**KIDDERMINSTER CHRONICLE**

**Thursday, August 30, 2012**

**Competition**

Win two tickets to The Cycle Show at the NEC

**Memory Lane**

War camp survivor wins medal seven decades on

**Blow for Harriers**

Another defeat and an injury means more disappointment

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**Man hurt in gang attack on towpath**

A MAN walking along a canal towpath in Kidderminster was attacked by six young men.

The victim, in his 30s, was knocked to the ground and kicked and punched.

His attackers took around £77 from him before running off.

He was left with cuts and bruises, but did not need treatment.

**A petition calling on health bosses to safeguard the future of Kidderminster Hospital has been signed by 10,000 people in the town.**

The petition was organised by the Kidderminster Hospital Alliance which was set up to prevent the hospital from being downgraded or closed.

A short list of options for a review of health services in Worcestershire, which could threaten Kidderminster hospital with closure, will be announced next month.

Health chiefs are reviewing how they can manage the county's main hospitals while facing a shortfall in funding.

Six models of care have drawn up, including two which could lead to the Kidderminster site being shut or downgraded.

**NHS sites targeted in thefts**

 meta/thieves have struck at two hospital sites in Kidderminster.

Thousands of pounds of damage was caused to a bungalow at the former Lea Castle Hospital in Cookley.

The raiders stole copper water pipes and cut the mains pipe, flooding the property. The cost of the damage has been estimated at £10,000.

They also stripped £1,000 worth of leads from windows at Kidderminster Hospital.

It's believed the thieves targeted the Cookley site some time between 5.15pm on Thursday last week and 10.20am on Saturday.

The theft at Kidderminster Hospital was discovered on Tuesday last week.

Speaking of the Cookley raid, Pc Rich Allen of Kidderminster police said: “Metal theft is not a victimless crime. This site still belongs to the NHS and any cost to them is a cost to the public purse.”

Anyone with information is asked to call police on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

**Victoria in new tussle**

A FRESH battle for control has begun at Kidderminster carpet firm Victoria.

Three non-executive directors who resigned from the board this month have called a general meeting.

They hope to out chairman Katherine Innes Ker and two non-executive directors appointed after their departure.

Managing director Alan Bullock has warned the plan could put the future of the 115-year-old company under threat.

A date for the general meeting has not yet been fixed.

**Residents battle to put brake on traffic**

Councillors John Thomas, left, and Ken Henderson, right, with resident Ray Kilgour.

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**Celebrations as pupils make the GCSE grade**

PUPILS have been celebrating GCSE successes, despite a national controversy about grades.

Students at Holy Trinity International School in Kidderminster managed a 100 per cent pass rate again. And 95 per cent got pass grades including English, maths and science. Pass rates of 88 per cent for English and 78 per cent for maths are new records for the school.

Top performers included: Ellen Page, seven A* and 5 A grades; Eleanor Brent, four A* and 8 A grades; Rebecca Blackway, four A* and 6 A grades; Abigail Deakin, two A* and 6 A grades, and Grace Eveson with three A* and 8 A grades.

Headteacher Chris Rogers said: “We are delighted that once again our students have done well.”

Excellent

Pupils at Edgecliff High, in Kenner, were celebrating after pupils achieved the school’s best ever set of GCSE results.

Staff said 68 per cent of students had secured at least five A*-C grades, including English and maths. Headteacher Chris Rogers said: “We are all delighted with this excellent set of results.”

Pupils at Haybridge High School in Hagley had their most successful year yet, with 94 per cent getting five A*-C grades, with 91 per cent getting the grades including English and maths.

The number of students gaining three or more A or A* grades also increased this year, to 68 per cent. Some 98 per cent of The Ringwaysford School’s students got five or more A* to C. A total of 79 per cent of students got five A* to C at Holly Hall Academy in Dudley, with 44 per cent including English and maths. Among the pupils celebrating was 16-year-old Lara Jali, of Dudley, who had achieved eight A*, she plans to go on to study biology, chemistry, maths and politics. Maths whiz Rio Dasour was celebrating achieving a C grade in Maths at the age of just nine.

Bournemouth & Dorset

Exhaustion to Lymington & Weymouth and

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Teenage years are difficult enough for any young person, but if they don’t have stability, support, security and love then their life chances can be permanently limited.

Foster carers for teenagers need to:

- Be patient and understanding
- Be a good communicator
- Have a good sense of humour
- Be firm, but not fixed

In return we will provide you with an outstanding support package, including financial support, ongoing training, education & health support and social work supervision (including 24/7 emergency support).

**Make a difference...**

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Call 0800 028 2158 for a comprehensive information pack.

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Pigs dig in to give wildlife a boost

VISITORS to woodlands near Kinver could find themselves bumping into some unusual fellow country lovers. Pigs are amassing around in the brachures at Kinver Edge Hay Farm Project based in Six Acres, near Kinver, which has provided three Hampshire hogs to the National Trust for an experiment to control Himalayan Balsam which has come to dominate woodland and rivers, destroying woodland habitats.

The woodland at Kinver Edge is a site of special scientific interest.

Alex Morley of the National Trust said: “The pigs have been eating the balsam and stopping it seeding. They also turn over the soil where we know we have heather and other plant species that can germinate.”

“Clearing the area will allow plants such as heather and gorse to grow, which provide feeding areas for butterflies and other insects.”

The work is part of plans to restore the woodland glades of Kinver Edge, to improve opportunities for adders and lizards to breed.

Time for a walk

A SIX-MILE guided walk, taking in Kinver Edge and the rock houses will set off from the Comber Road entrance on September 23 at 10am. To book a place on the walk call 01562 712922.

COUNCIL bosses are spending up to £460,000 on furniture, fittings and equipment at their new multi-million headquarters in Kidderminster.

And they are now giving away their old desks and chairs.

Wyre Forest District Council said the surplus furniture and equipment was either no longer fit for purpose or did not fit in the new development.

Council leader John Campion has invited Wyre Forest-based voluntary and charitable organisations to bid for the furniture and equipment at no charge.

Around 200 council staff will be moved to the new headquarters from other council-owned or operated offices.

Older buildings around by the authority are expected to be sold to raise the cash for the £10 million development.

Councillor Campion said: “Obviously we have invested as much furniture as possible, but as in any relocation there is furniture that is no longer fit for purpose or simply doesn’t fit.”

“We have drawn up a list with the surplus furniture by giving it away locally as it’s the most cost-effective way of doing this.”

Free items available include meeting chairs, workstaton chairs, small tables, and three- and four-drawer desk pedestals, workstations, bookcase shelves, three-drawer desks, desk lamps and desk fans.

The council had planned to move into the building at Findonpoint Business Park, near Stourport, at the start of September.

But bosses have been told BT is unable to install vital data links for the council’s computer system as scheduled.

Staff are now expected to move into the site at the beginning of October.

The new building has proven controversial since it was announced in 2010. Some councillors said the existing facilities should have been modernised instead to save money.

Anyone interesting in the furniture should email Holly Wilson for a list of August 31.

She can be contacted by email at holly.wilson@wyreforest.gov.uk

WASHINGTON
NEWS

Booming firm’s success recognised

A FAMILY-OWNED ventilation manufacturer is celebrating after being ranked in 41st place in a study of the region’s leading businesses.

University of Wolverhampton research also placed Elta Group as the seventh biggest in the general manufacturing sector. Elta had a turnover of more than £81 million last year; an increase of £11 million on the previous year.

The company, based on the Peninsoll trading estate, Kingswinford, has strengthened its position acquiring businesses as far afield as Australia. But Elta Group vice chairman David Ball said that the company’s roots remained in the Black Country.

Drivers in rural parts of Worcestershire are being warned of hazards caused by farm working.

The Safer Roads Partnership and the police are reminding motorists that harvest time means that there will be more agricultural vehicles on the roads.

The partnership warns that there is not only more risk of a crash, but that debris on the road could create additional hazards.

And a warning has gone out to farmers too.

The partnership says that farmers and contractors have a duty to ensure that their vehicles are cleared of any mud or debris before they go on the road.

Excess mud on the road is a danger to cars, motorbikes and cyclists and can cause skidding, especially in the wet, they say.

Drivers of agricultural vehicles are also being urged to consider other road users.

They are asked to pull into lay-bys to allow other vehicles to pass safely, avoiding traffic build-up.

Failure to do so could lead to prosecution for careless or inconsiderate driving.

Vicki Bristow, of the West Mercia Safer Roads Partnership, said: “If these points are adhered to, it will reduce the road safety concerns for all road users.

“Motorists need to be aware that there are more agricultural vehicles on the roads and not to chance risky manoeuvres.”

Anyone wishing to report debris or mud on the road can contact the Worcestershire Hub on 01905 765765 for advice.

Rural roads danger alert

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Express & Star
THE fastest driver ever caught in the UK has started a nine-year jail sentence after racing at speeds of up to 180mph along the M6 in Staffordshire.

Ben Westwood, of Woden Road, Wednesfield, was behind the wheel of a stolen £85,000 Audi RS5 as he outran the police helicopter while hurtling north along the M6 from Wolverhampton to Stafford.

He then dashed back and dumped the car in Pickering Road, Wednesfield, following a five-mile chase and was later found in a flat nearby.

Westwood, aged 33, was linked to more than a dozen smash and grab raids in the Midlands.

The five-month crime spree, which included raids in Stourport on August 3 and Torquay, involved a 65-mile police chase following the raid in Penn that led to Westwood and his gang’s downfall.

Four men in the dock with him either admitted or were found guilty of conspiracy to steal but were involved in only the Penn garage attempted cash theft.

Greg Simpson, aged 41, of Wordsworth Road, Wolverhampton, received a four-year jail sentence.

Ramesh Sharma, 38, of Harrington Close, Dudley, got three years.

Luke Watkins, 34, of Whetstone Grove, Bushbury, jailed for three years and nine months, and Stephen Green, of Castlebridge Road, Wednesfield, jailed for four years.

Westwood’s route during the police chase

Crime spree

The Worcester police raids that were linked to Westwood and the Audi


September 28: Tesco, Millewood Drive, Westport.

November 3: Spa, Lower UXCHill Road, Stourport.

Westwood’s route during the police chase

180mph getaway driver is jailed for nine years
TAI CHI CLASSES
Relieve stress, become healthier, improve balance and mobility, learn self defence at the same time.

St Michael’s Church - Stourport
Monday 10 am-11 am, 7 pm-8.30 pm
Shaw Hedge Community Centre - Bewdley
Thursday 7 pm-8.30 pm
Contact Christine or Graham on 01299 266568

COMPETITION
Just the ticket so get on your bike

TO mark The Cycle Show’s return to Birmingham’s NEC next month the Chronicle series is offering 20 lucky readers the chance to win a pair of tickets to the show.

Some of the world’s best-known cycling brands are set to take centre stage at the NEC for this year’s show, which is open to the public from Friday, September 28 to Sunday, September 30.

Visitors will be able to grab a preview of the very latest bikes, accessories and fashions for 2013. Familiar brands already confirmed include Trek, Shimano, Raleigh, Condor and Specialized, but fans of cycling exotica will be spoilt for choice with the likes of Italian road racing specialists, Pinarello, Colnago and Cinelli all exhibiting.

Raleigh is celebrating its 120th anniversary in 2012 and is showing its full range of bikes and accessories as well as creating a special entrance to the show with a display of classic Raleigh bikes and advertising from its archives.

Woodland
Whether you are looking to try out the latest mountain or road bikes, get an autograph from some of Britain’s top pros including Olympic Gold medalists Joanna Rowsell and Ed Clancy, or see top flight BMX riders battle it out for a cut of a £5,000 prize purse, the show promises a packed day of cycling mayhem.

Regular visitors to the NEC might be unaware that there is now a 1km mountain bike route running through woodland in the grounds of the venue. Visitors will be able to choose from a top selection of 2013 bikes before setting off for a spin around the Dare2B course.

The outdoor WASP Road Bike test track is being made electric bike friendly this year so visitors can see what the bikes in this fast-growing sector offer compared to traditional commuter bikes. This year’s show will also feature a new Tour Ride Sportive on the Sunday, offering two distances – a 96km challenge and a 150km pro ride – that you can sign up for.

The sportive, the last in the Tour Ride series for the 2012 season, will allow riders to head out into the Warwickshire countryside before heading back to the NEC for a look around the show.

For information go to www.cycleshow.co.uk and all Chronicle series (editorial), 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1FB. Closing date: Thursday, September 6, 2012. Usual rules apply. Editor’s decision is final.

How to enter:
To be in with a chance of winning, simply answer this question:
What is the name of the outside road bike test track?
Send your answer on a postcard with your name, address and contact number to Bike Show Competition, Chronicle series (editorial), 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1FB. Closing date: Thursday, September 6, 2012. Usual rules apply. Editor’s decision is final.

What’s on at The Stag?
Stourport’s premier live music venue

THE STAGBOROUGH ARMS
YOUR LOCAL LIVE MUSIC GUIDE

Saturday 1st September
IZZY THE PUSH
Saturday 8th September
TOMMY ALLAN BAND
Saturday 15th September
OTIS MACK AND THE
TUBBY BLUESTERS
Saturday 22nd September
CRISIS BLUES BAND
Saturday 29th September
CRACKER

Saturday 6th October
FLAT STANLEY
Saturday 13th October
COHEN BROTHERS
Saturday 20th October
UNDERDOGS
Saturday 27th October
TRAVELLING
RIVERSIDE
BLUES BAND

Check out more events at:
www.stagborougharms.co.uk or come in and visit us at 81 Lower Lickhill Road, Stourport-on-Severn.

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- Free fitting on blinds
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THE STAGBOROUGH ARMS, Stourport’s premier live music venue

GET ON TRACK FOR SOME GREAT FUN
Enjoy thrills of cycling

THE CYCLE SHOW
NEC Birmingham 28-30 September 2012

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CROWDS are expected to flock to heritage events being planned at Kidderminster, Bewdley and Stourport.

The Heritage Open Days are on September 8 and 9, and the entertainment will include Kidderminster Canal Festival, Stourport canal trips and guided walks in both towns.

RYDALE are hosting a massive discount in their Long Lane premises.

Open weekdays 9am to 5.30pm, Sat 9am to 4pm, Sun CLOSED.

FREEPHONE: 0800 917 6060
www.rydalewindows.co.uk
Charity in move to bigger premises

A CHARITY has moved to a new shop after outgrowing its earlier premises.

Dudley Kidney Patients Association’s new premises are in High Street, Kingswinford.

The group has moved from Lawnswood Road, Worsley, where it was based for four years.

Association secretary Judith Sidaway said: “Our new shop is on two floors and is not only a lot bigger than our Lawnswood Road premises but also many more people pass it every day, which we hope will bring in more customers.”

Mrs Sidaway’s late husband, Ted, a kidney patient who died in 2001 aged 85, launched the charity’s first shop about 18 years ago.

The shop, which is open from 9.30am to 4pm Monday to Saturday, has been raising at least £10,000 a year towards the upkeep of three holiday caravans which kidney patients and their families can use for breaks. It also makes donations to the renal unit at Dudley’s Burells Hall Hospital.

Club’s golf day

ALVELEY Cricket Club’s golf day was, he said ‘Crikey, that’s soon as he told him where it close to the Bewdley toast Collins with a special beer. Cleobury Mortimer brewers Hobsons are called Champion, in honour of the man who won the world individual title in 1976 and nine other pairs world championships. The development is also providing employment opportunities. Six apprentices are working on the scheme and two Dudley firms are providing cladding, roofing and insulation.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for housing, libraries and adult learning, said: “It’s encouraging to see how much work has taken place.”

Plan for bookie

PROPOSALS to turn a shop into a betting office have been approved by members of the Dudley Council planning committee.

Residents involved in a multi-million pound housing development were taken on a special tour to see how the work is progressing.

They were given the chance to see the final stages in the transformation of the former North Priory housing estate in Dudley.

Work began in the summer to build 214 homes on the new development, now known as Priory Gate, following the completion of the first phase earlier this year.

Dudley Council worked with affordable housing provider Bromford to secure £2.7m from the government’s Homes and Communities Agency to complete the scheme.

The development is also providing employment opportunities, six apprentices are working on the scheme and two Dudley firms are providing cladding, roofing and insulation.

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Tour of housing estate scheme

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The shop, which is open from 9.30am to 4pm Monday to Saturday, has been raising at least £10,000 a year towards the upkeep of three holiday caravans which kidney patients and their families can use for breaks. It also makes donations to the renal unit at Dudley’s Burells Hall Hospital.

Club’s golf day

ALVELEY Cricket Club’s golf day was, he said ‘Crikey, that’s soon as he told him where it close to the Bewdley toast Collins with a special beer. Cleobury Mortimer brewers Hobsons are called Champion, in honour of the man who won the world individual title in 1976 and nine other pairs world championships. The development is also providing employment opportunities. Six apprentices are working on the scheme and two Dudley firms are providing cladding, roofing and insulation.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for housing, libraries and adult learning, said: “It’s encouraging to see how much work has taken place.”

Plan for bookie

PROPOSALS to turn a shop into a betting office have been approved by members of the Dudley Council planning committee.

Speedway legend Collins will be guest at classic bike show

Narrowboat brings play to town

National Trust goes back to basics

ROSEDENE, a small National Trust cottage in Dodford, Bromsgrove, is offering people a rare chance to step back in time and stay in one of the few Chartist cottages left in the UK.
The grade II listed cottage was built as part of the Chartist movement, which campaigned for social and political reform in the mid-19th century. One of its initiatives was to settle workers on smallholdings so they could self-sufficient and would be entitled to vote. Rosedene was first occupied in 1849 and is largely unaltered since the Victorian era. It has two bedrooms, the kitchen is in the barn and bathroom facilities are in an outbuilding.
Spokeswoman Alice Eddy said: “It’s a fascinating opportunity to get away from it all and enjoy a truly back to basics retreat.”
For details see www.nationaltrustcottages.co.uk

Helping hand for pubs

INDEPENDENT pub landlords facing tough times are being given a helping hand in a new competition.
They have a chance to win a £5,000 makeover for their boozers, to help attract customers.
The competition, organised by paint firm Glidden Trade, comes as pubs are having to battle to survive.
Nearly 40 in the West Midlands have closed since September 2011. Mark Garnier, MP for Wyre Forest, who is supporting the competition, said: “Pubs play an important role in British culture and are the bedrock of many local communities.
“They deserve support so it’s great that brands such as Glidden Trade are helping local pub owners attract more custom with a makeover”

To help support local decorators, professional painters who nominate their local will have the chance to carry out the redecoration work if their entry wins the top £5k prize. Pubs can also win hundreds of pounds worth of paint. Entries must be received by September 30 and the renovation will be carried out in late 2012.
For more information see www.glidden.co.uk

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A GREAT Wyrley woman has received the Siberian Cross from the Polish Government for her time in a repatriation camp.

Janina Chmielewska was one of many Polish people dragged from their homes and moved to Siberia in April 1940. She was removed from the country at the age of 15 along with her 11-year-old sister Helena and 13-year-old brother Wladek. The youngster was then put to backbreaking farming work and laying railway track.

"The time there was terrible," recalled Janina, now 88, of Jacobs Hall Lane. "They kept us sometimes without food for two or three days. A lot of old people died on their way there. We had to work in places they put us in."

Her son Edward, from Walsall, is 59 and a history teacher at Wolverhampton’s Heath Park Business & Enterprise College. He said: "My mother was at home and suddenly the Russian troops knocked on the door."

"She was given a couple of hours notice and just told by them to ‘pack your things’. My mother would probably have been one of the oldest."

Upon leaving, he said, his mother took many layers of clothing with her in order to barter with when in Siberia.

"It had just been her birthday, and these were new clothes" he said.

"Her particular village, Zablocie, was on the eastern side of Poland. They were all rounded up, not knowing what was happening and yet probably expecting the worst. She was responsible for her younger brother and sister."

The journey was one of the hardest chapters for Mrs Chmielewska and her siblings. They were driven for mile after mile in cattle trucks in poor conditions and crowded spaces.

"The journey itself was horrendous. It was hot and unpleasant. They only had one small area for a toilet."

"People died in there. When they did stop, they were just hoping people would give them water."

When she arrived at the camp, she was left to fend for herself.

In June 1941 the farm workers were moved again, hundreds of miles away to lay 36 kilometres of railway line. They were made to work until, as prisoners of war, they were later released two months later.

Mr Chmielewska added: "My mother met my father, Marian, in Britain. Dad was a pilot and mum a wireless operator. I am very proud of my mother receiving it. It’s important to recognise people’s suffering."
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MORE than 100 cyclists got into gear to complete the scenic Acorns Severn Valley Cycle challenge, raising £15,000-plus for local children with life-limiting conditions.

People taking part chose either a 10 or 20-mile route, both winding their way through the Severn Valley to the finish line in Bewdley. Some stopped for a picnic half way round while others charged on to beat their personal times.

The cyclists then took a ride on the Severn Valley Railway to get back to the starting point. Among the cyclists was a team from the West Brom building society.

The eight-strong team raised £1,000 for the hospice. Acorns is the West Brom’s chosen charity and it has raised more than £25,000 since the partnership began in April last year.

Lucy Shepherd, international treks and challenges officer at the hospice, said: “It was a brilliant day and we were thrilled to see such a great turn out of people supporting Acorns.”

The fantastic amount of funds pledged will directly help life-limited children and their families in the area, by paying for vital care and support services.”

Acorns provides it services to families free, but it costs £750 per child per day.

Lucy added: “We would love to hear from anyone wanting to support Acorns and looking to have fun and get fit. There are spaces in the Midnight Walk on September 15, and the Great Birmingham Run on October 21. Those up for an even bigger challenge can sign up for the once-in-a-lifetime 2013 India Cycle Challenge.”

For details on the event, visit the website www.acorns.org.uk/events.
Organ to star at town hall recital

A LUNCH-TIME organ recital will take place at Kidderminster Town Hall on September 6.

Music lovers will be able to enjoy the sound of the Victorian William Hill Organ – which is one of only five of its type in the world.

The recital will start at 1.10pm and is part of the regular series run by the Hill Organ Promotion Society.

Admission to the recital is £6 and tickets will be available on the door.

Chance to view new local history archives centre as it takes shape

RESIDENTS can follow the progress of construction work on a new archives and local history centre in the Black Country from a purpose-built viewing platform.

The £8 million base is being built next to the Black Country Living Museum in Tipton Road, Dudley. Dudley Council’s archives service will move from its existing building in Cosseley and when the new building opens it will also be used to store documents for Sandwell Council.

Visitors can keep an eye on how work is going. It can be accessed from a door which is located within the hoardings on the site, which housed the old Briery Crystal shop.

The new centre is expected to open to the public next summer and will provide IT and public wi-fi services, education and conference rooms, a high-tech conservation studio, a rare books library and research area.

The centre is being part funded by the European Regional Development Fund, as part of its funding for the redevelopment of the Castle Hill area of Dudley.

Artists’ impressions showing how the base will look when it is completed are on display at the site. The council says it is committed to preserving and protecting the borough’s historic collections which date back to the 12th century.

Mayor’s cabinet member for housing, libraries and adult learning, Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said: “The viewing platform gives a brilliant view of the site.”

The viewing platform is open from 9am until 5pm, Monday to Friday.

MP backs lottery help for villages

WYRE Forest MP Mark Garnier has given his support for the Big Lottery Fund’s Village SOS scheme.

The programme makes grants of between £10,000 and £50,000 to rural communities which want to set up social enterprises. Applications are welcomed from communities with populations of fewer than 3,000 people.

Mr Garnier said: “Rural communities face difficult and unique challenges. Living in a rural idyll provides a good quality of life but at a cost: sparser services, greater transport challenges and the risk of isolation.

“This results in greater cost of living to rural dwellers. That is why I am keen to support the Village SOS scheme. I will be writing to all parish councils to make sure they are aware of this and make sure they make the most of this opportunity for their communities.”

Village SOS has already helped shops, cafes, pubs and transport schemes.

Toy set to be a Christmas hit

Jack Pickett, aged six, from Kinver, with the new Attacknid Warrior Spider

MIDLAND toy manufacturer Weef! Stuff is already setting its sights on making its latest creation a Christmas best seller.

Attacknid, part of the Wolverhampton company’s new Combat Creatures range, is expected to be the must-have toy for youngsters over the festive season. The five-legged robot, which fires foam plastic discs, has been ordered by Toys R Us, Argos and The Entertainer.

The toy went on show during a funday at Wolverhampton Racecourse. Wow! Stuff founder Richard North, who started the company based at Wolverhampton Science Park six years ago, said: “We feel our home town should see the toy that, hopefully, will become the world’s best selling boys’ toy. This would normally happen at some fancy red carpet event hosted in London or New York.”

The Combat Creatures range launches in the United States and Australia from March next year. Mr North said: “We are expecting the line to generate sales of over £50 million US dollars by 2015.”

Hospice’s plea for walk help

ACORNS Children’s Hospice is appealing for males to help at its fundraisers.

The support is needed for the Midnight Walk, which takes place on September 15, and hundreds of women will set off on a 5km route around Birmingham city centre. The charity needs males to marshal the route.

Philippa Gay, of Acorns, said: “The marshals will make sure the participants follow the route safely.”

For more details see www.acorns.org.uk/midnightwalk

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**Kimbra’s pop pledge**

Kimbra – Vows

Brew

Musically, Conor delivers a catchy blend of bleeping, sciency pop that owes as much to video games, cartoon themes and irritating ring tones as R&B.

He’s got a reasonable pop voice and certainly has catchiness sorted out, just check out the two hit singles Can’t Say No and Vegas Girl included on this debut. Having Jessie J’s producers on board can’t hurt, especially when he can summon mury guests as No.Yo, Pharrell and rising star Rita Ora.

Deliiah – From The Roots Up

A promising debut from a London singer who had a hit with Go, included here. She has a voice akin to The Cranberries’, Deborra O’Kieran and Bjork, her mostly self or co-written songs have roots in trance dance but one gets the feeling that she could strike off in almost any direction from here.

Plan B – III Manors

Not the commercial suicide some had predicted. Plan B’s (Ben Drew’s) return to wholesaled rap with the grimiest, grittiest subject matter has won praise for his state-of-the-nation snapshot of post-riot Britain. It’s took him back to the top of the charts but I can’t imagine it will be the same audiences that flocked on it to his radio-friendly soul boy singles.

The emphasis is on the lyrics and there are curious elements among the anticipated grime and reggae influences, including a guest appearance by punk poet John Cooper Clarke and some effectively used classical music samples. III Manors is a bleak vision of an urban wasteland filled with drugs, danger and despair. Only those who live or those London natives know how accurate the picture is. Tough subject, tough language and a tough listen.

Amy MacDonald – Life In A Beautiful Light

The Scottish singer-songwriter is a class act though perhaps lacks a consistency as a top quality tunsmith. Her folk-like clarity and light Scots accent plus acoustic guitar lends a rootsiness to the pop/Rock sound of her third album.

Stand-out tracks include the freewheeling single Show Down and her Annie Lennox like performance on anthemic track The Game.
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FREE DELIVERY
A £2.1 MILLION arts centre created at a former glass factory has opened after nearly a year of restoration.

The Glasshouse Arts Centre, in Wollaston Road, Amblecote, Stourbridge, was officially opened in a ceremony attended by officials and civic dignitaries.

It has been created at the which was once part of the Webb Corbett glass factory, and later Royal Doulton.

The centre has an auditorium for 400 people, a studio theatre for 70 and two commercial workshops. It also incorporates the Webb Corbett Visitor Centre, which tells the story of the area’s glass heritage through displays and interactive screens.

Old machinery used in the glassmaking process is also on display and visitors will be able to learn more about the history of the site itself.

Cultural

The arts centre shares the same site as the Royal Glass Centre and has been funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, which provided £1.85m, and £205,000 came from Arts Council England.

The centre will be an artistic and cultural hub for the community and will be used for theatre performances, conferencing and hospitality events.

Local groups will be able to use the site for shows or events and help train the future glassmakers.
Did you have him to be featured on the afternoon's show. After all, rave-pop superstar Example was third on the bill at this year's V Festival. But backstage, there was only one thing on the mind of Elliot John Gleaver – lasers. Example will hit the road early in the new year for his second stadium tour and he is determined that it will bigger and better than before. He plans to have crews of lasers and, hopefully by February, he will be performing to even bigger audiences early next year. His tour will reach Birmingham’s LG Arena on February 28.

Example said: “Yeah, we did an arena tour in April this year, so this is the second one. The first arena tour is like a milstone to the band and I think they're going to make the show incredible.”

Before then, Example has the small matter of a new single to promote. Say Nothing, which is out on September 16. His new album – The Revolution of Man – will also follow on November 18. It has been produced by DJ Dirty South.

Example’s got work to do to maintain his recent form. His last album, Playing In The Shadows, was a number one hit and he enjoyed two consecutive number one singles. Changed The Way You Kiss Me and Stay Awake.

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The Jonathan Ross Show
ITV1, 9.55pm
The host is joined in the studio for a chat with Great Britain’s double Olympic gold medalist Mo Farah about his recent triumphs in the 5,000m and 10,000m at the 2012 London games. Plus if that wasn’t enough for you right there, rapper and actor Plan B discusses his starring role in the new film The Sweeney alongside Ray Winstone, and performs a track in the studio. Marked female, actress Rosie Huntington-Whiteley (Transformers: Dark of the Moon) and co-starred Ralph Fiennes also talk about their latest projects.

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While there’s not really a lot that’s ‘hidden’ in the series, Britain’s Hidden Heritage has been compelling; yes, even without another shock appearance from apparent all-sounder HRH Prince Charles. As the series wraps up, there’s still plenty to be explored, as Paul Martin looks into the extensive archives of Berkeley Castle in Gloucestershire. Meanwhile Claire Balding discovers how Country Life magazine’s 25-year-old photographic collection has helped restore the most unlikely of country house interiors.
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FIRST things first, I don’t need a seven seater car and I don’t need to be able to tow a decent weight – but if I did the Vauxhall Zafira Tourer would be up there among contenders.

This third-generation of the model hit our roads earlier this year and has continued its earlier success and built on it. Unlike some MPVs, it is full-size with plenty of space for seven, and also unlike other MPVs, it can actually tow a decent weight. In fact it was named this year’s Best MPV at Practical Caravan magazine’s Tow Car Awards 2012.

The Practical Caravan awards, backed by What Car? magazine and The Camping and Caravanning Club, are based on a vigorous and thorough towcar assessment. Each car is tested by a panel of eight judges for its towing ability, buying and owning costs, drive quality when not towing and practicality.

“The Zafira Tourer really comes into its own when towing,” said awards judge Nigel Donnelly, Haymarket Outdoor Leisure Group’s editor-in-chief – digital. “At the legal limit and beyond the Zafira Tourer is a relaxing car to drive. With plenty of power and torque, the 2.0 litre engine pulled car and caravan from 0-60mph in 14.1 seconds. Braking showed the shortest stopping distance in this class. The Zafira Tourer offers strong performance, good stability and space for seven.”

“We’re delighted Zafira Tourer has won the Best MPV title at the Towcar Awards 2012,” said Peter Hope, Vauxhall’s marketing director. “2012 has been a great year for Vauxhall and its family models. We’re proud to see the family portfolio continue to grow and show the family what it means to own a Vauxhall.”

And while I didn’t test its towing capabilities, the 2.0 litre version I drove certainly felt it had the capability to hitch up the ‘van for a summer holiday and leave you feeling pretty safe behind the wheel with the kids piled in the back. But I did test some of Vauxhall’s flexibilty claims by trying out a number of the options Flat 5 seating system. There are several including ‘Lounge Seating’ on key models. When you want seven up the two seats at the very back come up out of the floor and the middle bench seat is now a set of three separate seats which are also capable of folding and splitting into any number of combinations. In addition the two outside seats slide backwards and forwards against the middle seat which folds to form two arm rests and gives plenty of space.

Lugger

Only downside to seven up is the reduced boot space. But if you want to turn it into a load lugger put all the seats down to reveal 1,860 litres of space – more than enough for a trip to collect flat-pack from Ikea or clear the shed out and head for the tip. Staying on the inside materials are of a much better quality than the old model and the design means everyone gets a good view outside, a panoramic sunroof and the high-top windscreen.

This model is made even better if you opt for a start/stop technology and I really could appreciate the difference in fuel consumption when chugging around town doing odd jobs and stopping off for shopping. Siting at traffic lights just when they change at one of my regular routes can take some minutes and when the engine switches off it can make all the difference on your monthly fuel bill.

Driver’s it was comfortable and coped well with the potholes on the B roads on my way into work and it smoothly made its way along the M54.

Standard features across the four trim level ranges include: ESP, six airbags, air conditioning, CD/MP3 player and cruise control – not bad with prices starting at £15,315.

Your essential guide to the world of motoring compiled by Motoring Editor Sharon Walters

Zafira Tourer tows the line for quality
Survey reveals the much-loved Mazda MX-5 is most reliable car

IN its annual reliability survey of more than 50,000 cars What Car? magazine has confirmed that the iconic Mazda MX-5 sportscar is the most reliable car in Britain.

Mazda MX-5 sportscars manufactured since 2005 recorded a failure rate of just four per cent – the lowest of all cars in the 2012 survey – coming from 96 per cent of these Mazda models being fault-free, the MX-5 also achieved an impressive Reliability Index (RI) score of just 8 (the lower score, the better the car), while the national average score for individual models was 100. According to the survey, MX-5 owners also benefit from the lowest repair costs with an average repair bill of just £365.

“The survey calculates a vehicle’s Reliability Index (RI) from several factors – the number of times it fails, the cost of repair, the average time it spends off the road being repaired, its age and mileage,” said David Wilson-Green, Aftersales Director, Mazda UK. “It’s no surprise that the MX-5 scored so highly in the What Car? annual survey,” said David Wilson-Green, Aftersales Director, Mazda UK.

“The Mazda MX-5 has won many awards over the years and regularly achieves excellent reviews in the national media for the pure driving enjoyment it provides and its distinctive good looks. Our Japanese brand is renowned for its engineering expertise and for its remarkably reliable models, which is one of the reasons we have so many loyal customers.”

For more than 20 years the two-seater MX-5 was 100. According to the survey, MX-5 owners were often attracted to its stylish design and invigorating drive, but Mazda’s reliability has played a major role in its longevity, something the What Car? Magazine survey endorses in the September edition. The Eight-strong range presents a choice of a Soft-top or Roadster Coupe with a powered retractable hard-top.
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A KIDDERMINSTER CHRONICLE, THURSDAY, AUGUST 30 2012

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- RENAULT CLIO 1.1 16V EXPRESSION 2007, 66,200 miles, silver, £995. 07981 942422.

- MERCEDES ML350 CDI 2013, tax end Dec 2012, service history, £3,500. 07899 950087.

- FORD FOCUS 1.25 STYLE 2001, 1400cc, metallic paint, fsh, £800. 07584 085071.

- VOLKSWAGEN GOLF 2000, 1.9 diesel, 91,000 miles, £595.07504 864831.

- PEUGEOT 306 1.4LX XR Quicksilver, automatic, £2,513. 07406 228094.

- FORD FOCUS 2007, 66,200 miles, 5 door, silver, £2,295 ono. 07890 947272.

- NISSAN ALMERA 1994, 75,000 miles, family owned, £2,000 ono. 07816 021991.

- CITROEN C4 1.6 DIESEL 16V , metallic paint, fsh, alarm, £1,395. 07766 278265.

- VAUXHALL COMBO 1700, 1.3 CTDi, 2007, 42k, tax, MoT, FSH, VGC, £3,295 ono. 07966 393132.

- FORD KA 2003, blue, 10 months MoT, private plate, 2075 miles, £5,795. 07786 172100.

- SEAT LEON 2002, blue, excellent, 35k, fsh, £2,000 ono. 07580 709196.

- KIA CARENS 2007, blue, 12 months MoT, tax, 2 keys, £2,195. 07522 722426.

- HONDA CIVIC 2.0 1997, tax, £2,795. 07733 243150.

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AC RICKET development group has won an Osca.

KIDDERMINSTER CRICKET Board for a national award.

KIDDERMINSTER CRICKET Board for an ational award –b y

KIDDERMINSTER CHRONICLE, THURSDAY,AUGUST 30 2012 Page 31

Rain wins as deluge puts end to match

KIDDERMINSTER HARRIERS suffered their fourth straight Blue Square Premier Division defeat – with ever worse news to follow.

A CRICKET development group has won an Osca.

North Worcestershire CDG was given the honour of hosting the Service to Cricket – by Worcestershire Cricket Board.

The group has now been short-listed by the England and Wales Cricket Board for a national award at a dinner hosted by Lord 22.

Father and daughter Ian and Katie Bluett, from North Worcestershire Golf Club, Oldswinford, also picked up county trophies in the official of the year and young volunteer cate-
gories respectively. Ian Bluett was also voted coach of the year by the Worcestershire Cricket Coaches Association. The Blues will both return to county and national awards ceremo-

ny at Lord’s.

The North Worcestershire Golf Club are regularly throughout the year.

The group disseminates information not only from the county but also from neighbouring coun-

tries, the ECL, local authorities and sports development partnerships.

In addition to running 13, 12, 15 and 25 age groups at district level the CDG have taken on the organ-

ising of an under-15 six-a-side indoor league throughout the winter and a hugely successful

under-nines competition. It runs on a round robin basis all clubs throughout the season and culmi-

nates in final day competitions all taking place at different venues on the same day.

The group have brought Dudley Building Society and Mercian Trust on board as sponsors for the tournaments and built partner-

ships with them and the local authority, who assist with funding the under-15s and also give free child protection courses.

The CDG have also organised free introduction to umpiring courses and groundwork training courses in conjunction with the umpires, groundsmen and coaches associations and Village Hotels who sponsor the venue.

The group have also linked with the Black Country Sport Partnership to access funding for coaches’ courses and other ini-
tiatives.

They also have links with special needs and junior school organisa-
tions as well as a number of clubs.

All their clubs offer facilities for district games free of charge and have started a “return to cricket” campaign with clubs trying to access players over-40.

Defeat comes to the forest for the Harriers

KIDDERMINSTER HARRIERS suffered their fourth straight Blue Square Premier Division defeat – with ever worse news to follow.

Midfielder Jack Byrnes suffered a tendon injury six minutes from the end of the game, leaving the pitch on a stretcher as Harriers finished with 10 men. Manager Steve Burr said afterwards: “He [Byrne] has got a ruptured Achilles and he will be out for a while now. It was another difficult afternoon and unfortunately, our decision-

making was again not what I would like.

“We’re not functioning as a team at the minute and there’s no getting away from that so this was a disappoint-

ing defeat.”

Dartford, like Harriers, had but three opening three fixtures of the campaign but Danny Harris and Ryan net. Haynes were recalled to the starting line-up and made an immediate impact.

Harris tested visiting keeper Danny Lewis in the game’s first attack of the afternoon and moments later Haynes delivered an inviting cross that flew across the goal.

Harrivers settled into their passing rhythm, the lively Byrne forced home custo-

dom Marcus Bettinelli to palm away a low drive and the same player left the keeper flat-footed with another effort that went marginally wide of the right

upright. Bettinelli again reached the Darts with another full-length stop to keep out a James Vincent effort to the delight of the Blackrock audience.

It was Dartford who opened the scoring on 37 minutes. From a right-wing corner the delivery was inch-

perfect as substitute Lee Butters cranked a 10-yard header on to the roof of the net.

Harrivers introduced Nathan Blissett and Mickey Demetriou at the start of the second half in an effort to find a leveller. Blissett went close with a header and Demetriou forced Bettinelli to palm over a shot before a Bryan Rees strike was disal-

lowed for offside.

Dartford: Ball, Ryan Bennett, Lewis, Connolly, Kane, Johnson, Connolly, Henry, Connolly, Kane, Johnson

Harriers: Lewis, Briggs (Demetriou) 69, Austin, Dyer, John, White, Williams, Ainsworth, Blissett, Demetriou, Blissett, Demetriou

Substitute(s): Daniel 69, Lewis 69, Daniel 72

Action from Harriers’ home loss to 10-man Forest Green which kept them bottom of the Blue Square Bet Premier table. Left, Anthony Malbon gives chase. Right, Danny Pilkington closes in on Eddie Oshodi.
Wipe-out for side
struck by absence

AN under-strength Kidder-
minster Victoria were humiliated at Harvington.
County cupinals and holi-
days left them short for this Birmingham League Premier match, writes Brian Gillman.
Those who played did their best but could not compete with the opposition who were virtually at full strength. The threat of rain did not materialize, but losing the toss meant having to bat on a wicket that was soft and lacked a bit of pace.

With two games left, a win at the top to three points.

Invesco's Newsham, high in confidence after his maiden win at Snetterton a fort-
night earlier, then took victory in the third race in his Team RS Racing.com Vanuxel

Phelps fever. I'm getting to have caught Michael

KIDDERMINSTER HARRIERS captain Exodus

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Worcester's Matt Neal suffered a "horrid weekend" yet extended his lead in the British Touring Car Championship. Robert Collard and Dave Newsham shared the wins in the latest round at Knockhill.

Neal and title rivals Gordon Shedden and Plato had their ups and downs but Neal is still on top with three rounds to go.

Neal said: "I had a problem but crashed out after a tangle between MG KX Momentum Racing MG6's Aron Smith's Redstone Racing Ford Focus. This left the

Wayne was made how Geohaghon has been made aware of the interest and

The 27-year-old finished last season with the Stags on

Two goals in their 10 previous meetings, now visit

They also had goalkeeper

by Craig Birch

KIDDERMINSTER HARRIERS captain Exodus

Forest火

Academy award

Cricket group lands a coveted Osca

Page 31

Game hit for six by showers

BEWDLEY CC firsts endured another wetted weekend of weather.

On Saturday, the game against Alvechurch was abandoned without a ball being bowled, and on Monday they reached 148-9 against Enville before rain brought an early finish.

The seconded the powerful showers on Saturday to secure a winning draw at home to Alvechurch, which gave them breathing space in their battle to avoid relegation from Worcestershire County League seconds' Division One.

On Monday the seconds were bowled out for 151 by Pedmore with Connor Franklyn scoring 56. Rain stopped the Pedmore innings at 40-1.

KCs on song in workout

KIDDERMINSTER Caro-
lina's training match against West Bromwich also took

the tide as the team made it five straight defeats.

Harriers' nightmare start

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