, lemon zest and rocket. Toss well together. Taste to check the seasoning and tip onto a serving dish, sprinkling with pine nuts just before you serve the salad.

There are many ways to enjoy sweet, subtle leeks

The British leek season kicked off on November 1 and runs through to April.

Lovely leeks will leave you feeling energised

The leek has long been treasured in Europe and the Mediterranean. Lovely leeks will leave you feeling energised.
Nothing to lose but inhibitions

They can keep their hat on – the cast of The Full Monty, the musical about steel workers who become strippers.

THE hit musical about jobless Yorkshire steel workers who find a revealing way to make money, The Full Monty, arrives at Birmingham Hippodrome on Monday for a six day run.

Nearly 20 years ago the movie about six out-of-work Sheffield steelmen, left with nothing to lose but inhibitions, went on to be one of the most successful British films. The story still resonates in an age of job insecurity.

Simon Beaufoy, the Oscar and BAFTA-winning writer, adapted his own screenplay for the hilarious and heartfelt stage production, which features iconic songs by Donna Summer, Hot Chocolate and Tom Jones.

This touring production of the former West End hit is led by Gary Lucy as Gaz, with Andrew Dunn as Gerald, Louis Emerick as Horse, Chris Fountan as Guy and Kai Owen as Dave. Anthony Lewis will now be playing the role of Lomper as Joe Absolon had to withdraw due to filming commitments.

Anthony Lewis is best known as Mari Reynolds in Kimmadoodle. Gary Lucy played Danny Pennant in EastEnders, DS Will Fletcher in The Bill, Kyle Pauco in Forthright’s Wives and Lukie Morgan in Hollyoaks, and was a runner-up of Let it Shine.

Andrew Dunn is best known as Tony in Dinnerladies, while Louis Emerick played Mick Johnson in the Merseyside soap Brookside and PC Walsh in the long-running sitcom Last of the Summer Wine.

Chris Fountain played Tommy Brockway in Coronation Street and was a runner-up of Dancing on Ice. Kai Owen is best known for his role in Torchwood and Hollyoaks.

Directed by Roddy, who is best known for playing Jamie Mitchell in EastEnders, also directed the national touring production of last show Calendar Girls.

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For more information or to book, please call: 01902 519414
Katie meets with local resident, a woman who is -*name removed*- years old, to discuss the impact of the war on the community. She also visits a school, where she talks to students about the importance of remembering the events of the past.
**New drama hopes to be a novel success**

A dress Phoebe Fox is clearly in demand at the moment – she can be seen in Stephen Pollock's latest series Our Girls, on BBC One's drama banner. She then chromed up in another one of BBC One's most prestigious offerings, The Crown.

Adapted from Zadie Smith's best-selling novel, the feature-length drama follows Natalie (Nikki Amuka-Bird) and Leah (Fox), two friends who grew up together in north-east London, but whose lives have taken them in very different directions.

Phoebe explains: "Leah and Natalie both grew up on the same estate, they are best friends but they have reached a point in their lives where they are so far away from each other.

"Natalie's lost sight of who she is and it's hard for a friendship to survive when you don't recognise your best friend anymore. They love each other but they also sort of hate each other's guts. It's a very complicated relationship."

Her co-star Nikki adds: "Natalie starts out as Keisha. From a modest background, she's incredibly intelligent and driven, and pushes herself on to university, eventually coming up against genuine anti-Semitism and the realisation that the perfect man has two children – she seems like she has this 'It's her time' attitude."

"She's a miracle of her own self-invention, but she reaches a point in her mid thirties when she asks herself, am I living an existential crisis? It's at this time that she meets Natalie in NW.""}

So, at least she still has something in common with Leah, who is tugging at those bag edges of her own. Phoebe says: "It's a rollercoaster ride. Leah is quite labour for women to talk about, and that's what you have to have. That's her main story within the book and the screenplay. We see her having to confront something which is seen as being so fundamentally female."

"It's one of the elements that draw the audience to the side. It's very rare to see such finely drawn female characters, for them to be dealing with issues that are so true to life, instead of worrying about whether a guy likes them or not."

"As an actress you spend a lot of time in those kinds of roles, falling in and out of love with the right and the wrong man, so actually addressing deeper issues was really exciting. A lot of my friends don't want to have kids. It's not a cut and dry issue for our generation, so I think it's very real – that really appealed to me."

"And it's not just the characters that feel authentic - the contemporary London setting did too. Asked what viewers can expect from NW, Phoebe said: "I expect a portrait of London with a different feel to how it is in the city and it's inhabitants, in all its contradictions but also all of its glory."

The drama shows that Leah and Natalie are being in an area where poverty and wealth are just streets apart – and when they are both brought into contact with each other characters from their old estate, the tensions threaten to break reaching point.

---

**BEST OF THE REST**

**Halesowen Chronicle** Thursday, November 10, 2016

**Wednesday**

**Fifty Dead Men Walking, BBC1, 11.45pm**

Fact-based thriller telling the story of Martin Freeman, the famous British cricketer who took the wicket of the first Indian batsman to score a century in test cricket in 1921. The film follows his journey from a promising young player to a hardened professional, and delves into the personal and emotional challenges he faced on and off the field.

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**Thursday**

**Little Women, starring Julie Marie Berman, (2012)**

Starring Jim Sturgess and Ben Kingsley. (2008)


**Fifty Dead Men Walking, BBC1, 11.45pm**

**FRIDAY**

**Live International Football**

**ITV, 7.30pm**

England v Spain (Kick-off 8.00pm). Mark Pougatch presents coverage of the friendly at Wembley Stadium. As Gareth Southgate takes charge of the fourth and final game of his short stint as England manager. Southgate stepped up from his Under-21s boss to take the reins of the senior team in the wake of Sam Allardyce’s shock departure after just one match, and has been seen by many as an ideal candidate for the job full-time. No decision has yet been taken by the FA, but the former Middlesbrough defender will be keen to impress his superiors with a good performance here against the world number one.

**TUESDAY**

**Live Football**

**ITV, 7.30pm**

England v Spain (Kick-off 8.00pm). Mark Pougatch presents coverage of the friendly at Wembley Stadium. As Gareth Southgate takes charge of the fourth and final game of his short stint as England manager. Southgate stepped up from his Under-21s boss to take the reins of the senior team in the wake of Sam Allardyce’s shock departure after just one match, and has been seen by many as an ideal candidate for the job full-time. No decision has yet been taken by the FA, but the former Middlesbrough defender will be keen to impress his superiors with a good performance here against the world number one.

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**Eastenders** performs a dance medley of 1980s movie classics and a children’s choir of over 1,500 members sings in unison across the nation. Plus, an explosive first look of the Dr Who Christmas special. 8.30 Graham Norton and Ade Edmondson host as a group of children receives a very special surprise from Little Mix. Plus, an Olympic-themed Strictly Come Dancing featuring some of the members of Team GB. 9.00 Miolo Gjedrem and Sue Perkins help Oscar-winning actor Eddie Redmayne in his quest to find Putsy Bear. 9.30 The final of The One Show’s amazing rock challenge. Plus, the first winner of The Sir Terry Wogan Fundraiser of the Year Award is announced and Craig David is in the studio to perform the official Children in Need single. All We Needed.

**Rick Stein’s Long Weekends**

**BBC2, 9pm**

The presenter visits the home of New Nordic cuisine – Copenhagen – where he goes foraging for seafood and learns about the art of picking bduck, barn and flowers. He’s charmed to find plenty of traditional favourites, such as the city’s famous Smørrebrod open sandwiches on rye bread, delicious poached turbot with cabbage and lemon butter sauce – and of course – the ubiquitous Danish pastry.

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Codeword

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

Quick Clues:

Down
1. Crying (8)
2. Arrogant (5)
3. Stable (6)
4.驾驶员 (5)
5. Excessive spending (12)
6. West (7)
7. Provok (4)
8. Recovering (12)
12. Observer (8)
14. Dither (7)
16. Jail (6)
18. Perfect (5)
19. Band (4)

Across
1. Imitate (4)
2. Arrogant (5)
3. Stable (6)
4. Driver (5)
5. Excessive spending (12)
6. West (7)
7. Provok (4)
8. Recovering (12)
12. Observer (8)
14. Dither (7)
16. Jail (6)
18. Perfect (5)
19. Band (4)

Sudoku

SOLUTIONS

Last week’s solutions:

CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC: Across: 6 Samp; 7 Lise; 9 Sara; 13 Knights; 12 Polyester; 14 Resistance; 16 Road; 19 Engineers; 21 Earl; 23 Brakes; 24 Move; 25 Park. Down: 1 Take; 2 Lark; 3 The; 4 Single; 5 Scare; 8 Uniforms; 13 Pictures; 15 Scissors; 16 Canvas; 17 Fence; 20 End. QUICK: Across: 6 Machine; 7 Alex; 9 Mike; 10 Uniforms; 12 Socks; 13 Butter; 14 Fashions; 15 Fashionable; 18 Snub; 19 Truel; 20 LOAD. Down: 1 React; 2 Launch; 3 The; 4 Single; 5 Stable; 8 Uman; 11 Present; 13 Desired; 15 Solder; 17 Enter; 19 Enter; 21 Infancy. 

Last week’s solutions:

Codeword

Across
1. A young animal (4)
2. Lucky jointed (8)
9. So sure I can be in earnest (7)
16. To compel payment (5)
18. A point to the story is not ethical (5)
19. The country is unthrifty, ina way (6)
20. Not as upset by a stranger (8)
21. Party bear a cheerless affliction (7)
22. Presides badly over the meeting (8)
23. dirty concealed in this, I suppose (4)

Down
1. Put a later time for staff appointment (8)
2. A capital participant in the Trojan War (8)
5. Used to be deposited (6)
6. Painter and composer of oratorios (7)
7. What one must do to provide a levy (4)
8. What the judge may deliver, consisting of many clauses (4,8)
12. Part less damaged when they are medically applied (8)
14. They take part in raids and in scraps (7)
15. They count up the reptiles (8)
16. What must be paid, we hear, for carpel fasteners (5)
19. Measure a paved area (4)

Cryptic Clues:

Across
1. Point to the story (8)
2. Used to be deposed (4)
3. Lock-jointed! (8)
4. Used to be deposed (4)
5. Stable (6)
6. Painters and mer curial recorders (4)
7. From what fruit is the alcoholic drink made? (7)
8. What is the common name of the annual plant Lycopersicon esculentum? (8)
9. Which is the largest desert? (8)
10. In which city did the Peterloo massacre take place? (8)
11. A young animal and a young insect (4)
12. What the judge may deliver, consisting of many clauses (4,8)
13. Ay young animal and Ay young insect( 4)
14. Ay oung insect( 4)
15. Ay oung animal and Ay oung insect( 4)
16. Ay young insect( 4)
17. Ay oung animal and Ay oung insect( 4)
18. Ay young animal and Ay young insect (4)
19. Ay oung animal and Ay young insect( 4)
20. Ay young animal and Ay young insect (4)
21. Ay young animal and Ay young insect( 4)
22. Ay young animal and Ay young insect( 4)
23. Ay oung animal and Ay young insect (4)

Down
1. Crying (8)
2. Arrogant (5)
3. Stable (6)
5. Excessive spending (12)
6. West (7)
7. Provok (4)
8. Recovering (12)
12. Observer (8)
14. Dither (7)
16. Jail (6)
18. Perfect (5)
19. Band (4)

Quick Clues:

Across
1. Imitate (4)
3. Estimated (8)
9. Incite (7)
10. Taut (5)
11. One by one (12)
12. Numberless (6)
13. Hurry (8)
14. They take part in raids and in scraps (7)
15. They count up the reptiles (8)
16. What must be paid, we hear, for carpel fasteners (5)
19. Measure a paved area (4)

Down
1. Crying (8)
2. Arrogant (5)
3. Stable (6)
4. Drivers (5)
5. Excessive spending (12)
6. West (7)
7. Provok (4)
8. Recovering (12)
12. Observer (8)
14. Dither (7)
16. Jail (6)
18. Perfect (5)
19. Band (4)

Thinking space

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

PUZZLES

PUZZLES

PUZZLES

PUZZLES

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It’s no secret now, this Italian restaurant was just the job

ITALIAN has always been a personal preference so when our six-year wedding anniversary came up we decided it would be the perfect excuse to sample one of the local eateries.

There is just something about the food, wine and atmosphere that seems to tick all the boxes for such occasions.

Our choice was Cafe Casita, in Clarence Street, Dudley, which we had previously been assured had a lovely relaxed and rustic feel about it.

It was exactly what we had hoped for with the set up being not too posh but fancy enough to enjoy a special meal.

Under the management of Anna and Erminio who have a passion for creating a memorable experience, the restaurant specialises in seafood – particularly Dover sole, salmon, monkfish, seabass and lemon sole – which again ticked all the boxes for us.

Choosing a meal was a seriously hard task because of the options available but a decision had to be made and Kelly’s eyes were immediately drawn to the chef’s specials, the sea bass in particular, which came with a sauce, root vegetables and a bed of mash potatoes.

After much deliberation Kelly opted for fungi in crosta, mushrooms wrapped in filo pastry topped with a light creamy infusion of bacon, mushrooms and mozzarella.

My choice was salsiccia picante, spicy Italian sausage oven-baked with a combination of peppers, onions and tomatoes. The sauce for the salsiccia picante was rich, thick and bursting with tomato and garlic.

Kelly’s starter was probably the polar opposite because, still packed full of flavour, it was a much lighter option and really very tasty. Perhaps one of the nicest things about the whole evening was at no point did we feel rushed.

Having tried numerous fish-based dishes in restaurants I can safely say the tagliolini gameroni was up there with the best.

Choosing a meal was a seriously hard task because of the options available but a decision had to be made and Kelly’s eyes were immediately drawn to the chef’s specials, the sea bass in particular, which came with a sauce, root vegetables and a bed of mash potatoes.

The sea bass was cooked very nicely and remained slightly crispy on the outside.

I went with what I knew I’d love and ordered the tagliolini gameroni, Italy’s finest noodles, according to the menu, tossed in king prawns, garlic and cherry tomatoes, served in a creamy sauce with a touch of chilli.

Having tried numerous fish-based dishes in restaurants I can safely say the tagliolini gameroni was up there with the best. Having had starters, a few side dishes and a main meal there was no room for a sweet course, so we kindly passed on the dessert menu although the tiramisu did look tempting.

The cafe-style decor of the venue really does add to the experience because, although it’s nothing like your run-of-mill greasy spoon, the seating, layout and general feel of the restaurant is designed to make diners feel at home.

Café Casita classes itself as one of the Black Country’s best kept secrets within the dining scene.

The restaurant was packed while we were there and everyone seemed to be enjoying the atmosphere and food as much as we were – so perhaps it won’t be a best kept secret for much longer.

By James Driver-Fisher
A stunning and modern detached family home

Pleasantly situated in a highly sought after village address, 66a Foundry Road, Wall Heath, Dudley, is a stunning and substantial modern four-bedroomed detached family house.

Having impressively spacious, luxury double glazed and centrally heated accommodation over three floors, enhanced by a large full width conservatory extension and two en-suite shower rooms, it is for sale through Taylors at £299,950 with no chain. It is well placed for the village shops and commuter links.

A spokesman for the selling agent said: “Viewing is highly recommended for the pleasant setting and superb layout to be fully appreciated.”

In more detail the reception hall has stairs off, an under-stairs store cupboard, spotlights and tiled flooring and there is a ground floor WC.

The lounge has a living flame style gas fire with a marble-style feature fireplace surround, double doors with windows either side to the conservatory and further glazed double doors opening to a separate formal dining room.

Beautifully appointed, the kitchen has light-wood style units with black granite working surfaces and a door to the large full width conservatory extension.

This has mirrored windows to the right hand side, tiled flooring and French-style doors to the rear garden. On the first floor landing is stairs leading up to the second floor.

Bedroom one has open views to the rear and an en-suite shower room with a corner shower cubicle with a curved screen door, contemporary glass wash basin and a push button flush WC and full height wall tiling and floor tiling and a Velux roof window.

Bedroom three has a window to the front, as does bedroom four. The house bathroom has a classic white suite including a spa bath. Off the second floor is bedroom two with two Velux roof windows, a store cupboard and a door to an en-suite with a Velux window. Outside the property is set back from the road beyond a good sized driveway and a garage. A gate leads to the rear garden with a paved patio and large lawn and shed.

KEY FEATURES

Stunning & substantial
4 bedrooms
3 floors
Impressive
Spacious

WALL HEATH £299,950

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**PENSNETT, St Marks Court £395 pcm**

Immaculately presented, one bedroom apartment situated on the ground floor of a well presented block of apartments. Features include: lounge, kitchen with integrated white goods, double bedroom with fitted wardrobes, shower room and storage. Contact Hicks Hadley on 0121 585 6667 or visit www.hickshadley.com.

**TOURBRIDGE, Bagley Street £825 pcm**

Immaculately presented, three bedroom semi-detached house situated within walkable distance of the centre. Features include: van size garage and off road parking. Contact Hicks Hadley on 0121 585 6667 or visit www.hickshadley.com.

**HAINLETON, Old Birmingham Road £425 pcm**

Immaculately presented, one bedroom flat situated on the first floor of a well presented block of apartments. Features include: lounge, fitted kitchen with white goods, shower room, double bedroom and storage. Contact Hicks Hadley on 0121 585 6667 or visit www.hickshadley.com.

**HALESOWEN, Whittington Road £600 pcm**

Immaculately presented, four bedroom detached house situated within walkable distance of the centre. Features include: gas central heating, double glazing, driveway and garage. Contact Hicks Hadley on 0121 585 6667 or visit www.hickshadley.com.

**SUPERB BUNGALOW CLOSE TO THE TOWN CENTRE**

A superb bungalow close to Dudley Town Centre, The Belper is for sale through Trinity Property at offer in excess of £130,000.

With a spacious yard and within walking distance of the town centre facilities, it has a lounge, a fitted kitchen with appliances, a shower room, double bedrooms, a lean-to, an attic with ladders and a front garden with a retaining wall.

With parking space for two vehicles and a gated access leading to a rear yard which is of a substantial size and versatile use and being positioned in a cul-de-sac, viewing of this property is a definite must!

The agents are expecting the sale of this home to attract a lot of interest.

For further information, or to arrange a viewing of this charming property, please contact the selling agents, Trinity Property on 01384 213 395 or visit www.trinityproperty.net.

**Immaculately presented extended family home**

**HALESOWEN £205,000**

Immaculately presented and extended, this family home in Lyrton Avenue, Hurst Green, Halesowen, is close to good schools and transport links.

It includes a superb kitchen family room extension to the rear with the wow factor, and is for sale through Hicks Hadley at £205,000.

This gorgeous property also has a porch, reception hall, a dining room, a lounge, a study, bedroom four, a utility, a downstairs shower room, three bedrooms and a house shower room.

It has a driveway and a lovely landscaped garden.

For further information contact Hicks Hadley on 0121 585 6667 or visit www.hickshadley.com.
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Price is very compelling for Musso

By Andrew Evans

The Musso is largely an updated version of the Korando Sports pickup, but with a new name brought back from Ssangyong’s past, Musso – Korean for ‘rhinoceros’ – brings not only an exterior update and rebadge, but also a new engine, the Euro 6-compliant 2.2-litre E-XDI diesel. This can be paired with either a 6-speed manual or a new 6-speed automatic from Aisin.

The new engine brings an improved punch that improves the towing rating and brings a mild boost to the combined fuel economy of around five per cent, but performance is unaffected.

The redesigned cabin looks interesting enough, with an asymmetric set-up that proves a little awkward to use at first and has a few strange details. While the switchgear feels solid enough, the overall quality of the cabin isn’t up to scratch yet – but then the same can be said of some pricier alternatives.

There are no questions about the Musso’s practicality credentials. We haven’t measured up the seat dimensions, but it’s almost a moot point – the cabin is vast and even three abreast in the back isn’t that much of a problem. This makes it great for family use.

The load bay behind you is proportioned to fit a standard Euro pallet, with a total of 2.04 square metres of area to play with. The 1,312 litre bed is fully lined, with tie-down points inside the bay too, so you can pack any load you want to safely. A range of load covers is available too, so you can use it as a secure load area or put a camper back on it for your dogs, for example.

Total payload is one tonne – the same as its predecessor – while the Musso can now tow up to three tonnes, bringing it into contention with more expensive rivals.

Unlike the majority of vehicles in the pickup sector, the Musso makes use of independent rear suspension. This gives it a surprisingly compliant ride, whether running empty or with the load bay pushed to its one-tonne limit – we also tested the car with a load bay full of gravel just to make sure. Without the extra weight, the Musso can get a little soggy over bumps, but by and large it’s better than rivals that stick to more basic suspension.

The steering is somewhat mushy and vague though, so if you have any ambitions to press down a country road it’s best to put them on the backburner.

At speed there’s rather a lot of wind noise, coming from those huge wing mirrors, but it’s expected for this type of vehicle. Otherwise it’s happy to sit at motorway speeds with little fuss, albeit with a little bit of body roll if you make too quick a lane change.

In EX specification you gain a reversing camera and it makes the pretty bulky Musso a breeze to park – particularly with that light steering. It would benefit from front parking sensors to judge the nose a little better.

The Musso range starts from £15,995 (excluding VAT) and comes equipped with 18” alloy wheels, leather look seats, front and rear electric windows, power folding door mirrors, manual air conditioning, CD & RDS Radio with iPod & Bluetooth connectivity and a multifunction steering wheel.

In EX specification you gain a reversing camera and it makes the pretty bulky Musso a breeze to park – particularly with that light steering. It would benefit from front parking sensors to judge the nose a little better.

The 6-speed automatic gearbox is a £1,000 option, so the car comes in at £16,995. Metallic paint is a £500 option, with a Kenwood touchscreen that brings DAB and navigation also available as an £999 option.

If you’re self-employed and have a family, the Musso Pickup makes a lot of sense. Alongside being cheap – particularly if you

The re-designed cabin is interesting available too, so you can use it as a secure load area or put a camper back on it for your dogs.

There is a range of load covers including one which makes a secure load area

The redesigned cabin is interesting

ROAD TEST
By Andrew Evans

SSANGYONG MUSSO, FROM £15,995

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Part Exchange £1,000.00
Total Deposit £1,147.00
Amount to Finance £10,223.00
Deferred payment £4,049.00
Period 43 months
First Instalment of £147.00
41 payments of £147.00
Final Instalment of £4,049.00
Guaranteed Future Value £4,049.00

APR 0%

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Total Deposit £1,189.00
Amount to Finance £13,560.00
Deferred payment £5,606.00
Period 49 months
First Instalment of £189.01
47 payments of £189.01
Final Instalment of £5,616.00
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CANNOCK Hockey Club have made a series of appointments to lead them back to the top after admitting they got ‘lazy’.

Alex Hill has taken over as club captain from Tom Widdowson after the appointment of Gary Stacey as head coach of the men’s first-team. The previous National League champions are looking to bounce back from relegation after 27 years in the top division.

Hill, who joined the club as a 12-year-old in 2003, previously coached in the junior section from the Under-12s to the Under-18s.

The club has also announced the appointment of two internationals supporting their under-16 and under-18 squads.

Louie Morris, aged 19, who has played for England under-18s, will continue to lead the under-18s while Callum Stacey, aged 18, who has played Wales under-18s last year and is now in the senior squad, will take over the under-18s.

Complacent

Stacey, the son of head coach Gary, is back in the first-team squad after spending a year at National League side Olton and West Warwick gaining valuable experience.

In addition, Jude Hitchens has been appointed as the club’s new community club development officer.

Hill admits the club’s previous successes made them complacent but says there is a real determination to turn things around.

“Cannock Hockey Club has a fantastic history, having been champions of the National League and leading competitors across junior age group competitions for many years,” he said.

“Sadly in recent years people have sat on this past success. We’ve been lazy. Our junior section needs rebuilding and our club is in need of real inspiration.

“The current membership, including the first team and juniors, must create its own history and this time create a legacy that will last for decades.

“Losing our place in the national premier after 27 years last season was horrible for all that care about Cannock.

“However, it has given us time to reflect, and we have a new ethos at Cannock this year which is ‘every member matters’.

“We want to be successful at first-team level but we want everyone at our club to feel cared for,” he added.

“The appointment of Gary and now Jude will be a real turning point in our future.”

As regards his new role, Hill said: “My job is to oversee selection, review and develop the coaching team, support parents and help improve hockey across the club with the support of the newly-appointed coaches.”

The new ethos is reflected by Cannock boasting training sessions suitable for all levels from ages of eight to 80.

Hitchens, who has played for Cannock Ladies for three decades, will take over the under-18s.

“I’m so happy to be playing such a key role at the club I love,” said Hitchens.

“Cannock is the best hockey club in the Midlands, with its facilities, quality of its provision and success on the pitch.

“I can’t wait to get started and spread the Cannock message.”

Merging

The club also welcomes Chris Beck, who will work on social media coverage across all levels of the club.

Meanwhile, Cannock hockey club’s junior section is merging with the ladies section for all members under 14.

This will mean all under-14s will train on the same evening and will also allow them to share resources and expertise.

Hill will oversee the development of both the players and coaches at under-16s and under-18s levels, creating a clearer pathway to Stacey and the first-team squad.

Cannock are seeking nine matchday sponsors as well as a main sponsor to appear on the first-team kit for next season.

Anyone interested should contact joint chairman Ian Gardner via igardner.uk@gmail.com
**Zaber goes for gold in title attempt**

OLD Hill fighter Manny Zaber will have to overcome the worldwide wise Josh Baitlie to get his hands on his first professional title.

Zaber has been training with Baillie to captivate the vacant British Challenge supper featherweight crown.

The two will go toe-to-toe in an eight-round contest at Walsall Town Hall on Saturday, November 19, on Errol Johnstone’s Black Country Boxing show titled ‘Going For Gold.’

Undisputed Zaber has eight paid victories under his belt without reply, but is still awaiting his first inside-the-distance.

The 21-year-old was also nominated for the British Boxing Board of Control Midlands award in 2015.

Zaber will come across a game adversary in Baillie who, despite only taking part in seven pro contests, has boxed far and wide.

The Boss travelled to Australia for his first three fights, winning two with a debut TKO. Only future national champion Miles Zalwski got the better of him, on points. Baillie then went to China to take on Ca Xu, losing narrowly on points.

The 31-year-old was born in Ban-rows-in-Furnace but lives in Tamworth.

Five support contests will support the main event, with Walsall’s Martin Gethin and Zach Parker featuring in six-rounders.

Captain butcher’s Josh Burke will be looking to move into position for his first paid cruiserweight title in a four-rounder against Aaron Green.

Chaseaway’s Luke Jones is targeting a hat-trick of pro wins with his first Town Hall appearance. West Bromwich’s Thomas Louch is waiting to be paired for his first bout and Baillie.

Tickets are £30 and £60 ringside, on sale at 0455 111 2900.

**‘Ozzy’ has Wade to face on darts Grand Slam debut**

TIPTON’S Jamie Hughes will have PDC heavyweights James Wade and Chisnall in his group for the Grand Slam of Darts. The only Black Country player involved when the eight-day tournament begins at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on Saturday afternoon. James Wilson completes the group.

Holder, PDC No 1 Michael van Gerwen was drawn in Group A with Brendan Dolan, Max Hopp and the BDO’s Martin Adams. Six-time winner Phil Taylor is in Group D with Ian White, Darren Webster and the BDO’s Darryl Fitton. Raymon van Barneveld, Merven Juliette, Nathan Aspinall and the BDO’s Danny Noppert are in Group F.

Reigning BDO world champion Scott Waites is in Group B with Robert Thornton, Gerwyn Price and Dmitri van den Bergh. PDC world champ Gary Anderson makes up Group C with Alan Norris, Nathan Derry and Gurnett Dunn.

Peter Wright will play Simon Whitlock, Ted Evitts and the BDO’s Jeff Smith in Group D. Group E comprises Adrian Lewis, Benito van den Pas, Chris Dobey and the BDO’s Scott Mitchell.

**Summers sets sights on next bout**

Bedford Athletic: 34 Old Halesonians 12

AFTER humiliation at home to Syston, Hales travelled to bottom side Bedford and took an early lead through a pushover try from Adam Clayton.

Bedford needed to try to level and two more scores gave them a 15-5 interval lead.

Hales needed to regroup and got back to basics but from the kick off Bedford again pressured down the left flank, they had a try disallowed.

In reply, prop Dempsey touched down, which Chris Hooper converted before Hales lost Max Macfarlane to a yellow card.

Bedford were more committed and scored two more tries in quick succession to lead 29-12 and added another late try to dampen a derailed side.

Hales rest a rest from league rugby this week but we start Hereford on Saturday at home in the North Midlands Cup, kick off 2pm. They host Birmingham Solihull in the league on November 19, kick off 2.15pm.

Old Halesonians 4ths 32 Stourbridge 4ths 10

Old Hales accepted this friendly fixture against Stourbridge 4ths late on Friday afternoon after losing 40-7 to Malvern 3rds.

Old Hales held a large squad with a mixture of youth and experience, and just edged a well-fought game, running in four tries in a good second half display. Tries came from Steven Moore (2), Aidan Blizzard, Steve Deakin (2) and Ryan Goblin.

**Gold medal haul for martial artists**

HALESOWN Martial Arts Club’s successful Unified World Championship medalists.

HALESOWN Martial Arts Centre had seven fighters qualify to represent England at the Unified World Championships in Italy – and all returned with a medal.

The contingent all train four to five days a week with Jason Charlotteworth and he said they are proud all their hard work had paid off as the club came back with eight gold medals, three silver and three bronze.

Nine-year-old Kano Marlow was first up and defeated his opponent, before Luke Ashby, also nine, who trains down from Doncaster twice a week to train at the centre, saw off his German opponent.

Ten-year-old Tyler Richards from Telford, who trains and travels three times a week to train with Jason and his instructors, gained two gold medals in points and light-contact. Alfie Trenaman, 11 from Quinton, defeated his title and also added another to his haul, while 17-year-old Libby Smith managed to beat her Italian fighter for bronze.

Kiyra Charlsworth, 11, from Lower Gornal, claimed a bronze despite suffering from a virus. But her 19-year-old brother Rhidian held it together to win both more world titles to his growing haul.

Rhidian kicked out and punched his Czech opponent, narrowly beating him at -74 kg and then impressively beat a strong-looking Italian.

**Put shirt on club bouncing back from complacency**

With the clock ticking down at the Enclosed Ground, substitute Javier Fa- varel let rip with a rocket from the right corner of the box as just as referee Robert Whitlow blew the final whistle.

Replays proved the man in the middle had started to signal the end of the match as the ball dropped for Favarel but Whitehawk surrounded Whitlow after ruling out the strike. Home keeper Ross Fitney was sent off for his pre-tensions.

The visitors started well against their higher-ranked opponents with Luke Bowcho shooting wide during the opening exchanges.

But Stour’s strong work kicking up Whitehawk’s significant slope was undone on 12 minutes when veteran midfielder John Scott produced a pass from Jonnie Smikle on the corner of the box and sent a dipping drive over Matt Gould via the underside of the crossbar.

Undeterred, Stour then kept pressing away.

Stour were on the front foot after the restart with Dan Searc’s effort gather- ed by Fitney following a goalmouth scramble. But Searc did not have to wait long to get off the mark, firing into the far corner of the net after Chris Lait’s centre had been headed to the near post.

Stour host the replay on Monday. Games of travel to Spennymoor for a rearranged game as both teams are out of the FA Trophy.

**Anderson spot-on in victory for Yeltz**

Halesowen Town 1 Coalville Town 0

HALESOWN claimed a hard-fought victory over Dean Street on Saturday afternoon to keep tails from their FA Trophy.

The Yeltz started brightly with Anderson and Leach both denied by fine saves from Coalville goalkeeper Matthew Cotson. But leading man Anderson stepped up to hit the winner from the penalty spot after being brought down by Kyle Llewyn in the ninth minute.

Substitute Danny Bragoli almost doubled Halesowen’s lead with three minutes remaining, only for Lee Turr to race back and clear off the line.
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SUN 12 FEB
CHINESE NEW YEAR EXTRAVAGANZA

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BY MEERA SYAL
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