The plans are due to go before Dudley Council’s development control committee on Monday and have been recommended for approval with the condition that developers retain a public right of way on the site.

Deputy Mayor Councillor Steve Walsh, said: “I am supporting these plans because the pub has been an eyesore on the area for a number of years. Since the building closed it has become a magnet for vandals.”

PROPERTY SPREADS: A DERELICT pub will be transformed into new apartments and a takeaway next year.

HarryFest at mall car park

A TWO-DAY festival in honour of a young fund raiser is being held this weekend and is part of a county project to tidy up a notorious piece of road.

Harry Fray is this weekend from 10am to 4pm on the East Car Park car park at the Brierley Hill mall.

Harry, from Birmingham, died aged 11 from a brain tumour in July and his family set up the charity Help Harry Help Others and raised more than £1,000,000 in what has become an annual “Harry’s Hunt” search.

The festival is part of a countywide Mother’s Day programme and tickets cost £2.50 on the gate.

MORE than 200 people have signed a petition against plans to create new shops and a takeaway on the site of a motorcycle showroom.

Popular dealership Streeteke has revealed plans to relocate the business from its present site at Mucklow Hill to the former Comet electrical store in Dudley Road, Halesowen.

Proposals have been made to transform its former base after its proposed move. HooDPower Ltd aims to create two shops and a takeaway inside the redeveloped building.

Concern

But these plans have caused concern for residents and local councillors who fear increased traffic, litter and noise generated from the site.

Now officers at Dudley Council have recommended that the plans be refused when they come before the authority’s planning committee next month.

But the firm says that the scheme could increase the vitality of the area with the introduction of the three new retail units.

A total of 211 people have signed a petition against the proposals with 13 of residents writing letters of objection.

In a letter to the planning department, ward representative Councillor Hilary Bills, said: “For those residents living near to this site, this could lead to increased traffic flow, extra noise, fumes and smells.

“The original business on this site was a car dealership, in recent years it has become a motorcycle dealership. Both of these businesses have and had restricted hours. The planned changes of use to convenience store and fast food outlet means that the hours and scale of the operation will greatly increase.”

Councillor Karen Shakespeare, also in a letter to the planning authority, added: “There are already queues for much of the day on all roads leading to the Stag Island. I am concerned about the impact that the additional traffic will have on the queues.

“Pedestrians already have difficulty crossing Long Lane, Mucklow Hill, and Kings Road due to the volume and speed of traffic, which has been raised with the local police on many occasions.”

In a report to the planning committee, officers say they are recommending the plans are refused for factors including ‘a significant shortfall’ in the number of car parking spaces needed for the business.

The site was formerly used by Bells Garage for selling and servicing motor vehicles, before it became a motorcycle centre. It has a cafe popular with Black Country and Birmingham bikers.

A decision on the application for this site will be taken at a council meeting in Dudley on Monday.

State-of-the-art fire station opens

Bluewatch at the new fire station – Kev Atkinson, Paul Morris, Dominic Rose, Jamie Law, Matt Crawford and Temple Jones

IT has served the community for 72 years but now new firefighters have bid a fond farewell to their old station as they moved into a state-of-the-art new base.

Cradley Heath’s fire station closed its doors for the final time on Monday before personnel pat and present paraded to the newly-built Hadken Cross Fire Station on Harry Road. It is on the site of former municipal buildings.

Station Commander Mark Hudson said saying goodbye to the old fire station was an emotional experience. However, he added: “Hadken Cross will provide modern bespoke fire station and community facilities.”

Councillor John Edwards, Chairman of West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority, served at Cradley Heath station during his 12-year stint as a firefighter. He said: “The move to the new Hadken Cross station fulfils the promise we made to the communities of Cradley Heath and Halesowen. We are providing a new community fire station to provide, not just a first class emergency response, but also prevention and protection services to the people we serve.”

A community ‘open afternoon’ will take place at the new station on September 6. Horgan Homes has submitted a planning application to demolish the former Hadken Cross fire station and community facilities.

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Hospital plan is put on hold

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Hundreds in farewell to popular comedian

The Duke of Cambridge shakes hands with d Facts about getting more and bigger shares of Asian markets.

HUNDREDS of mourners were attending the funeral of Black Country comedian Ken Parkinson, 71, from Halewood, on Tuesday.

The service of celebration and thanksgiving for the popular entertainer was taking place at Halesowen Methodist Church in Hale-

The comedian, who was aged 80, and his father Dave, 49, an engineer, were among a group of smokers who were convicted of having a cannabis farm in Dudley.

Mr Mundon’s son in law, Arnold Harrison, said: “This family have been left deeply saddened at his loss but at least he is now at peace. He was a showman on stages but just a normal husband, dad and granddad at home.”

A PARAMEDIC training facility has been opened to help cope with a huge influx of students.

The showbusiness veteran from Alexandra Road had been forced to quit the comedy circuit two years ago because of ill health.

Mr Mundon’s father, also called Ken, was a popular face on the local comedy circuit.

A new lighting column has been erected in Market Place.

Tunnel plan is delayed again

PLANS to turn the historic Dukelow Tunnels into a museum have hit delays.

Forest District Council was expected to make a decision this summer on the proposals for the network of wartime tunnels carved out of the sandstone under Kinver Edge.

Officials last week said the ‘planning process was still ongoing and no date was set. It is not the first time the project has been hit by delays. A decision was expected at a meeting in May but was put back after the district council received more detailed proposals.

A woman has died of a heart attack in a flat and her partner has been arrested on suspicion of murder.

Three men, described as white and wearing dark clothing and masks, bashed in the door to the flat and assaulted a man inside.

Witneses are now being asked to come forward and give statements.

The medical centre on the Fens Pool is expected to ramp up the facilities for our staff and members to mark the handover and to take the plunge.

He hopes his presidency will inspire the facilities for our staff and members to mark the handover and to take the plunge.

Diving with the Duke of Cambridge

The Duke of Cambridge shakes hands with d

Facts about getting more and bigger shares of Asian markets.

The Duchess of Cambridge visits with Prince William.

The Duchess of Cambridge visits with Prince William.

Facts about getting more and bigger shares of Asian markets.
There is one small job that you have been meaning to do for years - Make Your Will

GOLDEN girl Jodie Stimpson was mobbed by fans when she took part in her first competition since winning two gold medals in the Commonwealth Games.

Back on home soil on Sunday she led the way in a new event in the gymnastics calendar - a mainspring//event named in her honour - The Jodie Stimpson Aquathlon - at Sandwell Valley Country Park. It turned into a family affair when her five-months pregnant sister Carris took part in the swim across Swan Pool and mum Judy joined her in the sprint.

The 32-year-old from Oldbury, who spent two hours signing autographs and posing for pictures, said her feet still had not touched the ground since her success in Glasgow. She said: “It’s been overwhelming – manic, to be honest, but absolutely fantastic.”

Around 100 people competed in the event organised by Jodie’s old club, Oldbury Swimming and Triathlon Club, and Sport England.

Jodie is already back in training for final two events in the Triathlon World Series in Sweden and Canada.

Family first for golden girl

**Clothes are destroyed in blaze at factory**

**Family first for golden girl**

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Cemetery expansion space for 20 years

WORK to expand Dudley Cemetry to create dozens of new burial plots will start later this year after councilors approved funding for the project.

The council had feared Dudley could run out of plots by the autumn if more space wasn’t found.

Just 140 plots remained and the situation as was described ‘as critical’.

Plans for a £200,000 extension on a former football pitch off Clee Road were drawn up.

**Diversity**

**Diversity**

The new site will have enough burial space to last for the next 20 years and will include fencing, gates, paths and parking bays. It will include 1,000 plots and will be able to cater for all religions.

There will also be 150 cremation niches and 140 small plots.

Councillor boss Com- milleoer Hilary Bills said: “We are spending up to £200,000 extending the amount of burial space we have in Dudley, to ensure we will publicised shortage we have.

“The new facility will be able to cater for specific religious needs which is something that is very important to us with the diversity we have in the borough.”

It was approved at last week’s cabinet meeting.
Truth is stranger than fiction as Janice’s dream comes true

By Lee Watton

After receiving harsh criticism for a story she had written from a teacher, teenager Janice Preston closed the book on her dreams of becoming an author.

But her passion for prose could not be dimmed and now, at the age of 58, her debut novel has been published by romantic fiction giant Mills and Boon. It has taken the former agricultural worker a long time but her dream came true when Mary and the Marquis was printed this week.

The Regency-set romance as the novel is also being published in North America, Janice, who lives in Hagley with second husband Ian, said: “It is really exciting to hold a book you have written in your hands. I can hardly believe I have realized my childhood dream of becoming a published author. It really is never too late.

Janice, who has two children, two step-children and a grandson, enjoyed penning her own stories while attending school but her love of storytelling was crushed during her teenage years. She vividly recalls, aged 13, trying to impress one teacher with her story. “When I got the story back the teacher had scrawled ‘women’s magazine trash’ on the top of the story,” she said.

A short story was published in an anthology, which spurred her on even though her first attempt to write for Mills and Boon was rejected. “The story was not quite right,” she said.

Janice joined the Romantic Novellists Association’s New Writers Scheme and, after receiving advice from authors, she was given a two book deal by Mills and Boon.

“When I look back I realise I should have been deterred when I was a teenager,” she added.

The write stuff – a dream comes true for author Janice Preston with her romantic novel, Mary and the Marquis.
Haden Hall, showing the garden, which was accredited

West Park, not entered into the contest due to costs

One of the winners in Dudley, the lovely Priory Park

Awards flag up our green Black Country

Park life is alive and well as well-kept gardens continue to earn national accolades.

HEATHER LARGE reports

FROM parks and playing fields to nature reserves and allotments – green spots across the West Midlands have all been awarded the coveted Green Flag award for their beauty.

Sandwell topped the charts in the Black Country and Staffordshire with 12 sites earning the accolade.

However, there are none in Wolverhampton for the second year running after bosses failed to enter the awards despite boasting beauty spots such as Bantock Park and West Park because they said they couldn’t afford it.

Wolverhampton Council’s leisure chief Councillor Ellis Matts said: “In future years we hope to enter the competition as soon as our financial situation has improved. At the moment we are struggling and other council services are our priority. This does not reflect negatively on our parks or park keepers who do an excellent job.” He said it costs around £18,000 to enter which he said “the authority could not justify.”

Allotments

Among the sites in Sandwell to receive the green flag, which is considered the benchmark national standard for parks and green spaces in the UK, are Sandwell Valley Country Park, Tipton Cemetery, Victoria Park in Smethwick and Moorlands Allotments in West Bromwich.

Haden Hill Park in Cradley has received the Green Heritage Accreditation for the sixth year which is specifically for historic sites.

Council chiefs in the borough said they were delighted. Councillor Maria Crompton, Sandwell Council’s cabinet member for environment, said: “People might not think of Sandwell as a place thriving with green spaces – but our Green Flag awards help to bust any myths that the borough is just an urban jungle. I am immensely proud that the people living in all our six towns have a Green Flag park within their area because they offer such a lot to the community including a place of recreation and peace and quiet.”

While in Dudley there are seven winners including grade-I listed The Leasowes in Halesowen which also won the Green Heritage Accreditation, Huntington’s Park, Halesowen and Priory Park, Dudley and Silver Jubilee Park, Cooseley as well as Wyuna Nest National Nature Reserve, Dudley.

Environment and culture chief Councillor Hilary Bills said: “Our borough is blessed with a number of beautiful green spaces and I am delighted that the hard work of our teams and members of the local community is being recognised with this prestigious status.

In Walsall, both Willenhall Memorial Park and Palfrey Park – for the fifth consecutive year and seventh years running respectively – earned the accolade, as well as Merry Hill’s Wood and Rowood and Bentley Park.

Councillor Anthony Harris, portfolio holder for leisure and culture with Walsall Council Coalition, added: “This is tremendous news for our much-loved countryside sites.

“Merrion Wood really draws you in. It’s a stunning wildlife haven and I hope you can completely lose yourself in its beauty. I’m so pleased it has deservedly retained its Green Flag.

“And congratulations to Rough Wood and Bentley Hayes for their first time success. It’s a real boost for the volunteers who care about the site as passionately and support our countryside staff.”

Baggeridge Country Park near Netherton and West Bromwich in Walsall, which are both run by South Staffordshire Council, received the award. While Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee Gardens, Biddulph and Broaderways Park, Kidderminster are also celebrating the accolade.

Nationally a record number of parks, cemeteries, university campuses and shopping centres - 1,419 in total - will be displaying their Green Flag Award. A total of 49 is in the UK Top Ten of places with the most awards, with 16, including Bournemouth's Green Heritage Park, Shrewsbury and Milton Keynes, reaching the mark.

Sites receiving the accolade include Cannon Hill Park, Sutton Coldfield Crematorium and Bournville Village Green.

First-time winners include the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in London, which opened to the public in April.

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ANYONE who doubts that the UK has moved into a low paid service industry economy only needs to look at the rapid increase in amateur landlords offering houses for rent. Rented accommodation has doubled over the last ten years whilst home ownership has fallen from 70 per cent to 60 per cent.

We are rapidly moving back towards the Rachmanism of the 1950s when immigrants were exploited in London and rent control had to be brought in.

There is a perceived myth that builders have vast land banks which should be used for house building. This is a smokescreen put forward by governments to hide the fact that house price inflation is controlled by the supply of easy finance, a trick used to make homeowners feel better off, particularly where votes can be generated.

The rich are certainly getting richer but so are the greedy. Councillors in Dudley who gave themselves a large increase in expenses a few years ago whilst saving fit to ridiculous public services. In fairness, some elected members do not claim their fares, which was the case in the 1950s when after a meeting they were lucky to get their bus fare home. They have also started calling committees ‘cabinets’ to make it sound as though they are worth more remuneration.

Zero hours contracts are an indication that an economy is moving downwards because this can distort unemployment figures. The scenario we now find ourselves in is the result of production going to Third World countries in the quest for cheap labour. The plight we now face will be difficult to surmount.

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**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**POST**

Dudley Chronicle Chronicle, 30 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

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

**E-MAIL**

Dudley.chronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

I SEE that Wolverhampton Civic Hall is looking to compete with the Hippodrome. I can only assume live entertainment is popular these days. Why can’t Dudley Council see this?

They harp on about theatres struggling but they don’t listen to me. I live in the real world. I know entertainers are crying out for the Hippo to reopen. It can be a multi-purpose venue that can cater for bands easily, also as theatre in the future too.

Good luck to the Civic, I’ve been there many times, and the Grand for that matter. Hat’s off to West Bromwich for supporting its Civic, I can only assume live entertainment is pretty popular these days.

Why was I? We can buy anything that goes.
Members of tax fraud gang are sent to prison

They fiddled more than £8 million in a construction industry tax fraud.

Now members of a 20-strong gang, including some from Halesowen and Stourbridge, have been locked up as a result.

The 17 men and three women were arrested by HM Revenue and Customs officers during Operation Savate, an investigation that revealed tax offences and money laundering linked to the construction industry.

Investigators uncovered a large and complex web of illegal activity involving more than 100 businesses across the country. Subcontractors were employed ‘off-record’ and the gang members pocketed Income Tax and National Insurance contributions due to HMRC. At the same time fake invoices had been created to claim VAT refunds.

Restrictions

A number of those behind the scam can only be reported now after legal restrictions were lifted following the conclusion of three trials, which ended last week.

Colin Bocker, assistant director of criminal investigation at HMRC, said: “The final sentencing brings to an end a six-year investigation, centred on a highly organised and complex fraud, undertaken by a group of individuals who cared for nothing but their own financial gain.”

During the final hearing at Birmingham Crown Court, Mr Richard Sutton, prosecuting, said: “In order to give the appearance of genuine supply of labour, false invoices were completed.”

The fraud was so complex that Mr Sutton said charts were created to keep track of how it operated.

At the same time as Harper’s sentencing, accountant Steven Bache, 52, of Laya Close, Stourbridge, was jailed for three years and six months. He used his expertise to evade HMRC controls.

Kelly Nicholls, 36, of Mill Street, Brierley Hill, was also jailed for five years after producing invoices and helping with administration tasks connected to the fraud. They both denied the charges.

A second trial took place in November last year, after which Susan Coussens, 55, of Chestnut Close, Norton, was jailed for four years despite having denied money laundering and fraud charges. Belga Lowndes, 46, of Weeping Cross, Stafford, was jailed for two years after denying VAT fraud and conspiracy to contravene the Finance Act 2000.

Bernard Harper — centre of the fraud prosecution, said: “I am not guilty of tax fraud and have nothing to do with tax evasion.”

Steven Bache — used expertise as accountant to cheat the revenue, were both jailed after acting as director for two of the sham companies each.

Confiscation action is expected to follow.
They met, fell in love and married 14 years ago — only to have their lives ripped apart when immigration officials stopped them living together in the UK.

Eighteen months after their struggle with the Home Office began, Robert and Adna Cooper are back in each other’s arms in Dudley after winning a landmark appeal.

Adna, 35, has been granted a visa to move back to the UK from her homeland of Brazil to be with her 39-year-old husband. It came after Adna, who was refused permanent entry to the UK last year, won an appeal process which ended in May with an immigration hearing in Birmingham.

Home

Robert was finally able to bring his wife home to Pensnett last week. The pair, who have spent about £5,000 on legal costs, are desperate to move on with their lives following their ordeal.

Robert, a pastor for the First Re- newal Presbyterian Church, said: “It has been really difficult for her. She felt almost like a second class citizen, not being allowed to return here with me.” Adna said: “It was an extremely difficult period for me, the whole situation of being refused, being apart, unable to carry on with our lives, spending all our savings, was unbearable.

The couple met when Robert, a former pupil at Pensnett School, was doing church work in the suburbs of São Paulo in 1999. They returned to the UK the following year and Adna was given a resident visa before they married at Kingswinford Christian Centre in July. After returning to Brazil in 2003, the pair encountered problems on wanting to return to the UK ten years later.

Under new immigration rules, only British people who earn more than £18,600 can sponsor their non-Euro- pean spouse’s visa. Robert earned enough but he was unable to get pay slips to prove it due to his employer being a non-profit organisation and the pair were forced to live apart.

The pair managed to overturn the Home Office decision after giving evidence at a hearing in Birmingham and the pair now live with Robert’s parents in Comber Drive. Robert said: “They are discriminating and being unfair to many families. We are not just numbers and names, we are people.”

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Together again after 18 months of heartbreak

Don’t change it! — married couple Robert and Adna Cooper, of Pensnett

Reunited — married couple Robert and Adna Cooper, of Pensnett

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RAF Association branch seeking new members

 MEMORY LANE
By Andrew Turton

The group hopes to attract some of the 50 members still on the books back to regular meetings while also bringing new people on board. Otherwise members may have to instead join the Wolverhampton branch.

Flying the flag for the branch are three members who still hold weekly meetings for free at the Ex-Servicemen’s Club, in Hail Street, Dudley.

Future
This year marks the 50th year that branch president John Deane, aged 77, has been involved with the association. Having joined the Air Training Corp in 1951 he went on to complete two years of National Service with the RAF.

Mr Deane, of Kingswinford, said he had previously been part of the 347 Squadron working in air electronics.

He had previously been part of the 347 Association branch around seven years ago.

Member Sergeant Stan West, of Tipton, joined the RAF Association branch around seven years ago. He had previously been part of the 347 Squadron working in air electronics.

“Of the problems that we know is that certain people, because of age, don’t want to come out at night. But if they arrange it for us then we would pick them up,” he said.

The club opened in 1947 in a rented room over the old Dudley Fire Station in Priory Road. In December 1972 the association bought the former home of Bob Kennedy, impresario of Dudley Hippodrome, in Dixons Green Road. Many social events and charity fundraisers were held over the years.

Among well known members was George Heritage, one of the last Hurricane pilots and a survivor of three plane crashes.

The clubhouse was sold four years ago. Now the group meet on the third Wednesday of every month at the Ex-Servicemen’s Club. To find out more call John on (01384) 830574 or Stan on 0121 530 2970.

RAFA members at the clubhouse in Dixons Green Road, Dudley, in the 1970s

RAFA members working on the clubhouse in Dixons Green Road, Dudley, in 1974

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MEMBER A. R. W. R. A.

President John Deane, vice-chairman Tony Timmins, associate member Margaret Bloomer and Secretary Sgt Stan West

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法学与数学的融合：探索代数结构中的逻辑推理

In the study of abstract algebra, one encounters various algebraic structures such as groups, rings, and fields. These structures are defined by a set of axioms and operations that satisfy certain properties. It is often the case that these algebraic structures can be viewed as models of certain logical theories. This can be particularly useful when trying to understand the behavior of algebraic objects or when attempting to generalize results from one structure to another.

The relationship between algebraic structures and logic is a rich and active area of research. One example of this is the study of Universal Algebra, which is concerned with the study of algebraic structures in a model-theoretic setting. In this area, one often considers the first-order theories of algebraic structures and how they relate to the models of these theories.

Another example is the field of model theory, which is concerned with the study of the logical properties of mathematical structures. In particular, model theorists are interested in understanding the definability of sets within a structure and how this relates to the algebraic properties of the structure.

The connection between algebra and logic can also be seen in the study of algebraic logic, which is concerned with the study of logical systems using algebraic methods. For example, Boolean algebra is a fundamental algebraic structure that is used to study propositional logic.

In summary, the algebraic perspective offers a powerful tool for understanding the logical properties of mathematical structures, and the logical perspective can provide new insights into the behavior of algebraic objects. The interplay between these two fields continues to be a fruitful area of investigation.

RAF Association branch seeking new members

ONCE hundreds of members came together in remembrance, raised a pint with their comrades and enjoyed social evenings.

But now a Royal Air Force Association branch is facing an uncertain future unless they attract a new generation of members.

The 621 (Dudley) branch of the Royal Air Force Association has a proud history dating back almost 70 years.

Some earned their wings in Hurricane pilots and a survivor of three plane crashes.

Among well-known members was George Heritage, one of the last Hurricane pilots and a survivor of three plane crashes.

But now a Royal Air Force Association branch is facing an uncertain future unless they attract a new generation of members.

Two associate members, those who have not served for the RAF, also attract new people on board. Otherwise numbers of veterans have dwindled over the years until now only three active full members remain.

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As the branch president John Deane, aged 77, has been involved with the association since 1951 he went on to complete two years of National Service with the RAF.

Branch secretary Sergeant Stan West, of Tipton, joined the RAF Association branch around seven years ago.

Mr Deane, of Kingswinford, said he had previously been part of the 347 Squadron working in air electronics.

“Of the problems that we know is that certain people, because of age, don’t want to come out at night. But if they arrange it for us then we would pick them up,” he said.

The club opened in 1947 in a rented room over the old Dudley Fire Station in Priory Road. In December 1972 the association bought the former home of Bob Kennedy, impresario of Dudley Hippodrome, in Dixons Green Road.

Many social events and charity fundraisers were held over the years. Among well-known members was George Heritage, one of the last Hurricane pilots and a survivor of three plane crashes.

The clubhouse was sold four years ago. Now the group meet on the third Wednesday of every month at the Ex-Servicemen’s Club. To find out more call John on (01384) 830574 or Stan on 0121 530 2970.

RAFA members at the clubhouse in Dixons Green Road, Dudley, in the 1970s

RAFA members working on the clubhouse in Dixons Green Road, Dudley, in 1974

Members enjoying a beer and comradeship at the Dudley branch of RAFA
**Teachers go after they tot up over 100 years**

SCHOOLS out for more than just the summer for three Sandwell teachers who have retired after clocking up more than 100 years teaching between them.

Maggie Brookes, aged 58, notched up 37 years teaching at schools in the area. Her final job was as headteacher of Warley Infant School in Oldbury, a role she had for 12 years.

“I was only 21 when I started teaching,” she said. “I started at Hall Green Primary in West Bromwich. I had a temporary contract for one term and ended up staying for 16 years.”

“I can’t believe it has come to an end. I had always planned to retire early but I don’t know what I will do without the children and their families. I am looking forward to enjoying married life, taking holidays in term time and getting more involved in my village and community.”

Chris Spriggs, school business manager, said: “It is going to be strange in September without her. She will be missed by all, we are very sad to see her leave but she deserves to retire and deserve a rest.”

Joan Whitehouse also packed away her marking pens and text books in Oldbury as she retired from Brandhall Primary School after 40 years of service in Sandwell schools.

The 62-year-old year three teacher, said: “It was very hard saying goodbye to the classroom at the end of term, retiring after 27 years at Springfield Primary School in Rowley Regis.

“She was described by headteacher Sue Powis as the ‘life and soul of the school’. ‘She has seen the school grow and move forward and she has given total dedication to the children,’ added Mrs Powis. Mrs Woods-Talbot, aged 59 and who lives in Rowley Regis, said: “It was very hard saying goodbye after 27 years.”

“They bought me a garden full of flowers and a cake shop full of chocolates. I also have had a charm bracelet to remind me of the children.”

Mrs Woods-Talbot will be spending her retirement with her grandchildren in London and also plans to enjoy her singing and dancing hobbies.

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Ukulele lady entertains the group

Penn TG

MRS McNamara welcomed everyone to the last meeting and introduced the speaker, Gabriela, known as the ‘Ukulele Lady’.

She immediately set the scene with the ‘Telephone Song’ from around 1923, and followed with “You are my Sunshine” Gabriela had several ukuleles, all different in size and all with different sounds.

Ukuleles originated in Portugal and workers from there went to work in Hawaii in 1879 cutting sugar cane and they took their instruments with them.

Hawaiians started playing ukuleles, swaying and wearing grass skirts and flowers as they danced.

Gabriela skilfully involved the audience in her stories and it was a wonderfully funny evening.

The Gardening Group visited the Dower House at MerryV. It was a delightful garden and coffee and homemade shortcake was served in the house.

A group of ladies from St Bart’s Church, Penn formed a band and entertained the Social Studies group.

The Guild had chosen a few songs and they supplemented the others as members sang along to some old popular tunes. Sandwiches and cream were served in the break and everyone had a very enjoyable evening.

On September 24 Ed Shore’s topic was ‘Cycling Across America’.

THE club had a wonderful evening on July 25 when a roadster speaker, talking everyone through the centuries with different smallding roses.

This was well attended and everyone agreed it was a worthy meeting. It ended up with “Question Time” which went on for some time and Sue patiently answered every question, followed by coffee and biscuits. A plant sale took place as usual.

The chairman suggested that members may like to open up their own garden during the coming year for viewing by the club.

In Clent Parish Hall on August 29 there will be a practical demonstration on ‘Pruning’ by John Millington.

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Member join fun of Alice themed party

Wollaston ‘E’ TWG

THE July meeting took the form of the guild summer tea party with an Alice in Wonderland theme and members were asked, if possible, to wear something appropriate.

Everyone joined in and various characters were represented. Ann Powell’s portrayal of the Queen of Hearts was worthy of an Oscar award.

The tea organised by the committee was as usual, a great success, and enjoyed by all. This was followed by Irish Bingo, organised by Betty Colman and Pat Archer. Lesley Wall was the winner.

The Floral Art section had an enjoyable visit to Trentham Gardens, enhanced by the glorious, sunny weather.

Anyone wishing to attend the Federation Harvest Lunch, at Willaston Village Hall, on Wednesday, October 1 should contact Sue Ward to check on availability.

Chairman Jean Latham wished everyone a happy summer break as there is no meeting in August. The next meeting is at 7.30pm on September 9th at St James Church Hall, Willaston.

Speak to the occasion

Clent Gardening Club

THE club had a wonderful evening on July 25 listening to a talk by Sue Russell on old fashioned roses.

She was a guest speaker, taking everyone through the centuries with the different smallding roses.

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Lifesaving Badgers need new generation of recruits

CHILDREN’S first aid groups in the Black Country face an uncertain future due to fewer recruits.

Sandwell and Dudley branches of the St John Ambulance Badger groups need more volunteers when sessions start again in September.

The first aid charity says numbers are getting low and they are looking for more youngsters aged five to 10.

The Badgers teach the next generation of first aiders, as the children learn important life saving skills and team work. They also take part in activities such as camping.

Carolyn Zivoder, regional youth co-ordinator for St John Ambulance, said: “Badgers learn the life saving skills which could one day be the difference between a life lost and a life saved. However, becoming a Badger isn’t only about learning first aid.

“It’s a great way to make new friends and, most importantly, have fun in a safe environment. Many St John Ambulance volunteers who start as Badgers stay with us for many years and end up working in the medical profession.”

Research carried out by St John Ambulance shows that less than one in seven West Midlands residents know even the basic life saving skills — so teaching children from an early age could make a big difference.

The Dudley group, which has three regular members, meets on Thursdays at Dillia Hall, Viner Street. The Sandwell group also meet on Thursdays, at the charity’s centre in Rowbank Lane in West Bromwich. Sessions for both start again in September after a summer break.

Contact Carolyn Zivoder on 0121 236 6960 or email carolyn.zivoder@sjaj.org.uk

A £10 million fund will be spent in the Black Country to help turn around the lives of 1,400 deprived young people.

The money from the Big Lottery Fund is being aimed at 18 to 24-year-olds who have been out of work or education for more than a year — as well as carers, ex-drug addicts and young offenders.

Six ‘hubs’ are to be set up in Dudley and Sandwell from September.

The scheme, called Talented Black Country, is intended to help them overcome their individual problems that stop them getting into work. It will work with young parents, travelling families, disabled young people and the homeless to get them in touch with employers and help them to develop skills.

There will also be mentoring of each individual young person involved by trained staff including those who have been through similar problems.

The project is being overseen by Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council. Its chief executive Ian Burch said: “Young people themselves will be at the very centre of this and will make up half of the steering group.

“We want to help young people who have been out of employment, education or training for 12 months or more and support them into work. Each young person will be worked with a mentor.”

Youth workers will be referred to the scheme through the Job Centre or through private companies providing the Government’s Work Programme, which provides personalised support to people to find work.

Details have emerged a week after Wolverhampton South East MP Pat McFadden revealed a scheme he had set up to offer young people work experience had helped 220 into jobs over two years. The unpaid placements were offered by employers including New Cross Hospital, Browning Marsh and Beacon Centre for the Blind.

Others, such as the Robin 2 music venue in Bilston, Barnshaw Nest Bonding at Coseley and water cooler firm Anglian Springs in Ettingshall, also offered places.

In its first year 157 placements were taken up and 45 young people got jobs, but a report on the results of the second year from JobCentral Plus shows that a further 350 places were offered, resulting in 179 young people gaining jobs.

The scheme has had a success rate of 47 per cent.

Residents will be able to discuss issues and concerns about their estates at a series of meetings taking place across Dudley borough.

Dudley Council has organised the tenants and residents association events which will be held in Dudley, Stourbridge and Brierley Hill.

The first event will be the Corbyns Bromley meeting held on August 18 at the senior citizens club in Brierley Hill, from 6.30pm.

It will be followed by the Parkes Street tenants and residents association meeting at the Limes Social Club, also Brierley Hill, on August 21 at 7.30pm.

New Wrens Nest tenants and residents association will meet at Wrens Nest Community Centre, Dudley, on August 11 at 7pm.

In Stourbridge, the Love Clarke family tenants and residents association will hold a fun day at the Green, in Sudmers Close, from 10am until 1pm.

Anyone who wishes to attend the meetings should phone (01384) 815168 to ensure the meeting is still taking place, as they may be subject to change.

£10m Fund will help more young people work

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FOCUS ON BLACKHEATH & ROWLEY REGIS

Bus route upheaval hits passengers after shake up

BUS passengers are facing upheaval after changes to around a dozen services including Blackheath routes.

National Express West Midlands has revised around 12 services under a shake-up of routes affecting Dudley and Sandwell. Some of the changes result in roads previously served by regular buses being missed out altogether.

The revisions, which came into force last week, have caused anger among some passengers.

Among the changes is the 127 service from Birmingham to Wednesfield and Blackbird Green. This has been extended into Dudley to replace the 205/205E.

The 205 service will no longer serve Blackbird Green and now only links Dudley to Russell's Hall Hospital and Kingswinford.

Also among the services affected is the 391/394 route from Merry Hill shopping centre, Brierley Hill, to Russell's Hall Hospital. The service is now only from Merry Hill to Gornal Wood via Brierley Hill, Russell's Hall Hospital and Penimet.

One resident, who did not wish to be named, said he regretted the decision. He added: "We have been very pleased with the service it provided. Now we are left with a limited choice of routes our problems are not going to go away." Local resident and business owner John Boddie said: "The service is absolutely vital to us. It is an essential part of the town's lifeblood."

By Andrew Turton

Charity is chosen for store help

FUNDRAISERS at a supermarket have announced their chosen charity for the year. Sainsbury's Blackheath will be supporting the town's branch of the Royal British Legion.

Other causes shortlisted were Midlands Air Ambulance, Sandwell Sea Cadets and the Friends of Sandwell Hospital, who receive a donation of £500 each.

Store Manager Denise Martin said: "We've had great response from our customers this year both through store and online votes. We're delighted to have chosen a charity that is so close to our colleagues' and customers' hearts."

Secretary of Blackheath Royal British Legion Branch Mark Spilsbury said: "We hope that the partnership will further raise our profile in the town and having a notice board in the store to highlight our activities will be a great benefit for us."

New curate at St Paul’s

FORMER nurse Kathy Browne is the new St Paul’s Church in Blackheath’s Vicar.

The mother-of-two, who trained as a midwife at Good Hope Hospital in Sutton Coldfield, was ordained in 2009 and has spent two years studying at St John’s Theological College in Nottingham.

She said: "I have learnt a lot about people and met some wonderful people, and I am very excited to be here and I believe God wants me to be.”

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Dudley’s £6.7m market place redevelopment

Castle Street and New Street to re-open

Castle Street, New Street and Fisher Street in Dudley town centre will re-open to general traffic this weekend, with buses operating as normal from Sunday 10 August.

Phase one of this exciting project to transform Dudley town centre includes, laying high quality natural stone on roads and pavements, creating new car parking bays in Castle Street, disabled parking, a drop off point for park and ride and a motorcycle bay for three motorcycles as well as new lighting columns, seating and litter bins. The new public toilets also opened in Castle Street in July.

Dudley Council would like to thank shops, businesses, residents and shoppers for their continued patience during this time and hope that people continue to support their town centre.

Work on the market place itself started a few weeks ago and continues to progress well.

To find out more visit http://www.dudley.gov.uk/business/regeneration/dudleymarketplaceredevelopment

Follow updates on facebook and twitter at www.dudley.gov.uk, sign up to receive regular updates via email by contacting dudleymarketplace@dudley.gov.uk or call Dudley Council Plus on 0300 555 2345.

The full project is set for completion by early 2015.
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Gambling addict stole from late father’s stamp collection

By David Banner

A STAMP collector’s son from Birmingham, who stole part of his late father’s rare collection to fund his obsession with fruit machines, has been spared jail.

Joseph Jennings, aged 29, was given a two-year community order after a court heard that he raised £15,755 by selling valuable stamps at knock-down prices to unsuspecting dealers.

Mother

Birmingham Crown Court was told that Jennings, the son of nationally-renowned philatelic journalist Peter Jennings, committed the offence between November 2013 and January of this year.

Describing the thefts as “mean and prolonged”, Judge Paul Farrer QC told the gambling addict that he had only avoided prison because of his guilty plea and because of his mother’s desire to see him helped rather than punished.

Jennings, of Bantock Way, Harborne, listened as the judge described Stella Jennings’ approach towards her son as “loving, responsible and generous.”

Accepting that the death of his father had had a significant impact on Jennings, the judge added: “Since 2009 you have suffered from a gambling addiction, which forms the immediate background to the present offence.

“When your father died he left all of his property to your mother and that included a very valuable stamp collection, which the family were plainly proud of.

“The stolen items’ true value was undoubtedly much higher, said Judge Farrer, who was told that three-quarters of the stamps stolen from the collection had been traced and returned to Mrs Jennings.

Her son was also ordered to undertake 150 hours of unpaid community work and pay a £60 victim surcharge as part of his sentence.

Grief

Peter Jennings, who died aged 60 in September last year after a long illness, also worked as press secretary for the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham.

His son’s barrister told the court that “the grip of devastation and grief had played a part in the thefts.

Offering mitigation to the court, Iain Suggett said: “My client liked a particular fruit machine.

“That’s where the money went, into one machine.”

A WOman who stole CDs and DVDs while subject to a suspended prison sentence has been given a 12-month supervision order.

Michelle Willetts, 41, of Roseview Road, Rowley Regis, had pleaded guilty to two charges of shoplifting at an earlier hearing.

She also admitted production of cannabis, carrying a knife in a public place and failing to comply with a drug testing order.

Willetts was made the subject of a one-month overnight curfew.

Judge Michael Dudley said she had been in custody since May 21 and he did not think it was appropriate to impose a further custodial sentence. He said the 12-month suspended sentence imposed by Walker Magistrates Court should remain in place.

Miss Joanna Barker, prosecuting, said on April 10 Willetts went to Asda in Darlaston with a man and stole £50 worth of DVDs and CDs but they were stopped by security staff.

Police searched her home and found two cannabis plants and hydroponics equipment. She tested positive for cocaine and was ordered to attend a drugs test but was arrested after failing to attend.

On May 20, Willetts and her accomplices were caught stealing DVDs from a Sainsbury’s. Police found the kitchen knife in her handbag.

Mr Gurdeep Garcha, defending, said apart from a conviction in 1990, Willetts had kept out of trouble until 2010.

First Peak at return of tough guy Tommy

Moody gang leader Tommy Shelby, played by Cillian Murphy, in a picture to promote the next series of Peaky Blinders

LOOKING mean and moody, gang leader Tommy Shelby populates his next move as he expands his criminal empire. This is the first official picture of Cillian Murphy in character in the second series of hit BBC drama Peaky Blinders.

The series, much of which is filmed at the Black Country scene in Birmingham, said: “It’s getting bigger, it’s getting richer and as a result of that it’s getting more dangerous.

“Our biggest, most important jobs are going to be in the West Midlands, said Creator Steven Knight said: “It’s getting bigger, it’s getting more dangerous.

“Peaky Blinders returns to BBC Two this autumn.

PCC candidates will be answering questions at event

PEOPLE will get their chance to question the candidates for the post of West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner in a debate organised by Victim Support, to be held in Birmingham.

The hustings will be held at 6.30pm on Wednesday, August 13, in the offices of Birmingham Voluntary Service Council at Digbeth.

The election, which takes place following the sudden death of Bob Jones of Wolvhampton last month, will take place on August 21. His deputy, Yvonne Mosquito, has been acting commissioner in the interim.

Brian Senior, divisional manager for Victim Support in the West Midlands, said: “We know from speaking to hundreds of victims in the West Midlands that issues like anti-social behaviour, assaults and burglary crop up time and time again.”

The four candidates are Labour’s David Jamieson, former Plymouth Devonport MP and ex-Solicitor councilor; while Conservative former Dudley Council leader Les Jones; barrister and former Birmingham councillor Ayoub Khan for the Liberal Democrats; Edgbaston barrister Keith Rose who will be standing for UKIP.

To book a place email Nicola.biggs@victimsupport.org.uk or telephone 0121 544 4336 today (Thurdays).
Leon Burakowski finds all the roads still lead to Rome in his guide to the Eternal City

However, the queues to get inside the 2,000 years old amphitheatre can be huge. A tickets gets you into three attractions — The Palantine Hill and Forum too — so get your three-in-one ticket at the Palantine Hill entrance where the queues are much smaller and, sometimes, there are no queues at all.

Dome

Don’t miss The Pantheon. Originally a temple, now a national shrine containing the tombs of Italian monarchs and heroes, it is a huge concrete dome that even today’s standards is a remarkable feat of architecture. Best of all, it’s free admission. The shaft of light through the hole at its summit can be impressive.

The Vatican, a city-state within Rome and the centre of the Roman Catholic Church, has one of the greatest collection of art treasures in the world and includes the Sistine Chapel festooned with the sublime Old Testament frescoes by Michelangelo. Don’t just turn up on the day at the Vatican Museums, the lines are enormous. Buy your ticket online before you even leave the UK and you will be able to jump the queues. Wear comfortable shoes, the museums and magnificently St Peter’s, built on the site of St Peter’s Tomb, will take at least six hours to fully explore. However, the caves in the Vatican are reasonably priced, unlike those in the streets leading up to it.

The Capitoline Museum is a must-see if you love art and/or history with its extensive collection of sculptures including most of the Roman Emperors. Highlights include the monumental head of first Christian emperor Constantine and an colossal statue of the Emperor Marcus Aurelius on horseback which sums up the pomp and power of the empire. Check the concessions available and don’t do as a Monday, if you can.

The museum restaurant makes some of the best pizza in Rome.

For the Dine and Dance option see the matinee performance before shopping and sightseeing. Take in a top West End show and have some free time in London for a sit-down meal, head to the historic Jewish ghetto for a delicious blend of Jewish and Italian cuisine at fair prices or head over the River Tibber to Trastevere district where the sheer number of restaurants keeps the lines moving. The official Roma Pass includes admission to two museums plus various concessions for 36 Euros.

Not for the squeamish, the crypt at Santa Maria Della Concezione features the remains of more than 4,000 Capuchin monks, from cloaked skeletons to artfully arranged patterns of human bones. It is both macabre and poignant.

Fountain

Photo opportunity number one is the baroque Trevi Fountain which fills a small square with tourists eager to throw in the coins that guarantee their return to Rome. Nearby, the Spanish Steps with its balloons and terraces is a photo opportunity number two but you will have to put up with flower sellers urging you to pose with a rose at this romantic hotspot. You can grab a panini from one of the many small shops. For a sit-down meal, head to the historic Jewish ghetto for a delicious blend of Jewish and Italian cuisine at fair prices or head over the River Tibber to Trastevere district where the sheer number of restaurants keeps the lines moving. The official Roma Pass includes admission to two museums plus various concessions for 36 Euros.
Sutton really is proving to be an inspirational Burntwood teenager. Stephen Sutton, who lost his battle with a rare form of osteosarcoma – a type of bone cancer – in May 2014, has become a household name for his fundraising efforts.

Sutton was the first elephant to be born at the park, after a 22-month pregnancy and weighed 15st 7lb. "Once in place, it wasn’t long before he took to it like a duck to water," often rolling around until the pool was almost capsize and enjoying every minute. Sutton was the first elephant to be born at the park, after a 22-month pregnancy and weighed 15st 7lb. This month he will be able to play for longer than usual as the park has extended its opening hours as part of its Summer Nights season. More than 4,000 suggestions for names out of 5,000 submitted via social media were for Stephen and Sutton. Stephen, who raised £4.2m for the NHS and Marie Curie, was pictured hugging the baby’s mother.

A PCSO who downloaded confidential information from the police database that was then passed on to a drug dealer has been locked up for two years.

Andrew Thompson would smuggle logs and reports out of West Bromwich Police Station in brown envelopes and rolled-up newspapers. The 43-year-old from Tipton would then pass the information on to Barry and Marie Parker.

By Heather Large

A Charity that aims to improve the quality of life of people with dementia and their families in Sandwell is inviting people to join their social clubs.

BUDS runs weekly clubs offering people with dementia the chance to socialises, receive support, and take part in a variety of creative activities. The club also serve as an opportunity for family members to take a break from their roles as carers.

The sessions, which are run by BUDS staff and volunteers, also involves a cooked meal. Weekly clubs take place in West Bromwich, Smethwick, Great Barr, Rowley Regis, Tipton and Wednesbury the chance to socialise and receive support. For further details contact 01213607621 or email info@buds.co.uk
York, Harrogate and the Yorkshire Dales
Four days departing October 10

- Return coach travel
- Three nights half-board accommodation
- Full day in York
- Scenic coach tour of the Yorkshire Dales stopping at Grassington and Pateley Bridge
- Visits to Skipton, Harrogate and Haworth
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

PRICE FROM £209

Organised by Omega Short Breaks (ABTAY 5914)

The Mary Rose at Portsmouth’s Historic Dockyard
Two days departing October 3

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Entrance to the Portsmouth Historic Dockyard to see the Mary Rose Museum
- Harbour tour by boat
- Visit to Winchester
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

PRICE FROM £129

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTAW 0552)

Christmas in Bournemouth
Five days departing December 23

- Return coach travel
- Four nights half-board accommodation
- Traditional Christmas Day lunch
- Visits to Salisbury, Poole, Swanage and Winchester
- Tour of the New Forest National Park
- Free time in Bournemouth
- Entertainment programme
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

PRICE FROM £399

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTAW 0552)

Catch the coach to the capital city on October 4

The Tower of London and the Sea of Poppies
Day excursion departing October 4

- Return coach travel
- Admission to the Tower of London including the Sea of Poppies
- Free time in London

PRICE FROM £39.95

Organised by Omega Short Breaks (ABTAY 5914)

Houses of Parliament
Day excursion departing October 4

- Return coach travel
- Admission to the Houses of Parliament with guided tour
- Free time in London

PRICE FROM £39.95

Organised by Omega Short Breaks (ABTAY 5914)

London Eye and Thames River Cruise
Day excursion departing October 4

- Return coach travel
- Flight on the London Eye
- Cruise on the River Thames
- Free time in London

PRICE FROM £59.95

Organised by Omega Short Breaks (ABTAY 5914)

London Theatre
Day excursion departing October 4

- Return coach travel
- Top price ticket for a Saturday matinee performance
- Four nights half-board accommodation
- Free time in London

PRICE FROM £69.95

Organised by Omega Events (ABTAY 590X)

London Theatre by coach
Two days selected weekend departure dates

- Return coach travel
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
- Admission and coach transfer to the Thursford Christmas Spectacular
- Free time in Kings Lynn and Cambridge
- Services of a coach driver/tour representative
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

PRICE FROM £139.95

Organised by Omega Events (ABTAY 590X)

Thursford Christmas Spectacular
Two days departing November 14

- Return coach travel
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
- Admission and coach transfer to the Thursford Christmas Spectacular
- Free time in Kings Lynn and Cambridge
- Services of a coach driver/tour representative
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

PRICE FROM £159.95

Set in the magical surroundings of mechanical organs and fairground carousels the Thursford Christmas Spectacular is the largest Christmas show in the country.

From just an organist and eight dancers in an old farm shed, it has grown since 1977 to become a festive phenomenon.

With an audience of over a hundred thousand and a budget of millions, tickets sell out months in advance. TV celebrities turn up in secret and Prince William has even been four times!

**INFO**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
- Admission and coach transfer to the Thursford Christmas Spectacular
- Free time in Kings Lynn and Cambridge
- Services of a coach driver/tour representative
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Omega Events Ltd (ABTAY 5914)

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21 Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, August 7, 2014
1970s musical is all set to be a real Blockbuster in Brum

FROM Sweet to Suzi Quatro, chart hits from the 1970s and 80s will feature in a new family musical arriving in Birmingham next month.

The cast of Blockbuster The Musical includes 70s pop star and TV sit-com actor Paul Nicholas along with former Hear‘Say and Emmerdale star Suzanne Shaw.

The show is staged at the New Alexandra Theatre in Birmingham from September 23 to 27.

Paul Nicholas will play Crazy Max in the musical featuring the hits of the songwriting team Nicky Chinn and Mike Chapman.

Blockbuster The Musical begins in the modern era with Mickey Block, a young banker, singing in London’s Soho. But when he crashes a car without insurance he is pursued by a loan shark and has to take refuge in Crazy Max’s Retro Record shop.

Mystical Max tells him he can turn his life around if he performs two soulful duos within seven days — and then finds himself transported back in time to London in 1975.

Friends

Paul Nicholas became a household favourite with his role as Vinny in the award-winning BBC TV series Just Good Friends. His theatrical success began in 1969 in the original London production of Hair. This was followed by leading roles in Jesus Christ Superstar, Grease, Cats, Blended and Charlie’s Girl.

He also appeared as the Pirate King in a highly successful production of The Pirates of Penzance and starred in the first ever national tour of Barnum.

In recent years Nicholas has had a successful career as a theatre producer.

He said: “I am hoping it will be an entertaining family show.

People can bring their children and also be reminded of the great songs from the 70s.

Suzanne is best known for winning for the 1990s musical hit Hear‘Say from 2001 to 2003. She has since carved out a career in the world of TV.

The show will include chart-toppers by The Nerves, Suzi Quatro, Smokie, Tina Turner, Sweet, Crazy Max, Teenager Rampage, Little Willy, Paul Nicholas and Suzanne Shaw star in a musical

The huge number of hits featured in the show will include chart-toppers by Sweet, Suzi Quatro, Smokie, Tina Turner and Mudd, including Ballroom Blitz, Blockbuster, Teenager, Rampage, Little Willy, Tiger Feet, Devil Gate Drive, Can You Can, Some Girls, Lay Back in the Arms of Someone, Living Next Door To Alice, Better Be Good To Me and Mickey.

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**MIDNIGHT**
A Nanny’s Secret, Channel 5, 5.15pm
A burglary at the home of a wealthy family results in a death. The nanny fears her troubled brother may be the culprit, but keeps her suspicions from her employers, mounting her own secret investigation to find out who was responsible. Thriller, starring Hayley Duff. (2008)

**TUESDAY**
A Surrogate’s Tear, Channel 3, 5.15pm
A college student agrees to be a surrogate mother for a wealthy couple in return for her tuition fees being paid, only for the prospective parents to die in a car crash. She faces an uncertain future as the grandmother of the prospective parents’ child. Drama, starring Cassie Steele and Mimi Kuzyk. (2014)

**WEDNESDAY**
Sharpay’s Fabulous Adventure, BBC2, 12pm
A teenagers’ drama cowritten by her dream of fame have come true when she meets a Broadway casting director. She heads for New York expecting to cast as the grandmother of the prospective parents’ child. She faces an uncertain future as the grandmother of the prospective parents’ child. Drama, starring Cassie Steele and Mimi Kuzyk. (2014)

**THURSDAY**
Biker Boyz, BBC1, 11.35pm
The son of a mechanic killed in a crash is determined to prove once and for all what the fastest rider really is. Action drama, starring Laurence Fishburne, Derek Luke, Orlando Jones and Lisa Bonet. (2001)

**FRIDAY**
Dog Day Afternoon, ITV, 10.40pm
Part two of two. Strickly Come Dancing judge Len Goodman explores the next chapter in the story of his great-great-grandfather, finding out how years have shaped his family. Documentary, part of the BBC’s ongoing series marking the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War, sheds new light on the women left on the Home Front. She discovers that for many of them, it was a chance to prove they could do men’s jobs, from driving trains to forming a police force, operating on patients and playing hostesses to tens of thousands of spectators. But while some women relished their first taste of freedom, there was also a time of bereavement and, for some, loss. Action drama, starring Lauren Fishburne, Derek Luke, Orlando Jones and Lisa Bonet. (2001)

**LONDON**
Love Your Garden, ITV4, 7.30pm
The team come to the aid of Luke Simpson, who lost his leg in an explosion on his last tour of duty in Afghanistan. While rebuilding his life and his garden with the support of his wife Jackie, the war hero has struggled to make progress on the garden of his dreams. As Alan and the crew work their magic, viewers get a rare insight into the life of a leg amputee on a BBC programme.

**MONDAY**
Kate Adie’s Women of World War One BBC1, 9pm
As a distinguished war reporter, Kate Adie knew a thing or two about reporting the front line. In this documentary, part of the BBC’s ongoing series marking the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War, Kate is more interested in the women left on the Home Front. She discovers that for many of them, it was a chance to prove they could do men’s jobs, from driving trains to forming a police force, operating on patients and playing hostesses to tens of thousands of spectators. But while some women relished their first taste of freedom, there was also a time of bereavement and, for some, loss.

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**WEDNESDAY**
Secrets from the Clink, ITV, 9pm
A black sheep barber sees his simple twist turn into a hostage situation and a media circus. Journalist Daisy McAndrew follows the tale of an ancestor who dodged the hangman’s noose and was transported to Australia, where her fortunes changed.

**THURSDAY**
Location, Location, Location, Channel 4, 8pm
New series. Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer guide prospective buyers through the complex world of property viewings and agents. They begin in the popular commuter county of Kent, where homes are snapped up quickly due to their proximity to London. Robin and Gemma have recently returned to the UK after three years in Singapore and want a family home to bring up their baby, while in Tunbridge Wells, Gemma and Barney are looking to buy their first place together in a competitive market.

**FRIDAY**
Bloomers, BBC1, 9pm
New series. Comedy following the ups and downs of three newly retired couples living in the Norfolk resort of Thurnham. The friends prepare for the funeral of old friend Joan, although Alan seems more interested that her exhusband, her old friend Mick, is flying over from Spain for the service. John is wary of the visitor, convinced he has had a thing for his wife Maureen ever since a notorious holiday in Weymouth many moons ago. Meanwhile, Joyce is preoccupied with the thought of her daughter-in-law giving birth any day now. Philip Jackson, Alison Steadman, Russ Abbot, Stephanie Beacham, Paula Wilcox and James Smith star, with a guest appearance by Nigel Planer.

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Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:
Across
1. Allowed the minutes to pass without taking any action (6,4)
2. This will turn a strip of wood to the East (5)
8. Real mix-up before Edward said what happened? (7)
10. Going on foot or by car past the street (8)
11. It's nearly a swindle for one who's married in Germany (4)
13. Able to move to Alabama port (6)
15. Slave girl returning to Virginia (6)
17. A complete revolution will produce an emotional shock (4)
18. Meant a hundred on the promenade (8)
21. Glaring news of the trial (7)
22. "Tempete" character changing to one in "Lea" adaptation (5)
23. Pledges oneself to act? (10)
Down
1 & 20Dn. It was reed 1 to 9.
2. Only partially supported by the football team (7)
3. One coming to fruition in a different way (7)
6. Finish the game - an evenly contested affair (5,5)
9. Not the conversation of the simple-minded? (6,4)
10. Partially support a member of the football teamtest (4-4)
12. One coming to terms, strikes before trial? (7)
13. Trying to find a particular variety, one hears (6)
14. Doesn't include part of the kingdom, it seems (5)
19. It's nearly a swindle for one who's married in Germany (4)
20. What Edward said what happened? (5)
25. Used to Virginia (6)

Quick Clues:
Across
1. Help (10)
7. Taut (5)
8. Red wine (7)
10. Recoiled (8)
11. Row (4)
13. Reality (7)
15. Restrain (6)
17. Evens (4)
18. Equalitarian (8)
21. Sturdiness (7)
22. Intone (5)
23. Unnecessarily (10)
24. Sturdiness (7)
25. Been (5)

Down
1. Drilling tool (5)
2. Placed (8)
3. Confidential (6)
4. Parried (4)
5. Tense (7)
6. Intrigue (7)
7. Reparations (4)
8. Assert (7)
9. Confidential (6)
10. Parched (4)
11. Row (4)
12. Patronage (8)
13. Doctor (8)
14. Alert (7)
15. Decorated (6)
16. Richard (5)
17. It's nearly a swindle for one who's married in Germany (4)
18. Tense (7)
19. It's nearly a swindle for one who's married in Germany (4)
20. Species (4)
21. Member of a local voluntary group?
22. Do you have a good news story?
23. Do you need to promote an event for your charity? Do you have a good news story?
24. Do you need to promote an event for a charity or a local good cause?

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overlooks Warley Woods.

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fast room/kitchen with granite
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dove, dishwasher, fridge/freezer, sec-
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potential study area, dressing room, mas-
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Halesowen

Cross Street £499 pcm

Recently refurbished, very generous sized unfurnished flat
within walking distance to Halesowen Town Centre. Featuring
an open plan lounge/kitchen with appliances, bathroom with shower
and separate bath, allocated parking space. EPC: D

Halesowen

Coombs Road £499 pcm

Recently refurbished, very spacious unfurnished ground floor
maisonette, benefiting from gas central heating (Bathroom),
front and rear gardens, driveway parking. (THE GUARANTOR
MUST BE A HOME OWNER, FAMILY MEMBER AND WORKING). EPC: D

Halesowen

Haden Arch Court £575 pcm

Recently redecorated and carpeted. This huge 3 bedroom house
benefits from a modern living room, fitted dining kitchen, 2 double
bedrooms, bathroom with shower and separate bath, large rear
garden. EPC: TBC

Halesowen

Hagley Road £450 pcm

4 bedroomed, fully furnished, unfurnished, long term, tenancy
within walking distance to Halesowen Town Centre. Featuring
large lounge, open plan kitchen, separate dining area, fitted kitchen,
double bedrooms, en-suite to master, bathroom with separate bath.
EPC: D

Halesowen

Upper Ashley Street £595 pcm

An unfurnished mid terraced house in a popular estate and
close to Halesowen Town Centre. Featuring an open plan
lounge/dining room, fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms and
single bedroom, white bathroom suite
and rear garden. EPC: D

Halesowen

Bloomfield Road West £575 pcm

Recently redecorated and carpeted. This lovely semi-detached house
is in a quiet residential area close to Blackeath Town
shops, buses and train links. The house features 2 double
bedrooms, modern bathroom with shower, 1 allocated
car parking space behind electric gates. Not to be missed. EPC: D

Halesowen

Best Street £695 pcm

Beautifully presented and very close to Halesowen Town
Centre. Featuring a large open plan living area, fitted kitchen
and separate dining area, 2 double bedrooms with fitted wardrobes
and family bathroom, downstairs WC, carport with driveway, great
gardens, driveway parking. Not to missed! EPC: TBC

Halesowen

Hinchley Court £525 pcm

An unfurnished, modern, spacious ground floor flat
benefiting from double glazing and electric central heating.
Featuring a large lounge, fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms
and a large rear garden. EPC: D

Halesowen

Armer Gardens £415 pcm

Recently refurbished, fully furnished, long term tenancy
within walking distance to Halesowen Town Centre. Featuring
large lounge and kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, family bathroom
with separate bath, allocated parking space. EPC: D

Halesowen

Piggery Avenue £425 pcm

An unfurnished, recently refurbished, ground floor flat
benefiting from double glazing and electric central heating.
Featuring a large lounge, fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms
and a large rear garden. EPC: D

Halesowen

Dudley Road £450 pcm

Close to local buses for Kingswinford and Stourbridge and a
short walk from Amblecote. This 2 double bedroom tenanted
terrace house features 3 reception rooms, fitted kitchen,olson
bathroom with shower, on road parking and an extended rear
Turf.

Halesowen

Hoppy Lane £450 pcm

Recently refurbished, fully furnished, unfurnished, long term
rental opportunity which will be snapped up! EPC: D

Halesowen

Blacksheep £695 pcm

A spacious 2 double bedroomed cottage in a popular area.
Featuring an open plan lounge/kitchen, 2 double bedrooms
and family bathroom, downstairs WC, small low maintenance rear
garden. EPC: TBC

Halesowen

Sandelev £495 pcm

Recently refurbished, very generous sized unfurnished flat
overlooking Warley Woods. A modern living room, fitted kitchen,
1 double bedroom and 1 single bedroom, electric heating, parking,
unfurnished. EPC: TBC

Halesowen

John Street £450 pcm

Recently refurbished, fully furnished, unfurnished, long term Tenancy
within walking distance to Halesowen Town Centre. Featuring
large lounge and kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, family bathroom
with separate bath, allocated parking space, unfurnished. EPC: D

Halesowen

Walsall £440 pcm

A spacious 2 double bedroomed cottage in a quiet residential area.
Featuring a large lounge, fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms,
bathroom with separate bath, large rear garden, allocated
car park. EPC: E

Halesowen

Beeches West £450 pcm

Recently refurbished, very generous sized unfurnished flat
overlooking Warley Woods. A larger open plan lounge/kitchen,
2 double bedrooms, family bathroom, downstairs WC, gas central
heating, double glazing, open plan living rooms area, fitted kitchen,
2 double bedrooms, large rear garden and driveway. EPC: D

Halesowen

Cowley Road £499 pcm

Recently refurbished, very generous sized unfurnished flat
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2 double bedrooms, family bathroom, downstairs WC, gas central
heating, double glazing, open plan living rooms area, fitted kitchen,
2 double bedrooms, large rear garden and driveway. EPC: D

Halesowen

Bloomfield Road £525 pcm

An unfurnished mid terraced house in a popular cul-de-sac
recently redecorated and carpeted. This huge 3 bedroom
town house comprises of 3 bedrooms, master bedroom with
en-suite, lounge, dining area with appliances, bathroom with shower
and separate bath, large rear garden, allocated parking space.
EPC: TBC

Halesowen

Oldbury Road £425 pcm

Recently refurbished, fully furnished, unfurnished, long term
rental opportunity which will be snapped up! EPC: D

Halesowen

South End £475 pcm

Recently refurbished, very generous sized unfurnished flat
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car park. EPC: E
Four-bedrooms spread across three storeys

ATTRACTION and well presented, 103 Attingham Drive, Sovereign Heights, Dudley, is a spacious four-bed- roomed, three-storey home for sale through Roden Boydell at £249,500.

With double glazing and gas central heating, it has a reception hall with staircase off, guest cloakroom, first floor through lounge with an attractive fireplace. From there are French doors leading to a balcony, spacious dining room with French doors to garden, kitchen with modern white units, a double oven with gas hob, fitted extractor hood and fridge freezer. There are a utility, study, four bedrooms (two en suite and all with fitted wardrobes), bathroom, garage and gardens. There is a driveway, carport and detached garage. The rear garden has a patio and lawn. Contact Roden Boydell on 01902 881188 or visit www.rodenboydell.com

This character home has five bedrooms

SUBSTANTIAL five bedroomed detached home, Meadowcroft, 69 Stream Road, Kingswinford, has a delightful setting. Having mature generous gardens, it is for sale through The Lee Shaw Partnership at £465,000.

With a shared drive, this gas central heated home has an entrance porch, entrance hall with feature stairs, guest cloakroom, lounge, dining room with brick fireplace, sitting room with feature fireplace and wooden floor, an L-shaped breakfast room with steps to collar, kitchen, stainless steel range cooker, a side lobby, WC, passageway linked to annexe, gallery landing, five bedrooms (one en suite) and house bathroom. Contact Lee Shaw Partnership on 01384 297622 or visit www.leeshaw.com
Tiger is a winning formula

By John Griffiths

Triumph is not only the maker’s name but a word which could well describe the company’s all-new Tiger Explorer.

The ‘Tiger’ is really like a family name more than any indicator that this is a hastily redesigned version of the new Explorer.

The new 1,215cc engine, fitted with balance shafts for smoother running, is something of a gem.

By John Griffiths

Halesowen Chronicle
Thursday, August 7, 2014

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Bluemotion technology now added to VW vans

Hard-pressed businesses looking to drive down their costs will no doubt welcome Volkswagen’s decision to share its fuel-saving Bluemotion technology with its commercial vehicle range.

The new model is easily the most frugal of the Transporter range, and indeed among the best in this class of van, with an official average consumption of almost 49mpg.

It has the same efficient 2.0 litre turbo diesel engine as its stablemates – in this case rated at 114PS – but the whole vehicle is lighter, more aerodynamic, it’s fitted with low rolling-resistance tyres, cruise control, and automatic stop/start.

There’s also an energy recuperation system which uses the van’s momentum under braking to run the alternator, so the engine has less work to do.

It’s the first time VW has produced a full-blown Bluemotion model, although others in the range have already benefitted from some aspects of the technology which has been such a hit in the company’s passenger car range.

The £24,071 (including VAT) short wheelbase model loses nothing in terms of performance compared to its stablemate with the same 114PS engine plus it’s still capable of carrying two Euro pallets – and with a greater payload of 871kg.

The driver the Transporter Bluemotion’s cab is a good place to be. It comes with three large, hard-wearing seats – the driver gets height, reach and lumbar adjustment – and a high ‘command’ driving position with large door mirrors.

The power-assisted steering and other controls are light, with the short-throw gearstick mounted high on the dash for easy reach.

The driver also has the cruise control system to help save fuel (and possibly your licence), a hill-hold assist system, electrically heated and adjustable mirrors, a radio with CD player, electric windows and heat reflective glass.

Airbags

There are plenty of storage compartments in the cab, and a part-lined load bay which helps to reduce body noise and reverberations from the interior.

Safety systems include driver and passenger airbags, stability control, emergency brake assist and brake force distribution systems.

The engine has an impressive 250Nm of torque available from just 1,500 revs, making progress seem easy and, in van terms, relatively lively despite its impressive economy.

It takes 14.8 seconds to reach 62mph from a standing start.

The Transporter has a wide opening, sliding side door on the left (kerb) side which is almost half the length of the cargo bay, and a pair of rear doors, to access the interior, which is 2,570mm long, 1,692mm wide and 1,410mm high.

The load floor is flat for easy loading, and the cargo area has two interior lights.

The test vehicle was fitted with a few options including a touchscreen SatNav system with upgraded radio at a cost of £565 (ex VAT), and Bluetooth connectivity which is a £245 option. Parking sensors added another £200.

So far, the short wheelbase panel van is the only member of the Transporter range to get the full Bluemotion treatment. Transporters all come with a 2.0 litre turbo diesel engine, but with power ratings of 84, 102, 114, 140 and 180Ps. The panel vans are also available in long wheelbase, plus high and medium roof options.

Other vehicles in the range include the Kombi, for carrying a work crew and their cargo, and the window van capable of carrying up to eight passengers with a choice of configurations.

The Shuttle is a people carrier, again designed for eight passengers but with more style and comfort.

There are also four-wheel drive models fitted with the more powerful engines in the range.

TESTED

VW Transporter Bluemotion SWB

Engine: 2.0 litre turbo diesel with 114Ps of power and 250Nm of torque driving the front wheels through a five-speed manual gearbox.

Performance: 0 to 62mph in 14.8 secs, max 102mph.

Economy: urban 40.9mpg, country 54.3mpg, average 48.7mpg. CO2 emissions 152gkm.

Cargo area: 2,570mm x 1,892mm x 1,410mm.

Payload: 871kg.

Warranty: Three years/100,000 miles: three years paint, 12 years body protection.
Pedestrian time a record

Whatever else you might say about Toyota, it seems the brand has a sense of humour.

Driving enthusiasts will hang their (petrol) heads in shame after Toyota completed the 12.9-mile German track Nurburgring at an average of 698mph.

The embarrassingly pedestrian time of 20 minutes and 59 seconds was set by motor journalist and Japanese car expert Joe Clifford, and since Toyota is the first to shame itself with a fuel economy run at the heart of performance car testing, it automatically sets a new efficiency record.

The 21-minute time is more than three times slower than laps recently set by modified versions of the Seat Leon Cupra 280 and the RenaultSport Megane 270. Clifford was driving a Prius Plug-in hybrid, whose electric-only range is more than enough to complete the circuit without using the petrol engine.

But unfortunately for the attempt, a long circuit on the circuit strained the batteries too much and the engine cut in, using five tablespoons of unleaded.

He said: 'We used no special tricks for this test. We simply took a fully charged car, fitted it with low-rolling resistance tyres and drove the lap, among all the other public drivers taking the opportunity to experience the challenge of the Nurburgring.

'Although the 12.9-mile distance is similar to a typical commuter trip, the difference here is a rise and fall in elevation of around 1,000 feet. In fact, it was only on one long climb that the petrol engine cut in, and then only for a short while.

'Without that, we think we might have even achieved the ultimate 999.9mph run – the highest figure the display can show.'

The keen-eyed will notice body knowledge (TRD) catalogue.

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A SPECIAL KIND & LOVING HOME NEEDED FOR THESE DARLING GIRLS.
May has to live with husband, her husband, is going into sheltered housing but cannot take her much loved cats. Cassie, a lovely, pretty black/white border bitch, 12 yrs old. Cassie loved by all other pets in the house but would need a quiet, relaxed home. The cats would need to be with each other all the time.

May has to live with husband. Ideal for a couple or investor. Offers invited. 07957 254298.

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A Special Kind of Loving Home Needed for These Darling Girls.
May has to live with husband, her husband, is going into sheltered housing but cannot take her much loved cats. Cassie, a lovely, pretty black/white border bitch, 12 yrs old. Cassie loved by all other pets in the house but would need a quiet, relaxed home. The cats would need to be with each other all the time.

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A FEMALE 23 MOVED BACK FROM HOME seeking 'vg' friends for nights out. Wolverhampton and surrounding areas.

GENTLEMAN, 68, would like to meet gentleman over 55, for friendship, possibly a permanent long-term relationship. Please write to: Express and Star, Box Number P19387, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

GENTLEMAN 70 would like to meet gentleman over 55, for friendship, holidays and enjoying any types of vehicles. Please write to: Express and Star, Box Number P19387, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

SOUTHWORTH, MRS T, 70, ladies car or motorbike rider, in KIDDERMINSTER, £450,000, 01562 822666, call after 7pm.

MERRION, J, 92, single male, seeks 'vg' ladies for nights out in Wolverhampton and surrounding areas.

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BRAUN, Automotive, 2003, 100,000 miles, petrol, 204bhp. rebuilt engine. £2,200. 01543 660120/0121 564 0090.

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Late score for Tipton gains point

TYPHOON'S Ricky Summers saved his best knockout for his big break on TV as opponent Curtis Gargano was counted out in front of the BoxNation cameras.

The two engaged in a slugfest before the finish came, four rounds into a scheduled six, at Wolverhampton Civic Hall last night, writes Craig Birch.

Summers, the only Black Country boy on the bill, was risking a proposed title shot to Dudley's The Venus on September 19 to compete in front of a national audience.

He refused to get drawn into a tussle with Gargano, who replaced Mitch Mitchell for the light-heavyweight contest, and took him out with just 20 seconds of the fourth session left.

Summers said: “I’ll enjoy this and then turn my focus towards the next fight night in Dudley.”

“Hopefully, all of my supporters can follow me on that journey as well.”

A cozy first round saw Summers stay patient behind the jab, as Gargano got on his toes and made himself a moving target.

The Mancunian tried to wind Summers up by imploring him to ‘come on’ at the end of the second round, after tasting a right uppercut flush to the jaw.

Summers’ head was rocked back as one shot from a Gargano flurry slipped through, but good combination punching reminded him who was boss during this battle.

With the bit between his teeth, Summers hid his time waiting for the opportune moment to come when he could crumple up Gargano with a loaded right hook to the ribs, forcing him to take a knee.

He made some attempts to rise to his feet but had no real intention in continuing, failing to beat referee Terry O’Connor’s call to 10.

Summers said: “He just stopped behind his guard and kept it nice and light, he just got survived.”

“People like that stop you performing at your best.”

“I am a counter-puncher, I show my power when people come on to me,” said Summers.

“I kept on picking my shots until I could finish him off.”

“I waited to throw that right hook...”

Para-cycling needs higher profile, saystha Scott

HELEN SCOTT has called for para-cycling to get the recognition it deserves after her double Commonwealth Games gold.

The Halesowen racer has returned to training at British Cycling hopeful her sport’s profile is again on the rise.

Scott and teenager Sophie Thornhill won gold in the sprint tandem on day one and followed it with victory in the 3km time trial tandem in Glasgow.

Scott said afterwards: “It was the first time the para-sprint tandem had been in the Games and Scott does not want it to be the last, although she admitted that it was not clear whether it would continue in the Commonwealth schedule.

“It was amazing to be with the able-bodied team, it’s a bit of novelty, and it was good to get the recognition which we don’t usually get when we’re just doing para-cycling,” said Scott, who celebrated her 24th birthday during the Glasgow Games.

“It’s the first time it’s been in and it could be the last so we’re glad we enjoyed it. Hopefully it proved para-cycling, especially the tandem, is exciting and a real crowd pleaser.

“I don’t know who the people in charge are but hopefully they were watching and it would be nice to have it in again. We didn’t cause any trouble, we weren’t any hassle.”

“The cycling World Cups are long days and maybe we could have events – a different one in each World Cup and be integrated with the able-bodied crits.

“It’s such a shame because at the time people are this is absolutely brilliant’ and then nothing seems to happen.

“Hopefully being at the Games with the able-bodied team gives it a little bit more of a push.

“It’s crazy the men’s tandem sprint isn’t in the Paralympics too and hopefully that’ll be resolved.

“We have got our own World Cups lined up in the next few years so progress is being made, it’s slow and steady.”

Scott won Paralympics silver and bronze with Melissa at London 2012 and she believes it was a fitting setting for her 41-year-old GB clash if she decides to quit.

“It would be better than the Olympics, simply because you won two golds but the crowd were amazing.”

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Firsts’ run of good results continues

The first team’s run of good form continued with a 99 shot victory against NPF.

The George led by 43 shots after the first 15 minutes with wins by Jamie Dunn (21-8), Elliot McGuinness (21-13), Phil Clinton and Mick McGuinness (both 21-10).

The middle four proved too strong for NPF with Pete Davenport (21-9), Paul Hemming (21-3), Ivan Smout (21-16) and Shane Day (21-17) increasing the lead to 72 shots.

The back four completed a comfortable victory with Steve Dicken (21-4), Darling (21-11) and Mark Street (21-20) all winning for many years.

South Staffs Premier Div
Nordley B 196
The George 212

The second team’s 16-shot win at Nordley has almost certainly guaranteed their survival in the top division. Steve Pagan (21-8) and Keith Walton (21-9) did the damage on Day One. Warwick & Worcester Alliance Division 2
The George 251

Ye Olde Knawle 143

The third team had a big 108 shot home win.

Chasewater 2
Smethwick Ragers 2

Chasewater started brightly and took the lead with a close range effort from Jazz Lukasie. Smethwick played some neat, attractive football as the half progressed, deservedly equalised through Gurjit Singh in the second half.

On the stroke of half-time, the visitors took the lead when the Kris Dickson netted from close range. The Scholars levelled late on when Dave Mays poked home from Jordan Nadat from the edge of the penalty area. They almost won the match when Luke Dickson fired a shot but it came back off Ben Hales before both teams had to settle for the draw.

CHAS WATER
**Albion keep an eye on Potters’ striker Walters**

ALBION have added Stoke striker Ion-Wal ters to their summer transfer watchlist.

The Baggies are keen to sign the Ireland international as they look for attacking reinforcements.

The 30-year-old is on a lengthy list of potential signings as Irvine looks to beef up his mid-season line-up for the new Premier League season.

While he is not expected to make a move immediately for the former Ipswich forward, he could emerge as a target later in the transfer window.

Walters is a close friend of Baggies defender Gareth McAuley having played alongside the Northern Ireland man at Portman Road. And his versatility – he has operated as a central striker and a wide player for the Potters – could appeal to Irvine.

Walters is under contract for another year at the Britannia Stadium so would command a transfer fee but there are signs that Potters boss Mark Hughes would be willing to listen to offers.

Albion are targeting wingers and a striker to complete their squad but have cooled their interest in French wideman Jonathan Biabiany, contrary to reports in Italy yesterday of a £6m bid for the Parma man.

Recent scouting reports have been mixed and, while the Baggies have not ruled out re-igniting their interest at a later date, the 26-year-old now appears an unlikely arrival at The Hawthorns.

Burnley are considering their next move in the battle for Craig Dawson after having a third bid of around £1.5m turned down.

Dawson has also had a transfer request knocked back but Burnley are still interested.

The centre-back scored a bizarre own-goal to condemn the Baggies to a 2-2 defeat at Port Vale last week, with Irvine later admitting his side’s defending was poor.

“I wanted to defend the goal,” said Irvine. “That’s not going to be acceptable. It was really poor defending.

The goal from a set piece is something we need to do better and we will get to work on that and the first goal they got was poor defending going through several individuals.

**Tividale 1
Halesowen Town 1**

A goal in the 86th minute from substitute Charlie Price opened the scoring for Tividale, who played several trialists against a team who will line up one league above them this season.

Tividale were playing their second game in a week and, having drawn 1-1 at home to Bromsgrove Sporting and the visitors were also in good pre-season form, hav ing beaten Steeport 6-0 in their last game.

The game started brightly, both teams looking lively but it was Halesowen who took the lead on 19 minutes when Tividale goal-keeper Charlie Price fumbled to deal with a routine free kick and Iyseden Christie tapped the ball home.

Price was replaced in goal by Tom Turner for the second half.

But neither could find the breakthrough until Juke’s last minute header at the far post.

A worry for Halesowen was midfielder Aaron Ferry going out with a hamstring injury.

**Halesowen:** Sargeant, Green, Griffiths, Forde, Hall, Tilt, Bragoli, Turner, Christie, Thompson, Brown, Telford.

Subs: Lait, Pearson, Mackenzie, Tonks, Haselkey, Ketley, Bootle.

**Tividale:** Lait, Pearson, Mackenzie, Tonks, Haselkey, Ketley, Bootle.

**Elliott in the medals again**

WALSALL swimming star Elliott Adamson smashed her personal best time last week and just about qualified for the IPC European Championships.

The 19-year-old secured her second medal of the championships – following on from a gold last week – in the final of the women’s 1500m freestyle.

Adamson clocked a time of 35.23 seconds, breaking her previous personal best of 35.76 seconds set in the swimming heats – also a new British record – to finish 0.44 seconds behind Ukraine’s Yelyzaveta Morshchuk.

Elena Fedota bagged bronze, 2.46 seconds adrift at the 25m mark, with Wieken van den Heuwenband of England in second.

It was sweet revenge for Morris who finished last in the 500m freestyle in the 56-58 Lyde Green, Halesowen, West Midlands B63 2PG.

**Yeltz duo will face tough test**

HALESOWEN TOWN chairman Colin Brookes believes striking due Lynn Walters and Ben Haselkey will face tougher tests in the Evo-Stik Northern Premier League this season.

Between them 50 Chris tie and Haselkey bagged 59 goals as Halesowen clinched the Evo-Stik Division One South title last year.

The club have won one, drawn two and lost just two in pre-season ahead of the visit of Hednesford Town tonight in their final pre-season fixture.

It’s a 7.45pm kick-off.

Brookes insists the club is excited to begin their new campaign at Skelmersdale United on August 16.

He said: “Lynn and Ben got almost 60 goals between them. They’re both staying with us for this campaign. They’ll both come up against more experienced defenders, who have played Football League and Conference football. We don’t have anyone else who has played in a higher league than what we’ve been promoted to other than Leon Mckenzie and Haselkey at the back.

Midfielder Danny Bragoli has joined Halesowen from Chasetown.

**Gamboa happy at dream move**

CRISTIAN GAMBOA says his move to Albion is a “dream come true”.

The Costa Rica international completed his switch to The Hawthorns on a three-year contract after the Baggies did a £2m deal with Rosenberg.

And the 24-year-old said: “It’s a dream come true. I feel really happy.”

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd property, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford, on Thursday, August 7.

Score by

Dukes

rescues the Tivs

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Halesowen Town 2

Hednesford Town 1

HALESOWEN triumphed over Vanarama Conference North Hednesford Town to maintain the encouraging set of results.

The Yeltz dealt comfortably with early Pit men pressure as Ben Bailey’s header from a 9th minute corner was blocked.

Football

Halesowen Town:

Sargeant (Pearson 75); Green, Charlton, Mackenzie (La t 65), Hall (c), Tilt, Bragoli, Turner, Christie, Thompson-Brown 60, Haseley (Thompson-Brown 60).

Hednesford Town:

Crane (c), Griffiths, Taylor, Ashmore (Francis 60), Bailey (McCone 60), Sargeant (Pearson 75), Glover, Thorley, Robinson (Markall 65), Sullivan, Taylor-Brooks.

Referee: Stuart Egland Attendance: 255

The Yeltz will now face Black Country Rangers in a pre-season curtainer at The Grove on Saturday after Warrington Town pulled out of their planned fixture due to injury.

The game will kick off at 4pm.

● Halesowen Town have launched their new home kit for the next two seasons. Fans can pre-order their home shirt online.

The shirts are £22 and have been subsidised by sponsors Ace Embroidery and Stewardson Developments, but this price is for a limited period only.

Marvin Robinson in control of the ball as a Yeltz player bears down on him in the pre-season friendly.