Most of arrests at demo were anti-EDL

MOST of the people arrested after an English Defence League march in Dudley were counter-protesters, it has emerged.

Police said five out of the 29 people arrested were supporters of the far-right EDL, while the rest were on counter-protesters, including supporters of the group Unite Against Fascism.

Officers arrested the people for breaching the peace during the protests on February 7 in the town centre.

Most were released without charge.

Around 50 members of Unite Against Fascism held a counter-protest in Castle Street while EDL protesters gathered outside the council house on Priory Road after marching from King Street.

The decision on the arrests was confirmed by West Midlands Police following a successful reflects Black Country.

Rowley Regis Rotary Club.

The fair would be more accessible."

Councillor Law said. "Although Dudley's Victorian Day has always been successful, we felt a Black Country fair would be more accessible."
**Bostin’ victory for festival organisers**

Dudley Council’s public relations campaign to stage the Black Country Festival won a top award.

It was the day the Black Country went to London and won, said the organisers in Dudley have called for.

Campaigners led by the Sandwell to make this year’s event even better.

Dudley's festival committee chairman was one of the judges of the award.

“Do we now want to be more involved, not just Dudley?”

My Sawers said plans were already gathering pace for this year’s event.

“Things are coming together well. We want it to be bigger and better,” he said.

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**Concern grows over homeless on streets**

MORE than 50 people are sleeping rough on streets in the West Midlands – including six in Dudley – sparking calls for more to be done to tackle the issue.

It comes as the number of homeless people in England rises by 14 per cent. The figure of 52 for rough sleepers in the Black Country, Staffordshire and Birmingham is up by one on the year before.

Statistics for autumn last year are intended to give a snapshot of how many rough sleepers would be on the streets on any given night.

The study by the Department for Communities and Local Government found that 2,744 people slept rough in England in autumn 2013, an increase of 14 per cent from 2,414 in 2013. The number of people sleeping rough across the country has increased year-on-year over the last five years and by 55 per cent since 2010.

**Doorknobs**

High streets in Dudley and Bearwood are being used with homeless people squeezing into shop doorways or under canopies.

There are seven people sleeping rough in Wolverhampton on any given night, compared to six in 2013.

The number of people sleeping rough across the country has increased year-on-year over the last five years and by 55 per cent since 2010.

**Brewery to be sponsoring at museum**

A BREWERY has joined forces with Dudley’s Black Country Living Museum to stage some of the events at the attraction.

Banks’s Brewery, in Wolverhampton, has been named sole sponsor of the Turn Road museum’s 1940s weekend and three Halloween nights to be held later this year.

Beers from the museum’s collection of Marston’s beer will be supplied at both events and each event will be represented by its own brewer.

Visitors will be able to sip the brewery’s Sunbeam Bitter and 1940s weekend.

The Halloween evenings will be highlighted and designed by the sister brand Wych wood which is also owned by Banks.

The museum will stock Banks’s merchandise in its shop and eateries. In return, Marston’s staff will be working with museum staff to train in managing cellars.

Director of development at the museum, Vicki Stan-

man said they were pleased the event had now been confirmed.

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**Veteran cyclist Frank Hodgkiss, 78, is Wolverhampton Racing’s clubman of the year**

NEARLY 50 years after Frank Hodgkiss won a string of cycling competitions, the 78-year-old is showing no signs of slowing.

Frank has just won the clubman of the year award at Wolverhampton Racing Cycling Club. The Sedgley rider still cycles at least 85 miles a week and helps organise events throughout the year.

Though he admits that the days when he competed against Hugh Porter seem like a lifetime ago, he has no intention of slowing away his bike.

He says the racing club is still a major part of his life and fellow members are some of his best friends.

Frank discovered the club during regular visits to Frank Clements’ bike shop in Snow Hill.

It’s great to get back and have a coffee with the others,” he said.

“"This is a problem that we all face," said Jane."
A TEENAGER from Dudley who took part in a robbery has been given a chance to avoid being sent behind bars after breaching his supervision order by failing turn up for a probation appointment.

A 65-year-old man was arrested at an address in Dudley after he did not show for a work placement ordered by a court.

Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has been given the green light to take over responsibility for co-commissioning the majority of GP services from next month. It is among some of the first organisations in the country to be given the go-ahead by NHS England.

Doctors will be more involved in planning developments and making improvements to existing services. They have already introduced longer opening hours at surgeries on Saturday mornings and preparation are under way for a new urgent care centre to open at Russell’s Hall Hospital next month.

Byston' night out

A BOSTIN’ night is in store with Black Country Crafty and comedienne Marleen. Big Up the Black Country features singing, comedy and bellydancing at the Station Hotel, Castle Hill, Dudley.

Museum seeks volunteers

THE Black Country Living Museum is looking for more volunteers to join its ranks of re-enactors.

The museum in Tipton Road, Dudley, also needs people to help behind the scenes at its 35-acre site.

The museum has a number of volunteer groups including the Black Country Motor Company maintaining the collection of vintage vehicles.

One of the firm’s ‘spidermen’, Ryan Cook, 25, from Stourbridge, at the cathedral.

NHS gives GP's more power over room health budget

A group of self-confessed ‘spidermen’ were prepared to scale great heights to help rid Goole Cathedral of a problem with birds dropping.

A teenager will appear in Wolverhampton Crown Court charged with manslaughter following the death of an 18-month-old boy.

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Whereabouts unknown for 39 sex offenders

ALMOST 40 convicted sex offenders in the West Midlands have gone missing. One has been missing for almost 10 years.

Police revealed that they do not know the whereabouts of 39 registered sex offenders, one of whom was missing in 2006 and a further nine between 2010 and 2012.

Behind London, the West Midlands has the highest number of missing sex offenders in England.

West Mercia Police said they registered sex offenders were missing, including those whose whereabouts had been unknown for eight years. Figures from Staffordshire Police were not available.

Across the country, 396 sex offenders are wanted, including some who have been missing for more than a decade.

One convicted sex offender in Gloucestershire has been missing since 2000, another in Northumbria disappeared in May 2002, while Humberside Police said the whereabouts of one registered sex offender had been unknown since September 2004.

Registered sex offenders — including rapists and paedophiles — are required to inform police and probation officers of their addresses and are supposed to be monitored by officials working under multi-agency public protection arrangements.

Claudia Jessie is WP C Annie Taylor in the TV series "WPC 56".

A Home Office spokesman said: “The UK has some of the toughest powers in the world to deal with sex offenders and we are committed to ensuring the system is as robust as possible. “It is for the police to manage offenders in their area, but we work closely with forces to ensure legislation is effective and that offenders have all the tools they need.”

Claudia Jessie is WPC Annie Taylor in the TV series "WPC 56". (%)"
MORE parents are appealing after their children missed out on getting their first choice school places in Dudley borough.

The number of appeals lodged by parents rose from 287 in 2013 to 323 in 2014, according to a Freedom of Information request by UKIP.

Latest figures show 2,810 children, around 82 per cent, were able to get in to a place at their first choice secondary school in the borough.

But that meant one in five pupils failed to secure places at their preferred secondary schools in September.

A total of 298 got their second choice, while 70 students got their third choice school.

West Midlands MEJ and Dudley councillor Bill Etheridge said schools are coming under increasing pressures.

“The increase in the number of appeals from parents is very worrying as it makes you question how our schools can cope with ever increasing pressures on places and resources,” he said.

“Children have a right to a quality education in their locality and I believe strongly in parental choice but sadly more and more parents are failing to get their children accepted by their first choice schools.”

Councillor Etheridge said public services were facing pressures at a time when the Government had failed to meet its immigration targets. “How can our schools, hospitals, and indeed local authorities plan service delivery when the Government promised to keep numbers down to ‘tens of thousands’?” he asked.

Councillor Tim Crump ton, in charge of children’s services, refuted claims the appeals rise was linked to immigration.

“We have nothing that points to immigration being a factor on this in Dudley. On the contrary, we have sufficient secondary school places to meet the needs of all our children,” he said.

“Eight two per cent of Dudley children are being allocated their first preferred school while 94 per cent have been allocated a place at one of their preferred schools and 100 per cent have been offered a place at a borough school.”

By Andrew Turton

**£200k loan helps business grow**

Mark Meakin of Lloyds Bank Commercial Banking, left, and Kevin Marklew, owner of Rolla V in Halesowen

A MANUFACTURER of tooling and machinery in Halesowen is to create new jobs following investment in new machinery.

Rolla V has bought the new equipment to help improve its production capabilities, with the support of a £200,000 loan from Lloyds Bank.

The company, established more than 15 years ago, specialises in the production of tooling for press brake machines, which are used to bend sheet and plate metal.

It supplies tools for a range of high profile manufacturers in the sheet metal industry, including Amada, Trumpf and Bystronic.

Rolla V, based on Park Lane Industrial Estate, exports 80 per cent of its products to clients in North America, Europe and Asia. It recognised a need to invest in a new grinding machine, in order to enhance speed and efficiency.

It approached long term banking team, which provided a £200,000 asset finance facility to support the purchase of the machinery.

Following the recent investment, Rolla V’s production levels have already increased by over 25 per cent.

The business now has the capabilities to design and produce new components, expanding its product line.

The business has an annual turnover of around £1 million and employs 12 staff, with plans to create four new jobs in the next six months.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

**Disney praise for college designers**

STUDENTS at Halesowen College had the chance to design rides and learn about the technology behind the scenes at Disneyland Paris as part of an ICT project.

The group learnt about technology used by Disney and the control systems, which are very popular in the park, including Space Mountain.

After a day in the park they were challenged to design their own themed carrousel and present it to Disney judges.

One team designed a Disney Fantasia ride, which included aquarium animations and a 360 spiral climb and drop. The other team based their ride on the film Frozen and included 3D animatronics.

The Disney judges praised both teams.

**Woman escapes bathroom blaze**

A WOMAN suffered minor smoke inhalation after her shower caught fire. She had just got out of the shower at her home on Bishop’s Walk in Halesowen when the fire started coming from her bathroom.

Haden Cross fire station dispatched two fire engines.

Watch Commander Dan Griffiths said: “When the lady first noticed the fire she did the right thing by shutting the door, calling us and then exiting the property. The smoke alarms come with an isolation switch that we advise using in between showers.”

**NEWS IN BRIEF**

**Children have a right to a quality education in their locality and I believe strongly in parental choice but sadly more and more parents are failing to get their children accepted by their first choice schools.**
Memorials keep mining pride alive

ADM BURLING takes a look at the memorials that have helped to keep mining alive despite pit closures

THEY are monuments to a bygone era when thousands of men toiled for long days in collieries across the Black Country and Staffordshire.

And though the mining industry has almost died out, memorials to the miners still stand in the towns and villages of the region.

Two are currently being planned in Walsall Wood, Brownhills, Great Barr and Hednesford in recent years.

As the 30th anniversary of the end of the miners' strike was marked on Tuesday, the bitter dispute between Marga-

riles and the public, they make public everything.

They are a monument to a bygone era, a monument to the miners who worked so hard for such a short time.

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They are a monument to a bygone era, a monument to the miners who worked so hard for such a short time.
Hello to my fellow Halesoweners!

I have recently been listening to the radio and was very heartened to hear the issue of litter being discussed. This is a subject close to my heart as I have noticed there are many parts of Halesowen that are unkempt and dirty. I have been known to place litter in recycling bins and wonder if others do the same.

I have noticed that the town council seems to have cut down on litter-bins in some areas. This is a very surprising decision as it goes against what is written in their constitution. Surely, if the council has a budget to cut, it should be the ones that will have the least impact on the community.

I think it is time for the council to reinstate the litter bins and to increase the number of them. This will help to keep the town tidy and prevent the litter from being spread around.

I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this issue.

Yours sincerely,

M HANKIN
Halesowen

Time to end the council tax freeze

I MAY become unpopular with some people by voicing my opinion on the freeze on the council tax by Dudley MBC, but I am very much against it.

This is the fifth year it has been frozen and as each year goes by, it means that after being spent on services cut and council staff jobs lost.

One only has to compare our facilities with those of other boroughs to see what a second class area we have become.

If there was a small rise of those pounds or so a month — not even the cost of a pint of beer — I am sure that most people would not object, and those few pounds per household would add up to quite a sum for the council to save some of our facilities — and not waste it on unnecessarily altering the Market Place yet again!

This rise would not affect the poorer members of our community as it would be covered by their housing benefit.

The rise and its results could make a big difference to our well-being and pride in our town.

The councillors should make this decision when making the decision on rising or freezing the council tax and not concentrate on waste and their own popularity.

M GRAINGER
Halesowen

Backlash is unfair to OAPs

WHAT have we done to deserve this backlash? We went to work, provided homes for our kids without help from the state, only visited the doctor when absolutely necessary and still we seem to be blamed for the poor state of our once great Britain.

The headlines I have read state that those who cannot work or will not work, whilst I go out to work, come rain, shine and snow.

I, and others of my generation deserve better in our latter years. We can no longer earn a living so please give us a rest.

C WILLIAMS
Brierley Hill

Midwife show sparks nun memories

EVERY time that I watch the TV programme ‘Call the Midwife’, my memory goes back to my childhood.

I was born in Bloomingfield Road, Tipton, and just up the road from us was a bike shop. My first memory was that we used to take accumulators there to be charged up but I cannot remember the name of the then owner.

Whatever it was, it was followed by a man who lived in Sedgley name Jack Bodenham, who rode a scrambler motor bike. He was followed by Ron Cox, who used to travel to the shop tom his home in Blenkinsby.

Ron used to work for Jack Hatesley, and learned how to build frames from Jack. For many years, I owned a frame that was built by Ron, and it was only confined to the scrap bin a few years ago.

Two nuns used to bring their tricycles for maintenance at Ron’s shop. I have asked lots of people if they knew what convent they came from but no one knew. They used to travel from Bralyde’s Lane direction.

I would love to find out. Can anyone help please?

P COLE
Kingswinford

Hill needs two lanes

WELL done to Dudley Council on closing the bus lanes in Halesowen as they were causing congestion.

Now, how about putting Mucklow Hill back to two lanes as it used to be?

That is surely a congestion hotspot in the mornings, as the traffic is back down to nearly the bottom of the hill some mornings.

It is also regularly trailing back to the island at the M4 junction, as motorists are trying to get back in the narrow lane past what used to be the M65 offices — only for the carriageway to go back to two lanes just past there.

The current pollution must be horrendous for the residents at the top of the hill.

So, over to you Dudley council.

M HANKIN
Halesowen

Filthy mess blights the hedgerows

I HAVE recently driven along Leadley Lane, Halesowen, on my way to Northfield via Iley, trying to take in the great views of our country, with views of Clent Hills and along to Frankley Fach.

What I really noticed were not the great views but the filthy mess along the hedge.

Not the great views but the Beeches.

Filthy mess along the hedge

COUNCILS should be more vigilant, heavy fines for per perpetrators, maybe the unemployed and those on benefits — and not concentrate on waste and their own popularity.

What is the mentality of us as a country with such great views but the dirty mess along the hedge?

Two nuns used to bring their tricycles for maintenance at Ron’s shop. I have asked lots of people if they knew what convent they came from but no one knew. They used to travel from Bralyde’s Lane direction.

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P COLE
Kingswinford

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Homeowners...

The rise and its results could make a big difference to our well-being and pride in our town.

The councillors should make this decision when making the decision on rising or freezing the council tax and not concentrate on waste and their own popularity.

If there was a small rise of those pounds or so a month — not even the cost of a pint of beer — I am sure that most people would not object, and those few pounds per household would add up to quite a sum for the council to save some of our facilities — and not waste it on unnecessarily altering the Market Place yet again!

This rise would not affect the poorer members of our community as it would be covered by their housing benefit.

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If there was a small rise of those pounds or so a month — not even the cost of a pint of beer — I am sure that most people would not object, and those few pounds per household would add up to quite a sum for the council to save some of our facilities — and not waste it on unnecessarily altering the Market Place yet again!

This rise would not affect the poorer members of our community as it would be covered by their housing benefit.

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TRAVEL PREMIUM CLASS

Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range (exc. Ampera): Urban: 12.7 (22.3) – 76.3 (3.7), Extra-urban: 23.9 (11.8) – 94.2 (2.0), Combined: 18.0 (15.7) – 88.3 (3.2), CO₂ emissions: 373 - 85 g/km. #

HUNDREDS of polished classic cars, restoration projects and barn finds made up of ‘priceless rust’ are set to appear at Birmingham’s NEC. Soon as the Practical Classics Restoration and Classic Car Show returns to the West Midlands.

Organisers have teamed up with the Chronicle series to offer 45 lucky readers the chance to win a pair of tickets. Around 100 classic cars are expected to be on display with 100 car clubs revealing their ongoing and completed restoration projects.

There will be a trio of restoration showcases with the grand final of the Restorer of the Year and the Pride of Restoration, completed by enthusiasts in their home garages and ‘Epic Restorations’ completed by some of the most skilled craftsmen in the UK.

There will be the UK’s biggest display of barn finds in the Heritage Barn Find showcase with around 25 vehicles, found in various states of repair.

Celebrity guests include the Wheeler Dealers Mike Brewer and Edd China, and Car SOS’ Fuzz Townshend as well as Red Dwarf’s Chris Barrie.

There will be car parades, a 48-hr restoration and classic game shows, with great prizes up for grabs. Expert advice will also be on offer.

If you’re more about driving than restoring, take a Dream Ride with the Sporting Bears – a 10-mile ride as passenger in one of the cars from the Dream Rides Garage in exchange for a donation to charity. Silverstone Auctions will be back with its Restoration Sale.

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Miami’s nice but Brum is better, say experts

FORGET Hong Kong, Miami and Dubai, life in Birmingham is officially better.

The second city has been ranked as having a higher quality of life than all of these international hotspots – and the best in the UK outside of London.

Overall, it comes 52nd out of 230 places in the global Mercer Quality of Living Report 2015. Brum is jointly ranked alongside sun-soaked, historic-rich, foodie-heaven Rome.

The city was placed ahead of Hong Kong, Miami and Dubai as well as UK rivals Glasgow 55th, Aberdeen 57th and Belfast 63rd.

Sir Albert Bore, leader of Birmingham City Council, said: “This confirmation of what its growing numbers of residents have known for some time. The city’s exceptional offer benefits its residents, visitors and workers alike.

Outstanding

“With everything from shopping to culture, international sporting events to Michelin-starred restaurants on our doorstep, it’s little wonder that this report has confirmed Birmingham’s position as an outstanding place to live.

“Brum will be an exceptional year for Birmingham, with the city hosting both Rugby World Cup games and the Ashes, as well as the arrival of the Grand Central development with its flagship John Lewis store and city cultural celebrations.”

The ranking announcement follows figures showing that Birmingham’s nightlife market and its offering attracted record visitors and consumer spend in 2014 – with 5.5 million visitors spending an all-time high of £397 million across the city.

Games in the rugby world cup are due to take place at Villa Park in September and the third Ashes test is at Edgbaston on July 29.

Social care jobs on offer

SOCIAL care professionals can find out more about job opportunities available at a recruitment fair in Birmingham.

The jobs will be advertised at the Compass Birmingham Jobs Fair for the social care sector taking place at the Thinktank, Millennium Point, on March 18.

As well as finding out about existing vacancies and having the opportunity to speak to employees already working in the area, job hunters will also be encouraged to put their details on file via a ‘talent pool’. Counsellor Val Gibson, Wyverhamton’s families boss, said: “We are attending this national event to promote the opportunities we currently have within our Children’s Service and to build a database of suitably qualified and experienced candidates.”

People can apply for positions via the www.wmjobs.co.uk website. Potential visitors to the jobs fair should visit www.compassjobsfair.com/Events/Birmingham to book their place.

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More volunteers are needed at new valley visitor centre

THE Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) has launched an appeal for extra volunteers ahead of the opening of a new £400,000 visitor centre in Sandwell Valley.

Work began in October last year and is expected to be completed by the summer, when the centre will welcome its first visitors.

Now staff at the nature-reserve are appealing for people to volunteer at the centre, which looks out over Forge Mill Lake.

RSPB spokesman Nadia Shaikh said: “The centre will be a place where visitors can find out about wildlife, families can take part in a whole host of activities and somewhere to unwind and enjoy the view with a cup of tea.”

Dedicated

“But the most important missing piece is the friendly volunteer who will be there to help.”

“We already have a great team of dedicated volunteers who help on the reserve, but with the new centre opening shortly we’re coming up a bit short and need some extra hands.”

Volunteers need to be able to spare a few hours a week but don’t have to be a wildlife expert.

“We already have a team of over 90 friendly volunteers who help us with everything from answering phones to digging ponds and counting butterflies, so people are bound to make new friends too,” added Ms Shaikh.

Staff are aiming to have the new centre completed by June, in time for an official opening in July.

It will boast an open plan multi-purpose area, volunteer room, an office and an outdoor wear store with toilet facilities.

The two-storey modern-looking building will also have a porch and terrace area and the centre will not only be used by staff and visitors, but also volunteers and community groups.

Call reserve staff on 0121357 7395 or email nadia.shaikh@rspb.org.uk.

Exhibitions officer Adrian Durkin next to Stourbridge artist Brian Fletcher’s self portrait

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CARE WISH

Formerly ‘Stile Homes Services’

Whatever your care and support needs, we believe nothing compares with care at home, a familiar place that holds a lifetime of memories.

We believe by remaining in your own home, the support and care provided by us enhances your physical and emotional well being, living independently in the comfort and surroundings you have always known.

We Promote Independence by Supporting you at Home

A service which offers working teams of 2 dedicated carers to provide care and support whilst living in the comfort of your own home.

This would mean each carer living with you 2 weeks on and 2 weeks off.

They will assist with preparing meals, shopping, laundry, light cleaning and activities whilst offering companionship at the same time.

These carers will be selected to match your individual personality, which enables them to be more in tune with your wishes.

This service can often work out cheaper than going into residential care, with the added bonus of living in familiar surroundings and the ability of keeping your beloved pets.
TRIBUTES TO FOOTBALLER WHO TRAVELLED THE WORLD

PASSIONATE about fitness and football, particularly football — Ron Corbett, second right at front, in an RAF team from the 1960s

A FOOTBALL coach from Dudley, whose love of the beautiful game took him around the world to train aspiring players, has died at 76.

David Oldfield was passionate about sports from an early age becoming a boxing champion while still attending Dudley Grammar School. He died on February 28 at Rubushe Hall Hospital. His funeral will be held at Great Crewe Crematorium today (Thursday) at 9.45am.

Former football coach Ron Corbett

Joanne 34, charitably, busy affectionate real woman! Seeks gent, aged, height 5 ft to 6 ft 1, no age limits. At home or office. Tel: 0044 7812 345 678.

DIANE 37, sensual, tactful, artistic, interesting conversations and fun, looking for diverse chat with men in their mid-30s.

ALICE 36, slim and with long brown hair, outgoing and sporty, seeks funky, intelligent guy to share active days and funny evenings. No age limits, not important! Tel: 0044 789 012 345.

CINDY 49, intellectual, pretty, sensitive and very sunny, seeks mate to share her happy in return. Tel: 0044 789 012 345.

BRIDGET 37, intellectual, passionate, profession, GSH, like sports, socialising, good company, seeking female with GSH for laugh, conversing and maybe more. Tel: 0044 789 012 345.

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CARERS who look after others will themselves be the focus when an awards ceremony is held in their honour this summer.

In Dudley alone there are 38,000 carers as the charity WeLoveCarers, based at Brierley Hill, will be celebrating their work with the awards bash. The night will see prizes presented to carers who look after parents, children or a spouse who may have a disability or condition.

The first awards ceremony was held last year, in which 12 people received a glass award made by The Glasshouse College in Stourbridge. Prizes were given in categories including Young Carer of the Year, Carer of an Adult, Care of a Child and a Support Group award.

WeLoveCarers chief executive Marc Carter said the event will be held at the charity’s Insight House HQ on June 12. He said: “We are doing this to raise awareness of the carers and of our charity.”

Marc Carter described the awards night as an opportunity for carers to celebrate their achievements and enjoy entertainment and food.

The charity provides support for carers, including groups and information sessions, and carers can drop in for a cup of coffee and a chat.

However, the organisation does not receive any financial support from the Government and relies instead on money raised through a coffee lounge at the HQ, as well as revenue from hiring out rooms at the building for conferences, weddings, receptions and other events.

Mr Carter said: “We are looking forward to the event to be held in May 1, phone 01384 483708 for a form.

Get nominating — Marc Carter and Loraine Stockton of WeLoveCarers with forms for potential award winners.

HURRY, CLEARANCE EVENT
ENDS THIS SUNDAY 5PM

COUSINS FURNITURE, CARPETS, BEDS & HOMEWARES

£6 MILLION CLEARANCE

If you’re seriously thinking of buying any item of furniture, then don’t miss your final clearance opportunity!

LAST CHANCE TO SAVE UPTO 70%

Cousins have demanded that all remaining items of sofas, beds, bedroom and dining furniture, carpets, occasional furniture, pictures, lighting, mirrors, cushions, cookshop and much more must be cleared by 5pm this Sunday.

NO REASONABLE OFFER REFUSED!
ALL EXISTING STOCK MUST BE CLEARED - SOME AT COST OR EVEN LESS!!

This event offers a great opportunity to save up to 70% on an unrivalled selection of furniture, carpets, beds and homewares.

Hurry, the clearance event ends this Sunday 5pm!

THERE WILL ALSO BE BIG DISCOUNTS OFF ALL SPECIAL MADE TO ORDER ITEMS.

www.cousinsfurniture.co.uk
Noel Gallagher — his best work since 2002’s Heathen Chemistry

Whatever, the second album, on his Sour Mash label, from Noel Gallagher’s High Flying Birds is his best work since 2002 Oasis album Heathen Chemistry. It opens with Riviera, a Paul Weller-like title for a Weller-like song, then unleashes an absolute corker in The Heat Of The Moment, which rings bells literally and figuratively as a reminder of prime Oasis.

The Girl With X-Ray Eyes is a Beatles-ish stadium pleaser and Lock All The Doors is a guitar-grinding thriller. Most interesting is the jazzy psychadelic chugger The Right Stuff (the sort of song the Gallagher’s would once have dismissed as ‘space jazz’) and fucky rocker The Mexican.

You Know We Can’t Go Back has a satisfying jungle and the soaring closer Bastard Of The Mighty I features former Smiths guitarist Johnny Marr for a double dose of Mancunian guitar brilliance. A deluxe version of the album features three extra new tracks and a re-mix of the Heat Of The Moment.

It’s unashamedly a ‘60s throwback and the Mexican is a key track. Rebecca Ferguson was one of the show’s more interesting finds with a smoky vocal that suggested classic jazz and soul vocalists, and the chance to hear that kind of voice in contemporary setting. So far Lady Sings The Blues seems a backward step for the singer, who’s signed to Simon Cowell’s Syco label.

Surely the singer is on a hiding to nothing performing songs by the immortal Billie Holiday, to whom she has been compared. However, Ferguson assuages herself with more a soulful take on these classic songs, such as Embraceable You. That One Devil Called Love and Glad Bless The Child, recorded at LA’s legendary Capitol Studios. It’s classily easy listening and Ferguson wisely doesn’t attempt a cover of Holiday’s most iconic, and chilling, Strange Fruit.

Dreamstate (EML) is a soothing album of alternative metal from powerhouse house Rockin’ T’row. It contrasts the hard rifting with acoustic guitar interludes on their second album. Listen if you like Royal Blood, Muse or Queens of the Stone Age. Hawkwind-like twirling Nothing is a highlight.

Northern Ireland’s The Answer rock back with Raise A Little Hell (Raphaim Records), traditional swaggering heavy rock with fancy fretwork guitar solos and sore throtled vocals.

They’ll give Birmingham Institute on April 17. Practically unheard of in the UK, The Goldoblins released a couple of folk albums in mid-1960s America before their trio was shot down because they split up.

You can hear the roots of sunshine pop in the gorgeous harmonies of sisters Dotti and Shen Holmes. It things had gone better they could have been rivals to The Mamas and The Papas. The Mancunian band make a moody meditative sound on White Water (Hallelujah, Redemption).
Lessons are plain sailing for sixth form students

PUPILS at a Dudley secondary school are being encouraged to get out on the open water after it became one of the first in the region to make sailing part of its curriculum.

With their efforts inside the classroom delivering impressive results, bosses at Ewloe Hall School in Lower Gornal decided they would take advantage of their relationship with Himley Hall Sailing Club.

The sport has been part of the school’s enrichment programme for the last year but staff have now taken the extra step of making it a permanent fixture on the timetable. The offer will initially be open to sixth formers before being rolled out to younger pupils.

Two new sailing boats have been bought by the school, costing around £15,000, they have been named Aspire and Achieve after the school’s motto.

Headteacher Alan Jasper said: “We try to be forward thinking and provide as many opportunities as we possibly can. We are relatively close to Himley Hall Sailing Club and thought it was something we could do and had members of staff who were keen to help out.”

Dudley North MP Ian Austin paid a visit to the sailing club as the new boats were unveiled.

He praised the school for its focus on sport as well as getting results in the classroom.

Jan’s the man for Rotary Club dinner

FORMER Liverpool Football Club star Jan Molby is appealing at a charity sportsperson’s dinner in Wolverhampton tonight (Thursday), organised by Dudley Rotary Club.

The legendary Danish midfielder, famed for his silky skills and his strong Scouse accent, will be star guest at the Molineux event.

Molby won both the league and FA Cup three times with Liverpool during his 12-year Anfield career and went on to have two spells managing Kidderminster Harriers.

Comedian

The black tie event has been organised by Dudley Rotary Club and will also feature comedian Billy Fayne and Joel Collier. Tickets cost £50 each.

For tickets or more information contact Keith Law on 01384 566266 or e-mail keithlaw53@hotmail.co.uk
Mother runs to raise cash for potential lifesaver gear

A MOTHER will be putting her best foot forward in a marathon to raise money for a defibrillator for a primary school.

Jennifer White, of Downings Street in Halesowen, will be running the Brighton marathon in April, aiming to raise more than £800 towards a new defibrillator for Newfield Park Primary School in Halesowen.

The device delivers a shock to the heart of a cardiac arrest victim to enable the heart to resume its normal rhythm.

Mrs White has two children at the school, Lily Armstrong, nine, and George Armstrong, eight, and said she was inspired to raise money for the defibrillator after discovering that 15 children die from sudden cardiac arrest on a typical week in the UK.

She added many of them did not have pre-existing heart conditions and suddenly collapsed, so a defibrillator could make a difference.

“I decided that if I was going to do a marathon, I wanted it to be for a worthwhile cause. I wanted to start at Newfield Park in September and I wanted it to be something that would benefit my children and somebody else’s children,” she said.

“The new defibrillator will be kept in the community and will be available for the local community to use.”

Mrs White, who used to live in America and is back in the UK for a while in Brighton, lives with her husband Anthony Armstrong, 40, and has twin Scarlett and Georgia Armstrong, aged five.

Mrs White is training to cope with regular runs and weight training twice a week.

To sponsor Mrs White contact Newfield Primary on 01384 818640.

Councillor’s bus concern

A COUNCILLOR has questioned whether the new bus routes will benefit the people who need them most.

The new services, which are expected to cost up to £2m, were announced last month and will come into operation by 2016.

Sandwell councillor Kerrie Carmichael, who represents Rowley Regis, said elderly residents in Grange Road would have to walk to Merry Hill shopping centre.

Sandwell councillor Kerrie Carmichael, who represents Rowley Regis, said elderly residents in Grange Road would have to walk to Merry Hill shopping centre.

She said: “If the service goes up Grange Road, it will not benefit the people who need it.”

West Birmingham NHS Trust wants to offer a wider range of services, and facilities at the Moore Lane site. They say it will mean more people can get treatment closer to home rather than having to travel to Sandwell General Hospital or Rowley Hall Hospital.

A consultation is under way to find out what services the public would like to see. If they go forward so far include a pharmacy, midnight services, such as antenatal and postnatal clinics, and respiratory therapy.

Cllr Carmichael said: “I hope they will look at what people want and provide it.”

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In 1985 by Thomas Hadley, then passed to his grandson Les Hadley in the late 1940’s. The company was purchased by local funeral director Trevor Hickton in 1987 after a long standing professional relationship between Les and Trevor. After being located in Nett Street, Blackheath since the early 1900’s, the office was relocated to more prominent position in Blackheath High Street in 2010.

Melanie Unwin Dip.FD was given the position of Branch manager and oversees the day to day running of the office as well as looking after the families on the day of the funeral, she is assisted by Funeral Administrator Angela on a daily basis.

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Dan gets claws into banjo style

INTERVIEW

by Danny Farragher

MIDLANDS musician Dan Walsh is considered the best clawhammer, five-string banjo player these Isles have produced.

However, it was sheer fluke which started him on his journey to being a world renowned player.

Walsh, now aged 27, from Baswich, Stafford, began his musical journey as a pre-teen enamoured of the guitar. "I started playing guitar when I was about nine or ten and that was the dream, the guitar was where it was at, that's what I always wanted to do. But then I got into Irish and Scottish music and heard the banjo and thought I would give it a go, I never really thought it would become the main instrument—just an extra to the guitar, but within a year it was what I was best at.

Accident

This was where fate took a hand. "Choosing the five-string banjo was a complete accident," laughs Walsh. "When I was 13, no one in Stafford really knew anything about banjo. I just heard it and thought I wanted to play it. I had no idea there were different banjos or different ways of playing them. I just fancied the sound.

So my parents went to the local music shop and asked if they knew anyone who taught banjo, they were given the name of a guy from Cannock, George Davies. "I owe him everything. He was the best teacher I could have ever had. When he mentioned teaching me clawhammer, I just went with it, I meant nothing to me, so I ended up playing five string and it wasn't until about year later I realised I had ended up playing the wrong instrument. I realised the music and banjo I had been listening to was the tenor, but by then it was a bit late to change. "So then I had to find a way to play that kind of music (Irish/Scottish) clawhammer style which became something of a niche for me, so I can't claim it was planned at all. But I am very glad it happened."

Walsh went on to study folk music at degree level in Newcastle upon Tyne which and he stayed in the North East for a couple of years after graduating before coming back to his home town.

Fresh

Although armed with a new knowledge of the music he played it was his previous lack of understanding about the banjo that was instrumental in his development and enthusiasm for the keeping things fresh and experimental.

"I never really had a specific idea of what the banjo did when I took it up. I had never heard of bluegrass so I never really had the firm idea of what it could do, and I think that's probably never really left me. It became a never-ending experiment and I felt there was so much that hadn't been done with it that I could take it in new directions. "I remember meeting some Indian musicians in London and the music just blew my mind. It just immediately struck a chord with me and I really wanted to study the music, and I play the banjo, as it never occurred to me not to do it on the banjo."

This has also spurred something of a crusade in the musician to bring more banjo music to the masses. "I guess I am on a bit of a crusade. I don't go out thinking this is banjo music and YOU ARE going to enjoy it, but I do like to win people round."

His new album Incidents & Accidents is due out on March 16 but I do like to win people round."

His new album Incidents & Accidents is due out on March 16. Dan Walsh performs at The Woodman Folk Club, Kingswinford on Friday from around 8.30pm. Entry is £6 for members and £1 extra for non-members. He then plays The Met at Gatehouse, Stafford on March 17 at 8pm. Tickets are £10.

Dan Walsh with his five-string banjo which has earned him world renown to was the tenor, but by then it was a bit late to change. "So then I had to find a way to play that kind of music (Irish/Scottish) clawhammer style which became something of a niche for me, so I can't claim it was planned at all. But I am very glad it happened."

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Army medic was pride of town

THE 137th Staffordshire Brigade made a vital and momentous contribution to the defeat of the Germans in the First World War when it broke the much-vaulted and formidable Hindenburg Line on the St Quentin Canal at Beeliscombe.

This was the last German defensive barrier on the Western Front and it was stormed by soldiers drawn mostly from in and around Wolverhampton, Walsall, Burton-on-Trent and Hanley.

That victorious Brigade belonged to the 46th North Midland Division. It was one of the 14 peacetime divisions of the Territorial Force, which had been organised in 1908 with the aim of training part-time soldiers for home defence in the event of war.

For the 137th Staffordshire Brigade it was made up of four battalions: two each from North and South Staffordshire. The 5th South Staffordshire Regiment had its headquarters and four companies at Walsall; Walsall and Wombourne were staffed by the 6th battalion of the regiment.

The 137th Staffordshire Brigade was based in Wolverhampton, where it had three companies, with others in Willenhall, Sedgley, Darlaston, Bilston and Tottonhall. Its main recruiting centre was at the Drill Hall in Stafford Street, Wolverhampton. The Brigade was made up not only of infantrymen and gunners but also of engineers and medics, who belonged to the Field Ambulance of Royal Army Medical Corps.

Among the Wolverhampton men of the 137th North Midland Field Ambulance was Lance Corporal William J Connolly, army number 42138. He was actively engaged in the final months of the war, which began in March 1918 when General Ludendorff launched the German Spring offensive as a last attempt to gain victory.

His initial successes were dramatic and demoralising, but after the Germans were finally repulsed in their attempts to capture Anzio, Ludendorff shifted his attacks to the north and the Yser Salient in Flanders. In the Battle of the Yser, his troops made significant gains but a final drive to capture the Channel ports was repulsed on April 29.

With the battle still raging, the next evening L/Cpl Connolly was the duly NCO at an advanced dressing station near to Gorre, a hamlet just to the east of Bethune that had been turned into a support post. That night and into the next day, it was bombarded with mustard gas shells by the enemy. Distinguishing himself with conspicuous bravery, L/Cpl Connolly was awarded the Military Medal on August 30. The citation read that he ‘remained at duty, despite incessant vomiting, till he could neither see or stand. His courage and devotion to duty was a good example to the men of the unit, and to the gassed men of other units who were passing through the dressing station’.

So great was much of his sight, the valourous Wulfrunian was eventually moved to Bellahouse Hospital in Glasgow. Here he was visited by his wife of six months, Lillian, from whom he had been parted two days after their wedding.

After his recovery, Bill Connolly returned to Wolverhampton and was presented with ‘a beautiful gold pocket watch’ which his grand-daughter Elizabeth Thompson is proud to have. Elizabeth is keen to know if this watch was presented at a special ceremony and whether any other Wolverhampton men won medals and were given such a gift by the town. She explains that before the Great War, her grandfather was ‘a skilled Art Metal Worker, having served as an apprentice with F.J.J Gibbons from July 22, 1942, having left to join the army. He was a skilled Art Metal Worker, having served as an apprentice with F.J.J Gibbons from July 22, 1942, having left to join the army. He

L/Cpl Connolly with his wife, Lillian, during the Great War

William Connolly in his uniform

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William, with his Military Medal, and Lillian after he was injured

The postcard from Major General Thwaites, mentioning the medics conspicuous bravery
Police launch recruitment drive for 200 constables

WEST Midlands Police has launched the drive for 200 new constables with a three-week recruiting window opening later this month.

The successful applicants will start training in November as the second batch of a total of 450 officers announced by former Police and Crime Commissioner Bob Jones before his fourth last year.

The first-200-strong intake have been posted to police stations after completing their 18-week training programme.

They will remain as probationary officers alongside more experienced staff for a further 18 months.

More than 4,000 people applied for those jobs and the force is thriving itself for a similar rush this time.

Chief Inspector Kevin Doyle, in charge of the recruitment drive, said:

"Before this started in February last year, the force had experienced a five-year freeze. The new application process continues to search for fresh, new and diverse recruits."

Impressed

"We have been very impressed with the calibre of the candidates from last year's intake who have far exceeded our expectations and raised the bar high.

"Policing is challenging and rewarding. As a constable you will get to learn new skills and meet new people. As well as reducing crime, you will help to reduce the fear of crime by providing reassurance, inspiring confidence and really making a difference to people's lives."

Those interested can formally apply during a three-week period beginning on March 21 but are encouraged to register interest now online. Those chosen will need to complete two years as a probationary officer.

West Midlands Police said potential applicants should have a passion for public service and a desire to make a difference in the region's communities.

Other attributes being sought are good communication skills, calm, confident personalities, problem solving and an ability to easily build relationships, be a team player and respect other people.

The force is specifically aiming to increase the number of black and minority ethnic officers to better reflect the communities it serves.

John Scott

Big Switch set to save £300 on energy bills

RESIDENTS who signed up for a new energy scheme to save an average of almost £300 per home on their bills, say the boss of Dudley Council.

The Big Switch has now closed and following an auction between energy companies the average saving has been announced.

Councillor Pete Lowe, leader of Dudley Council, said: "The two winning suppliers for the latest Big Switch are E.ON and Scottish Power who will supply a range of energy contracts. All the tariffs offered are market leading and exclusive to scheme members. These rates are not available direct from the suppliers or via price comparison services. The average saving per household will be almost £300."

Those who registered will receive a personal offer.

Driver has lucky escape after railings crash

A DRIVER escaped with just a cut finger despite his car crashing and becoming impaled on metal railings in Stourbridge.

The car also demolished two garden walls in Enville Street, Wollaston, in the early hours accident last week.

The incident has prompted plans to improve safety on the street near Katie Fitzgerald's pub opposite the junction with Mamble Road.

Five crews from Stourbridge and Brierley Hill attended following a call from police. Metal railings smashed through the driver's side windows of the car, narrowly missing the motorist.

Resident Kevin Woodward said he was woken up by the accident and saw the aftermath.

"I've only had the wall rebuilt by the council a few days ago and now it is damaged again," he said.

"There have been accidents down here before. We want the council to have a look at it."

Councillor Barlow said he had emailed Dudley Council transport officers to urge them to look at introducing safety measures.

Stourbridge firefighters at the scene tweeted that the driver had been "lucky to escape" the stricken Nissan Micra.

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PICK UPS:
Sir Tom joining the bill for a ‘Made in Britain’ V-Festival

EastEnders star Tony Maudsley has tough new role

TO millions of TV viewers he is known as soft-hearted Barry from EastEnders but theatre goers in Wolverhampton will soon see Shaun Williamson play as a tough guy.
He stars in 1960s-set one man, Two Guvnors, from Tuesday, March 17, to Saturday, March 22, at the Grand Theatre.
Williamson played in the BBC soap between 1994 and 2004 as Barry Evans, who was dramatically killed off when his lover Jeanette Butler pushed him off a cliff. But 11 years later, the actor played Charlie Clench in a show which is a glorious celebration of British comedy.
“I always enjoy coming to Wolverhampton, it’s a beautiful theatre,” he said.
“The show is incredible and probably one of the finest things I have been a part of in my career. It’s like an adult pantomime meeting a Carry On film.”

Shaun Williamson as a gangster in One Man Two Guvnors
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N
o Australian soap has been as indelible as Neighbours on the English television screen. From those early lunchtime programs, which began in 1985, the Ramsay Street TV folk has touched a chord with British audiences, and it still does. I had helped make recording stars of Kyle Moresko and Jason Donovan, was a recording ground for the likes of Jason Donovan, Guy Pearce, Margot Robbie and Alan Dale, while characters such as Karl and Susan Kennedy have become household names. In Neighbours 30: The Stars Reunited (Wednesday, Channel 5, 10pm), Kyle, Guy, Margot, Jason and Delta Goodrem reflect on their time in the show.

Stefan Dennis (Paul Robinson) and Tim Phillips (Daniel Rosen) introduce proceedings, and welcome Letitia Dean and Anne Charleton (Harriett and Mark Bishop), Mary Little (Jose Manel) and Craig McLachlan (Trumpy Ramsay). Paul Robinson, arguably the greatest soap villain ever, has had a dream role for Stefan Dennis. "He's a great guy," enthuses the seasoned spearhead. "People say to me, 'You've really enjoyed this role,' but you know you've got to do other stuff. You've got to get away from the character. I think now it just seems too similar to when I left behind can ever come to terms with their bareaissance. Those she meets include Downtown Abbey actress Michelle Dockery, taking about the death of her by now Lincoln, and a Norfolk woman who is living with the success of both her husband and son.

WEDNESDAY
Stargazing Live
BBC1, 8pm
New series. Professor Brian Cox and Dara O'Briain investigate what sugar does to the body, finds out what has happened to the relax between the lines of a TV classic. They come up with ways to beat their cravings and reduce their intake - but will it make a noticeable difference?

FRIDAY
Alan Carr: Chatty Man
Channel 4, 10pm
The chat show these days is less about great quotes and more about those jaw-dropping moments that go viral. While Graham Norton may be the king of the genre, with James McAvoy and Mark Ruffalo on unicycles and that Will Smith dance routine (31 million hits and rising), Alan Carr has given him a run for his money. The Tom Hiddleston dance scene from a couple of years ago is well worth tracking down if you haven't seen it already. Now the NTA-winning host is back for a new run with 'The Voice coaches Rita Ora, Will.I.am, Ricky Wilson and Tom Jones; Hollywood heartthrob Ant Anstead; EastEnders' Danny Dyer, and providing the music is X Factor runner-up Ella Henderson. Should be performing her new single, Mirror Man.

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Extended town house for offers around £119,950

This extended four-bedroom detached house in Dog Kennel Lane, Oldbury, has a good sized garden and is in a popular area. It is for sale through Tom Giles & Co at £339,950. It has a reception hall with a stairs to the first floor, a bay window, a lounge with sliding doors to the garden, an open plan kitchen/diner, a spacious living room, a separate dining area, a family bathroom, a downstairs shower room and a cloakroom. The property is readily accessible to the M5, with a five ring gas hob with cooker hood above, an integrated dishwasher, double oven, central island and breakfast bar. This popular area is a perfect place for a family with children.

Four-bedroom detached is in a popular area

This four-bedroom detached house is in a popular area. It has a reception hall, a lounge with large windows and a bay window, a kitchen/diner with modern appliances, a spacious living room, a family bathroom, a downstairs shower room and a cloakroom. The property is readily accessible to the town centre and has a large garden with a patio area.

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A well presented, mid-terrace house with a small garden, a kitchen/diner, a spacious lounge and double glazing. EPC: C

ROWLEY REGIS, Gosford Lane£500 pcm.Offers

A modern semi-detached house in a quiet location, with a large rear garden and double glazing. EPC: E

ROWLEY REGIS, Fairhouse Avenue£675 pcm.Offers

A four-bedroom house in a popular area, with a large rear garden and double glazing. EPC: A

ROWLEY REGIS, Beech Street£675 pcm.Offers

A four-bedroom house in a popular area, with a large rear garden and double glazing. EPC: A

Halesowen Office Lettings & Property Management

ROWLEY REGIS, Bear Wood Road£550 pcm.Offers

A well presented, mid-terrace house with a small garden, a kitchen/diner, a spacious lounge and double glazing. EPC: C

ROWLEY REGIS, Gosford Lane£500 pcm.Offers

A modern semi-detached house in a quiet location, with a large rear garden and double glazing. EPC: E

ROWLEY REGIS, Fairhouse Avenue£675 pcm.Offers

A four-bedroom house in a popular area, with a large rear garden and double glazing. EPC: A

ROWLEY REGIS, Beech Street£675 pcm.Offers

A four-bedroom house in a popular area, with a large rear garden and double glazing. EPC: A

This extended four-bedroom detached house in Dog Kennel Lane, Oldbury, has a good sized garden and is in a popular area. It is for sale through Tom Giles & Co at £339,950. It has a reception hall with a stairs to the first floor, a bay window, a lounge with sliding doors to the garden, an open plan kitchen/diner, a spacious living room, a separate dining area, a family bathroom, a downstairs shower room and a cloakroom. The property is readily accessible to the M5, with a five ring gas hob with cooker hood above, an integrated dishwasher, double oven, central island and breakfast bar. This popular area is a perfect place for a family with children.

Four-bedroom detached is in a popular area

This four-bedroom detached house is in a popular area. It has a reception hall, a lounge with large windows and a bay window, a kitchen/diner with modern appliances, a spacious living room, a family bathroom, a downstairs shower room and a cloakroom. The property is readily accessible to the town centre and has a large garden with a patio area.
2 and 3 bedroom cottages in a new gated development

THE GABLES, HARTLEBURY
£569,950
Wonderfully spacious historic Grade II Listed house in the sought after village of Hartlebury with more than 4,000 sq ft over three floors. Splendid Drawing Room 24’x15’, Dining Room, Study, Fabulous Open Plan Kitchen / Family Room, Six Bedrooms, Two Bathrooms, Basement Sauna, Double Garage. EPC: D.

THE OLD GRAMMAR SCHOOL, HARTLEBURY
£685,000
Set within a Conservation Area and dating back to the 18th Century, with a wealth of period features. Generous driveway, gardens front and rear, detached double Garage with W.C., Workshop and Loft Room over with Shower Room. EPC: E

SHUT MILL BARN, ROMSLEY, NEAR HALESOWEN
£479,950
Beautifully situated barn conversion in idyllic rural surroundings ideally placed for commuters (M5 J43 miles). Splendid Dining hall with Open Gallery landing, Lounge with Inglenook Fireplace, Study/Bedroom 4. Excellent 15ft x 13ft Breakfast Kitchen, Utility Room, Guest Cloakroom, Three Principal Bedrooms, Dressing Room & Shower Room to Master, Family Bathroom, Generous Parking & Double Garage.

WARESLEY LODGE, HARTLEBURY
£365,950
Attractive individual 18th Century detached house, with basement flat providing letting potential. Sitting Room with Feature Fireplace, Spacious Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen with Appliances, Ground Floor Shower Room, Three Principal Double Bedrooms, Bathroom & En-suite Shower Room, Detached Garage & Parking, Desirable Position on Village Outskirts.

7 THURSTON COURT, BEWDLEY
£220,000
A delightful and spacious three storey town house enjoying a courtyard location off Severn Side South. Reception Hall, Spacious Lounge, 20’9” Dining Kitchen with Integrated Appliances, Utility Room, Generous First Floor Landing leading to Two Bedrooms and House Bathroom, Second Floor to Principal Bedroom with Fitted Wardrobes and En-suite Shower Room, 2 Allocated Parking Spaces, No Upwards Chain.

LAX LANE, BEWDLEY
£185,000
Charming Grade II listed courtyard cottage in super location only 50 yards from the riverside. Spacious Breakfast Kitchen with Brick Feature Fireplace, First Floor Dual Aspect Lounge, Double Bedroom, Bathroom with White Suite, Occasional Second Bedroom in Attic Space, Garage in Courtyard. EPC: C.

WOLVERLEY HOUSE, WOLVERLEY
£220,000
Spacious ground floor apartment with own private entrance door forming part of a splendid Grade II listed Manor House enjoying a delightful location. Spacious 18ft x 15ft Lounge, Split-level Dining Area, Open Plan Kitchen, Master Bedroom with En-suite Shower Room, Second Double Bedroom, Bathroom, Garage.

THE WILLOWS, STOURPORT ON SEVERN
£256,000
Fabulous riverside gardens at head of private cul-de-sac with this unique modern detached property. Lounge with Feature Fireplace, Wide Open Arch to Dining Room, Kitchen with Integral Hob, Oven & Hood, Study, Utility Room & W.C., Three First Floor Bedrooms, En-suite Dressing Room to Master, Detached Garage 18ft x 14ft, Fishing Rights on River Stour. EPC: C.
YOUR MOVE

Genuinely helpful.

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Celerio for no-nonsense

Suzuki has had a tough time in the past few years and when pressed, its UK importers tend to hold up their hands and put the blame squarely on global exchange rates.

Yes, those same exchange rates that saw Daihatsu pull out of the UK and Subaru discover that the relative strength of the yen versus the pound made its cars as expensive as some BMWs and Audis. We have every sympathy for Suzuki. Subaru were pretty much hosed for a while because all of its manufacturing base was in Japan, so it bore the full brunt of the fiscal fluctuations. Suzuki has bowed a bit cleverer and has leveraged its longstanding association with Maruti in India to bring us the Celerio city car. Can it compete with some very sophisticated rivals in the UK? More to the point, does it even need to?

The one-litre three-cylinder petrol engine develops a total of 66hp at 6,000rpm and 89Nm of torque at 3,500rpm, so you’re going to need to give the throttle pedal a bit of treatment to get anywhere.

There’s plenty of space in the cabin for five occupants. The boot is vast for a city car, with a capacity of 254 litres.

The Celerio is tasked with pensioning off the tiny Twingo, but it was never really designed to compete with the more high-end offerings like the Volkswagen Up or the Renault Twingo, but it was never really designed to prove to be extremely reliable. The Celerio demonstrates that these qualities needn’t cost you the earth.

The fact that it’s well-equipped and is incredibly cheap to run is just the icing on the cake. It might not seem an obvious hit in a sense, easy to use and which we’d bet will prove to be extremely reliable, the Celerio looks set to do even better than the Alto, with its super-low emissions and clever transmission.

If you want a car that is utterly no-nonsense, easy to use and which we’d bet will prove to be extremely reliable, the Celerio looks set to do even better than the Alto, with its super-low emissions and clever transmission.

The one-litre triple engine makes some very respectable figures, edging 65.7 miles from a gallon of unleaded and emitting just 84g/km of carbon dioxide. Go for the AGS-equipped model and things get even better. Suzuki reckon on emissions of just 84g/km, which is one of the very lowest figures for a conventional petrol-engined car. If you were expecting something cheap and primitive when you saw that Maruti association, think again.

The Suzuki Celerio is always going to be overshadowed by state of the art city slickers like the Volkswagen Up or the Renault Twingo, but it was never really designed to compete with the more high end offerings of the city car sector. It’s easy to overlook the fact that after the Hyundai i10 and the Volkswagen Up, the biggest selling city car in the UK in 2014 was the Suzuki Alto. The Celerio looks set to do even better than the Alto, with its super-low emissions and clever transmission.

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When it comes to finding value and high quality used vehicles Oak Garage at Sterling Park, Merry Hill takes a lot of beating. What’s more, the team can provide all this, plus a customer care experience that will entice you back again when it’s time to replace your car.

Established in 1971 Oak Garage has gained an enviable reputation for delivering quality and value. As an official Motability Partner, the dealership offers ex-Motability cars sourced straight from the organisation itself. These vehicles will have been properly maintained to manufacturer standard and regularly valeted throughout their lifetime. Any minor paint or body damage will have been removed and all will have main dealer stamps in the service book. A considerable number may also still be covered under the manufacturer’s warranty and most will carry extremely low mileages being no more than three years old.

Showcases

Whilst Oak Garage in Sterling Park, next to Merry Hill, displays its vehicles within a spacious new showroom, this friendly independent specialist dealership often showcases its vehicles at various popular retail centres in Halesowen, Dudley and across the surrounding area.

Final preparations are now underway to display vehicles on a large stand within the Cornbow Centre in Halesowen so that shoppers can view Oak Garage’s ‘star cars’ when visiting the town’s largest retail complex.

From today and for the next six months, Oak Garage will be presenting one of its cars on the stand situated between Druckers Vienna Patisserie and Asda at the bottom of the escalator. These vehicles will be regularly changed to give shoppers an ideal opportunity to see the sheer breadth and variety of cars available at the dealership.

For much of the time the stand will be manned. A computer is being set up so that stand visitors can view all 50 cars available at the Merry Hill dealership through a ‘virtual showroom’.

Requirements

What’s more, because Oak Garage is one of the larger ex-Motability fleet car suppliers, the sales team have access to Motability’s entire ex-fleet database where over 1,000 cars can be seen online, any one of which can be quickly sourced and supplied, taking into account all your personal requirements.

Oak Garage’s unique ‘All Inclusive Package’ also includes an HPI Vehicle History check and pre-delivery valet and access to low rate finance facilities from Close Motor Finance and MotoNovo, two of the best names in the business.

Be sure to visit Oak Garage’s stand at The Cornbow Centre, Halesowen from this Thursday as with more than 1,000 superb ex-Motability vehicles available at any one time, they are bound to be able to find a car that exactly matches your needs and lifestyle at a price you can afford.

To find out more call 01384 75097 or visit their excellent website by logging onto www.oakgarage.co.uk. You can also visit Oak Garage’s new showroom at Units 1-2 Sterling Park, Merry Hill, DY5 1TB.
Insignia – back to the front?

By David Banner

Welcome to Britain’s best selling traditional family car. Yes, you heard that right Vauxhall’s Insignia. Launched in 2008 as a more stylish replacement for the uninspiring Vectra, this model was instantly well received, carrying off the coveted 2009 Car of the Year title and racking up impressive sales at the same time as other mainstream brands were struggling.

This improved model has had a thorough chassis update tested on proper bumpy British roads, with a redesigned rear suspension system to improve ride comfort and a steering calibration refreshment that’s brought a more direct feel through the corners.

And both of those issues can be further improved if you tick the extra-cost box for the FlexRide adaptive damping system.

You can’t fault the effort that’s gone into all of this – over 60 percent of the chassis componentry is new – but it’s not enough to make this into a car you’d really describe as ‘rewards’.

What it does do is perfect what was there in the first place. For most of the people, most of the time, this, dynamically, is all the car they will ever need, quietly and effectively getting on with the job of getting you from A to B.

Refinement

The ‘quietly’ bit’s important. Almost all Insignia buyers want a diesel and though the original version of Vauxhall’s 2.0 CDTi unit had many merits, refinement wasn’t one of them. In fact, it was one of the noisiest, rattliest diesels in its class.

But isn’t now. Though at the launch of this revised version, an old 2.0 CDTi 130 unit was still being offered as a range price leader, most sales emphasis these days is put on the two entry-level 2.0 CDTi ecoFLEX units, offering either 120 or 140PS.

There’s also a less frugal 163PS version and a potent 195PS 2.0 CDTi Biturbo.

In the petrol range, there’s also a cheap old-tech engine choice – the 140PS 1.8i unit – but again, more emphasis is being put on the modern turbo petrol variant offerings, the 140PS 1.4T, the 170PS 1.6 SIDI and the 250PS 2.0 SIDI. At the top of the range, a 325PS 2.0 V6 continues in the VXR Super/Sports model.

This VXR has 4WD but the only other model in the range that gets it is the Country Tourer estate version which, with its raised ride height, aims to offer an SUV alternative.

Outside, there are detail improvements front and rear that aim to bring a wider and lower look to the hatch, saloon and Sports Tourer estate bodystyles that, as before, make up the range. That’s certainly the feel you get from the front end with its redesigned high-gloss chrome grille and thinner logo bar cradling a prominent Griffin badge and including winglets that link with the sleeker gloss black-trimmed head lights.

Up-to-date

And inside? Well it feels a great deal more up to date, with many of the previously scattered and confusing little but tons tidied up onto a (sadly optional) central 8-inch colour touchscreen that deals with everything from navigation to audio selections, Bluetooth phone functions to a series of Vauxhall-sourced apps.

There’s even a slightly cheap-feeling touchpad behind the gearlever that accepts one, two or three finger gestures for the various operating functions – or you can press a button on the steering wheel and activate the whole thing by voice control.

More hi-tech can be viewed through the redesigned three-spoke leather-trimmed steering wheel where you’ll find an instrument cluster with another 8-inch high resolution display.

This one, also optional and framed by conventional analogue gauges either side, is primarily there to show a virtual speedometer but can also be configured to display all sorts of information such as smartphone or audio use – or even navigation.

Out back, the hatch most choose offers a 530-litre boot with 540-litres on offer in the Sports Tourer estate.

In theory, Insignia pricing covers a very wide span – any where between £17,000 and £33,000.

In practice, almost all Insignias sales are concentrated in the £17,000 to £22,000 bracket, with most of those going to business buyers who usually want one of the 2.0-litre CDTi diesel variants. Paying much more than that for this car takes it into the BMW 3 Series dominated compact executive saloon bracket where mainstream makers usually struggle.

Talking of saloons, there’s a four-door Insignia saloon bodystyle as a no-cost option to the more familiar five-door hatch, but it comes with a much smaller range of trim and engine choices.
Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range (excl. Ampera): Urban: 12.7 (22.3) – 76.3 (3.7), Extra-urban: 23.9 (11.8) – 94.2 (3.0), Combined: 18.0 (15.7) – 88.3 (3.2), CO₂ emissions: 373 – 85g/km.

For one fast fit network in the UK, the future is looking particularly bright after new locations and significant investment was announced for 2015, starting with an impressive new facelift for a Halesowen centre.

First Stop has revealed plans to build on its network and has now relaunched its new-look garage in Overend Road, Halesowen, which has benefitted from substantial investment to boast improved branding and equipment, in a sign of things to come.

At present, First Stop is comprised of 52 locations around the UK and the chain is planning on recruiting more outlets across the UK. They have also improved branding at three other members at Horndean Tyres, Ashford Tyres & Exhausts and Thornton’s Tyres.

First Stop’s retail business development manager Stuart Eagland said the plan was to keep on developing the network and giving motorists more compelling reasons to visit one of its centres for repairs and maintenance.

He said: “We are embarking on a very exciting new chapter for First Stop, with better branding, equipment and overall support promised from many of our business partners.”

Stuart refers to the First Stop business model as a ‘soft franchise’ proposition and, being the retail arm of Bridgestone, he believes that the network is in a strong position to succeed. The benefit of working with Bridgestone is that we work directly with the world’s largest tyre manufacturer, before providing some outstanding premium products to motorists.

“Our Halesowen centre is testament to the new direction we are working towards. It offers the full range of services including tyres, MOTs, servicing, exhausts, batteries and anything else besides.

“Proving this ‘one-stop-shop’ solution is something we are seeking to replicate and we are actively looking to develop the network around the UK from here on.”

For more information about First Stop and its network of centres, visit www.firststop.co.uk

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Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, March 12, 2015

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Jobs

FULL TIME - GENERAL

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MNA Media, publishers of the Express & Star, Shropshire Star and their associated weekly newspapers based in Telford, is seeking a full-time Paperwork / Distribution Administrator to join their Distribution Team.

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Local newspapers and websites offer the most effective combination for driving consumer action. Readers are more than twice as likely to act upon local advertisements than those on TV and social media.

SOURCE: The Newspaper Society - Consumer Catalyst 2014
Max Clegg says he has landed the dream job as Cradley skipper for the new season.

Clegg will lead the Heathens into action at Birmingham next Wednesday, March 18, in the first leg of the Travel Prize Challenge.

Clegg, who will be riding for the Heathens for the third consecutive season in 2015, says he can’t wait to get going and is predicting another “amazing year” for the side.

“I’ve been my dream ever since I started with Cradley to become their number one and to be captain as well as a pleasure knowing that I can be such a big part of the club,” he said.

“If I could guide the club to a hat-trick of league titles in my first year as number one and captain, that would be such a big thing and such an amazing achievement – it would be heaven for me.

“All of the teams have got really strong heat-leaders but I think the reserves and the riders in the lower part of the team are going to be key.

“I think Mike (Nusahaan) will have a good year and there’s a lot of expectations from Edin (Peric) – they will give it their best but if they do what we know they can do, then I don’t think anything’s going to stop Cradley again this year.”

The young Yorkshireman, who turns 18 next month, feels he has been handed the “ultimate reward” following his excellent run of form from the second half of the 2014 campaign. He is also hoping that he can use his own previous memories to make him the perfect skipper.

Clegg said: “I remember when I started at reserve, Lewis (Blackbird) and Ash (Morriss) were brilliant with me and then Starkey (Paul Starke) was excellent last year.

“I think if I can help the boys this year like they all helped me then we’re in for a good season.”

“It will be slightly tougher to be Cradley captain this year because we’re at a different track which is new to all of us really.

“I think it will be a disadvantage for us to start with – but only for the first few meetings.”

**Wolves get a point from battle on home turf**

**Wolves 2 Watford 2**

KENNY Jackett’s side, perhaps, deserved more than a point from this high-tempo encounter for the way they dominated much of the game.

But with 10 games to go, this was probably one they needed to win to start driving into that four-point gap to the play-off places.

Jackett deployed the recently injured James Henry in the No.10 role.

But Henry has the intelligence, subtlety of touch and vision to justify his manager’s faith in him and he responded with a man of the match performance.

Benik Afobe gave the home side the perfect start in the 14th minute with his seventh goal in 11 games for his new club, taking his tally to 26 for the season which made him the leading marksman in all four divisions.

Even at £22m, Afobe looks a steal.

It’s difficult to recall a Wolves striker with the combination of such control, quick feet, pace and movement.

And he showed all those qualities as he effortlessly brought the ball under control just outside the box.

Wolves retained the initiative but failed to penetrate. And they found themselves all square again.

Former Walsall striker Troy Deeney’s long pass from the left field who visited Halesowen, following two previous near misses, was poked home when Graham Knight found himself with time and space in the box.

The hosts responded, and the scores were level at 2-2 immediately, and drew the scores level with a few minutes when Paul Woodall converted from a penalty corner.

Knight secured his hat-trick with a left-touched over from a short penalty pass.

Paul Woodall scored on his return to make it 4-2, after a quick counter-attacking play was bought back by the umpires following a discussion surrounding a quick free-hit.

However, this mattered little when Chales Palmer fired home with a reverse stick shot to make it 4-2.

Stone attempted to stage a comeback when a mistake by Ben Hughes gave an easy finish to the visitors’ striker, but it was too little too late, and Hales walked away with a deserved 3 points.

On Sunday, it was third time lucky as Chesterfield got a consolation from a penalty corner of their own but the game was out of their grasp by then.

**It’s a double delight for Old Hales side**

**OHHC 1sts 4 Stone 3**

**OHHC 1sts 9 Chesterfield 1**

OLD Halesonians Men’s 1st XI completed a perfect 6-pointer weekend, as they beat opposition at opposite ends of the table.

This time out Hales mathematically clear of the bottom three with just three games to go.

On Saturday, Hales hosted Stone who sit second in the Midlands 1 division.

It was the visitors who expectedly opened the scoring, but the home side responded almost immediately, and drew the scores level within a few minutes when Paul Woodall converted from a penalty corner.

The hosts found themselves in-front soon after when Graham Knight found himself with time at the top of the circle.

Knight composed himself and slotted the ball home into the bottom corner.

Before the half-time break however, the visitors responded, and the scores were level at 2-2 at the half-way point.

**Secured**

The second half continued as the first left off, with chances for both sides.

Woodall secured his tally early on to give Hales a 3-2 lead.

Hales had a goal chalked off, after a quick counter-attacking play was bought back by the umpires following a discussion surrounding a quick free-hit.

However, this matter little when Chales Palmer fired home with a reverse stick shot to make it 4-2.

Stone attempted to stage a comeback when a mistake by Ben Hughes gave an easy finish to the visitors’ striker, but it was too little too late, and Hales walked away with a deserved 3 points.

In the second half, Hales took control of the game and never really relinquished as they went on to put nine into their opponent’s net.

Tom Bulteel got his name on the score sheet, before Jack Price’s first senior goal five minutes later.

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**Fresh twist over Blues ownership**

BIRMINGHAM City’s complex ownership situation has taken another twist after seven directors resigned from its parent company.

A statement to the Hong Kong Stock Exchange confirmed the chairman, which has seen the seven directors resign and former chairman Peter Pannu removed.

The move effectively sees the re-appointment of Stuart and Vicky, in charge, with employees Stephen Lui appointed chairman of the board and David Yen Ching Wai as chief executive.

Pannu has been removed from the board along with Chan Shun Wah.

Two others, Cheung Kwai Nang and Carson Wong Ka Chun, have also been suspended. Pannus Parnavis’s company also remains a director at St Andrew’s.

**Foursths keep up the pressure for shut out**

OLD Hales were quickly into their stride and after some good work by the forwards the ball was moved to the right, and a well-timed pass from Jack Lishman gave Dan Smith the space to score a well-worked try.

Smith was on the score sheet again following good work by hooker Gary Jones who offloaded the ball to him to score.

Pershore gained more possession and their flyhalf and centre made valiant attempts to breach the Old Hales defence, but it held firm.

The home side got back on track when they moved upfield and Jamie Leech ripped the ball from a man and raced 20 metres to score under the posts. George Taylor added the conversion to make the score 22-0 at half time.

In the second half Old Hales capitalised on a deep kick from Pershore.

Smith collected the ball on the bounce and linked with Jamie Leech who in turn released Brad Vernon supporting on the right. Vernon raced 40 metres towards the Pershore line before passing inside to Jack Lishman who scored.


Neither Old Halesonians 2nds nor Old Hales Colts 1sts managed to secure a point today.

Old Halesonians Colts 41

Bromsgrove Colts 27

**Parker to take up No.8 spot at Brummies**

BIRMINGHAM Speedway are delighted to announce that Matthew Parker has signed a No.8 rider for the season – it’s a big welcome to Robert Parker.

Parker, aged 19, is a talented all-round motorcyclist who only tried speedway for the first time last April.

He’s been riding Motorcross since he was 10 and Brummies boss Graeme Broadbent said he saw him a chance.

“Matthew is comfortable on the bike and I like his attitude, I’m pleased to welcome him to Birmingham Speedway as our No.8 rider,” he said.

“I think he will be very competitive during the winter and I like his riding style. It would be no major surprise if he started putting our reserves under pressure. We will definitely be keeping a close eye on him with as many outings as possible.”

**GET A FAST RESPONSE**

Local newspapers and websites offer the most effective combination for driving consumer action. Readers are more than twice as likely to act upon local advertisements than those on TV and social media.

**SOURCE:** The Newspaper Society - Consumer Catalyst 2014
Reanne's road to play Crucible

IT'S a long way from Baggidge Social Club to the Crucible,
but Reanne Evans is well on the road to Sheffield - and is hoping to make his- toric as the first woman to take part in the snooker World Championships.

Not that Reanne is new to global exposure in the sport.

As women's world champion for 10 years running and the first woman to take part in the final stages of a world ranking event, Reanne Evans is used to breaking down barriers.

The 28-year-old from Dudley has been invited to play in the qualifying rounds of the tournament, with the carrot of massive TV exposure if she makes it to the final proper.

Practising at Baggidge and Sedgley Ex-Servicemen's Club, mother-of-one Reanne first found fame when she was one of two UK Midlands amateurs to represent Britain at the European Team Championships in Latvia in 2004.

The former Bishop Milner School business studies student then went on to de- fend her world championship title while pregnant, admitting: "My bump made things a bit difficult on certain shots but I was very pleased with the way I performed."

While used to attention from the media, nothing has prepared her for the excitement and support she has received since announcing she would compete.

"I feel it's very much. From the moment I made the announcement the phone didn't stop. I had to charge my phone three times."

Reanne will need to win three matches to get through the qualifying stages.

Baggies pair are shortlisted for monthly awards

ALBION boss Tony Pulis is in the run- ning for the Birmingham & District Lea- gue Manager of the Month for February, while goalkeeping coach Ben Foster is up for the play- er-of-the-Month award.

The duo have been nominated following a month in which the Baggies were unbeaten in three Premier League games and conceded only two goals.

Home wins over Swansea City and Southampton, coupled with draws at Burnley and Sunderland, also helped Albion climb clear of the relegation zone.

Swans boss Garry Monk is one of 'Pulis' rivals for the manager gong, along with Hull's Steve Bruce and Liver- pool’s Brendan Rodgers, both of whom steered their clubs to unbeaten records in the month.

Foster, who kept three clean sheets in the three games, faced stiff competition for the Player of the Month award from the likes of Spurs striker Harry Kane, who scored five goals for Tottenham.

Arsenal’s Mert Ozil, Swansea’s Jonjo Shelvey, Manchester United’s Robin Van Persie and Liver- pool’s Philippe Coutinho make up the rest of the six nominees.

CRADLEY Heathens star Matt William- son is counting down the days in expec- tation of the new season to start.

Williamson, who came through a suc- cessful practice session at Peterborough on Saturday, confirmed he is feeling fit and ready for the new season which is just over a week away.

He said: "I was the first to admit that the end of last season was tough for me for a number of reasons, but after spending time back at home over the last few weeks I can’t wait to go racing again.

"I feel fit and keen to impress every- one this season and want to improve again on what I achieved last season."

OLD Halesians manager David But- ler is confident they will finish their sea- son well, despite facing three of the top Midlands 1 teams in a matter of weeks.

He said: "We are already beginning to look ahead to next season, we are doing recognising couple of quality signings could be what we needed to get over the hump and into the top half of the table."

Rivier's manager Christopher Walker said: "We have some big targets but of course we will be ready for the challenge he will be there to help us.

"We are a mid table side who can compete with anyone in the di- vision. We have a stable squad and a couple of quality signings could be what we need to get back into the top half of the table."

The Clarets, a mid table side this season, want to improve again on what they achieved last season.

DK loses 2-0, Ballyvore bounce back

Penalty point seals DK’s fate

Bromsgrove 30 Old Halesians 25

This was always the makings of a great battle, both sides fighting to stay in the top half of the league with Grove one place above.

Hales came out battling from the off and the larger home pack were continually knocked back by ferocious tackling from the visitors.

Hales backs had a platform and within minutes centre Carl Robinson and Brother Andy were making breaks. Carl collected and sprinted through the defence for a try, converted by Chris Hooper.

It was one way traffic for 25 minutes with another break by C. Robinson, to the supporting Hooper to Wing Luke Smith who sprang for a try, converted by Hooper.

A penalty was then converted by Hooper. Grove came back with a penalty but Hales again dominated in most areas, Hooper breaking for a try in a 32-lead at half time. The home side came out refreshed and quickly set about the full back.

Though the Hales tackling was excellent the pressure told with two tries, one converted for a 15-22 score. Hales again came back forcing another penalty but Hooper converted to lead 15-25.

Hales again suffered injuries with wing War- ren Oliver and second row Tom Field leaving the play, replaced by Patrick Lufkin and James Gibbons.

The disruption affected Hales with 15 minutes to go, Bromsgrove took advantage and a penalty brought them to 18-25. They fought back with another try from a lineout and driving maul. The con- version was successful to draw level 25-25 with 5 minutes to go.

Hales could not get possession, Grove again made ground, fed their backs for the left wing to avoid tacklers to score the deciding try in the corner for a final score and victory 30-25.

To finish the scoring Liam Price made it a double for Grove with another penalty.

Cleggs has found his dream job

Woodalls whacks in the goals

Cricket club celebrating selection

Worcestershire District at their respective age groups. Club chairman Richards Evans said: "Once again the club are immensely proud that so many of our lads have been selected to play representative cricket this summer."

"We congratulate them all and a special men- tion must go to Jujhar, Masabraf and Hayden who have all been selected for the Development of Excellence squads by Worcestershire."

"On behalf of the Club and all parents I would like to thank all of the coaches who continue to give their time freely and selflessly to develop all of our youth players."