DUDLEY borough needs two tips but is struggling to find a new location for one major refuse site, according to Dudley Council’s deputy leader.

Councillor David Vickers said: “It would be sensible to have two sites in the borough, but at the moment we’re struggling to find one, let alone two.

“I don’t know where the ideal spot is but we’re looking across the borough and eventually we’ll find somewhere.”

Plans to move waste operations to a central depot in Leys Road, Brierley Hill, were scrapped last year and cabinet member Councillor Karen Shakespeare has confirmed that the council is now considering alternatives.

The results of a review will be confirmed in the next few months, she added.

Councillor Shakespeare, Cabinet member for environment, said: “Council officers have come up with a number of sites and we are looking at those options. We will be putting forward a report with those options later this summer.

“We have been looking at sites across the borough that are more viable and don’t have the problems that the Leys depot did in terms of access and traffic.”

The former Labour ruling group wanted to sell off the Birmingham Street tip in Stourbridge and make Leys Depot a central base for waste disposal. That plan was rejected when the Conservatives took charge of the local authority last year. There had been concerns about generating extra traffic on roads near the Merry Hill shopping centre.

Councillor Vickers added: “To my mind the Stourbridge tip has got one or two things wrong with it. It’s very close to houses and there can be tailbacks onto the ring road. However, so far there isn’t anywhere that’s come up that is ideal.”

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“The event appeals to everybody, and it’s brilliant that an MP wants to ride – it’s an honour for someone like Ian to sign up,” said Mr Porter.

“Ian is a keen cyclist and does quite a bit with Stourbridge Cycling Club. It’s great that we have people like that who have the time to do this. It proves how highly regarded the cause is – raising money for such a brilliant organisation as Compton Care.”

Labour MP Mr Austin will tackle the 64-mile route into the Shropshire countryside then back to Kingswinford.

MP READY TO GO ROUND THE WREKIN FOR CHARITY

Results of waste review will be revealed this summer

SEARCH IS ON FOR NEW TIP SITE

Dudley North MP Ian Austin with Hugh Porter will both take part in the Banks’s 24-mile ride, which is named after Black Country cycling hero Hugh Porter MBE, who won Commonwealth gold in 1966.

“The event appeals to everybody, and it’s brilliant that an MP wants to ride – it’s an honour for someone like Ian to sign up,” said Mr Porter.

“Ian is a keen cyclist and does quite a bit with Stourbridge Cycling Club. It’s great that someone like Ian with such a busy schedule can find the time to do this. It proves how highly regarded the cause is – raising money for such a brilliant organisation as Compton Care.”

Labour MP Mr Austin will tackle the 64-mile route into the Shropshire countryside then back to Kingswinford.

Pensioner pedal power – page 2

ATTRACTION

Oh we do like to be beside the seaside

HIT the beach on Castle Hill as Dudley Zoo gets set to host seaside family fun next week.

Oh Bin Ya Sands is set to transform the attraction’s Sensory Garden into a beach play area, just in time for the May half-term holiday. Around 80 tonnes of sand is being piled into a large wooden frame, so youngsters can make sandcastles from May 26.
Vintage car driver seriously injured

Andrew Holdaway
Dudley
Dudley Chronicle  Thursday, May 17, 2018

A GROUP of pedal-powered pensioners have proved age is no barrier ahead of a cycling challenge.

The cycling-mad pals have their sights set on the Bank's Round the Wrekin Sportive, which sets off from Kingswinford on Sunday.

Four-times world pursuit champion Hugh Porter MBE, 74, said he wants the efforts of his fellow members of the Wolverhampton Racing Cycling Club to be an inspiration for others ahead of the event.

With an average age of just under 74, the club members still manage to get out at least once a week for a ride.

Black Country cycling legend Hugh, who is also patron of Halesowen Cycling Club, hailed the virtues of cycling – particularly its camaraderie and impact on people's health.

He said: "This shows how important regular exercise is for people as they get older. It's a way to keep healthy and cycling is one of those sports which is great for you – you have the rhythmic pedalling and there's no hanging or jarring.

"It is a sport people can enjoy and adapt to. You can ride at any pace you want and there is fantastic camaraderie. That encourages good friendships and that is what sport does."

Entries

"Age is no deterrent at all – some of the group are taking on the 100km cycle at the sportive.

Money raised from the event will go to Compton Care in Wolverhampton, which supports patients and their families living with an incurable illness.

Today marks the last chance to register for the event by emailing event organiser Lisa Beddows via email at fundraising@comptoncare.org.uk but the entries must be in by midnight.

The sportive was first launched in 2016 and has attracted hundreds of cyclists in its first two years. There are three routes people can tackle – a 100 mile tour, 64 miles and the shorter 24 miles, which is named after cycling star Hugh, who lives in Halesowen.

Lisa said: "This is a great event and is now a permanent fixture on the cycling calendar."

The sportive starts at Dudley Kingswinford Rugby Club in Wall Heath before heading out into the Shropshire Hills, a route taking in the Long Mynd, Snethmor and The Wrekin.

Charlotte Lilley, marketing officer for Compton Care, said: "Last year’s event was a huge success raising more than £28,000 for Compton, which will go towards providing care and support for patients and their families living with the effects of incurable illnesses.

"We are now looking to build on last year’s sportive and want to encourage participants to raise a minimum of £50 sponsorship which will pay for the equivalent of 10 freshly home cooked meals for patients staying on our inpatient unit."

The sportive takes place on Sunday, May 20. Entries start at £16 for the 24-mile route.

A 24-mile short route is described as 'a gentle ride around quiet lanes intended for all types of riders,' while the 64-mile standard route is 'a hilly ride through Shropshire and over the Wrekin, for fit riders who cycle regularly.'

The 100-mile epic route is called 'a serious challenge with lightweight, steep hills to climb which will stretch experienced and well trained cyclists'.

Warning of delays during resurfacing

RESURFACING works started on a main road in the Black Country this week but drivers have been warned of possible disruption on Oakham Road, Tividale, which is set to close on Thursday, May 17. Work will take place between 9am and 3pm and diversions will be signposted.

Footwoks Chirophy

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Travellers’ camp plan put on hold for site visit

PROTESTERS rallying against a travellers’ site near Dudley have won a battle to stave off the controversial plans.

Council planning bosses in Dudley have agreed to delay making a decision on the plans until they have carried out a visit to the site in Dudley Road.
The decision has given protesters hope for the first time after months of fighting to save the site.

Hopes were raised by council planning bosses last November when they decided to defer their decision on the Travellers’ Transit Camp in Coseley, as businesses were considering setting up in the area and cutting clean-up costs.

The consultation was due to close on Thursday and the council was expected to make a decision on Friday.

At least the council have hopped for. At least the council have won a battle to stave off the controversial plans.

Council leader Councillor Raza Rabbani, said: "It is the best outcome we could have hoped for. At least the council are going to come and see the site for themselves."

The council says the site would help reduce the amount of illegal camps setting up in the area and cut clean-up costs.

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Join ramblers and find hidden gems

A WALKING charity is inviting people to head outdoors to explore their area and uncover the hidden gems on their doorstep.

Residents in the West Midlands can step out with the ramblers as part of their Walk About Festival later this month. During this year’s festival, which runs between May 26 and June 3, there will be hundreds of free group walks on offer.

All walks during the festival are free to attend and offer something for everyone including those after a short summer stroll, to seasoned walkers. Further information, go to ramblers.org.uk/walkabout2018

Overhaul plea on rail ticketing

RAIL ticketing could be overhauled to make it fairer and easier to use, bosses have said. A public consultation is being launched by the industry to suggest ways of simplifying the system.

The Rail Delivery Group (RDG), which represents private train operators and Government-owned Network Rail, said the industry’s suggestions will aim to be revenue neutral, with no change in average fares and no extra support from taxpayers.

Dancers picked for national festival

A GROUP of talented young dancers from West Bromwich have been selected to take part in our national festival. Chicopee Dance Company will perform with more than 120 members at the Black Country Youth Dance Festival, U’Dance 2018, taking place this July in London.

They join an impressive line-up of 12 dance groups, selected from more than 290 entries from across the country through a series of 20 regional heats.

THIS week local newspapers across the UK, like the Chronicle, are taking part in Local Newspaper Week. Every Chronicle edition is the product of a combined effort from a committed team – from the reporters and photographers to the advertising team selling space to the bus drivers, newsgamers and delivery boys and girls who distribute the papers.

As part of Local Newspaper Week we take a look at some of those responsible for ensuring your Chronicle hits the street each day.

The reporter

Having started as an apprentice, Tom Oakley is one of a team of reporters and photographers working across the Black Country and Staffordshire. He covers a variety of news, including ‘calls’ stories from the emergency services, human interest stories, and reporting about local government – even tests traffic lights.

The sub-editor

Sarah Cowen-Strong is one of the final pieces in the editorial jigsaw after stories have been filed by reporters and checked by Chronicle editors. She says: “Our aim is to make sure stories are legally and factually correct and well-balanced. We need to ensure there are no spelling mistakes and the correct grammar is used – also write the headlines.”

The press crew

On a typical day the huge printing presses at our Ketley print shop churn out about six million papers. Duncan Rose is team leader in the plate room, and his responsibilities range from maintenance of the machinery, supervising deliveries, and overseeing the printing.

The newsagent

Each morning Tony Rudge wakes up while most of us are still in bed. He arrives at his Sedgley store to find the daily papers waiting for him at 6am. Sport often dictates newspaper sales, with more copies of our sister, daily paper the Express & Star flying off the shelves when Wolves win, he said. Your Chronicle is delivered by a team of dedicated men and women, boys and girls who receive a bundle of papers each week to distribute.

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So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118.
Plane crash was caused by sudden gust of wind

A Sudden gust of wind caused a light aircraft to smash into a hedge and career across a road near King’swinford, ending up in a garden behind a house about 300 yards away

Dudley was on approach to land at Heathrow on April 28 in memory of Susannah Hubble, who was secretary for amateur dramatists group Star Time Variety. She died in February after an epileptic seizure. Tina followed her mountain venture by joining fellow Star Time Variety member Mandy Aldridge, to climb the 12-mile Dudley Trail on May 6.

Money raised from Snowdon and the Dudley Trail will be donated to Epilepsy Action. The pair had originally set out to raise £200 for the charity but have tripled that with donations still rolling in.

Mandy said: ‘Our friend and Star Time Variety secretary Susan passed away at the age of 58 earlier this year, so we thought we would get fundraising in her memory. We will be raising funds for Epilepsy Action.

‘My Snowdon climb went really well. It took us around five and a half hours, which I am very pleased with as I expected to complete the climb in around seven hours. As part of Star Time Variety we put on shows to raise money for local charities, so we really wanted to do something in Susan’s memory.

Now Tina and Mandy are planning to climb Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa next year.

To support Tina and Mandy in their fundraising efforts, visit just giving.com/crowdfunding/tina-lilly.

Around 1,000 people trekked the five routes of six, nine, 12, 20 and 25 miles at the 38th annual Dudley Trail.

Flame Hill

This weekend Flame Hill House will be opening its doors to the public.

Flame Hill House, situated in Tipton, is a former 18th century bank and has been loving restored to its former glory.

Flame Hill House will now host a variety of events, including a wedding reception.

The public are invited to come and view the house.

The event will take place on Sunday, May 6, from 10am to 4pm.

There will be a charge of £4.50 per adult and £2.50 per child.

Contact Flame Hill House for more information.

108-year-old Albert has an appetite for life

DURING his 90s he was still going to the gym and a keen world traveller — visiting places such as Tobago and Florida.

Real life for Albert Taylor, from Kingswinford, Dudley, is showing no signs of slowing down — despite him having just celebrated his 108th birthday with family and friends.

The key to his long and happy life, says his son Robert, is his cheery outlook and one of his biggest loves — food.

Albert, whose birthday was on May 4, is now the fifth-oldest man in the UK.

Robert, aged 73, says his father’s daily breakfast of porridge, honey and blueberries with poached egg on toast and smoked trout is what keeps him fit and well.

Robert, who lives in Shropshire, said: ‘He is still very outgoing, still has a great sense of humour and, more than anything, he loves his food.

‘He puts his age down to Scott’s Porage Oats. Every morning he has porridge with honey and blueberries followed by poached egg on toast with smoked trout on the side with two cups of tea.

‘For lunch he typically has a ham salad sandwich and for tea a sauce with a potato and minced potato.

‘He has been looking after for around the last 30 years since my mother passed away. All of his close friends think the absolute world of him. They say they have never met such a kind and giving man.

‘Albert, who lives in Dudley for 55 years, started working life as a toolmaker at the age of just 15.

He was employed in the Stourbridge and Worcest-

‘Dad has always been very careful in looking after himself and he makes sure everything he does is sensible. He is very independent and has a tremendous sense of charity.

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Mr Men sexist? Just don’t talk wet

Adelle gets that sinking feeling as she hits the big 3-0

CONSPIRACY corner. After much research, authoritites in Egypt have announced that there is no secret chamber behind the 3,000-year-old wall of Tutankhamen’s tomb. Which as every conspiracy theorist knows, means there is.

I LOVED this week’s unscripted edition of Car Share (BBC1). I take a wee bit of pride in being one of the first hacks to recognise the brilliance of Peter Kay’s creation. Car Share launched in April 2015 and this column instantly hailed it as “clever, lovely, life-affirming stuff.” It’s just two people sharing a car. As so often in comedy, the simplest ideas are the best.

THE blog version of this column sometimes reminds me of another TV gem, Early Doors. A loyal bunch of characters hang around waiting for the pub blog to open. Then they all rush inside and complain about what a crap pub (blog) it is.

DOES she have no brains, no compassion or is she simply badly advised? Adele’s choice of a Titanic-themed party for her 30th birthday, with guests dancing in life jackets, was beyond understanding. If any of those guests die by fat? Part of the answer may lie in the filling process. With guests dancing in life jackets, was beyond understanding. If any of those guests die by fire, we may live to see a Labour-Con- servative coalition government. In an interview, the former Labour MP Glenda Jackson asks: “What party is Jeremy (Corbyn) leading? It’s not a party I know.” She reckons neither of the two main parties could win an election and “we’re on course for some sort of combined govern- ment.” Watch this space.

THE Quakers seem to be moving away from God. According to research, 14 per cent of them are atheists while 43 per cent are “unable to profess a belief in God.” There is talk of dropping the mention of God from the guidance notes for Quaker meetings. By coincidence, a new report by the British Journal of General Practice suggests that family doctors, as we used to call them, are being used as “new clergy” by people who are not ill but want something “to give meaning and purpose to life.” And there’s the snag. The moment you start looking for meaning and purpose, or any sense of created order or fairness in life, you are heading for deep disappointment. Better by far to share a room with a few kindly Quakers, who are excellent listeners and make a damn fine pot of tea.

A READER claims there is no longer a majority in favour of Brexit because moulds have changed and the 2016 Referendum was “a long time ago.” This is how fake news begins. The vote was a long time ago. Anyway, it wasn’t binding on the Government. In fact, did the referendum ever really happen? After all, we Brexeters are all old, dim and a bit forgetful…

THE wonders of food science. How on earth do the biffins produce a yoghurt containing zero fat? Part of the answer may lie in the filling process. I’ve just opened a yoghurt pot which was barely half full. You may expect some settle- ment in the packet when it’s congealed, washing powder or porridge oats, but yoghurt, for heaven’s sake? Is it easier to produce a yoghurt containing zero per cent fat if the pot is only 50 per cent full in the first place?

STILL on food, a sudden rise in the price of vanilla is reportedly forcing some ice-cream makers to consider dropping the flavour from their range, I am sure we will struggle by. I can’t be the only customer who thinks vanilla is what food tastes of if it doesn’t taste of anything else.

TALKING POINT

Pregnant pause is must for smokers

I MUST admit I am not, and have never been, a smoker. Maybe something to do with the fact that my dad did constantly and died young of a heart attack.

Yes he had been told by the doctors to give up but it was just too late. “What do the doctors know?” Well obviously a lot more than he did.

My daughter and daughters-in-law were very good – although one in-law has never been a smoker – and followed advice to not smoke when they were pregn- ant.

After all, smoking is a choice decision and your unborn baby does not have that choice, so you have to make the right deci- sion.

Good advice, but how many times do you see mums-to-be walking along proudly pushing out their stomachs with a flag in hand or, just as bad, the prospectve dad (at least I presume that’s what he is) breathing out cigarette fumes all over her.

So even if she has wisely taken the de- cision to quit for those important months she and the baby are still at risk. Passive smoking can be almost as dangerous.

Our children are so precious and we surely do everything we can to protect them.

Admittedly some are out of our hands to an extent – certain illnesses bullying at school, friendship fail-outs etc. although of course we would do everything we can to prevent it or deal with the situation as best possible.

I can’t comment on the children – well, two of them – did not smoke but they did do it in the car when they were pregnant or during pregnancy or in front of the baby/children. Surely that is the responsi- ble attitude.

Pregnant while walking along Wolver- hampton’s main street, I saw not one but two mums leaning over their babies in the prams with a flag in their mouths. Cigarette ash in your buggy… erm, very healthy.

And how many times do you see on television children who are suffering from some awful illness. Probably, you can’t see me, you secretly cross your fingers and think please, but for the grace of God etc.

But not many. Why? If your thought- lessness or selfish attitude was to blame for one of those illnesses I think.

I know that when they are adults your children have a choice to make as to it is out of your control but why they choose smoking.

Give your child the best start in life. If you must smoke, do it away from them – and most definitely not in their pram.

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What about the dangerous cyclists?

HAVING read the story in The Chronicle May 3 concerning the safe distance the West Midlands Police Road Harm Reduction Unit stipulates a vehicle should allow when overtaking a cyclist, this raises a question. When there are parked cars/vans along both sides of the road and there is traffic in both directions, especially on narrow roads, how are vehicles supposed to overtake without either going along at the same speed as the cyclist or risking running onto oncoming traffic?

I notice there is no mention of cyclists who weave about from side to side while going along. Or those that weave in and out of traffic in order to get to the front of the queue at traffic lights in order to either turn left against the lights or to race off as soon as the lights change, obstructing the vehicles behind who then cannot get past.

I also note there is no mention of those cyclists who persistently cycle on the footpath, even in full cycle gear, putting pedestrians at risk and who seem to think that said pedestrians should move out of their way. This is especially dangerous because of all the cars and vans that are parked across the footpath, in a lot of instances leaving no more space than that good enough to allow a single person to struggle to get past.

Since a large number of these are on double yellow lines where it is not under the council or the police are interested in doing anything about it, since these situations affect far more people than the number of cyclists that are about. Is it not about time that the authorities put their priorities in order?

MR H SMITH
Halesowen

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‘Astle’ bridge saga goes on as graffiti covered up

NOW you see it _ and now you don’t!

Graffiti paying homage to Bag-gies legend Jeff Astle was daubed on a bridge named after him in Netherton.

But it was soon covered over with a swathe of black paint.

Primeau Bridge, in Cradley Road, has been known locally as Astle Bridge after the words ‘Astle is King’ were daubed on it to mark the striker’s winning goal against Everton in the 1968 FA Cup final.

And ‘Astle is the King’ was painted on the bridge last week – lasting no more than 24 hours before it was painted over.

The clean-up is the latest episode in the bridge’s footnote in Albion and Black Country history.

The original graffiti was cleaned off by the council in the early 1990s, but it soon reappeared a couple of days later with the added warning ‘Dudley Council please take note’. It was then repainted only to be covered over again.

Play

Meanwhile, three former West Bromwich Albion stars have reunited ahead of a play based on the life of Jeff Astle. Tony Brown, Ally Robertson and Dennis Clarke met up at the Hawthorns last week to discuss their memories of the former Baggies number nine.

The trio were interviewed by Mike Howl, a professional playwright and director who is putting together The Jeff Astle Story, which he describes as “a tribute to Jeff, his life and his career.”

The play will be performed at Birmingham’s Crescent Theatre in Brindleyplace from Thursday, May 24, to May 27.

Mike said: “Some of their stories are very, very funny. I was there 50 years ago when Jeff scored in the FA Cup final and making the play is bringing all the memories back.

The much-loved forward scored 174 goals in 361 games for the club – including the winning goal at Wembley against Everton. All proceeds from the production will go to the Jeff Astle Foundation, set up by his daughter Dawn to help people with head injuries resulting from playing sport.

Mike said: “I was there 50 years ago when Jeff scored in the FA Cup final. If someone had said to me that I wouldn’t be writing a play on him then I wouldn’t have believed them.”

FURTHER READING

Dudley Chronicle Thursday, May 17, 2018

The famous graffiti tribute to Albion player Jeff Astle on the bridge in Netherton

The Play The Jeff Astle Story will be performed at Birmingham’s Crescent Theatre from May 24 to 27.

The Foundation The Jeff Astle Foundation was set up by his daughter Dawn to help people with head injuries resulting from playing sport.

The bridge The bridge was named after Jeff Astle in the early 1990s but was later repainted over.

The play is based on the life of Jeff Astle, a former West Bromwich Albion player who was known as ‘Astle is King’.

The graffiti The famous graffiti tribute to Jeff Astle was daubed on the bridge last week but was soon painted over.

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The bridge The bridge was named after Jeff Astle in the early 1990s but was later repainted over.

The play The play will be performed at Birmingham’s Crescent Theatre from May 24 to 27.

The Foundation The Jeff Astle Foundation was set up by his daughter Dawn to help people with head injuries resulting from playing sport.
TRIBUTES have been paid to Albion FA Cup hero Graham Lovett, who has died at the age of 70 following a short illness.

Mr Lovett played alongside Jeff Astle in the Baggies side that beat Everton in the 1968 Cup final at Wembley.

After his retirement he carved out a second career at the Express & Star, working for the newspaper’s advertising department for more than 14 years, finishing his second career at sales manager as The Chronicle in 1998. Colleagues remember him as a fun-loving character. E&S regional sales manager Pete Hazel, said: “Graham is not only a legend with Albion fans, he is a legend with his former colleagues.”

Lovett made 157 appearances for Albion, scoring nine goals, but saw his career hampered through injuries sustained in two serious car crashes.

Joining the Baggies straight from school, wing-half made his debut aged 17 in 1964. He properly established himself in the Baggies team the following season, scoring four goals in 47 games. His good form continued into the following campaign, but his season ended just before Christmas when a serious car accident left him in hospital with a broken neck and fears that he would never play again.

Lovett watched the 1967 FA Cup final from his hospital bed, but a year later was at Wembley, given the key role of marshalling Everton’s Ray Wilson, as Albion recorded a 1-0 win to lift the cup through Astle’s famous strike.
Foodbanks give out 120,000 crisis packs

ALMOST 120,000 emergency food parcels have been handed out by foodbanks in the West Midlands in 12 months as the number of people needing help continues to rise.

Latest figures from the Trussell Trust showed its network of food banks which includes sites in the Black Country, Staffordshire and Wyre Forest, remain busy helping families that are struggling to make ends meet.

A total of 1,362,952 three-day emergency food supplies were handed out to people in crisis across the UK between April 1, 2017 and March 31, 2018 – a 13 per increase on the previous year and a record number for the charity.

While in the West Midlands, 119,946 food parcels were given out during the 12 month period – a rise of eight per cent on 2016/17.

The figures include supplies handed out by volunteers at food banks in Quinton and Oldbury, Walsall North, Great Barr, Smethwick, Cannock, Rugeley and Kidderminster.

The Trussell Trust said debt accounted for an increasing percentage of people being referred to a food bank. The statistics show essential costs of housing and utility bills are also causing families to seek help. The other main referral reasons in 2017/18 were benefit delays and benefit changes.

THOUSANDS of people have got their hands on early-bird tickets to a family festival.

SummerFest will take over the grounds of Himley Hall on July 15, in aid of Stourbridge’s Mary Stevens Hospice.

Discounted tickets were available until last week with thousands of festival-goers snapping them up over the long weekend. Some will be travelling from as far as Lancashire for the popular event.

A full day of music will take place on the Signal 107 main stage with sets from X Factor stars Reggie N Bollie, Matt Terry and soul star Lemar.

Other attractions include fairground rides, classic car show, food festival, cocktail bar, beer tent, prince and princess meet and greet, and family activities, from 10am to 5pm.

Lauri Millard, community engagement officer at the hospice, said: “We want this to be a fantastic community occasion that we can all look back on fondly for many years to come.

Tickets are available at £17.50 for over 14s, while younger children get in free. To book, call 01384 377778 or visit www.marystevenshospice.co.uk/summerfest-2018

Early-bird tickets for family festival fundraiser snapped up

Rare chance to visit Earl’s ‘secret’ garden

VISITORS can walk in the footsteps of the rich and famous when private gardens near Dudley open for a rare viewing. People can take a tour around the Earl of Dudley’s Memory Garden at Himley Hall, created as a tribute to previous earls and their loved ones.

The gardens, near to St Michael’s and All Angels Church, next to the Dudley Cognizl-owned mansion, are seldom open to the public. Tributes include those to Edwardian actress Gertie Millar, who was the second wife of the second Earl. It’s also the last resting place of the fourth Earl and his wife, film star Maureen Swanson.

There is a small charge to enter the Memory Garden, open 11am until 4pm on June 16 and 1pm until 3.30pm on June 17. See www.himleyhallandpark.co.uk

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Chloe Evans raises funds for charities in her father’s memory

AN aspiring dancer is marking the fifth anniversary of her father’s death by raising funds for a cancer charity.

Chloe Evans, from Sedgley, has raised funds for Bowel Cancer UK and Beating Bowel Cancer since losing her dad, Wayne, to the disease in 2013, aged 42.

Chloe’s father was diagnosed with terminal bowel cancer when she was 13-years-old and he died 17 months after.

She said: “Every year we hold a ‘Wear a Bow Day’ on the date of my dad’s passing. Our dad was a family man and we were a very close family of four, so myself, my mum and sister do all we can to keep each other going and keep his memory alive.”

To justgiving.com/fundraising/chloes-bows

Chocolate selling bows to help beat cancer

ANMP has backed a campaign by Citizens Advice to tackle the ‘excess’ profits made by energy companies. Statistiscs obtained by Citizens Advice claim energy companies are making profits of £305 per household in the West Midlands.

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CHLOE SELLING BOWS TO HELP BEAT CANCER

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Dudley North MP Ian Austin said: “It’s terrible that lots of families in the Black Country are struggling to make ends meet. Wages here are below the national average and bills keep going up with energy bills rocketing.”

“Lots of families in the Black Country are struggling to make ends meet. Wages here are below the national average and bills keep going up with energy bills rocketing.”

The Labour MP was visiting the town’s new Citizens Advice bureau.

Dudley Chronicle Thursday, May 17, 2018
Identity of teenaged ‘feral’ killer is revealed

Mini mania at mansion

Minis on parade in the grounds of Himley Hall near Dudley

HUNDREDS of Minis pulled onto the grounds of Himley Hall for a celebration of the iconic British car. Collectors brought out their classic Minis, along with the newer generation of the vehicle, for the British Mini Club Show at Himley Hall on Sunday.

Scores of motor enthusiasts headed to the Dudley Council-owned mansion and its grounds to see the cars, which dated from 1959 to present day.

People came from all over the Midlands and further afield to showcase their Minis from clubs based in Shropshire, Wyre Forest and Tampworth, among others. Owners were vying for their car to be crowned the best in the Premier Concours competition – dubbed Best in Show of the Mini world.

Andalucia’s Eastern Coast – Granada & Almeria

Walking in Menorca

A ‘FERAL’ teenager, who assaulted one youth and robbed another three days before he was involved in a fatal burglary, can finally be identified.

This follows a successful application by the Express & Star, sister newspaper of The Chronicle, for the removal of a court ban on the naming of 17-year-old Brandon Phillips, who continued to commit crime after being involved in the fatal stabbing of 41-year-old Simon Johnson at his home in Netherton.

The cloak of anonymity was lifted by Judge James Burbidge QC, sitting at Wolverhampton Crown Court, who ruled: “I am satisfied that it is in the interest of justice that the restriction be lifted. Brandon Phillips was engaged in a spate of significant crime with one crime leading to another.

“After the death of Mr Johnson he committed further crime eight days later when he went with others to a park where a youth was held and robbed at knifepoint.”

Nine months after that offence the defendant was caught in possession of a knife. Phillips, from Dunhill Road, Rowley Regis, was locked up for 10 years in January this year after being convicted the previous month by a Wolverhampton Crown Court jury of the manslaughter of Mr Johnson during the early hours of August 11, 2016. He and 18-year-old Damilola Johnson, no relation to the victim, were stealing cannabis plants from the address in Cradley Road, Netherton, when they woke Mr Johnson, leading to the fatal confrontation.

Mr Tony Nayager, defending, said Phillips was a member of what was effectively a ‘feral pack’ and was ‘deeply ashamed’.

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More than £1,600 was raised for charity in memory of Brody, who died 42 minutes after being born.

Around 100 people attended the event at Sedgley Scout Hut and enjoyed a bouncy castle, live singer, craft stalls and a raffle to celebrate the memory of Brody Smith — one year on from his birth.

Brody was born on May 20 at 37 weeks at Sibs Bosn but he had kidney failure and did not live past an hour.

The money raised will be split and given to Acorns Children’s Hospice and Remember My Baby, a charity made up of photographers who volunteer their skills to help bereaved parents commemorate their babies.

The day was organised by Brody’s parents, Jenny Smith, 33, and Jamie Smith, 41, from Tipton.

There was also a raffle where around 20 prizes were up for grabs including the top prize, which was the chance to have a Mercedes for the weekend.

Sunshine

Mrs Smith said: “Remember My Baby are a wonderful charity that not many people know about and we wanted to give something back.

“IT was a brilliant day that was really helped by the sunshine. Lots of people came up to me and said how great it was. We just want to thank everybody involved.”

Brody’s parents enjoyed the day with their two sons Clayton, 7, and Archie, 3, and they hope to continue organising events each May for charity. To donate visit brody-smith.muchloved.com/

Sounds like summer in parks

The programme for the summer season of free outdoor band concerts in the Dudley borough has been announced.

The season of shows will be staged at Stevens Park in Quarry Bank, Mary Stevens Park in Steurbridge and Himley Hall and Park.

At Stevens Park sets for the summer include the Black Country String Band on June 10, Coobery Mortimer Concert Brass on July 1, and Black Country Brass Band on August 12.

Over at Mary Stevens Park the AD Concert Band will perform on July 15, Madil Stimpson Trio on July 29, and Jazz on Tap on September 2.

Himley Hall and Park will host a total of five concerts and the guests will be Alveley Village Band on June 3, Black Country Brass Band on June 24, BJ Concert Band on July 22, AD Concert Band on August 5 and then the Out of the Blue Big Band on August 26. All the concerts will run between 2.30pm and 5.30pm and are free.

How does your hearing rate?

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2. Have you ever worked in a noisy environment or spent a lot of time in noisy bars or nightclubs?
   a) Never  b) Occasionally  c) Yes, sometimes
3. Do other members of the family ever complain that you have the television or radio turned up too loud?
   a) Never  b) Occasionally  c) Yes, sometimes
4. Do you ever find it difficult to follow a conversation in a noisy restaurant or pub?
   a) Never  b) Occasionally  c) Yes, sometimes
5. When you are in a group situation, do you ever misunderstood what someone has said?
   a) Never  b) Occasionally  c) Yes, sometimes
6. How old are you? a) Under 40  b) 40 to 60  c) Over 60

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Mostly As.
Your hearing appears good. Avoid risk factors such as noisy environments. If you’re over 40, it’s recommended to have a hearing test every two years.

Mostly Bs.
You may have some reduced hearing ability, it’s wise to have a hearing test.

Mostly Cs.
You have several symptoms which could indicate hearing loss. You should book a hearing test now.

This quiz is designed as a guide only. If you have any concerns about the health of your ears, consult a hearing aid audiologist or your GP.

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Campaigner’s call for speed humps and one-way system

A CAMPAIGNER has called for speed humps and eventually a one-way system to improve safety at an accident blackspot.

Resident Martin Jones has proposed a two-stage plan for the junction of Gospel End Street and Vicar Street in Sedgley in a bid to reduce the risk of serious accidents.

Mr Jones, who has lived on Brownwall Road for around 25 years, said: “I have become aware of a number of quite nasty collisions over the past two to three years.

I do not want to sit idly by and allow the situation to continue knowing that in its present set-up there will be accidents in the future.

Bend

“I understand from the Dudley traffic department that there are an average of three collisions each year.

“The main cause is ambiguity regarding the intentions of the drivers coming up the hill towards Sedgley from lower Gospel End Street. Most collisions occur where drivers fail to make their intentions clear and cars then emerge from Gospel End Street, crashing into vehicles travelling too fast uphill around the bend.

“The measures taken by Dudley Council in early 2018 have proved ineffective - a large mound was laid directly outside Cafe Cappella but this has only served to make the junction more dangerous with drivers swerving at the last moment to avoid it.

“I want to see, in the short-term, a series of speed humps going up Gospel End Street towards Cafe Cappella and in Vicar Street approaching the junction. I would also like to see them on the approach to the junction heading downhill in the upper part of Gospel End Street outside the church.

“In the long term I want to see a one-way system around Sedgley village.

“Dudley Council confirmed there were no current plans to carry out any extra work on the junction.”

The firm’s Simon Foster, Lauren Jones, David Cole, Teresa Price and Ross Stephenson
THOUSANDS of pounds were raised for charities and other good causes when bluebell woods and landscaped gardens near Stourbridge were opened to the public.

More than £2,000 was raised when the wood at Keeper’s Cottage, Stourton, was opened over the bank holiday weekend as part of the National Garden Scheme (NGS). It is the third year the woods have been opened.

Owner Peter Brookes said: “We had a great turnout – more than 400 people over the two days. We raised £2,166 for the National Garden Scheme – not bad for a simple bluebell wood!”

During the past two years more than 1,200 people have visited Greens forge Lane to walk through the wood, owned by Peter and wife Jenny, and enjoy teas and homemade cakes.

Over the past two years Peter and Jenny had already raised more than £4,000 for the NGS. The charity has donated millions to charity in 2018, including £500,000 each to Macmillan, Marie Curie and Hospice UK.

Hall

A number of other gardens across the country were open over the weekend as part of the NGS.

Meanwhile, the glorious sunshine also brought out more than a thousand people to see one of the finest ornamental gardens in the country on a rare open day.

The grounds of Enville Hall, near Kidderminster, were looking their best with daffodils in bloom alongside spring blossoms. Visitors strolled paths bordered by flower beds and took a stroll around the lake, follies and fountains.

Rev Martin Soar, Stephen Morley and Rev Deborah Walton at Enville Hall

Owners Peter and Diana Williams opened up their home to raise funds for St Mary’s Church in the village. The money will go towards restoring the church’s retaining wall which collapsed onto the A458.

They had hoped to raise £1,000 but the event brought in more than double that from cake and plant sales alone. Peter’s wife Diana was born at Enville Hall and both have lived at the estate, which dates back to the 1530s, for almost 20 years.

Rev Martin Soar, of St Mary’s, said he was extremely grateful to the couple and to the visitors. The Williams have opened the grounds before to help the church when two years ago £3,000 was raised towards a new organ when almost 400 visited.

Rev Martin Soar, Stephen Morley and Rev Deborah Walton at Enville Hall

Zac Brookes, 15, of Keeper’s Cottage, admires the bluebells in the wood

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Zac Brookes, 15, of Keeper’s Cottage, admires the bluebells in the wood
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There’s an Art to making a top play

They’ve known each other for around 20 years. So for Stephen Tomkinson, Nigel Havers and Denis Lawson, lining up in a major production of Yasmina Reza’s Olivier, Tony and Moliere award-winning comedy Art, translated by Christopher Hampton, is an absolute joy to behold.

The show reaches Birmingham Hippodrome from Monday to May 26 as part of a major tour. And audiences are in for a treat.

Stephen says: “We’ve had a very positive reaction so far. We’ve known each other for 20 years and we’re playing characters whose friendship is supposed to have lasted for 25 years. It’s a very enjoyable part to play.”

Stephen’s television credits include five series of DCI Banks, four series of Trolied, seven series of Wild at Heart, six series of Drop the Dead Donkey (British Comedy Award Winner for Best TV Comedy Actor) and three series of Ballykissangel while his films include Phil in Brassed Off. His theatre work includes Spamanot, Rattle of a Simple Man and Arsenic and Old Lace in the West End. Corca (Old Vic) and Tartuffe (National Tour).

Art is a particular favourite of Tomkinson, however.

He first read the script 18 years ago and saw the original production with Ken Stott, Tom Courtenay and Albert Finney.

“I came into the play about two years after that and famously enough Nigel was in the adjoining rehearsal space doing a version that was about to go out on tour.

FORTUNE

“Art deals with three Parisian friends. One buys a white canvas, or so it seems, but if you look at it more closely you can see there’s more layers to it. He’s paid a small fortune for it.

“His other friend, Mark, played by Dennis, hates the painting and thinks he’s lost his marbles. My character is in the middle trying to placate them.”

Stephen has loved the play since day one. “I was dazzled when I saw the first night of the play. There was a magic chemistry between the three actors because the writing was so good.

“Nigel’s done it a few times before – he’ll have played it more than 800 times by the end of the run. And Dennis was the only one who was new to it. He came in on the first day of rehearsal and knew every single line because he assumed we would have known it inside out having played it before. As it turned out, he was the only one who was word perfect and Nigel and I were surprising how quickly we’d forgotten. We only had 2-and-a-half weeks to rehearse it.”

Stephen says the show changes from town to town as different audiences react to it.

“In many ways, the audiences teach you the play. They teach you where the laughs are and where to take your time a bit more. It’s different every night. It keeps you on your toes. It’s an hour and 20 straight through with no interval. Once the train leaves the station it goes off at a rate of knots. The three of us sit down and have a debrief after a show because it’s always changing and developing, so there are slightly new things coming to it and we run those by each other.”

Though Stephen has spent much time in TV and film, he enjoys the thrill of live performance. Being on the road is a thrill.

“I love being on the road. It’s a great way to see the country and most of my days are free.

“The variety is what keeps me going. I do enjoy it. I started in radio and moved into TV. If you haven’t done theatre for a long time you miss it and it’s a different set of acting muscles. You’re reliant on the comedy in this piece.”

His greatest film role was Brassed Off, in which he starred opposite his great friend, the Oscar-nominated Shropshire actor Pete Postlethwaite. He has only the fondest of memories. “I did my first TV with him as well, which was tales of Sherwood Forest. Then I think when the opportunity came up to do my first feature film, Brassed Off, Pete put a word in and we ended up as father and son. There was a tremendous honesty about his performances. When it was just he and I sharing a scene, you could stare into Pete’s face and he could make everything else disappear.”

The new version of Art is being produced by David Pugh and Daifydd Rodgers and Pugh says it’s an honour to get to grips with the world-leading show.

He says: “It is 20 years since Dafydd [Rogers] and I first produced the comedy masterpiece ART in the West End, and the original post-London tour played for 78 weeks. This time, we want to break our own record; in fact, we want to play as many theatres as Sir Ken Dodd has played in his wonderful career, and with this marvellous cast, we think we have every chance.”

Nigel Havers’s films include Chariots of Fire, A Passage to India, Empire of the Sun and The Whistle Blower. He has starred in many television productions, including The Charmer, Dangerfield, Manchild and, more recently, the hit US series Brothers and Sisters. Lewis Arches in Coronation Street, Benidorm and Lord Hepworth in Downtown Abbey.

Denis Lawson is known for his roles as John Jamdyce in the BBC’s adaptation of Bleak House, for which he was nominated for an EMMY award, and as Di Steve McAndrew in BBC One’s hit series New Tricks. In film, his notable credits include the roles of Gordon Urquhart in the film Local Hero and Wedge Antilles in the original Star Wars trilogy. On stage, he won an Olivier Award for Best Actor in a Musical for his performance as Jim Lancaster in Mr Cinder at the Fortune Theatre, and he was nominated for an Olivier for his performance as George in La Cages Aux Folles at the Playhouse Theatre.

Andy Richardson

● For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.
OMG, you guys, this show has got blonde ambition

A star cast features in a smash hit West End musical that will have audiences saying ‘oh my God you guys’ at Birmingham’s New Alexandra Theatre next week.

Legally Blonde The Musical is based on a novel by Amanda Brown that was adapted into a movie starring Reese Witherspoon in 2001. It tells the tale of a beautiful and popular sorority sister Elle Woods who loves to be pampered and is passionate about pink.

But when she is dumped by her boyfriend Warner Huntington III for a more serious girlfriend she puts down the credit cards and picks up the books. Packing up her trusty pooch, Bruiser, she bags herself a place at the prestigious Harvard Law School to try to win him back. With the support of her new friends she learns that you can be both smart and fashionable.

Star of the show as Elle is Lucie Jones, who represented the UK at last year’s Eurovision Song Contest with Never Give Up On You and recently starred as Maureen in the 20th anniversary tour of Rent. She has played Elle Woods before in the Leicester Curve production and was a finalist in the 2009 series of The X Factor.

Alongside her playing Pauline Bonafonte, is Rita Simons, best known as EastEnders’ Roxy Mitchell. Professor Callahan is played by Bill Ward who is a familiar face from both Emmerdale and Coronation Street. Legally Blonde The Musical runs at the Alex from Monday to Saturday.

Singer Scott free to make new start

THE horizon has changed dramatically since Wolverhampton’s Ivor Novello-Award Winning singer-songwriter Scott Matthews broke through with the release of his first album, Passing Stranger, in 2006.

He’s toured the world, been lauded by critics and become a pal of Robert Plant and Foo Fighters’ Dave Grohl. His breakout single, Elusive, earned him a battalion of fans, won awards and saw him signed to one of the UK’s biggest record labels.

These days he does things differently. He makes his music in the shed at the bottom of his garden and his record company is no longer Island – it’s his own appropriately-named Shedio Records. He’s taken back control.

Matthews will headline Birmingham’s St Paul’s Church in the Jewellery Quarter on Sunday, following the release of his new album, The Great Untold. The record follows his recent Home I and Home II sequence and marks the dawn of a new era for the performer. On his sixth record, Matthews has created songs that are audacious in their simplicity.

The richness in Matthews’ new work comes from subtle playing and mellifluous melodies. He has improved again. In many ways, The Great Untold is the start of a new era for Matthews, the star of bluesy acoustica has refined his craft. He said: “It can be a very isolating existence to sit in pitch black at the bottom of the garden recording songs when everyone has gone to bed. But to know you have the fans with you every step, always encouraging and asking what’s going on, makes a huge difference.”

Legally Blonde The Musical

Let musical lift you up where you belong

Theatre highlights – apart from Art (see left) and Legally Blonde The Musical (above) – include An Officer and a Gentleman Musical at Birmingham Hippodrome until Saturday. Based on the romantic Richard Gere movie, the feel-good 1980s pop hits promise to let love lift you up where you belong. A quartet of classical musicians and quartet of actors – including Cathy Tyson (Barst of Gold/ Mona Lisa) and Milos Yeroslovic (Game of Thrones/Murder on the Orient Express) – unite in The String Quartet’s Guide To Sex And Anxiety, a challenging new production from radical Spanish director Calixto Bieito at Birmingham Rep until Saturday. Grand Arena Youth Theatre presents Delivered Dozen; A Miners’ Tale, the true story of a Victorian Black Country mining disaster at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre on Tuesday.

Gaz’s new album is a bit of Alright

Former Supergrass frontman Gaz Coombes is back with his third solo album World’s Strongest Man, which is positive proof that Noel Gallagher isn’t the only Britpop veteran still making great music.

The follow-up to 2015’s Matador sees Coombes goes hop between sublime pop, driving motorik rock and funky soul with songs that run the gamut from the raucous raw to blissed-out psychedelia.

The Oxford-born singer-songwriter has a gig at Birmingham’s O2 Institute 2 in Digbeth on Monday.

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**SATURDAY’S TV MAY 19**

**BCC1**
- 6.00 Breakfast
- 6.30 BBC News 
- 7.00 The Royal Wedding: Prince Harry and Meghan Markle (BBC1, 9am)
- 9.00 MasterChef
- 9.33 The Nightly Show: David Walliams in a Special Feel Good Episode
- 10.00 Springwatch
- 10.45 The Mob Wives
- 11.05 The One Show
- 11.40 Watchdog
- 12.00 CBeebies
- 12.30 BBC One News
- 12.40 World News

**BBC2**
- 6.15 Midlands Today
- 6.30 This Morning
- 7.00 BBC Two News
- 7.30 The One Show
- 8.00 EastEnders
- 8.30 Pointless
- 9.00 Susanna Reid
- 9.30 The Apprentice
- 10.00 The Great British Bake Off
- 10.30 Britain’s Got Talent
- 11.00 The One Show
- 11.30 CBeebies

**BBC4**
- 6.00 Art
- 6.30 The South Bank Show
- 7.00 The Big Read
- 7.30 The One Show
- 8.00 In the Studio
- 8.30 The One Show
- 9.00 The One Show
- 9.30 The One Show
- 10.00 The One Show
- 10.30 The One Show
- 11.00 The One Show
- 11.30 The One Show
- 12.00 The One Show

**ITV**
- 6.15 ITV News
- 6.30 ITV News
- 7.00 ITV News
- 7.30 ITV News
- 8.00 ITV News
- 8.30 ITV News
- 9.00 ITV News
- 9.30 ITV News
- 10.00 ITV News
- 10.30 ITV News
- 11.00 ITV News
- 11.30 ITV News

**CHANNEL 4**
- 6.15 Channel 4 News
- 6.30 Channel 4 News
- 7.00 Channel 4 News
- 7.30 Channel 4 News
- 8.00 Channel 4 News
- 8.30 Channel 4 News
- 9.00 Channel 4 News
- 9.30 Channel 4 News
- 10.00 Channel 4 News
- 10.30 Channel 4 News
- 11.00 Channel 4 News
- 11.30 Channel 4 News

**CHANNEL 5**
- 6.15 Ion Television
- 6.30 Ion Television
- 7.00 Ion Television
- 7.30 Ion Television
- 8.00 Ion Television
- 8.30 Ion Television
- 9.00 Ion Television
- 9.30 Ion Television
- 10.00 Ion Television
- 10.30 Ion Television
- 11.00 Ion Television
- 11.30 Ion Television

**DIGITAL**
- 7.00 Digital One
- 7.30 Digital Two
- 8.00 Digital Three
- 8.30 Digital Four
- 9.00 Digital Five
- 9.30 Digital Six
- 10.00 Digital Seven
- 10.30 Digital Eight
- 11.00 Digital Nine
- 11.30 Digital Ten

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Paul O’Grady hosts The NHS Heroes Awards, Monday, ITV, 8.30pm

BEST OF THE REST

**FRIDAY**

The Bridge
BBC2, 9pm
Swedish journalist and radical left-wing expert Richard Dahlström broadcasts live on the internet, denying Israel's existence in the middle East. Sagi and her brother question him, finding what he says is true of the truth. They also continue to question Tsvi, though finding him useless to cooperate from a plan to expose the truth. The duo search the homeless Danish girl's hiding place, finding evidence that directs them to the next lead. Scandinavian crime drama, in Danish and Swedish, starring Siba Holm and Thure Lindhardt.

**HIGH & DRY**

Channel 4, 10.30pm
As we reach the fourth episode of Matt Widdicombe’s sitcom, it’s clear that the tropical island that our castaways are stranded on is no paradise. Yet Brett (Widdicombe) is shocked this week to discover that Doug (Barry Pepper) would still like to be rescued and is planning to build a boat to take them to the nearest inhabited island, as speed through the telescope lens on a salvaged camera. Meanwhile, Susan (Grace Rey) has just been hoáed by Douglas – can Brett handle this new development?

**TWO FRESHLY PREPARED SAMOSAS**

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BRAIN GYM

No.480

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you down the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

Cryptic Clues:

Across
7. No reverse charge for a cause of tears (5)
8. Difficulty of initially taking Russian money (7)
9. Present at present, but not in any place (7)
10. He apparently marks his choice wrongly (6)
12. Compels to study 4s (10)
15. He has lots to sell (10)
16. Top of 4 cut off hair (5)
19. Ruth upset general (7)
21. Study kind husband (7)
22. Consumed some of the fare at English hotel (6)

Down
1. Neutralise what the shopkeeper did? (10)
2. What wives think? (5)
3. 100 in 1x1 (4)
4. Accept obvious in tension? (6)
5. The opposite of ‘to study poetry’? (8)
6. To the sailor, it’s an awful thing not to indulge (7)
7. Nature’s art as found in eating place (10)
11. Enrand for nothing, perhaps, was an oversight (8)
12. Shows films behind which one may hide (7)
16. Darry entrance to the north-east (8)
17. In which more than one become one (5)
20. Paradise - an oriental vice-spot (4)

Quick Clues:

Across
7. Drone (5)
8. Vocation (7)
9. Frequent (7)
10. Very swift (5)
12. Insignificance (10)
15. Artefact (10)
18. Cede (5)
19. Voter (7)
21. Narration (7)
22. Flucluation (5)

Down
1. Falselyhood (10)
2. Sphere (5)
3. Worry (4)
4. Receive (8)
5. Ominous (8)
6. Easier (7)
10. Deflat (10)
11. Tale (8)
14. Non-attendance (7)
15. Weep (8)
17. Blemish (5)
20. Otherwise (4)

Double Crossword

Quick clues - both fill the same grid.

Quiz

1. How many players are there in a Rugby League team?
2. Which island’s parliament is called the Chief Pleas?
3. Who plays David Brent in the BBC sitcom
4. What was the last viceroy of India?
5. Whose novel ‘Dr Zhivago’ was published in Italy in 1957?
6. Who was Jeremy John Durham?
7. What type of animal is a tarier?
8. What is the meaning of the title of Wagner’s opera ‘Götterdämmerung’?
9. Which volcano’s name is Aztec for ‘smoking mountain’?
10. Which disease used to be called consumption?

Last week’s solutions:

Quiz: 1 Suffolk; 2 Gooseberry; 3 Humber Bridge; 4 Bud Flanagan; 5 Asgard; 6 Tony Booth; 7 Basingstoke; 8 Blackburn; 9 Rome; 10 Genetics.

Niner: DEFIANTLY

Sudoku

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

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Blockbuster you don’t want to miss

IT used to be a movie rental shop. Now it is a blockbusting Asian restaurant.

Under the direction of Ruhel Ahmed, Panshi has made a ‘reel’ impact since it premiered at the former Blockbuster store in Hayes Way, Heath Hayes, next to Tesco, around 15 months ago.

Ruhel is the leading man, taking centre stage with a team of around 10, many of them family members. The scene was set back in 1980, when Ruhel’s family first entered the industry. Ruhel himself has more than 20 years’ experience under his belt, and has an accolade to his name, winning a Curry Chef of the Year award for excellence at the World Curry Expo in 2012/13.

Changes have been made since the spacious restaurant opened, with Ruhel’s latest big budget production to install a central partition, with gentle, but exquisite lighting. There are booths for privacy, as well as round tables to seat a party of up to 50 diners among the 160 covers.

SPILLAGES

What I particularly like about the Panshi is that there are no cumbersome tablecloths. The bare tables mean any spillages can just be wiped away without having to focus on messy material for the duration of the meal. Of course, this also makes it easier to get in and out without the worry of getting tangled in the tablecloth or pulling it away.

The menu features many exclusive items, as well as special ideas and chef’s recommendations, with credits including beef dishes only available at Panshi. Ruhel takes immense pride in these creations, which take top billing.

“I love creating. And I know that you cannot find these dishes anywhere else,” he said.

That would apply to my own main course. We skipped starters, opting just for poppadoms, before I then took a punt on the Panshi Grilled Deluxe, with its assembled cast of tandouri chicken, lamb tikka and sheek kebab, served in a sizzling sauce that Ruhel himself is responsible for. The heat was overpowering, and left me, temporary at least – and to my partner’s delight – speechless as the fumes hit me.

Often when food is so hot, it takes away the flavour. However, this was simply exquisite, with chunky, tender, pieces of meat accompanied by a tasty sauce, although Ruhel would not give away any trade secrets and tell me what the secret ingredient was. It is well worth discovering, though. But, take one cold drink at least to douse to fire inside.

Sharon chose the malai chicken curry, which she assured me compared more than favourably with others she had tried.

Ruhel added he was forever looking to enhance his customers’ experience. “We are always trying to improve our customer service and give better quality and presentation,” he said.

Despite this, Panshi is proving a box-office hit, with a regular clientele and theme nights that also bring the customers in. They also supply outdoor catering.

Our visit was relatively early on a Thursday, yet there were already plenty of diners trying to get a prime seat. The epilogue for me was a pina colada dessert, of coconut and pineapple ice cream. We’ll no doubt be back for a sequel.

Panshi is open seven days a week from 5pm and is fully licensed. Call 01543 277877 or visit www.panshiccannock.com

MARK SHIPP

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✓ Guided city tour of Liverpool
✓ Ferry trip on the River Mersey
✓ Excursion to Southport

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Three-bedroomed detached property with large gardens

An outstanding three-bedroomed detached residence with an excellently-sized rear garden, 51 Oakham Road, Dudley, is for sale through Trinity Property at £320,000, after being reduced by £18,000.

On one of the area’s most sought-after and desirable roads, this impressive property offers very well-maintained accommodation having some fine features.

This briefly comprises an enclosed porch, reception hall, superb through lounge/dining area with bay windows to the front and rear, a re-fitted fine breakfast kitchen, conservatory, spacious landing, three good-sized bedrooms, re-fitted bathroom, adjoining garaging and excellent sized gardens.

The property is set back from the road behind a screened paved frontage with shrubbery gardens and a tarmac driveway giving access to the garage.

In more detail the enclosed porch has floor tiles and the reception hall has parquet flooring and stairs off. The through lounge/dining area comes with a period-style gas fired stove with a marble raised hearth.

Having a range of period carved-effect wall and base units, the re-fitted kitchen has a sink, working surfaces, an integral electric oven, gas hob and an extractor over, a built in fridge/freezer, splash-back tiling and slate tiled flooring. The conservatory also has slate tiled flooring.

A shaped staircase leads from the reception hall to the landing which has a window to the side with leaded and stained features. Bedroom one has laminate flooring and has views over the rear garden, while bedroom two has stripped floor-boarding and bedroom three has laminate flooring.

The rear garden is enclosed and has a paved patio area with a retaining wall and steps up to a mainly laid to lawn area. There is a mixture of mature shrubs and plant borders.

DUDLEY £320,000

TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY
AGENT: Trinity Property
TEL: 01384 213395
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KEY FEATURES
Detached property
3 bedrooms
Re-fitted kitchen & bathroom
Diner & conservatory
Excellent sized rear garden

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SEDGLEY, Gate Street
A truly Wonderful traditional DETACHED family home and COACH HOUSE, located within walking distance of Sedgley village and other amenities. Benefiting from being gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed, living room, dining room, fitted kitchen, TWO BEDROOMS, family bathroom, and parking to front with stunning enclosed rear garden. EPC Rating B. SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £309,950

SEDGLEY, Avington Close
ENJOYING SITUATED in quiet favoured cul-de-sac (just off Gospel End Road) with PANORAMIC DISTANT VIEWS. A gas centrally heated U/V/G double glazed detached family home to front with porch, reception hall, fitted cloak room, transverse Lounge, dining room, kitchen and garden room levels. Two double bedrooms (en-suite) and a family bathroom. With allocated off road parking. EPC D. SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £265,000

LOWER GORNAL, The Straits
SIMPLY WONDERFUL! This really is a stunning example of a traditional DETACHED property located on the extremely sought after Straits Road, The Straits. In Dudley, Positioned on a generous plot of land this property briefly comprises of gas central heating and double glazing as well as boasting entrance porch, imposing hallway, living room, dining room, spacious kitchen, utility, WC/THREE BEDROOMS, family bathroom, and delightful and fully tended large rear garden, with drive way and garden to front. EPC TBA SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £289,950

KINGSWINFORD, Belgrave Court
An OUTSTANDING & SUBSTANTIALLY EXTENDED DETACHED BUNGALOW enjoying a sought CORNER and CUL DE SAC position, occupying a most desirable location within walking distance to all local amenities, with a tarmac driveway to main road entrance, with good sized entrance porch, side door, spacious hallway, reception room, extended lounge, fitted kitchen/diner, three double bedrooms with en-suite and shower room. EPC C. SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £260,000

UPPER GORNAL, Vale Street
Highly individual, exceptionally stylish, significantly extended, gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed patio doors with laminate flooring throughout. maple and walnut flooring, reception hall, modern family kitchen, family bathroom, cloakroom, utility, office, lounge, family room, uPVC double glazed conservatory. Three generous bedrooms, three bathrooms, large rear garden. EPC: B. SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £234,950

Offers in the region of £184,950

COSELEY, Cliffon Street, Hurst Hill
EXTREMELY well presented semi-detached property in the popular Hurst Hill area having been tastefully upgraded. This great sized family home benefits from gas central heating, double glazing, living room, dining room, fitted kitchen, utility area, family bathroom, THREE BEDROOMS, brand new floor tiles throughout and garden. EPC: D. SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £164,950

Offers in the region of £145,000
**KINGSWINFORD, Mount Pleasant**
Enjoying fantastic elevated views, this INCREDIBLY DECEPTIVE, DETACHED FAMILY HOME with a LARGE BLOCK FIXED DRIVEWAY, GARAGE, and a LARGE SUNNY REAR GARDEN. VIEING ESSENTIAL. EPC T A SEDGLEY
Offers in the region of £77,500

**BILSTON, Clapgate Gardens, Sedgmoor Park**
A SEMI DETACHED BUNGALOW which enjoys a level and convenient setting, offering a SPACIOUS layout which requires minimal modernisation. Each bungalow is to comprise entrance hallway, reception hall, lounge, durch kitchen/diner, utility room, cloakroom, two double bedrooms, bathroom, garage, garden. EPC E SEDGLEY
Offers in the region of £232,995

**COSELEY, Clifton Street, Hurst Hill**
OUTSTANDING, spacious, landmark family residence (on 3 floors) overlooking open aspect comprising: hall, magnificent 29'1" through living/dining room (with multi-fuel stove and French doors to garden); separate formal dining; fitted kitchen with work surfaces & many units/appliances, utility room, cloakroom. Three double bedrooms (principal-bedroom with shower room en suite), house bathroom. 29'2" fourth bedroom. Gardens, ample parking, EPC C SEDGLEY
Offers in the region of £339,950

**KINGSWINFORD, Denleigh Road**
A 4 BED DETACHED BUNGALOW which enjoys a level and convenient setting, offering a SPACIOUS layout which requires minimal modernisation. The bungalow is situated on a large plot incorporating TWO BEDROOMS, The bungalow is set back behind the front garden. DRIVEWAY with a level rear garden. EPC C SEDGLEY
Now available £159,950

**LOWER GORNAL, Irving Close, Stratford**
A SEMI DETACHED FAMILY HOME enjoys a sought after location in the sought after area of the Street in Lower Gornal, this well proportioned semi detached dormer style bungalow which has been extended & much improved. As well as having gas central heating and mostly double glazing, with enclosed rear garden and driveway, carport with drive, garage, utility room, enclosed rear garden, car port with drive, garage. EPC C SEDGLEY
Offers in the region of £150,000

**DUDLEY, Regency Court, Off Dibdale Road West**
A WONDERFULLY PRESENTED first floor apartment with lift access to meticulously landscaped rear gardens with spacious living area, spacious lounge & corner balcony. Three double Bedrooms (principal with wardrobes & shower room en suite), house bathroom. Two car parking. EPC B R T SEDGLEY
Offers in the region of £195,000

**LOWER GORNAL, Lichfield Drive**
AN EXTENDED intermediate terrace for the Summer of just two gas centrally heated UPVC double glazed ground floor rooms. Accommodation comprises entrance hallway, fitted cloakroom, lounge, through dining kitchen. THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom. Garage, utility room, enclosed rear garden, car port with drive, garage, alarm system, garden. EPC C SEDGLEY
Offers in the region of £153,000

**UPPER GORNAL, Temple Street**
NO UPWARD CHAIN. A gas centrally heated (combi boiler), UPVC double glazed EXTENDED interior space for improvement. Conveniently situated within walking distance of the village, the accommodation includes living room, 17'6" through dining room, 17" WIDE BATHROOM, new kitchen, L Shaped lounge, Transverse dining kitchen. THREE BEDROOMS, reappointed bathroom with white suite. Large garden, garage, EPC B T SEDGLEY
Offers in the region of £85,000

**COSELEY, Clifton Street, Hurst Hill**
OUTSTANDING, spacious, landmark family residence (on 3 floors) overlooking open aspect comprising: hall, magnificent 29'1" through living/dining room (with multi-fuel stove and French doors to garden); separate formal dining; fitted kitchen with work surfaces & many units/appliances, utility room, cloakroom. Three double bedrooms (principal-bedroom with shower room en suite), house bathroom. 29'2" fourth bedroom. Gardens, ample parking, EPC C SEDGLEY
Offers in the region of £329,950

**COSELEY, Rifle Street, Hurst Hill**
SIGNATURE KITCHENS - comprehensively redeveloped & upgraded, gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed semi detached picket fence property, 22' through living room/dining room, refitted kitchen with a fine range of units, integrated appliances, store. Three bedrooms, bathroom, garage, block paved 3 car drive, rear garden. EPC B T SEDGLEY
Offers in the region of £110,000

**LOWER GORNAL, Redstone Way**
REMARKABLY SPACIOUS! Gas centrally heated, double glazed uPVC single storey extension to house. New kitchen, lounge, extended dining room, extended living room, bedroom, kitchen/diner, bedroom, new bathroom, new garage. The garden to the rear is landscaped, allocated car parking, SAP Rating B. EPC C SEDGLEY
Offers in the region of £100,000

**DUDLEY, Mulberry Green**
Construction has now commenced with completion scheduled for the Summer of just two gas centrally heated UPVC double glazed semi-detached bungalows ‘located away in quiet location. Each bungalow is to comprise entrance hall, lounge, through dining kitchen, two double bedrooms, house bathroom, allocated parking, communal grounds. EPC C SEDGLEY
£120,000 per plot

**DUDLEY, Berkswell Close, Milking Bank area**
Quite exceptional, Freefield, gas centrally heated, double glazed detached family home.
EXTREMELY SPACIOUS accommodation provides hall, staircase and landing, 17½ lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen with a range of units, utility room, separate w.c, two double bedrooms and bathroom. Principal bedroom suite with many built-in units, a walk through dressing room section with bathroom beyond. Three further bedrooms, carport with drive, garage. EPC A SEDGLEY
Offers in the region of £315,000

**COSELEY, Turls Hill Road, Hurst Hill**
Fantastically situated with open country views to front and rear garden to front. EPC: D SEDGLEY
Offers in the region of £120,000 per plot

**UPPER GORNAL, Roford Court**
An enhanced & improved, gas centrally heated, Freehold, majority uPVC double glazed semi detached requiring some modernisation works, and offering potential, set in a conveniences car-park with the accomodations inc: porch, entrance hallway, lounge, staircase, upgraded dining kitchen with a fine range of units, store, fitted cloakroom. Three double bedrooms, bathroom with white suite, Large garden, garage, EPC B T SEDGLEY
Offers in the region of £150,000

**COSELEY, Rifle Street, Hurst Hill**
SIGNATURE KITCHENS - comprehensively redeveloped & upgraded, gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed semi detached picket fence property, 22' through living room/dining room, refitted kitchen with a fine range of units, integrated appliances, store. Three bedrooms, bathroom, garage, block paved 3 car drive, rear garden. EPC B T SEDGLEY
Offers in the region of £110,000

**COSELEY, Turls Hill Road, Hurst Hill**
Gas centrally heated, double glazed, gas centrally heated Detached family home with a LARGE BLOCK FIXED DRIVEWAY, GARAGE, and a MARVELOUSLY PRESENTED layout including FOUR GENEROUS BEDROOMS EPC E
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Kingswinford

Six-bedroom detached in a popular spot is new to market

£615,000

Being substantial and improved, this six-bedroomed detached residence in Cot Lane, Kingswinford, is new to the property market.

In a sought-after residential location, it is for sale through Andrew Cole Estate Agents at £915,000.

It lies in a corner position and has an imposing frontage and benefits from having a large block paved driveway.

This fine home is ideal for a large family or cross generational living.

It is further enhanced by a detached purpose-built annexe at the rear.

The rear garden is a courtyard style for easy outdoor entertaining with a beautiful garden room.

Contact Andrew Cole Estate Agents on 01384 288188.
Well-presented detached has four beds and mature gardens

Halesowen
£335,000

Taylors Estate Agents are pleased to present this extended four-bedroom detached property in Greenhill Road, Halesowen, which is on sale for £335,000.

This residence features a wide frontage allowing for ample off-road parking.

The property is well presented and proportioned, and features both gas central heating and double glazing.

The property briefly comprises a block paved drive, porch, hall, living diner, breakfast room, modern kitchen, utility, cloakroom with w/c and a good-sized garage.

Off the first floor landing, are the four bedrooms and the family bathroom.

Outside there is a mature rear garden.

Contact Taylors Estate Agents on 01902 880888.

Charming property has been extended

Dudley
£280,000

This charming three-bedroomed detached house in Brownswall Road, Dudley, has been considerably extended, being a four/five-bedroomed property on a prominent corner setting.

In a highly sought-after development, only a short distance from Sedgley town centre, it is for sale through Wakeman Estate Agents at £280,000.

Its has an enclosed porch, a reception hall, an attractive extended lounge, an extended dining room, a breakfast kitchen, a multi-purpose through room, a utility room, three bedrooms, a bathroom, garage, a generous-sized rear garden, majority double glazing and gas central heating.

Contact Wakeman on 01384 459999.

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Suzuki’s new Swift Sport is just right

By John Griffiths

Suzuki’s fastest car has taken a while to reach these shores – but in the meantime it seems to have spent time in the gym, shedding weight and gaining lots of extra muscle.

The new Sport is the flagship of the Swift range, redesigned and re-engineered into a good-looking ‘warm’ hatchback which delivers the performance its styling promises. Instead of its predecessor’s 1.6 litre engine, the new Sport has the more powerful 1.4 Boosterjet turbocharged unit familiar from the Vitara SUV.

With 140ps, it’s more powerful but more significantly it has 230Nm of torque – a 44 per cent boost. Since the new car is more aerodynamic and 70kg lighter (it now weighs under a tonne) it gives you an idea of how much performance has improved.

For the record, its 0 to 62mph sprint time is 8.1 seconds, but the introduction of a turbo engine has changed the car’s character in more ways than that.

Flexible

It reaches its peak performance at much lower engine speeds, is more flexible and responsive and motorway cruising is quiet and seemingly effortless. In fact its torque per kilogram figure is particularly impressive, elevating the Swift Sport to a level with some of the hotter hatchbacks on the market.

But combined with the new aerodynamics and weight loss it’s good for economy too, with an official average of 50.4mpg and CO2 emissions of 125g/km.

Choose a lower gear and press harder with your right foot, though, and you are rewarded with a pleasingly sporty growl from the unique twin exhausts. You also get the benefit of a faster exit from corners, an excellent chassis (lighter and stronger) and suspension makes the Sport agile yet stable, turning in quickly and tracking accurately through the twisty bits.

Stiffer stabiliser bars and torsion beam ensure improved tyre-road contact plus the benefit of roll-free cornering. It’s apparent the car has lots of reserve in handling terms, and could safely take a significantly more powerful engine. It’s therefore a welcome surprise that, while it’s bigger than the previous Swift, too, with generous for the class head and leg room even in the rear, and a boot which is 25 per cent bigger.

It’s well-equipped, too, with the dash (as is now the norm) dominated by a central colour touch screen for the standard navigation system, audio and telephone systems.

Put the car in reverse and it becomes the screen for the rear view camera, too.

Sport drivers also get automatic air conditioning, adaptive cruise control, lane departure correction (a semi-autonomous system which corrects the driving line if you’re wandering out of lane), and Suzuki’s ‘Total Effective Control Technology’ to protect occupants and an advanced forward detection system combining a camera and radar sensor.

It can detect hazards (including pedestrians) even at night and, after first warning the driver, will progressively apply the brakes if the risk of a collision is high.

An electronic stability programme, ABS, multiple airbags, hill hold assist and a tyre pressure warning are also on the safety list.

The new Sport is the flagship of the Swift range, redesigned and re-engineered into a good-looking ‘warm’ hatchback.

The brakes are bigger and more powerful too, with a greater resistance to fade.

The new Swift Sport has a number of styling features which combine form with function – a new roof spoiler, body which sits 15mm lower and a redesigned front end which makes it 50mm longer than the standard car.

A slighter increase in width and the carbon-effect bumpers and side sills accentuate its low-slung, muscular appearance.

Blacked out pillars, semi-concealed rear door handles and the standard LED lights (a rarity in this class) add to the sporting appearance. There’s room for customisation, too, with a dealer-fit sport decals package which suits it, and rather strangely, makes it look a little bigger still.

It’s bigger than the previous Swift, too, generous for the class head and leg room even in the rear, and a boot which is 25 per cent bigger.

The legendary Aston Martin Vantage V600 has been reborn in the form of a customer commissioned limited run of all-new breathtakingly beautiful Aston Martin V12 Vantage V600s, inspired and influenced by the original V8 Vantage V600.

In 1999, Aston Martin offered its customers the most extreme iteration of its Vantage sportscar, the supercharged V8 Vantage V600. Delivering 600bhp, the model was one of the most powerful sports cars of its time, a car of extremes.

Fast forward 20 years and the luxury British carmaker’s unique personalisation service Q by Aston Martin received a customer commission for a strictly limited run of 14 new Aston Martin V12 Vantage V600s. Split between seven coupes and seven roadsters and dubbed the ‘Triple V’, this unique series of manual V12 V600s have been commissioned, designed and handcrafted without compromise.

Underpinned by the previous-generation ‘VH’ Vantage, the 2018 Aston Martin V12 Vantage V600 combines the modern performance of a muscle sportscar with timeless styling, creating the ultimate analogue Vantage.

Marc Reichman, vice president and chief creative officer of Aston Martin, said: “This is precisely why we created our Q by Aston Martin - Commission” service. Our customers can create truly bespoke sports cars by personally collaborating with myself and Aston Martin’s design team. The V600 name remains a classic in Aston Martin’s heritage and I’m proud to see it adorn the V12 Vantage V600 once again”.

Powered by an upgraded version of Aston Martin’s 6.0-litre naturally aspirated V12 engine, producing 600PS, the Vantage V600 is designed to excite the senses.

The V12 Vantage V600 has commanding road presence and utilises aggressive styling cues across its full-carbon fibre exterior. Like the 90s classic, the V600 utilises a re-imagined side-strake and a bulging bonnet that hints towards the power that lies underneath. A unique dashboard provides maximum airflow and cooling to the model’s characterful V12, while the car’s rear continues to signal towards the car’s powerful nature.

An all-new carbon fibre diffuser provides the backdrop for a quad exhaust system. The external look of the V600 is further distinguished by bespoke centre-lock forged and machined aluminium wheels.

The interior is a study in the beauty of carbon fibre and dark anodised aluminium. The lightweight seats have an all-new perforation pattern, carbon fibre centre console and bespoke driver information display. A hand-crafted saddle leather centre armrest provides comfort and style within ergonomic reach of the machined-from-solid gear shifters.

The 2018 Aston Martin V12 Vantage V600 is available on request.
New Ford Fiesta ST available to order for less than £19,000

By James Parker

The new Ford Fiesta ST is available to order now, with prices starting from less than £19,000 and the first deliveries arriving in the summer.

The highly-anticipated hot hatch will cost from £18,995 in ST-1 trim, which features selectable drive modes – new to ST – as well as a flat-bottomed steering wheel, Recaro seats and ST sports suspension as standard. All Fiesta ST models are also equipped with electric, heated door mirrors, Ford’s SYNC3 DAB radio with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto capability, cruise control, and NCAP Pack, which includes Lane-Keeping Alert and speed limiter.

The ST-2, which starts from £19,995 in three-door guise and £20,645 for the five-door, adds climate control, heated Recaro front seats and blue seatbelts, B&O PLAY premium sound system and Ford SYNC3 DAB radio with a larger eight-inch touchscreen as standard.

ST-3 gains 18in alloy wheels and red brake calipers, £350 and £75 options, respectively, on ST-2 models, satellite navigation, automatic rain-sensing wipers, auto-dimming rear view mirror and driver assistance.

All models are also fitted with specially-developed Michelin Pilot Super Sport tyres features including Traffic Sign Recognition, auto high beam and driver alert. The three-door ST-3 is priced from £21,495 while the five-door model starts from £22,145.

The new Fiesta ST is available with a new Performance Pack, which includes a Quaife limited slip differential, launch control and performance shift light.

The Performance Pack is an £850 optional extra for ST-2 and ST-3 trims. All Fiesta ST models are also fitted with specially-developed Michelin Pilot Super Sport tyres, available for both 17in and 18in alloy wheels.

Other optional extras include full LED headlamps (£500), available on ST-2 and ST-3 models.

Fiesta ST will be available in Race Red, Frozen White, Magnetic, Moondust Silver, Shadow Black, Silver Fox, new to Fiesta ST, and Performance Blue – a colour unique to ST models.

The new Fiesta ST achieved the maximum five-star rating in the latest Euro NCAP testing.

The new Fiesta ST accelerates from 0-62mph in 6.5sec with prices starting from less than £19,000 and the first deliveries arriving in the summer.

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Other optional extras include full LED headlamps (£500), available on ST-2 and ST-3 models, and Blind Spot Information System (BLIS) with Cross Traffic Alert (£475), available across the Fiesta ST range.

Powered by an all new, three-cylinder, 1.5-litre EcoBoost engine, new Fiesta ST accelerates from 0-62mph in 6.5sec, and has a top speed of 144mph. New cylinder deactivation technology – a world first for a three-cylinder – further improves fuel efficiency by automatically stopping fuel delivery and valve operation for one of the cylinders, helping the new Fiesta ST to return a combined fuel economy of 47.1mpg, and CO2 emissions of 136g/km. This technology can disengage and re-engage 20 times faster than the blink of an eye, delivering full performance of 200PS and 296nm of torque, on demand.

The new Fiesta ST will be the first to feature selectable Drive Modes – enabling engine, steering and stability controls to be configured to Normal, Sport and Track settings for an optimised fun-to-drive experience in all driving conditions.

Drive Modes will also adjust the Fiesta ST’s Electronic Sound Enhancement (SEE) technology and active exhaust noise control valve, which amplifies the sound of the engine note.

Fiesta ST will be available in Race Red, Frozen White, Magnetic, Moondust Silver, Shadow Black, Silver Fox, new to Fiesta ST, and Performance Blue – a colour unique to ST models.

The new Fiesta ST achieved the maximum five-star rating in the latest Euro NCAP testing.
Land Cruiser offers a welcome dose of old-school brute force

By Tom Wiltshire

The story of the Toyota Land Cruiser is one that’s almost as old as Land Rover. Production began in 1951 and since then it’s gained a worldwide reputation for strength, solidity and off-road capability. The latest model was introduced in 2009, but a range of updates has kept it feeling relatively fresh. It’s also packed with tech, but none detracts from the overall feeling of old-fashioned power. 2018 has seen a rather large update, aimed at keeping the Land Cruiser in step with rivals such as the Land Rover Discovery. A new workhorse ‘Utility’ model has been introduced, but we’re driving top-spec ‘Invincible’ trim.

The 2.8-litre diesel engine gets a smaller turbocharger along with AdBlue to reduce emissions, and the interior’s been tidied up to accommodate a large central touchscreen and comprehensive off-road controls. The UK market receives only a single engine - a 2.8-litre four-cylinder turbodiesel. The large capacity and low cylinder count naturally means it’s less smooth than a Land Rover 3.0-litre V6, and it’s down on power too with just 174bhp compared to 255bhp. However, with almost 450Nm of torque, pulling power is ample, and the Land Cruiser feels like it could cope not just with its 2.4-tonne weight, but the 3-tonne trailer it’s permitted to tow.

Utility models are offered with a manual transmission, but most buyers will be using a six-speed automatic. It’s relatively smooth, but coping with the car’s bulk means it has a tendency to downchange at a moment’s notice – even on the motorway. Refinement is an issue from the get-go and the lack of on-road manners. But look at the car against its main rivals and it begins to look more attractive.

There’s a certain brutish charm about the Land Cruiser, both on the motorway. Refinement is an issue from cold, but at a cruise it settles down to a muted thrum which isn’t too unpleasant. The Land Cruiser is enormous, heavy, slow and ponderous – but buyers won’t care too much about that. Crucially, with an automatic gearbox and great visibility, it’s very easy to drive for a car of its size, more so than the Discovery with its bustling rear. Our ‘Invincible’ trim offered up six adjustable driving modes.

The ride isn’t as sophisticated as most rivals due to the separate chassis construction, but the trade-off is off-road ability the equal of anything on the market. Put simply, the Land Cruiser’s reputation is well deserved – these cars are unstoppable and faultlessly reliable. There’s a certain brutish charm about the Land Cruiser, but it’s unlikely to win any beauty contests any time soon. Our Invincible trim was easy to use while traversing rough terrain. Material quality is rugged rather than plush, but it all feels hard-wearing, and build quality is rock solid. There’s also plenty of room for five, though the electrically-operated seats six and seven are far better suited to children than adults. Toyota’s Touch 2 Pro infotainment system is easy to use, too. Our Invincible grade car came in at over £50,000, which may be tough to stomach given the lack of on-road manners. But look at the car against its main rivals and it begins to look more attractive.

Electrically-operated front seats feature both heating and ventilation, and off-road goodies are all standard. The Land Cruiser is truly an institution, and current owners won’t need any encouragement to soldier on with the brand. They’re unstoppable due to amazing off-road ability and dependability.

Attracting new buyers into a Land Cruiser is a tougher job. It’s impossible to deny that most modern SUVs are better on the road, have better interiors, and look rather less workhorse. Your suitability to a Land Cruiser comes down to your needs – and if it suits your lifestyle, you won’t be disappointed with this old-school bruiser. Base price: £33,435

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Dudley Chronicle Thursday, May 17, 2018

Dudley Chronicle Thursday, May 17, 2018
Škoda to the four! Quartet of awards

By Sharon Walters

Škoda has once again proved itself to be the brand to beat by dominating the 2018 DieselCar and EcoCar Top 50. The Czech brand was named as class winner in no fewer than four key categories and topped more sectors than any other manufacturer in the influential annual chart.

Now in its third year, the DieselCar and EcoCar Top 50 is widely regarded as a definitive guide to the best cars on the market. The chart is compiled from data and feedback from a team of writers who have driven more than 175 cars during the past year. All have been road tested in the UK, and judged against the expectations and demands of their target market.

The Kodiaq added to its incredible list of industry titles by topping the Large SUV category – eclipsing some of the biggest names in the sector in the process. Explaining the Kodiaq’s appeal, Ian Robertson, editor and publisher DieselCar & EcoCar Magazine said: “Despite underscoring key rivals, the big Škoda offers more performance and practicality at a lower price and with smaller running costs. This five and seven-seater drives brilliantly, comes with the option of advanced four-wheel drive to keep you going and is filled to the roof rails with clever features like pop-out door protectors.”

Not to be outdone, the Superb grabbed two awards; Best Large Car and Best Large Estate. As with the Kodiaq, the judging panel loved the Superb’s value and practicality. “The pricing of this limousine-like model defies belief, with so much room in the back you might feel tempted to change your wardrobe and don a smart black suit,” said Ian. “Its size, torquey engines and smooth manual or automatic gearboxes make the Superb a superlative tow car, and it’s in its element on the motorway. If you aren’t an SUV enthusiast, the Superb is a great antidote and yet still hugely spacious.”

Completing a remarkable haul for Škoda, the Octavia was named Best Medium Estate, marking a lock-out of the large Estate market for the brand. Substantially updated last year, the Octavia wowed the judges with its strength in depth. Explaining why it took top honours Ian Robertson said: “Making up around a third of Škoda sales, the Octavia is a critical model for the Czech brand, so it’s a good job the latest update has been such a success. The estate has a class-leading boot and the VRS performance version is powerful and grippy without attracting any unwanted attention. No wonder Octavia owners are so happy.”

Thanks to the new Karoq’s 17th place finish, no fewer than five Škoda models featured in the Top 50 – a remarkable achievement and testament to the value for money delivered by the brand’s efficient diesel models. These latest Diesel Car and EcoCar awards add to a vast collection of silverware already accumulated by the Kodiaq, Superb and Octavia. The former has taken more than 10 top industry titles since its launch last March.

Lotus has announced yet another new addition to its Exige range – the Exige Sport 410. The Sport 410 has been developed from the track-focused Cup 430, Lotus says, giving it ‘unmatched driving pleasure’. The new Sport 410 stands out from the crowd.

Lotus says this is the lightest V6 model ever. Weighing in at just 1,054kg, the Exige Sport 410 has a power-to-weight ratio of 389bhp per tonne – higher than a McLaren 570S.

Top speed is a reported 180mph, and 0-60mph is dispatched in just 3.3 seconds.

The Sport 410 gains the track-focused chassis from the Cup 430, but with the adjustable dampers tuned for a road bias. On request, Lotus can tune the entire chassis to customer taste, including adjustable compression and Eibach front and rear anti-roll bars.

An impressive 150kg of downforce is provided by a revised aerodynamic configuration including carbon side pods and rear wing plus a front splitter to reduce turbulence around the front wheels.

The cabin receives Lotus’ now-trademark open-gate manual gearbox plus carbon-fibre sports seats trimmed in Alcantara and leather.

The truly hardcore can specify track-ready touches, such as airbag deletion from the steering wheel, four-point racing harnesses, a roll cage and intubed fire extinguisher.

The Lotus Exclusive programme allows buyers to customise their cars, tailoring the character of their Lotus precisely to their taste. It’s the ideal way to ensure your Exige Sport 410 stands out from the crowd.

The Lotus Exige Sport 410 starts from £85,600 in the UK.
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Readers are advised to see independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

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Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:

1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with its mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.

Whilst Midlands New Association publications take great care to avoid publicising all advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any purchase from this kind of establishment.

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WEDNESDAY

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Drivers

MOTORING

Drivers

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Have you checked your advert? We would wholeheartedly advise that it is your responsibility to inform the customer of any errors on the day of publication.
**Vehicles Wanted**

**Commercial**

- **Chevrolet Spark LT 2012**
  - Blue, 1.2 engine, petrol, 35,000 miles, hpi clear, full service history, well looked after, all receipts kept, air alloys, CD and MP3.
  - £1,200
  - 07851 376721.

- **Chevrolet Spark G-300**
  - £1,075
  - 07902 387527.

- **Ford Fiesta 1.4 D**
  - 2011, 92,000 miles, Diesel, 5-door, alloy wheels, CD player, radio, leather seats, sunroof.
  - £1,500
  - 07902 387527.

- **Vauxhall Astrar Astra 2.0**
  - Diesel, 2015, 116,000 miles, black exclusive model, long MOT, all new tyres, brakes, excellent condition.
  - £1,250
  - 07948 309727.

- **VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6**
  - 51 reg, 84,000 miles, ideal first car, MOT, almost.
  - £650
  - Telephone 07864 802706.

- **VW Beetle 1.6**
  - 2004 reg, MOT April 2019, 35,000 miles, alloys, electric windows, cd player/radio.
  - £1,200
  - 07890 354984.

- **Jaguar XJS 4.0**
  - £4,950
  - 01922 750768

**Classic Cars**

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  - £4,950
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**Motorbikes**

- **CITROEN C1 RHYTHM**
  - 2008, 56,000 miles, petrol, black metallic, black roof, black engine, 10,000 miles, silver.
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  - To buy scrap cars/metal for cash.
  - MBC for a premises licence, in Wolverhampton.
  - Tel: 0121 557 0800 or 07805 667478

- **LICENSING ACT 2003**
  - Application has been made by Essimo Foodservice Limited, to the Licensing Authority of Dudley MBC, for a premises licence, in respect of premises to be known as, The Lounge, Unit 3, The Broadway, Dudley, West Midlands DT8 1GW.
  - The application includes the following terms:
    - 1. To enable the sale of alcohol Monday-Sunday 12.00-23.00 hours for consumption on the premises.
    - 2. Full details of the application may be viewed at, Directorate of Corporate Resources, Law and Governance, Licensing Services, Unit 1, Nannowood Way, Hunt Business Park, Brierley Hill DY7 1UF, during normal office hours, Monday to Friday.
    - 3. Council’s website: www.dudley.gov.uk

**Vehicles Wanted**

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- **Jaguar XJS 4.0**
  - £4,950
  - 01922 750768

**Accessories & Services**

- **BARGAIN**
  - **FORD FIESTA 1.4 D**
  - 2001, Blue, 35,500 miles, £650
  - 07890 354984

- **VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6**
  - 51 reg, 84,000 miles, ideal first car, MOT, almost.
  - £650
  - Telephone 07864 802706.

- **JAGUAR XJS 4.0**
  - £4,950
  - 01922 750768

**Be one able to trust the ads you see.**

If an ad is wrong, the ASA is here to put it right.
**Golden promotion – and glory in 1988**

**FORMER Wolverhampton and Cradley Heathens rider Cyril Francis has died. Born in Newport, Gwent, in 1935, Francis took up speedway at Bristol in 1960 but came to Monmore Green as Wolves re-opened in 1961. He was a vital part of the Wolves team who won the Provincial League in 1963, scoring 1,035 paid points in 180 meetings. He is one of just 25 riders to have scored more than 1,000 points for Wolverhampton. Meanwhile, Jacob Thorsell made the semi-final in the Premiership Riders Championship meeting at Wimborne Road, which was won by Jason Doyle.**

**TAIW OFFINDEN, Great Britain’s double world champion, is to make himself available for a sensational return for his national side in this summer’s Monster Energy FIM Speedway of Nations. Woffinden sat out last year’s World Cup campaign but has moved to end his exile after being overwhelmed with the level of support he received when meeting fans at stage shows in Halifax and Berwick in February, as well as holding talks with officials.**

“When I did three shows in Berwick and Halifax the fans were asked to put their hands up if they wanted to see me ride for GB again,” he said. And when I saw every single person put their hand up I couldn’t believe it, it was really cool to see and it got me thinking.

“I don’t want my British fans to think I have ever forgotten about them, but I needed to take some time out and having the year out has obviously worked as changes are being made, the type of things I have been pushing for over the last five years.”

**THEY have swept aside all their rivals to clinch an historic return to the Premier League.**

“Neither the game nor performance were impressive,” said Turner. “But anyone who turned up to witness the celebration of the Wolves revival will have thoroughly enjoyed it. For us, it was the highlight of the season to be able to celebrate in front of our own fans.”

**WHEN the Wolves – having swept aside all their rivals to clinch an historic return to the Premier League.**

“Neither the game nor performance were impressive,” said Turner. “But anyone who turned up to witness the celebration of the Wolves revival will have thoroughly enjoyed it. For us, it was the highlight of the season to be able to celebrate in front of our own fans.”

**Boss Graham Turner**

**By Joseph Masi**

**“For us, it was the highlight of the season to be able to celebrate in front of our own fans.”**

**Celebrating – Floyd Streete with Mark Kendall**

**Holding trophy aloft – Ally Robertson**

**Golden promotion – and glory in 1988**

**THEY have swept aside all their rivals to clinch an historic return to the Premier League.**

“But 30 years ago, Wolves were celebrating a different promotion – and one that played a huge part in shaping the club we know today. It was back on May 2, 1988, that a 2-0 win over Hartlepout saw the Molineux men clinch the Fourth Division Championship.

Having failed to win promotion the previous year, the pressure was on Graham Turner’s side to lift the club from the doldrums. And they managed to achieve their goal with a game to spare by securing victory over the monkey hangiers.

In front of 17,895 fans at Molineux – the biggest gate of the season – two goals from Steve Bull clinched the title. But Wolves kept their fans waiting as the second of the striker’s goals arrived two minutes into stoppage time.**

**Thriller**

Overall, the game hadn’t been a thriller. Keeper Mark Kendall was knocked unconscious after colliding with the post three minutes from time. That saw defender Floyd Streete see out the match in goal.

But otherwise, the two Bull goals were the only moments of quality. That didn’t bother Turner though who was just happy to get over the line.

“Anybody who turned up to witness the celebration of the Wolves revival will have thoroughly enjoyed it. For us, it was the highlight of the season to be able to celebrate in front of our own fans. Neither the game nor performance were impressive, but the result certainly was.”

A Wolves revival it certainly was. Just three weeks later, Wolves were celebrating again when they won the Sherpa Van Trophy. Then the following year they clinched a second successive promotion by beating Sheffield United to the Division Three title.
**Thriller for DKs ends in heartbreak**

A CRACKING game to end the season but dismay for Dudley Kingswinford as Syston’s 37-33 victory saw them progress to Midlands Premier.

The opening stages of the game was certainly spectacular with each side scoring five tries and the lead changing hands on seven occasions but a crucial blow to DK’s, who had home advantage.

After the visitors took the lead, Garth Bewin in his first league game of the season put in a sublime reverse kick which was collected by Nick Adams who touched down in the arrears.

Connah Jones was through and over the line for a try with Sam Vaughan adding the extra to see DK 12-10 in the lead before Syston hit back with a penalty and went into half-time 13-12 up.

They were further ahead 20-12 to Syston before Vaughan scored near the posts and added the extras himself to haul DK back to within a try.

DK were again falling behind as Danny Hawkins crashed through to score a try and the conversion by Vaughan saw DK into the lead 26-25.

The lead changed hands again until DK were back in the lead going into the last five minutes, when second-row Matt Perks crashed over, following a break made by right wing Tommy Walker, with Vaughan on target DK in the lead 33-30.

Syston winger Williams went over to po, it was heartbreak for DK when a turnover saw the DK defence exposed and the Syston wing flying for the fine too secure the win 37-33.

**BRIEFLY** Hill-born racer Michael Rutter will be sure of an electric reception on the Isle of Man this year after bagging a ride in the TT Zero.

The 46-year-old has been snapped up by Honda’s Team Mugen for the 2018 race, from May 26 to June 8.

His place, however, was tinged with sadness as the position only became available after popular New Zealander Bruce Anstey, winner of the two previous electric bike races, was forced to withdraw from all racing during 2018 while he undergoes medical treatment for a serious illness.

Twenty-three times TT winner John McGuinness, a good friend of Rutter’s, has also been forced to withdraw from the Shinden programme after suffering a setback as he recovers from a horror break last year at the North West 200, having re-fractured the same leg.

Team Mugen has comfortably won the last three TT Zero races, which is one lap of the 37.73-mile Isle of Man TT course.

The last person to win on a different machine was Rutter, who claimed a third-straight win back in 2013 while racing for the MotoGaya team.

He has been victorious every time he has competed on an electric bike and will form part of a two-man team, joining up with Northern Ireland’s Lee Johnston.

Rutter said: “It’s a great opportunity but obviously its horrific circumstances behind how it all came about.”

**STOURBRIDGE boss Gary Hackett praised the Glassboys’ ‘fantastic fans’ after seeing his team end the season on a high by lifting the Birmingham Senior Cup.**

“Two goals from Luke Benbow saw Stourbridge triumph 2-1 over Hednesford in the final held at Birmingham’s St Andrew’s stadium last week.

The result meant Stourbridge lifted the trophy for the first time in 50 years. It was striker Luke Benbow who proved the difference between the sides at St Andrew’s with the Glassboys talisman giving his team a first-half lead before then netting a winner in stoppage time after Pitmen had pulled level with a smart header from Charlie Gatt.

**STOURBRIDGE boss Gary Hackett praised the Glassboys’ ‘fantastic fans’ after seeing his team end the season on a high by lifting the Birmingham Senior Cup.**

Luke Benbow (right) and Brad Birch lift the Birmingham FA Senior Cup after victory over Hednesford

**Himley are pace-setters in division 1**

HIMLEY are the early pace-setters in Division 1 of the Birmingham League. They claimed to the top of the table on the back of a resounding nine-wicket success at home to Barnards Green.

England under-19 paceman Adam Finch took 4-28 while experienced campaigner Chris Beroaghms claimed 2-21 as the visitors were rolled over for 85.

Bilal Hussain’s unbeaten 39 helped Himley on their way to victory. Kidderminster are second after a 141-run success over Halesowen.

Skipper Neil Pinner was the star of the show with a fine 123 in Kidderminster’s 245-9. Barney Morgan’s 4-20 helped roll Halesowen for 104.

In Division Two, Penkridge (247-6) beat Wombourne (242-4) by four wickets.

C&amp;R Hawks saw off Coventry NW by five wickets while Fordhouses lost to Harborne.

Old Hill and Stourbridge are two of four sides locked at the top of Division Three on 45 points.

Zahid Kattal took 6-50 as Newport fell for 12 in reply to Old Hill’s 299.

Haradesh Patel hit an unbeaten century to steer Stourbridge to an eight-wicket success against Redditch.

In the Premier Division West Bromwich Dartmouth continued their strong start to the season by beating Berkswell and ford last week.

Dartmouth wrapped up the game with a five-wicket win over Evesham to claim five points as they surpassed Berkswell’s 139, earning 20 points.

**Bowtell signs as cover for Heathens**

CRADLEY have signed Lakeside racer Alifie Bowtell. He steps in as a replacement for Jordan Jenkins who crashed in a meeting at Birmingham and sustained a cracked vertebra.

Market Heathens boss Will Pottinger said: “Jordan will be a big miss for us. Until he recovers he could be out for anything as long as three months.

Bowtell makes his Heathens debut at Monmore against Coventry on Monday. Pottinger’s National Trophy team ran out 37-22 winners at Stoke after referee Stuart Wilson declared the track unfit after racing 10 races due to heavy rain.

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