**FEBRUARY 24, 2011**

When sold

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**It’s sheer Bliss . . . as support group helps to bake a difference – see page 5**

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**The age-defying treat which keeps Jack going strong at 103 – see page 20**

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**Faggots fall foul of US good taste watchdogs**

The Black Country dish of faggots and K eith B oxley’s pork pies.

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**Top brass gather to boost cancer cash**

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**DAY CARE**

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**A PLUCKY youngster in Kingswinford became a princess for a day, courtesy of Russells Hall Hospital's Wishing Well trust.**

April Perks, age nine, who suffers with a rare, central nervous system disease which also affects her synapses, was granted a horse-drawn glass, fairy-tale pumpkin carriage at Dingle Community Primary School, in Madeley Road.

"April's mother, Daena, said: "Her face was an absolute picture, the whole day was fantastic and she still can't believe it happened to her."

"She asked me if she was dreaming at one point, it was wonderful to see her so happy and be able to focus on something other than her condition and her medication."

"All of her classmates stayed to see her get into her carriage, none of them wanted to go home, they were all so excited for her."

"It was also really nice that we were able to share the day with her best friend, who fully deserved to be a part of the treat."

"The Wishing Well scheme is wonderful. April is still on a high and it's all thanks to everyone who helped make the day happen and for the hospital's support in ensuring children like April are made to feel special during a very difficult time." Dreams April has to take steroids every day to control the symptoms and after spending most of her Christmas in hospital having lost the use of her legs and the sight in her right eye.

"It is brilliant to see the children so happy and with the help of the Wishing Well it is supporters it made the dreams come true."

April was first diagnosed with neurocutaneous optic (NMO) last November when she was admitted to hospital having lost the use of her legs and the sight in one eye. The disease affects the optic nerves and spinal cord.

The special treat was last Friday, but the magic of the day carried on into half-term week with April still wearing her princess outfit at home.

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**A fairy tale experience comes true for the plucky princess in pink**

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**Top brass gather to boost cancer cash**

The Phoenix West Midlands Brass Band is hosting a fundraiser in the City Council on Saturday, February 20, from 7pm.

Organisers hope to collect £1,000 for the MJP cancer care trust, which will help assist in the research and production of new treatments.

Tickets are £5 each and full details and tickets are available on the door or by calling Margaret James on 01384 886822.

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**Loaves theme for women's prayer day**

A HALESWEN woman is hosting a Women's World Day of Prayer event next month. The service takes place at United Reformed Church, Halesowen, on Saturday, March 2. The service is being held to raise money for the Wishing Well scheme, a project in Stourbridge.

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**A BLACK Country day care centre forced to close under social services cutbacks could be relaunched soon.**

The centre, based at The Regis, Old Hill, was used within a week of a final closure notice at the start of the month after funding from Sandwell Council dried up.

Many of the 30 elderly who used the service were left in tears when the news was broken. Sandwell Social Services, which rented space at The Regis and provided staffing, have moved their day care provision eight miles away to Manifoldia Grange, West Bromwich.

Now, owners of the Art Deco landmark in Baddow Hill Road are calling a public meeting on Thursday, March 5 at 7.15pm to discuss the possibilities of resurrecting the day care as a private enterprise to serve people in Dudley and Sandwell.

Director Carole Jenkins and Tony Billingham, who also run nursing and care homes business Carlton Care Group, believe there is still a strong demand for the facility which offered the chance of a day out with entertainment and social interaction.

And they pledged any new operation would be “on a strictly break-even basis.”

The business partners, who own seven residential homes in the Black Country, are expecting a good turnout for the meeting. Mr Billingham, of Halesowen, said: “Last year we held an open forum at The Regis on dementia care and we were staggered by the response. There was big turnout and we were able to offer help and advice to many people.

What clearly was apparent, is the large number of local people who are struggling with caring for loved-ones at home with little or no respite.

One of the issues we want to address at the meeting is the possibility of day care for this needy people group.

Responsibility

Also on the agenda is day care posibilities for the elderly who are not dementia suffers.

As financial cuts from Government begin to filter through, Mr Billingham believes the elderly and frail will be most exposed. For 25 years we have run the Carlin and have seen huge shifts in care provision, but nothing has happened before had the potential to impact on our most vulnerable like the current economic measures do.

“We have a moral responsibility to try to do something and although we cannot afford to provide free day care – staffing ratio implications alone are a big financial consideration – we would like to offer it on a strictly break-even basis.”

Mrs Jenkins, of Stourbridge, said: “We have all the facilities here – even a sheltered play area to meet the needs of the day care provision and we envisage it could run Monday to Friday.

The meeting will give us an indication of what services the local people need.

“The measure of a society is how it treats its weakest and most vulnerable. It is atrocious that people in Halesowen and the surrounding locality are now having to be transported to West Bromwich, the nearest day care point where they can be looked after.

“It is too far for many of the people who come here (The Regis) to travel and give the pick-ups and drop-offs that good proportion of their day out would be spent on a minibus.”

At the time of the council’s social services committee meeting member for adult social care councillor Linda Horton, said many people would not have been able to afford to provide free day care – staffing ratio implications alone are a big financial consideration – we would like to offer it on a strictly break-even basis.

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Mystery surrounds the death of a 40-year-old care worker found with head injuries in Dudley. An inquest is to be held to reveal how Paul Davis was hurt, an inquest heard.

Mr Davis was found unconscious in Vinegar Road, Wombourne, on Monday, December 10, the day he was due to start his new job, and was rushed to hospital with a colleague from Court Care Homes in Wombourne.

He was taken to Russell Hall Hospital where he died of his injuries the following day. Black Country Coroner Robin Balmain recorded an open verdict at the inquest in Dudley last week.

Mr Balmain said what caused Mr Davis’s injuries could not be revealed.

A post-mortem found that Mr Davis, of Jogger Street, Wombourne, had fractures to his left hand and eye socket, his jaw was bruised, his left ear was lacerated, and there was blood in his ear and nose.

There was no evidence of bruise or drudgery, and while the possibility that he had been battered could not be ruled out, it was considered unlikely.

Mr Balmain said the most likely cause was a fall. Police initially investigated the death as a result of several believed items belonging to Mr Davis were missing. However, those were later found at his home.

Mr Balmain said “I accept the cause of death, but it does not explain how it came to happen. People do not just fall over to this extent for no reason at all. We just do not know what happened.”

Mr Davis worked at the homes for eight years and was described as a kind and deeply caring man.

Riddle of care worker’s death at 40

PR00FERS are being encouraged to get their walking boots on and step into the country side of Highgate Common, near Enville. As part of the South Staffordshire Council’s Health Walk scheme a new guided walk has been established, taking in the 50% of the annual lowland way – the weekly walks of 3½ miles and 5½ miles start on March 10.

Pupils will be given a presentation about the dangers of carbon monoxide and how to prevent the dangers.

They can then take part in a postem competition and win £50 for themselves and £50 for their school.

The winner will also receive an expenses, along with their family and teacher, to the House of Parliament to collect their prize.

The campaign is aimed at 10 to 11-year-olds and is run by a charity the Carbon Monoxide and Gas Safety Society. For director, Stephen Moorhouse, said “Entering the competition you could learn enough to save a life from a loved one and you might save.”

Youngsters to spread fumes peril message

Children in Dudley are being called upon to pass on the message about the danger of carbon monoxide poisoning from faulty gas appliances.

A charity is running a postem competition for young people which they hope to turn into a permanent Health Walk.

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Youngsters to spread fumes peril message

The class will be held at Amblecote Church Hall, Wombourne, every Thursday from 8.30 to 10.30pm, and admission is £2.50 each week. For more information contact Joyce Walker on 0121 559 4118 or just turn up at the class.

Exercising for the over-50s

A COMMUNITY exercise class for the over-50s is being launched in Wombourne and will feature low impact routines.

The class will be held at St Giles Church Hall in Hawes Lane, Wombourne, every Thursday from 8.30 to 10.30pm, and admission is £2.50 each week. For more information contact Joyce Walker on 0121 559 4118 or just turn up at the class.

A SERIES of public meetings and drop-in sessions will be held by police in Amblecote next month.

The neighbourhood team will take the police van to Beamings Road Park next Wednesday, March 2, inviting anyone in the area to drop in between 5pm and 7pm for an informal chat with officers and community support officers.

On March 9, a special session and Community Together (PACT) meeting will be held in Amblecote Church Hall Amblecote Road, especifically for local busi-

Police invite to townsfolk

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I may leave town, warns says publican bitter about levy on late-night opening

The landlord of two Stourbridge pubs has warned he could be driven out of town if his business is hit with a “late night opening” tax.

Dave Craddock, who runs the Plough and Hanbury Old Hall, outside, said: “We are struggling. We will struggle if plans to charge venues up to £4,500 a year for opening after midnight are go ahead.”

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**Stray horses hazard ‘difficult’ for council**

BOSSES at Sandwell Council have said they cannot close off a piece of land where horses are left to wander because they are linked to a house in a Tipton housing estate. Enquiries last Friday and Saturday saw 20 animals roam on to streets and properties. The horses have now been rounded off with a ripe of hay and a trough of water.

A council spokesperson said: "No one on this estate keeps horses for themselves, but they are wandering onto the streets of the area. The council has been aware for some time that there are stray horses in the area."

**Avoiding problems for horses**

"Because of the open plan design of the estate, the horses are trampling through the gardens. There have been problems for years. The horse got out four times in one week, and was caught and taken away last day and west courting again."

Mr Vaughan added: "It is only a matter of time before one of the residents or the horse gets hurt." Sandwell Council is now looking at the best way to tackle the problem, at Weddell Wynd, which is jointly owned by Dudley and Smethwick District Council. Council spokesman Tony Wynn, Sandwell's neighbourhood chief, said: "The council are concerned about the safety and the difficulty would be the cost of taking action and financing it, as well as the fact it is a public space.

Dudley Council has also come in for severe criticism over the stray horses problem. A DAY centre in Stourbridge for adults with severe learning disabilities is closing after six months due to refurbishing.

Dudley's Sandwell Hall Hospital holds the West Midlands list for cancelled operations at the last minute, according to new figures. Dudley saw 319 appointments between October and December 2010, compared with 121 in neighbouring Sandwell and West Birmingham Trust. It includes Rowley Regis Hospital.

Non-clinical causes of cancellations across the Midlands were cited as staff shortages, increased emergency activity and an increased number of patients who are fit for discharge.

**AIDS patients paid £18,000**

"The pies have it and it's all for charity"

MP’s blast for cuts in police

DUDLEY North MP Ian Austin has criticised Gov-
ernment plans that will see 1,100 police disappear from West Midlands streets.

Planned cuts will see 1,100 frontline police officers and 1,100 staff police jobs are in the region - including some of the previ-
ous Labour government's 20,000 new police posts and 11,000 staff jobs.

Since the Tory-led coalition took office, 5,000 full-time police officers' jobs had been axed, prior to the announcement of the Gov-
ernment’s 25 per cent cut to police funding, added Mr Austin.

The cuts will also mean a 9 per cent cut in the number of PCSOs.

Tory and Lib Dem have failed to protect policing and the fight against crime and anti-social behaviour,” said Mr Austin.

These are reckless cuts which will hit our area hard. It is clear from the number of PCSOs, Torr’s and Lib Dems have failed to protect policing and the fight against crime and anti-social behaviour,” said Mr Austin.

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NUMERICAL

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BATTLE TO SAVE TEAM

MORE than 150 people have signed a petition against Dudley Council’s decision to scrap an 11-item team that works to prevent and support vulnerable people from being targeted by drug dealing.

Campuses have collected signatures from residents on the Castle and Priory ward who are angry that the council is cutting the team.

The petition calls for Dudley Council to reverse its decision to cut the team and to maintain services for vulnerable people.

The decision comes at a meeting of the cabinet, which is set to discuss the future of the community renewal unit.

The petition states: “We are concerned that the decision to cut the team may lead to an increase in drug dealing and other anti-social behaviour.”

The petition calls for the cabinet to reconsider its decision and to provide services for vulnerable people.

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Joshua Nicholls, aged eight, gets baking with members of the Dudley Bliss Group at the Priory

CUPCAKES have been decorated by a Black Country family group to raise cash for special care babies.

It is part of Tudor House, a national annual fund-raising scheme organised by Blue, the special care baby charity.

The Dudley Bliss Group decorated the cakes at their regular get together.

The group provides support and activities for families who have had an premature baby on a neonatal unit.

Organiser Joanne Weston said: “Making cupcakes is so much fun. It’s even better that such simple cakes can help to raise money for special care babies. The group are raising £500 for the charity.

Cake sale and have been organised across the borough at venues such as Alder Copsford Primary School, in Baggot

The group usually meets on the second Saturday of every month at Stourbridge Children’s Families Centre. For details, email dudleybliss@live.co.uk or telephone 07815456477.

JOSHUA NICHOLLS, aged eight, gets baking with members of the Dudley Bliss Group at the Priory.

There is one small job that you have been meaning to do for years - Make Your Will

Only £60.00 plus VAT Per person for couples. Mirror Wills. Single Wills £65.00 plus VAT A home visit at a convenient time. For information and appointments 0845 678 7010 Wills, Trusts, Lasting Powers of Attorney. Will Storage, Estate Planning and Guardianship Trusts Members of the Society of Trusts and Estates Practitioners Good Wills Ltd www.goodwillslaws.co.uk
EDUCATION Secretary Michael Gove is being urged to keep his promise to visit Sandwell in the wake of the council’s High Court win. In an open letter, council leader Councillor Darren Cooper has asked Mr Gove to come to the area and meet with pupils and parents at nine schools where £138 million of Building Schools for the Future funding was cut. But Sandwell Tory opposition leader Councillor Ray Buck, said the council should now focus on raising attainment within schools rather than focusing on “bricks and mortar”.

Councillor Cooper has already called for the resignation of Mr Gove, and the purpose of the letter is to remind him “to keep with you promises”, the letter says.

It says: “You said then that you would visit Dudley today to talk to pupils, staff and leaders in the schools which you had decided would not now be re-bu...
Two runners have been joined on gruelling training sessions around Dudley by their trusty pet dog Nelly as they prepare for the London Marathon. Cheryl and David Jasper, who have been inspired by their daughter’s battle with hearing problems, are running cards for the Royal National Institute for Deaf People, which has supported Nelly since it was just a puppy.

Nelly’s parents are aiming to raise £1,750—a target which was set when they signed up.

Mrs Jasper, a teaching assistant at Belle Vue Primary School in Wordsley, said: “Molly is a real inspiration, she is always happy and never lets it get her down.”

To sponsor Mr and Mrs Jasper for the London Marathon on April 17, log on to: http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team-jaspers

Advances up by 77pc

The Tipton and Coseley Building Society lost £6.5 million in mortgages last year as its profits doubled to £2.47m.

The Tipton said gross mortgage advances went up 1.7pc per cent on the previous year, while savers deposited £9.8 million. With its four branches in Tipton, Coseley, Sedgley and Brierley, the 110-year-old society employs 67 people and has 40,000 members.

Chief executive Chris Martin said: “2010 was a year when we got back to business after the credit crunch.”

Doyens of pubs across Dudley have been issuing warnings or face court action over alleged illegal access to Premier League football.

Prosecutions are coming from the Premier League’s monitoring firm, the Media Protection Services, and from satellite operators, as pubs are carrying out checks in pubs in recent months.

Ofﬁcials are clamping down on pubs accessing satellite broadcasts from European Union countries such as Albania and Greece.

Dudley borough was described as a “hotbed” for the sale of illegal viewing cards which allow foreign channels to be broadcast through British satellite boxes.

Media Protection Services spokesman Ray Hoskins branded the cards a “trap” that would land businesses in trouble.

The council is awaiting the outcome of European Court of Justice proceedings involving Portsmouth landlady Karen Murphy. She is contesting a ruling that she was showing matches illegally using a card from a Greek satellite broadcaster, and was about to be banned.

While it is right that pubs will still be showing matches illegally if they continue using cards for foreign broadcasts,” Mr Hoskins said.

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Heat is on as Helen finds the diagnosis

A KIDDERMINSTER woman is turning up the heat with a new veterinary diagnostic tool.

Helen Morrell hopes to see the Veterinary Thermal Imaging service rolled out across the UK.

It is claimed to be the UK’s first such all-purpose equipment can be used on all sorts of creatures, from cows and horses through to livestock, monitoring and treating injury, illness and disease.

Using a specially designed camera it detects heat emitted from the animal, turning it into a colour, depending on the temperature readings – the various colours will flag up problem areas.

Use of the device quickly pinpoints where an animal is in pain, limiting distress.

Veterinary Thermal Imaging (VTI) works under a code of conduct prescribed by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons and is an extension to diagnostic tools such as x-rays, MRI scans and Ultrasound.

Course

Mrs Morrell, founder of VTI and a veterinary physiotherapist, was the first person in the UK to be accepted onto the thermal imaging course at the University of Florida’s vet school last year.

In the past I would have to consider what food I could eat, which I have not been able to. Now I am able to chew properly and they’d look real, totally natural. To sum up, there’s nothing I have attempted to do which I cannot now do. There is no problem anymore and socialise without embarrassment?

I’ve had a history of problems with my own teeth and received a treatment in hospital. The implants I was advised to consider have been wonderful, but I found it a difficult decision to make. I hadn’t heard of the procedure for dentures, but now I am so pleased with my new teeth that an undertaking was unnecessary.

They are absolutely perfect and a gladiator in my mouth. I now boast them around the house and to the security of the denture is simply unbelievable, it really has changed my life.

I now can as we craft your teeth from start to finish in our practice.

The responsibility of enhancing an individual smile with natural looking false teeth is not taken lightly and before we have our work seen so eagerly as we strive to remain on the very cusp of a denture revolution. ‘Natural’ is our hallmark, as we bring some 20 years’ experience to create not only a unique smile, but functional dentures too.

For our implants work we exclusively use implant dentist Jonathan Pugh based in Wolverhampton. We have a professional relationship with him and are extremely proud of his work. Anytime after that, it was hopeless, but now I can tackle anything. Previously I had never been in contact with an actual denture maker, teeth had always been prescribed through a dentist and the difference for me was incredible. There were five stages on the route to my final prescription and the treatment I received at each point was excellent. My teeth were now beautiful and white and I could eat whatever I wanted, which I never thought I’d be able to chew properly and they’d look real, totally natural. To sum up, there’s nothing I have attempted to do which I cannot now do. There is no problem anymore and socialise without embarrassment?

I’d be suitable for the procedure. I agreed, but not without reservation having considered the long-term benefits of the treatment, I felt confident I was making the right decision.

The stability of the dentures is just great and I can happily go to any restaurant without thinking about what food I can eat, which I have not been able to.

TERRY’S STORY

I’m a confident guy, you know, nothing really keeps me down – even when things are not good. But I had nine years of trouble with my teeth and eventually it began to undo my confidence.

I would never have believed it. I’d have a laugh about it, but it really isn’t funny when you have unresolved problems with false teeth.

My dentist eventually referred me to Mr Buchell to see if there was some way of marrying the two. After seeing me, Mr Buchell managed to fit new implants and I was off the fixative. Anytime after that, it was hopeless, but now I can tackle anything. Previously I had never been in contact with an actual denture maker, teeth had always been prescribed through a dentist and the difference for me was incredible. There were five stages on the route to my final prescription and the treatment I received at each point was excellent. My teeth were now beautiful and white and I could eat whatever I wanted, which I never thought I’d be able to chew properly and they’d look real, totally natural. To sum up, there’s nothing I have attempted to do which I cannot now do. There is no problem anymore and socialise without embarrassment?

Helen Morrell with dog Darcey. Picture: Professional Images

Doreen’s story

I have so much to thank Mr Buchell for... his advice and wonderful treatment.

I had a history of problems with my own teeth and received a treatment in hospital. The implants I was advised to consider have been wonderful, but I found it a difficult decision to make. I hadn’t heard of the procedure for dentures, but now I am so pleased with my new teeth that an undertaking was unnecessary.

They are absolutely perfect and a gladiator in my mouth. I now boast them around the house and to the security of the denture is simply unbelievable, it really has changed my life.

I now can as we craft your teeth from start to finish in our practice.

The responsibility of enhancing an individual smile with natural looking false teeth is not taken lightly and before we have our work seen so eagerly as we strive to remain on the very cusp of a denture revolution. ‘Natural’ is our hallmark, as we bring some 20 years’ experience to create not only a unique smile, but functional dentures too.

For our implants work we exclusively use implant dentist Jonathan Pugh based in Wolverhampton. We have a professional relationship with him and are extremely proud of his work. Anytime after that, it was hopeless, but now I can tackle anything. Previously I had never been in contact with an actual denture maker, teeth had always been prescribed through a dentist and the difference for me was incredible. There were five stages on the route to my final prescription and the treatment I received at each point was excellent. My teeth were now beautiful and white and I could eat whatever I wanted, which I never thought I’d be able to chew properly and they’d look real, totally natural. To sum up, there’s nothing I have attempted to do which I cannot now do. There is no problem anymore and socialise without embarrassment?

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A £5 MILLION extension at a Dudley college is shooting upwards rapidly, with the steel structure now in place.

Contractors have been working to create a new teaching block at Halesowen College. Animal care science and IT students will be based within the multi-million pound block.

Students on animal care courses will also be able to use an outside courtyard which will be created as part of the plans.

A roofing science garden forms part of the development by Greewide Construction on Whittingham Road, Halesowen.

It is part of a £20 million redevelopment scheme planned for the college to update the Whittingham Road campus.

Standards

Halesowen College principal Keith Ratte said: “The new building is starting to take shape and it is very exciting.

“New and existing students will benefit from this brand new block which will further enhance our teaching facilities and provide excellent equipment, incorporating the latest technology for our students.

“There are very popular subjects and we also have a new veterinary nursing course starting in September.

“Mr Ratte added: “The new block is being funded by the college which shows the strength of investment in our future and our students’ future.”

Phase one of the new look college was completed in September 2009.

THOUSANDS of pounds in council funding is to be set aside to maintain Halesowen’s historic Old Hall.

Sandwell Council has diverted £17.500 to cover renovations at the building, which dates back to the Tudor era.

The money will come from the author- ity’s property maintenance account.

Protect

Councillor Ann Shackleton, Sandwell’s culture and leisure boss, said: “I have met with the Friends of the Hall and they were over the moon.”

Old Hall is not listed, but she promised to look at options to protect its history.

The Victorian stable block at Old Hall, in Halesowen Road, Cradley Heath, could be put up for sale in a bid to protect the building.

“The block, which has lain empty for decades, includes four stable, tack rooms, coach house, and history. The Victorian stable block at Old Hall, in Halesowen Road, Cradley Heath, could be put up for sale in a bid to protect the building.

“A legitimite question should be whether it will ever fall back to the low levels seen in the thriving pre-recession times.”

Jason Carpenter, left, Greewide site manager John Logan, Jan Brennan, Jacqueline Carman, Jim Dalton, college estate director

One in five town centre shops now lie abandoned

ONK in five shops in the West Midlands are now vacant, and retail experts warn that some high streets will never return to their pre-recession days.

Town centre vacancy rates nationally rose from 12 per cent at the end of 2009 to 14.5 per cent at the end of 2010, according to the Local Data Company. In the West Midlands the overall figure is 16 per cent, with up to 25 per cent in worst-hit areas.

Figures from October-January show 17 per cent of units vacant in Walsall, 20 per cent in Sandwell, 21 per cent in Dudley, 22 per cent in Wednesbury, 23 per cent in Wolverhampton, 24 per cent in Walsall, 25 per cent in Hereford, 27 per cent in Sandwell, 28 per cent in Dudley, 30 per cent in Solihull, 31 per cent in Wolverhampton, 32 per cent in Sandwell, 33 per cent in Dudley, 34 per cent in Solihull, 35 per cent in Walsall, and 36 per cent in Walsall.

Dudley Council deputy leader Les Jones said: “Obviously the recession has affected all sorts of retail businesses everywhere.”

LD C director Matthew Hopkinson said: “It is a problem nationwide.”

Dudley’s Old Hall is not listed, but she promised to look at options to protect its history.

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Easter stable block at Sandwell

The Money will come from the authority’s property maintenance account.

26/2/11

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Hats off to restoration of church

Workers and residents celebrate repairs starting on St John’s Church, Dudley

IT WAS cheers all round as workers started the painstaking process of restoring a landmark Dudley church.

The first stage of a project to transform and reopen St John’s Church, in Kates Hill, Dudley, started last week. Costs for the works could stretch to £1 million.

A preservation society, formed to try and reopen the church which shut in 2002 due to safety fears, has helped raise about £31,000 towards the first phase of work.

Contractors Elcock and Wood began the first phase by installing a lightning conductor to the roof and clearing debris from the drains around the Grade II listed building.

The church in St John’s Road roof will then be waterproofed.

Plans are also being drawn up to restore the lychgate entrance to the church, where Black Country boxing legend William Perry – the Tipton Slasher – is buried.

Society chairman Deb Brownlee said: “We really needed to get to this point because people had been so generous.”

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Values

In Parliament Mr Austin called for a debate on what he described as an “important” comment made by Mr Cameron.

The Dudley North MP said it was crucial that people of all backgrounds and cultures showed they were part of British society.

“Mr Cameron said that we need a stronger national identity to stop people turning to extremism – and an end to “state multiculturalism” encouraging different communities to live separate lives.

“This, he said, is based on the contribu tion that people are prepared to make – whether they want to work hard, play by the rules, pay their way, whether they are prepared to speak English, because that is the only way to play a full role in British society, and their commitment to the great British values of democracy, equality, freedom, fairness and tolerance.”

Labour’s shadow justice secretary Sadiq Khan accused Mr Cameron of effectively “writing propaganda for the EDL”.

Thug knocks woman over and steals her handbag

A WOMAN was knocked over by a thug who snatched her bag as she walked through Dudley town centre.

The 40-year-old was walking along Nelson Road when a man came up behind her and grabbed her handbag from her shoulder, causing her to fall to the ground.

He then ran off towards Wolverhampton Road with the bag, which contained around £80 in cash.

Police are appealing for anyone with information to call 0345 113 5000.

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School learning curve ready to be approved

£64,000 a bonanza for cyclists

FUNDING cyclists in Dudley are set to benefit from a £64,000 grant from the Department of Transport. The cash has been handed to Dudley Council in a run-cycle-ability project which teaches children the skills and confidence needed to ride safely on today’s roads.

The road safety team can now offer 1,000 extra places on the course, aimed at school pupils aged nine to 12.

The course can cater for everyone from a beginner through to an experienced cyclist hoping to gain advanced skills.

Last year more than 1,000 pupils were trained by a team of instructors.

Schools or individuals that would like to offer the cycle training should contact Chris Gregory on 01384 815432.

Councillor Angus Adam with Jennifer Condlyffe-Fisher and Lauren Paul, both 10

RENEWED plans for a three-storey teaching block and dining hall at a Dudley school have been backed by council planners.

Hillcrest School and Community College, in Netherton, wants to proceed with the development on land next to the playing fields.

The proposals have been recommended for approval by Dudley Council’s development control committee.

The plans are a modified version of a previous application which was given the nod in 2008. The school is now looking to increase its yearly intake from 180 pupils to 210.

Sunscreen

The new block will be built with a curved floor plan and will also include offices and staff room alongside the classroom.

The plans will also see a two-storey dining room built on part of the existing car park. This too will be built in a contemporary style in a square shape but with an elongated point at one end.

Both buildings at the Rimme Lane school will also contain a freestanding sun screen, which will be built following the revised plans.

The existing dining room dates from 1958 when the school was built and only caters for 150 pupils.

It means the main hall also has to be used at lunch times as up to 400 pupils could be on one sitting.

Rule-change on use of festive decoration

CHARITIES wishing to use Sandwell Council’s Christmas decorations will have to apply in writing and provide receipts.

Application will in future have to say what the money they raise will go towards, which council property they wish to use, and nominate the period of fundraising.

Charnites will have to confirm that they are willing to be associated with community groups.

Councillor Mary Docker, secretary of Blackheath Hillcrest School and Community College, which is applying to use the council’s Christmas tree.

Councillors Angus Adams and instructor Chris Gregory with Jennifer Condlyffe-Fisher and Lauren Paul, both 10

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Closing date: Thursday, March 3.

Usual rules apply. Editor’s decision is final.

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A DUDLEY man died of a drug overdose after drinking a large amount of alcohol, an inquest heard.

Christopher Byrne, aged 30, of Stourbridge Road, collapsed at the home of a friend last March and was later found to have stopped breathing. Paramedics were called to Claverley Court. Varaages Prospect, Dudley, but could not save him.

Black Country Coroner Robin Balmain recorded a verdict of accidental death at last week’s inquest held at Dudley Coroner’s Court.

Mr Byrne had met up with three friends and had gone to the Claverley Court flat where crack cocaine and heroin were smoked.

He later collapsed and his friend believed he just needed to sleep off the effect of drugs and alcohol. Later they found his lips had turned blue and he had stopped breathing.

**Thieves caught loading metal girders onto lorry**

TWO THIEVES were caught red-handed stealing £300 of metal girders from a disused industrial site in Tipton.

Mark Guest and Frank Highton claimed to be working when police spotted them loading the items onto a lorry. Checks revealed they were not meant to be there.

At Wolverhampton Crown Court Guest, aged 45, of Hamilton Road, and Highton, 37, of Jubilee Road, both Tipton, both admitted burglary. Each was given a 12-month community order and told to pay £220 costs. The offence took place in September last year.

**Overdose man found dead by friend at flat**

BROTHERS Dave and Stuart Antcliff will be paying tribute to their late father while raising money for charity by competing in a Dudley running challenge.

The pair will don their running kit to take part in the five-mile Action Heart run on Sunday, February 27 which starts and finishes at Dudley’s Russells Hall Hospital.

They are raising money in memory of their father John who died of a heart attack in January, aged 69.

To help them in their fundraising quest they have also enlisted their aunt, John’s sister, Pamela Cashmore, aged 70, who will also be running.

Dave, aged 38, of Gornal, works as a firefighter at Dudley Fire Station.

Donations to the cause can be left at www.justgiving.com/the-nose-bros

Firefighter Dave Antcliff and brother Stuart, who are to do a charity run in memory of their father John

**THEORY**

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The Lenco Speakerball for iPod is a stylish way to hear your musical collection whilst also keeping your iPod charged and ready to go.

This iPod docking station doesn’t take up a lot of space but delivers powerful sound from its two built-in high fidelity speakers and sub-woofer for punchy bass. It has adjustable bass and treble plus four equalisers.

It supports all iPods and has in and mini-USB connection, comes with remote control, power adapter, mini-USB to USB cable and aux cables. It is available in four colours – black, white, grey and orange.

Speakerball can be bought from www.lencouk.com for £59.99.

LENOVO’S HP-080 Noise Cancelling Headphones are a good value choice for music fans who do not want to be disturbed by extraneous noise - or are thoughtful enough not to want leaking sound to annoy those nearby.

The comfortable snug-fit stereo phones fit over the ear and don’t need power for casual use. However, find yourself in a noisy environment and throw the switch for the battery powered (two AAA batteries) noise cancelling function to kick in. This makes them useful for commuters or those who share busy lounge with TV viewers and console gaming players.

Airplane

For the technically minded, that means noise reduction at just about adequate but an extension would be required for TV viewing or console gaming. It comes with an airplane adapter that’s useful for long haul trips.

The noise canceling headphones are available from www.lencouk.com for £49.99.

**FLEX**

Headset from Radiopaq are an excellent solution for the active music lover who finds that traditional earphones tend to fly off or get in the way during a workout, run or some other vigorous sporting activity.

Flexible lightweight ear hooks enable the user to secure their phones and keep noise out of the way while delivering a decent sound quality and ear fit via three sizes of silicone earphone cushions.

The Flex incorporates a touch-button remote control on the cable to control volume, play, pause and track selection. For users, automatic call cut-in allows calls to be answered hands-free using the built-in mic on the cable remote.

Those who want music on the move can get the innovative Flex for around £24.99, from HMV, Game and online at Amazon.
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DUDLEY CHRONICLE, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24 2011 Page 17
From author to advisor
Jacqueline Wilson with, from left, Haxby Cotrl Primary School pupils Chloe Whitehouse and Suzanne Dear and Ham Dingl Primary School pupils Beth Morgan, Harrisun Martin-Lawes, and Amber Lyndes

Delight as advice bureau grant is spared the axe

STAFF at the Dudley branch of the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) are celebrating after learning that they will not see their funding reduced next year.

While other districts are suffering a 10 per cent cut in funding, Dudley CAB’s core grant will remain intact. The grant funds 90 per cent of the cost of running services at CAB offices in Dudley, Stonebridge, Brierley Hill, and Halesowen.

Dudley CAB is proposing to spend £345,000 on the service in the 2011-12 financial year. Dudley CAB’s chief executive Caroline Dumfries said: ‘We are fortunate to maintain a very positive relationship with Dudley Council and are delighted that we will not be losing a cut in our core grant.’

She said the branch would experience some losses in funding in the form of Legal Aid work and funding for various specific projects, handed out so that the service could cope with the extra influx of people during the recession.

In Sandwell, out of 60 staff, one person was sent letters asking them to consider redundancies.

The CAB was set up by Dudley Council and its core grant is currently 100 per cent funded by the council.

Jacqueline has been a devoted fan when she spent a day at a Black Country school.

Jacqueline has been a regular visitor to the Dudley branches of the Laundered Dudley Children’s Book Group in 1998.

In the evening 290 students, including teachers, parents, librarians and authors, were also questioned Jacqueline.

She always wanted to remain in the world of stories, filling numerous exercise books. She was a journalist in her teens.

The first time they met was in 1981, at the Earl’s High School, Halesowen, to launch Dudley Children’s Book Group.

Mrs Hanslow said: ‘He was diagnosed with cent sure it was sporadic CJD, which affects one person in a million,” said Mrs Hanslow.

She was welcomed back to the Earl’s High School, Halesowen, to launch Dudley Children’s Book Group in 1998.

The best-selling children’s author David Cameron decided not to appeal to the High Court.

TIME: They’ve axed the Future Jobs fund which would have created 200,000 new jobs for young people.

NOT surprisingly youth unemployment has soared under the Conservative-led government.

Young people are having to increase the fees so they can sort qualifications they need.

But as a result of the Council’s lack of management of the economy, five unemployed people are having to find work.

They had no choice. The Council’s lack of management of the economy has seen local youngsters on the dole for four years.

And the outlook for 2011 doesn’t look any better with the Conservatives forecasting that this is not being covered by the VAT increases.

The future of education in the Black Country but this only happens if we can convince the high tech, low carbon industries of the future that we will have the skills and work force they need.

Over the next few years there are going to be major opportunities in low carbon and advanced technology, healthcare, environmental sciences and digital media that will provide hundreds of thousands of well-paid high skilled jobs.

It is crucial that we have this new industrial revolution to bring these jobs to the Black Country. That is why I believe that we need to set ourselves the ambition of achieving the largest rise of education standards anywhere in the country.

To make the most of that the priorities we have to make education and skills our number one priority, not slash the support that enables young people to stay on at college, find a job and get an apprenticeship or go to university.

WHAT: Have David Cameron and Nick Clegg got against young people in Dudley?

First they treble tuition fees and risk putting university out of reach for most school pupils in our town.

Then they scrapped the Educational Maintenance Allowance which helps so many local youngsters stay on at college.

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Very special celebrations for two local residents

Pals keeping me young at 103, declares Jack

DATES with much younger “girlfriends” and weekly outings to the pub with the “lads” are helping to keep Jack Jones young at heart – at the age of 103.

The Stourbridge centenarian has three regular dates but says the top of his list and his “sweetheart” is 59-year-old Adele Cleeton, of Kingswinford, who takes him out to the theatre and restaurants and visits him at least once a week.

He met Adele about eight years ago when she was visiting her parents, who used to live near Jack.

“She’s my sweetheart and very special to me – it’s a bit too late for me to propose but I would if I was a few years younger,” said Jack.

“We’re going to see Joseph at the Grand Theatre in Wolverhampton soon.”

Adèle said: “Jack is the nicest young man that I know and we have a lovely, platonic relationship.”

Jack, who lives off Eagle Street, Stourbridge, also goes out with a 76-year-old from Brierley Hill, who recently took him to the cinema in Merry Hill, and a 72-year-old from Hagley who visits him twice a week and takes him on drives.

Pint

“The young friends I’ve got give me an incentive to keep going,” he said. Jack popped into his favourite pub, The Greyhound, in Norton Road, Halesowen, for his weekly free pint of ale on Wednesday, along with his “chauffeur”, 90-year-old Harold Haywood, and “young” friend Howard Cartwright, 85.

Staff and customers at The Greyhound put out banners and a cake to mark his latest birthday – which he reached on Saturday, February 12.

The pub awarded him a free pint of bitter once a week for life two years ago – and the West Bromwich Albion fans still claim it every Wednesday.

Jack and Harold, of Farmcroft Road, Wollensale, Stourbridge, worked together as long distance lorry drivers for 46 years, first at Taylor and later at the Bluebird with his chauffeur, and then travelled all over the country working. He did not stop driving until he was aged 96.

He met his wife, Winn, in 1939 and had been married almost 50 years when she died.

The G reyhound put out

Sugary tea’s the sweet secret of Florence, 103

DOUBLE celebrations were held last week when Florence Reeve became a great grandmother for the third time – on her 103rd birthday.

Her birthday, on Valentine’s Day, was even more special with the birth of great-grandson Yusufa in Paris that morning.

Mrs Reeve’s day started with morning coffee, with family at the Queen’s Hotel, Balsall Common. In the afternoon a party with entertainment was held at Beach House residential home, in Holy Cross Lane, Balsall Common, where she has lived for the last six years.

The Stourbridge branch of Waitrose provided an extra surprise with flowers, champagne and a card along with the birthday cake ordered from the store. Her two daughters, Carol, aged 72, and Susan, 63, together with 65-year-old son John, were delighted by the gesture.

Daughter Carol Swanpole said: “Everyone shared the delicious cake which had a token four candles for Florence to blow out – there wasn’t really room!”

Production

Mrs Reeve also has three grandchildren and two step-grandchildren. She was born in Coventry in February 14, 1909 – the same year the first car was put into production by American Henry Ford.

Mrs Reeve worked as a weaver and embroiderer for firms in the Midlands.

She married Phillip in 1934. The couple moved to Worcestershire in 1950, where they both enjoyed walking and modern sequence dancing.

After her husband died in 1964, Florence moved to Wenvoe, near Colemanster, before transferring to Beach House.

Mrs Reeve puts her age down to keeping countess bravely with three scopes of sugar Mrs Swanpole said: “The family joke that she is preserved in syrup like a tinned peach!”

“Florence had not had an easy life, for example she lived through the blitz in Coventry. But this has led to great spirit and determination.”

Very special celebrations for two local residents

Jack and his late wife Winn back in 1956

Jack and Jones with his ‘sweetheart’, 59-year-old Adele Cleeton

Jack Jones in the 1940s

Jack, aged 103, celebrates his special birthday

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For a great night’s sleep
Potatoes allow home-grown for all

HOME-GROWN potatoes are enjoyed by most gardeners nowadays as you can buy half a dozen tubers at a time and you don’t need allotment space in which to grow them. Potatoes grow quite happily in large pots or Miracle-Gro Potato gro-sacs placed on a sunny patio or balcony.

Buy your favourite varieties of seed potatoes from your local garden centre early before they sell out. Popular early varieties include Pentland Javelin, Rocket or Duke of York. Always remove potato tubers from the netting bag they have been supplied in immediately.

If you allow the shoots to grow through the netting they will be snapped off as soon as the bag is opened. When you get your purchase home, set the tubers out in egg boxes or the bottom of a seed tray and keep them somewhere in good light that is cool and frost-free. This technique, called chitting, will encourage the potatoes to produce sturdy shoots ready for planting out later. It’s not too early to sow seeds of tomatoes, especially those for growing in a greenhouse or conservatory. While you will be able to buy seedling plants of common varieties such as Alicante and Moneymaker from your garden centre in April, it is much more difficult to find ready-grown plants of unusual varieties such as Incas and Roma (early-opening plum-shaped continental variety) or Baudelet and Brandywine (giant ‘beefsteak’ variety). These are the types to sow yourself, so you have the plants you need to tantalise your family’s tastebuds.

For great results sow in Miracle-Gro Your Own Seed & Cutting Compost and keep in warm conditions on a window sill so that they don’t grow too leggy after germination.

Cover spring cabbages with fleece to encourage new growth and to protect them from pigeon damage.

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**How to cut costs with a little effort**

Cold weather means people turning up the central heating dial in a bid to stay warm. But be warned, keeping the heating on 24/7 is not the answer.

Two years ago it was predicted to cost the nation £150 million per day to run their central heating on constant. Since then prices have continued to soar at an ever-steeper trajectory.

PH Jones, which has been providing homes throughout the UK with central heating solutions for more than 45 years, shares its top tips to keeping your home warm this winter without breaking the bank.

1. **Get your temperatures right** – the optimum temperature for your living room is 21ºC, 18ºC for bedrooms and 16ºC for halls. The recommended temperature for the hot water cylinder thermostat is 65ºC.
2. **Keep out the draughts** – look for simple ways to keep the heat in: close doors, install draught excluders, close the awning of your windows and don’t forget to draw the curtains.
3. **Use your thermostats wisely** – small adjustments can make a big difference when it comes to heating. You can save up to 10 per cent on your heating bill by just turning your thermostat down by 1ºC.
4. **Don’t be a blocker** – cluttering your radiator with items such as all clothes will significantly reduce the amount of heat they give out, make sure there is plenty of space around your radiators for the hot air to circulate.
5. **Free survey** – if you are not using a room then don’t heat it, turn off radiators in rooms which are empty.
6. **Love your boiler** – regular servicing of your boiler will ensure it’s working at its most efficient level all year round. If it’s been more than 12 months since the last service then don’t forget to book one in.
7. **Embrace new technologies** – Smart meters are new digital devices which provide remote meter readings automatically to energy suppliers. Using a smart meter means you can track your energy consumption on a day-to-day basis. The Department for Energy and Climate Change has outlined plans to ensure every home in the UK has a smart meter by 2020 and its predicted the installation of smart meters will save consumers up to £3.6 billion over the next 20 years.

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Flawless display on show

Britain’s Got Talent finalists flawlessly bring their dazzling dance skills to Wolverhampton Civic Hall on Friday, March 4. The 10-man troupe, pictured right, from London present their Chasing The Dream spectacular, which showcases their talents ranging from street dance and hip hop to jazz and modern interpretation.

Less acrobatic than the other big dance act Diversity they are, ironically, more diverse in the genres they represent and so not less impressive with dynamic styles performed with precision to a funky soundtrack.

Tickets are priced £19.50, available on 0870 320 7000 or online at www.wolvescivic.co.uk

Brit winner Cee Lo Green ready for Brum date

Soul man Cee Lo Green, who won the international male solo artist award at the Brits, performs his rescheduled gig at Birmingham’s O2 Academy on March 29. The American had a massive hit with Forget You (and its exploitative stream of original version) and his album The Lady Killer.

Other gigs to watch out for: re-uniited Boyzone at the LG Arena in May; Welsh rockers Manic Street Preachers play Worthing’s O2 Academy on March 28; and W T L P, the UK’s widest range of hardcore R18 DVD’s including SCORE, Mark Dorcel, Harmony.

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Song and dance at their best in shows

Spring is in the air at Birmingham Hippodrome where the Birmingham Royal Ballet perform Frederick Ashton's sharply wicked social satire with a dramatic finale. The evening's initial goodwill and endless small talk only serve to create a rising tension which eventually snaps. The region's big musical blockbuster is The Sound of Music, with Jason Donovan and Verty Rushworth, which opened as Alhambra's Regent Theatre in the Potters until March 5. Disney on ice present DisneyAdventures at the LG Arena in the NBC series with last performances on Sunday.

Keith Jack plays Joseph

Keith charmed audiences week after week with his vocal talents, finally coming in a close second to Lee Mead. He went on to play the Narrator in the UK tour of Joseph and returns for the 2011 tour in the lead role. The Scottish singer and actor has appeared as Aladdin at the King's Theatre Glasgow, the title role in Peter Pan in Aberdeen and created the lead role of Charlie in the new musical Only the Brave, which premiered at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. He has released two albums. His debut called This Time went into the Top 40. His most recent album All Evening at the Musicals was released in February 2011.

He will be wearing the coat of many colours at the Grand for six days, Wild At Heart actress Dawn Steele leads an all-star cast in Agatha Christie's Verdict, which had its first performance at the Grand more than 50 years ago, at the Lichfield Street Theatre in Saturday night. Rachel Kavanagh directs Lucy Caldwell's Notes To Future Self, about the daughter of a 'New Age' globetrotter who return to Birmingham, which gets its premiere at the Mac on Thursday, March 3, and runs to March 12 before touring. Dudley's most famous son, comedian Lenny Henry will be bringing his musical memories from Cradla to Rave to Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre on Monday and will be back in the area for a gig at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on March 10.

Other comedy highlights include musical surrealism from Brewery Griffin on Tuesday at the Arena Theatre in Wolverhampton. Comedian Sarah Millican has sold out her Cheltenham dates at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre. Also at the Wulfrun Hall in Wolverhampton on March 9; and Craig Campbell has sold out his Blade Rooms gig in Wolverhampton tomorrow. The region's big musical blockbuster is The Sound of Music, which opened as Alhambra's Regent Theatre in the Potters until March 5. Disney on ice present DisneyAdventures at the LG Arena in the NBC series this week with last performances on Sunday.

La Fille mal gardee – Michael O'Hare as Widow Simone with artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet. Photograph Bill Cooper

La Fille mal gardee is a popular finalist in the hit BBC series Night at the Theatre, on Tuesday and audiences will undoubtedly recognize the young man in the leading role.

Theatre, on Tuesday and audiences will undoubtedly recognize the young man in the leading role. The play was produced to find a leading man for Andrew Lloyd Webber's Joseph revival in the West End production. Young Glaswegian Keith Jack was one of the most popular finalists in the hit BBC series As the Country for the first time, as he tells LEON BURkowski via a dodgy mobile line "They were in a shop that got flooded. They're shrewd but they're all right," he says.

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DUDLEY CHRONICLE, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24 2011 Page 27

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DUDLEY CHRONICLE, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24 2011 Page 31
COMEDY IS NOT BLACK AND WHITE FOR JIM AND MATT

The controversial comedian Jim Davidson has been accused of being racist, sexist and even anti-disabled but he will be taking the accusations head on in Wolverhampton this spring.
The 55-year-old East End comic has been to Wolverhampton many times, he married (and then divorced) a Wolverhampton girl, fourth wife Tracy Hilton.
But this time instead of a comedy gig, the Civic Hall, he will be treating the locals at the Grand Theatre, starring in a play he wrote himself which looks at the serious side of comedy.
The comic has four ex-wives and several children to support, and who was nearly banished by an annoying watering tax bill, is challenging audiences to examine what makes them laugh in Stand Ups And Be Counted at the Grand from April 6 for a week.
Written during Davidson’s self-imposed exile in Dubai, he will be performing stand-up comedy and looking for lots of laughs.
However, it will not be as Jim but in character as washed-up old comic Spike Pearce, a character so bonkers and bigoted that he makes Davidson look like Edible Tiz.

Insurance
“The fact that he had 100 people downstairs while I had 2,000 upstairs, that’s going to change one day. He’s going to become a major player,” says Jim. “He’s the nearest thing to a stand-up comic that I’ve seen in years.”

Unlikely partners in laughter tell LEON BURAKOWSKI how they developed mutual respect

Every time a James Bond film is released, the world is left in suspense. What will be the plot? What will be the twist? What will be the outcome?

But for once, the suspense is real for Bond fans. The latest film, “No Time to Die”, has been released and it is set to be one of the biggest blockbusters of the year.

The film follows Bond (Daniel Craig), who has retired from active duty after a tragic event in Mexico. He is now living a peaceful life in the Bahamas. However, his past catches up with him when an old friend from his MI6 days asks him to help track down a dangerous organization.

Bond agrees and finds himself caught up in a dangerous web of espionage and action. As he delves deeper into the organization, he realizes that the threat is bigger than he thought.

The film is directed by Cary Joji Fukunaga and stars a cast including Rami Malek, Naomie Harris, and Lashana Lynch.

It is filled with action-packed scenes, including a thrilling car chase, an intense fight scene, and a heart-pounding motorcycle chase.

But the film is not just about the action. It also shows the human side of Bond, something that has been missing in previous films.

The film has received mixed reviews. Some critics praised the performances and the action scenes, while others felt that the film dragged on too long.

But one thing is for sure, “No Time to Die” is bound to be one of the must-see films of the year. Whether you’re a James Bond fan or just a movie-lover, this film is not to be missed.
Family home with a private rear garden

Transformed by the current vendors, number 25 Ward Grove in Lanesfield, just off Birmingham New Road, is an exceptionally well presented, two bedroomed semi and is on the market with Taylor estate agent for offers in the region of £116,450.

New to the market this month, the house includes gas central heating and uPVC double glazed windows and doors throughout.

Hedges

The bower was also recently replaced and is still covered by a manufacturer’s warranty.

Approach is via a private driveway with off-road parking for two vehicles, a car port and lawns with path leading to the front door. Inside the hallway, stairs lead to the first floor and doors leading to the front door.

Once upstairs, the two bedroomed measure 12ft 1in x 12ft 1in and 12ft x 9ft 5in respectively and are located to the front and rear.

In the master bedroom there are fitted wardrobes and both bedrooms include a double-glazed window and radiator. To the rear, the bathroom has been reappointed to include a stylish white suite with shower, screen and tiled floor.

Located to the front of the house, the lounge measures 14ft x 12ft and includes a large bay window, twin recessed archways with wall lights, feature fireplace with flame-effect gas fire and exposed ceiling beams.

The open plan kitchen dining area is spacious with patio-door opening to the rear garden and has been fitted with a range of fitted cupboards and a wine rack. There are also integrated appliances including a four-ring gas hob, electric oven with hood and extractor, display shelving and stainless steel inset sink.

Once upstairs, the two bedrooms measure 12ft 1in x 12ft 1in and 12ft x 9ft 5in respectively and are located to the front and rear.

In the master bedroom there are fitted wardrobes and both bedrooms include a double-glazed window and radiator. To the rear, the bathroom has been reappointed to include a stylish white suite with shower, screen and tiled floor.

Call Taylors on 01902 880888 to arrange a viewing of this well-presented two-bed semi with spacious garden and private parking.

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Guide Price:
£35,000 - £39,000

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GORDON CLOSE

- Superior detached home in a prime location in Gornal Wood
- Spacious, lounge and formal dining room
- Good sized breakfast kitchen, utility room
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- Gas central heating
- Double garage
- Block paved driveway with parking for 4+ vehicles

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £320,000

WOODSETTON

SUPER WAY

- A luxuriously appointed detached family home
- Quiet cul-de-sac location
- Fully enhanced and upgraded by current owners
- Modern good size breakfast kitchen
- Dining room and conservatory
- Four bedrooms with en-suite to master
- South facing rear garden
- Garage

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £240,000

BARNES MEADOW PLACE

- An ideal family home with lots of living space
- Two reception rooms
- Breakfast kitchen with utility
- Two double bedrooms, two with en-suites
- Garage with block paved driveway to the front
- Beautifully presented private rear garden

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £320,000

HARLYN CLOSE, BIDGEFIELDS

- An exceptionally appointed modern four bed detached
- Lounge
- 2nd reception room
- Conservatory
- Downstairs WC
- Conversation stairs & Family bathroom
- Master bedroom with en-suite
- Garage
- Front garden, sunny position

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £225,000

BENBECK GROVE

- A four bedroom detached family home, cut-de-sac location
- Extremely well presented
- Two reception rooms
- Medium kitchen, Utility
- Downstairs WC
- Family bathroom
- Double glazed, Gas central heating
- Garage and block paved driveway
- Fully enhanced and upgraded

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £215,000

ANTWIRE WAY

- Beautiful four bedroom detached bungalow for Millers Bank Primary school
- Lounge and separate dining room
- Kitchen & Utility room
- Three bedrooms, two with en-suite
- Rear of garage converted into garage
- Driveway parking and good sized rear gardens

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £195,000

WOODSETTON, DUDLEY

BIRMINGHAM NEW ROAD

- A traditional detached property on a good sized plot
- Two reception rooms and extended kitchen
- Downstairs shower room
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- Substantial rear garden
- Garage and driveway parking for several vehicles

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £150,000

DUNBURY AVENUE

- A most desirable semi-detached in the popular residential area
- Two reception rooms
- Modern kitchen
- Three bedrooms
- Garage and off road parking
- Varying likely recommended

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £150,000

HIGH PARK CRESCENT

- A traditional semi-detached of charm and character
- Impressive frontage height, full of character
- Modern fitted kitchen, open plan dining room
- Large lounge
- Three good size bedrooms
- Garage and driveway parking
- No upward chain

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £150,000

WOODCROFT AVENUE

- An exceptionally well presented detached bungalow
- Extended downstairs accommodation
- Two reception rooms
- Modern kitchen, Utility
- Overstairs cloakroom
- Upstairs double glazed, gas central heating
- Immaculately maintained large rear garden
- Fully enhanced
- Entrance hallway
- No upward chain

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £175,000

NORTHWAY

- A well maintained 3 bed semi-detached dormer bungalow
- Extended lounge with impressive views
- Lounge, kitchen, shower room
- Two bedrooms on ground floor
- Spacious first floor bedroom, potential for en-suite
- Three allocated parking spaces
- No upward chain

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £150,000

PINES ROAD

- A delightful cottage in a quiet backwater just off High Street
- Lounge, kitchen, dinner room
- Three bedrooms
- Converted garage
- Large modern bathroom
- Two comfortable bedrooms, potential for study
- Upstairs double glazed and Gas central heating
- Block paved driveway

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £115,000

PAGET CLOSE

- An extremely well presented semi-detached in a quiet cul-de-sac location
- Generous sized accommodation
- Lounge, kitchen and conservatory
- Three bedrooms, fitted wardrobes in bedroom one
- Upstairs double glazing, gas central heating
- Block paved driveway and garage

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £155,000

NEVEY STREET

- Individually designed detached house located in beautifully maintained road
- Two reception rooms
- Modern kitchen
- Three bedrooms
- Bathrooms with corner bath
- Covered garden
- Garage

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £155,000

THE ALLEY

- A traditional three bedroomed semi-detached in a quiet cul-de-sac location
- Open plan lounge
- Double bedroom with fitted wardrobes
- Upstairs double glazing and gas central heating
- Large rear garden
- Two allocated parking spaces
- No upward chain

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £155,000

LOMOND ROAD, NORTHWAY

- A deceivingly spacious mid town house
- Beautifully presented throughout
- Large lounge
- Open plan modern kitchen & dining area
- Conservatory
- Three bedrooms
- Two allocated parking spaces
- No upward chain

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £135,000

LOW GORDON, COSELEY

- A modern semi-detached, quiet cul-de-sac location
- Lounge, modern dining kitchen
- Conservatory
- Two double bedrooms
- Modern bathroom
- Gas central heating, double glazing
- Off road parking for 2/3 cars

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £120,000

RICHARDSON DRIVE

- A modern detached family home in a good location on the end of a cul-de-sac
- Three bedrooms
- Open plan lounge and modern kitchen
- Upstairs double glazing and gas central heating
- Three allocated parking spaces
- No upward chain

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £115,000

CENTRAL DRIVE

- A spacious semi detached traditional semi-detached
- Conveniently located for major road and rail links
- Large lounge and dining kitchen
- Upstairs double glazed & gas central heating
- Large rear garden
- Two allocated parking spaces
- No upward chain

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £115,000

BROOKDALE

- Substantial sized three bed semi
- Situated on a large corner plot beyond delightful front gardens
- Enclosed kitchen & bathrooms
- Dining area
- Lounge
- Gas central heating
- Part double glazed
- Garage

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £115,000

KINGS ROAD

- A beautifully presented three bed semi-detached bungalow in a popular area close to local amenities
- Restored to a high standard with a contemporary theme
- Two reception rooms
- New kitchen and bathrooms
- Good sized rear garden
- Gas central heating
- Rear garden

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £115,000

BROOKDALE

- A semi detached in a popular location
- Lounge and dining room/2nd bedroom
- Kitchen, rear lobby, downstairs wcs
- Three good sized bedrooms
- Beautifully presented throughout
- Rear garden

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £105,000

LOW GORDON, COSELEY

- A spacious semi detached on a quiet road
- Lounge
- Dining room
- Kitchen
- Three bedrooms
- Three bathrooms
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Off road parking
- No upward chain

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £105,000

RIDGEWAY LANE

- A one bedroom ground floor flat close to the Village centre
- Lounge and bedroom
- Walking distance to local shops, pub and train station
- Upstairs double glazed windows
- Gas central heating
- Fully refurbished

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £45,000

DEAN AVENUE

- A good sized first floor flat, close to all local amenities
- Somes updating required to bring the property to its full potential
- Lounge, kitchen, shower room
- Two bedrooms
- Ground floor flat
- No chain

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £45,000

ABBEY STREET

- Small shop unit in centre of Gornal village
- Approximate 3 bays
- Secure roller shutter
- Available immediately

£250 PDM
FOXTAILS DRIVE
An individual detached property, comprises entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, bathroom, garden to the rear, double glazing as specified, gas central heating. Viewing highly recommended.

DUDELEY £215,000

CRABOURNE ROAD
A well presented detached property, accommodation comprises entrance hall, lounge, kitchen/diner, two further bedrooms, bathroom, garden to the rear.

COSELEY £174,950

PORTLAND PLACE
An immaculately presented, refurbished bungalow. Accommodation briefly comprises. entrance hall, lounge, bedroom one, bedroom two, kitchen, bathroom. Viewing highly recommended.

COSELEY £150,000

LONDON HEIGHTS
A newly improved and extended detached property, accommodation comprises entrance hall, living room, study, kitchen, first floor landing having three bedrooms and bathroom, kitchen/diner, double glazing as specified, gas central heating, viewing highly recommended.

COSELEY £148,000

UPPER ETTINGSHALL ROAD
A detached bungalow, accommodation comprises lounge, kitchen, conservatory, two bedrooms and bathroom, off-road parking, garden to the rear, double glazing as specified, gas central heating. Viewing highly recommended.

DUDLEY £139,950

BYRON CRESCENT
A semi detached property, in cul-de-sac location, accommodation comprises entrance hall, living room, kitchen, two further bedrooms and bathroom, double glazing as specified, gas central heating. No upward chain.

WOODSETTON £120,000

NEWEY STREET
An individual detached property, comprises entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom, garden to the rear.

DUDELEY £193,950

CROWN CLOSE
A semi detached property, accommodation comprises entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, first floor landing having three bedrooms and bathroom, driveway, garage, garden to the front and rear, double glazing as specified, gas central heating. No upward chain.

SEDLEY £124,950

MAGDALEN CLOSE
An individual detached property in cul-de-sac location, accommodation comprises entrance hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, first floor having three bedrooms and bathroom, double glazing as specified, gas central heating. No upward chain.

DUDLEY £126,000

COLSYLL GARDENS
An immaculately presented semi detached property, accommodation comprises entrance hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom, garden to the rear, double glazing as specified, gas central heating. No upward chain.

DUDLEY £110,000

KINGS ROAD
A traditional four bedroom and lounge property, accommodation comprises entrance hall, living room, lounge, fitted kitchen/diner, conservatory, first floor having three bedrooms and bathroom, double glazing as specified, gas central heating. Viewing highly recommended.

WOODSETTON £94,950

LOWER GORMAL
An extended semi detached property, accommodation comprises entrance hallway, open plan lounge, fitted kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom. Further benefits in- cluding having three bedrooms and two bathrooms.

DUDLEY £113,950

UPPER GORNAL
A traditional four bedroom property, accommodation comprises entrance hall, living room, lounge, fitted kitchen, two further bedrooms, bathroom. Further benefits including having three bedrooms and two bathrooms.

DUDLEY £110,000

LOWER GORMAL
A traditional semi detached property, comprises entrance hall, living room, fitted kitchen, two further bedrooms, bathroom.

DUDLEY £109,000

LOWER GORMAL
A semi detached house with a drive and garage.

DUDLEY £101,950

HOLLY HALL
A semi detached house on a good size plot near to the town centre. Accommodation comprises entrance hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, first floor landing having three bedrooms and bathroom.

NETHERTON £180,000

PARK VIEW, PROSPECT ROW
A development of luxury 2 bed, 2 bath flats.

DUDLEY £179,950

STICKLEY LANE
A semi detached property backing onto open countryside, accommodation comprises entrance hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, first floor having two bedrooms and bathroom, double glazing as specified, gas central heating.

DUDLEY £119,950

BROOKDALE
A semi detached property, accommodation comprises entrance hall, living room, fitted kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, garden to the front and rear, double glazing as specified, gas central heating.

DUDLEY £155,000

BRADFORD ROAD
A semi detached property, set on corner plot, accommodation comprises entrance hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, garden to the front and rear, double glazing as specified, gas central heating.

DUDLEY £145,000

SALTWELLS ROAD
A semi detached house on a large plot near to the town centre.

DUDLEY £139,950

POWS AVENUE
A traditional three bedroom property, accommodation comprises entrance hall, living room, fitted kitchen.

Tipton £92,000

DOUGHTY CLOSE
A semi detached property, entrance hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, garage.

DUDLEY £84,950

BLUEBELL ROAD
A semi detached property, accommodation comprises entrance hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom, two bedrooms, double glazing as specified, gas central heating.

Tipton £95,000

KINGFISHER WAY
A modern end terraced house, accommodation comprises entrance hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom, garage.

DUDLEY £139,950

PUBLIC NOTICE
Connells are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of £139,950 for 74 Hinley Avenue, Dudley. Any interested parties should contact Connells, 4 & 5 Stone Street, Dudley DY1 1HB before exchange of contracts.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Connells are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of £139,950 for 74 Hinley Avenue, Dudley. Any interested parties should contact Connells, 4 & 5 Stone Street, Dudley DY1 1HB before exchange of contracts.

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**KINGSWINFORD**

Woodmans Cottage 186 Mount Pleasant

This charming Grade II listed cottage makes an ideal starter home or investment. The property comprises ground floor entrance hall, reception room, dining room, kitchen, utility room, and cloakroom. On the first floor, there are three generous bedrooms and a family bathroom. The cottage is well-placed for local amenities and offerspotential for modernisation.

**KINGSWINFORD**

*Corina*, 6a Broad Street

A modern first floor apartment with a southerly aspect, this flat benefits from a spacious open plan living area, two double bedrooms, and a contemporary bathroom. Situated in a quiet and convenient location, this property is ideal for professionals or investment purposes.

**BRIERLEY HILL**

84-86 High Street

This traditional two-bedroom mid terrace property is located in the heart of Brierley Hill. The property features a front entrance hall, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, and rear garden. With gas central heating and double glazing, this property is well-maintained and requires minimal improvement.

**HALESOWEN**

21 Hoplodge Road

This three-bedroom semi-detached house is situated in the popular area of Halesowen. The property offers a modern kitchen, dining area, spacious lounge, and rear garden. The house benefits from gas central heating and double glazing, making it an attractive investment opportunity.

**SEDGLEY**

85 High Street

A well-presented three-bedroom semi-detached house, this property is located near local amenities and transport links. The property features a modern kitchen, living room, dining room, and rear garden. With gas central heating and double glazing, this house is ready for immediate occupation.

**STOURBRIDGE**

2, 8 & 10 Chaddesley Road

A collection of three-bedroom semi-detached houses, this development is situated in a quiet residential area. The houses feature modern kitchens, living rooms, dining areas, and rear gardens. Gas central heating and double glazing are standard features in these properties.

**BRIERLEY HILL**

129 Poplar Road

This semi-detached house is located in a popular area of Brierley Hill. The property offers a modern kitchen, living room, dining area, and rear garden. Gas central heating and double glazing are included, making it an ideal family home.

**KINGSWINFORD**

97 Rangeways Road

This semi-detached house is situated in a quiet residential area. The property features a modern kitchen, living room, dining area, and rear garden. With gas central heating and double glazing, this house is well-maintained and ready for immediate occupation.

**KINGSWINFORD**

85 High Street

This modern two-bedroom ground floor flat offers a contemporary layout with modern kitchen, living room, and bedroom. The property benefits from gas central heating and double glazing. Located near local amenities and transport links, this flat is an ideal choice for professionals or families.

**BRIERLEY HILL**

84-86 High Street

This traditional two-bedroom mid terrace property is located in the heart of Brierley Hill. The property features a front entrance hall, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, and rear garden. With gas central heating and double glazing, this property is in good condition and ready for immediate occupation.

**HALESOWEN**

21 Hoplodge Road

This three-bedroom semi-detached house is situated in the popular area of Halesowen. The property offers a modern kitchen, dining area, spacious lounge, and rear garden. The house benefits from gas central heating and double glazing, making it an attractive investment opportunity.

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**STOURBRIDGE**

2, 8 & 10 Chaddesley Road

A collection of three-bedroom semi-detached houses, this development is situated in a quiet residential area. The houses feature modern kitchens, living rooms, dining areas, and rear gardens. Gas central heating and double glazing are standard features in these properties.

**BRIERLEY HILL**

129 Poplar Road

This semi-detached house is located in a popular area of Brierley Hill. The property offers a modern kitchen, living room, dining area, and rear garden. Gas central heating and double glazing are included, making it an ideal family home.
WOODSETTON

Rosalind Avenue
An ENLARGED, freehold, UPVC double glazed & gas centrally heated semi detached on large plot situated in an established residential location, convenient for local amenities, 3 bedroom, semi-detached property in a popular street, with separate garage, large rear garden & private access with vehicle parking. Offers in the region of £125,000.

BRIERLEY HILL

Norwood Road
This traditional style, extended, two bedroomed semi detached home is situated in an established residential area, and may particularly appeal to first time buyers. With UPVC double glazing and a gas central heating system, accommodation briefly comprises entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, two double bedrooms, and a pleasant rear garden. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 287622 Offers Around £81,995

CENTRAL BIRMINGHAM

26 TUDOR STREET, BIRMINGHAM

Property Guide £149,950

New Price

Well presented two bedroom first floor apartment located in this conveniently situated building, with lift access to the upper floors. Situated on the 2nd floor, this flat comprises lounge, modern fitted kitchen, two good size bedrooms and modern bathroom. Viewing: By appointment.

STOURBRIDGE

43 ROYAL AVENUE

New Price

3 bedroom semi detached house, situated in this established residential area, offers a wealth of original character, including an imposing entrance hallway, panelled doors, large reception rooms and well fitted kitchen. Viewing: By prior appointment, open house 25th & 26th February @10.45 am

KINGSWINFORD

Colby Gardens (Off Westley Street)
A stylish, recently constructed, gas centrally heated & UPVC double glazed semi detached constructed circa 2017, with a wealth of modern appointments. Offers in the region of £126,000.

COLESEY

Dimmocks Avenue
A traditional, freehold, gas centrally heated semi detached home in a well presented modern condition, two bedroomed semi detached property, located on a quiet road in an established residential area. Offers in the region of £112,250.

PENSNETT

Clyda Mews
Situated in a cul-de-sac position just off the head of a quiet cul de sac, this well presented, UPVC double glazed and gas centrally heated, three bedroomed semi detached home has been comprehensively modernised by the current owners, and may particularly appeal to young families. Offers in the region of £119,950.

PENSNETT

Price: £135,000

C WVEN PRICE

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26 BROOK STREET
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NEW

Dudley


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NEW

Wrens Nest Road

At three bed Detached property presented excellently throughout. The property has been refurbished through out and briefly comprises of lounge, recently been refurbished downstairs, upstairs bathroom, decked patio area to the front. The property is available mid March. Viewing highly recommended.

£156,950

NEW

TIVIDALE

Regent Avenue

A three bedroom semi detached house with lounge, kitchen, downstairs bathroom and garden to the rear.

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NEW

Wolverhampton

Malvern Crescent

TOLET

At three bedroom semi detached house with lounge, kitchen, downstairs bathroom. DSS considered. Available for long term.

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NEW

Brierley Hill

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A four bedroom detached home that briefly comprises: a reception porch, a reception hall, a spacious lounge, a fitted breakfast kitchen, two double bedrooms, a bathroom, gas fired central heating, double glazing, a garage and a pleasant rear garden.

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A four bedroom semi-detached home that briefly comprises: a reception porch, a reception hall, a lounge, a fitted kitchen with integrated appliances, three bedrooms, a bathroom, UPVC double glazing, gas fired central heating, and a garage with a pleasant rear garden.

£229,950

A two bedroom end of terraced home that briefly comprises: a reception hall, a lounge, a kitchen/diner, a family bathroom, three bedrooms, a utility room, a garage, gas fired central heating, double glazing and a pleasant rear garden.

£119,950

A three bedroom semi-detached home that briefly comprises a reception hall, a lounge, a kitchen/diner, a family bathroom, three bedrooms, a utility room, gas fired central heating, double glazing and a pleasant rear garden.

£169,950

A three bedroom semi-detached home that briefly comprises: a reception hall, a lounge, a kitchen/diner, a utility room, three bedrooms, a garage, UPVC double glazing, gas fired central heating and a pleasant rear garden.

£150,950

A three bedroom semi-detached home that briefly comprises a reception hall, lounge, a fitted kitchen with integrated appliances, three bedrooms, a bathroom, UPVC double glazing, gas fired central heating, double glazing and a garage with a pleasant rear garden.

£162,950

A three bedroom mid-terraced home that has recently been refurbished to a particularly high standard. The property briefly comprises a reception porch, a spacious lounge, a fitted kitchen with a range of integrated appliances, two bathrooms, a rear garden and a lovely rear garden.

£149,950

A two-bedroom mid-terraced home that briefly comprises: a reception hall, a lounge, a fittings kitchen, a shower room, three bedrooms, a garage and a double glazed and a good sized rear garden.

£106,950

A four bedroom detached home that briefly comprises: a reception hall, a lounge, a fitted breakfast kitchen with a range of integrated appliances, three bedrooms, a bathroom, UPVC double glazing, gas fired central heating and a garage with a pleasant rear garden.

£211,950

A two-bedroom mid-terraced home that briefly comprises a reception hall, a lounge, a kitchen/diner, a family bathroom, two bedrooms, a utility room, gas fired central heating, a garage and a lovely rear garden.

£111,650

A three bedroom semi-detached home that briefly comprises: a reception hall, a lounge, a fitted breakfast kitchen with a range of integrated appliances, three bedrooms, a bathroom, UPVC double glazing, gas fired central heating, and a garage.

£142,950

A three bedroom end of terraced home that has recently been refurbished to a particularly high standard. The property briefly comprises a reception porch, a spacious lounge, a fitted kitchen with a range of integrated appliances, two bathrooms, a rear garden and a lovely rear garden.

£177,950

A four bedroom semi-detached home that briefly comprises: a reception hall, a lounge, a fitted breakfast kitchen with open access to a spacious conservatory, three bedrooms, a bathroom, UPVC double glazing, gas fired central heating, a driveway that extends to the side of the property and a pleasant rear garden.

£121,950

A three bedroom end of terraced home that has recently been refurbished to a particularly high standard. The property briefly comprises a reception porch, a spacious lounge, a fitted kitchen with a range of integrated appliances, two bathrooms, a rear garden and a lovely rear garden.

£149,950

A delightfully furnished and spacious ground floor flat set in a quiet residential location. The property briefly comprises a living and dining room, a kitchen, a rear bedroom and a shower room. Outside there is a patio area and a garage. The property is close to amenities and is available to over 55s only.

£85,000

This lovely newly built two bedroom detached house is located in a popular residential area of Dudley town centre. The property briefly comprises a reception hall, a lounge, a fitted kitchen/diner and a shower room. Outside there is a driveway and a garage.

£157,950
Evolution ... not revolution for A6

IT'S EASY to make all the right noises about becoming number one in your field, but turning those brave words into success is another matter altogether.

For car manufacturers it is a never-ending quest for more sales and a bigger slice of the market. But the good news for car buyers like you and me is that the product on display in the showroom is better than ever. Audi's new A6 is a perfect example of this. There's a good chance you'll remember the last-generation car: it was a popular beast, particularly in highly practical Sportback form.

With a more prominent grille and wider front wheelarches, the front of the A6 is considerably more imposing, and looks like a more machined-bound machine. There's a gentle swoop towards the rear and a neat tail end, and the lines are marked with precision and attention to detail you would expect. It looks smarter but not vulgar.

Time and effort has clearly been spent on aerodynamics, which reflects the other big factor in the A6's worth: efficiency. Every new car must offer a significant improvement in terms of emissions and fuel economy compared to its predecessor, and the A6 does so with a two-litre diesel powerplant. Grabbing the headlines is the 2.0-litre TDI model, likely to be the UK's best seller. Although it does without the quadro-four wheel drive system that delivers superior traction and handling, the more modest 175bhp and 280bhp of torque of the 2.8-litre V6 TDI manages fine without. Not that it is a slowcoach by any means: 0-62mph takes a scant 8.7 seconds and the top speed of 141mph is more than sufficient. But this front-wheel drive version is significantly lighter than the V6, by 380kg.

No current owner is going to be shocked by the appearance of the muscular new A6 SE. It represents a significant update of much smaller cars and attracts a result, helped by the use of aluminium in the bodyshell. Audi claims the A6 is 15 per cent lighter than an equivalent all-wheel-drive version. Combined with the efficiency measures including stop/start, the A6 is capable of remarkably economy and emissions figures despite the brisk performance: a CO2 rating of just 129g/km is comparable with modest annual Vehicle Excise Duty, while the combined economy figure of 57.6mpg is pleasing.

This balance of performance and economy is obvious. The instant torque means there's no need to stir the gearbox frequently to make respectable progress, and even when pushed the four-cylinder diesel is quiet and smooth.

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Volvo S60, 2007, 64k, £7,850 ono. 01902 677103.

Vauxhall Astra TwinTop 14v 1.6 sports automatic, 2007, M Tyres and M Tyres, £6,250 ono. 01902 677103.

Vauxhall Zafira 1.8, 2000, 113k, petrol, £1,595. 01902 677103.

Vauxhall Astra 2.0, 2000, 104k, £1,300 ono. 01902 677103.

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Vauxhall Corsa 1.2, 2007, 46k, petrol, £1,795 ono. 01902 677103.

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ast-gasp... Vela strike denies Wolves the win

CARLOS VELA is tipped for a decorated career. But if he achieves nothing else in football, a page in Albion folklore will forever be his.

The 21-year-old can add his name to Darren Bradley’s, Bob Taylor’s and Kevin Phillips’ in the annals of modern Baggies history.

Because, whatever he does for Albion, Arsenal or Mexico, one decisive stoppage-time goal in each of the last two weekenders will forever be etched in the memory of Baggies fans.

Not Beagrie’s or McAllister’s, but arguably more importantly, Vela’s.

And if the new Baggies boss writes Steve Bruce’s name down alongside them, and his, as the Baggies are lifted out of the bottom three, then the Albion in the ‘Black Country derby hero’ bracket will make more sense.

So already Roy Hodgson has ticked two boxes.

Is it a case of more to come? Of course it is. But the man in charge was first to admit yesterday there was work to be done both on the pitch and off it.

For Vela is not a finished article. He is a player who cannot be taken for granted. He is regular, he is indispensable. He is Albion’s most important talent.

He is the man whose presence is felt just now by a club that might otherwise be in the relegation scrap.

And yet, he is a man Hodgson rates that was the least they deserved.

A proper result and a proper performance. A performance of the highest quality that was the least they deserved.

As the Baggies sit fourth in the league, their head coach is right to claim the team are heading in the right direction.

But even right now, there is plenty of work to be done.

For what Hodgson had to face in the return leg at Wolves was a side that looked the stronger of the two teams.

Not just on the day but over the entire campaign.

But theeded boss continued to fashion the right results.

The win in the last league game of the season was as crucial as any. And yesterday’s point ensured the Baggies have now won three of their last four league contests.

And that is what matters most.

Here is the man who rates their return to the Premier League as the least they deserved last night.

But it is not just the results that are pleasing.

At the Hawthorns yesterday, Vela showed a composure in the face of intense pressure that was the mark of a man who is now a vital part of this Albion team.

And that is why the boss was celebrating such a vital act in a glorious escape.

A vital act in a glorious escape.
Bate’s goal is enough for win

Ben Joyce beats Tim Clarke to put Salisbury 2-0 ahead

JAKE REID’s hat-trick piled on the misery for Halewood as new league leaders Salisbury won at the Grove. Veteran goalkeeper Tim Clarke returned to the Yeltz line-up at the age of 45 and he turned back the clock to make several excellent saves and keep the scorers down.

Just four minutes in Clarke sliced a fine blocking save with his knee from Reid, before Halesowen responded with an Anthony Bruce shot two minutes later, writes David Johnson.

But Clarke was left standing to goal when Reid took advantage of poor defending to hammer home from the edge of the area and give the Whites a much-needed lead.

Boore Clarke then turned the ball away from Adam Kelly in the 11th minute and collected Boore’s header four minutes later.

The Yeltz nearly snatched a surprise leveller when substitute Billy May’s shot almost caught out goalkeeper Tommy Smith, but it was managed to kick past and tip the ball away under his crossbar.

Salisbury doubled their lead in the 27th minute when Reid played a chipping pass through for Jones, who rolled the ball beyond Clarke.

Nidiott did well to get over a cross and this time Smith needed his fingers to keep out Bruce’s 18-yard shot.

Boore then completed his hat-trick by striking home his second after Mackin-Richards brought down Kelly.

In the closing stages Clarke continued to show his vast experience by clamping onto the ball from Haynes and then producing an excellent low save from Boyle in the final five-minute kick.

Halesowen adopt a hands-on approach to defending

DUDLEY HEATHENS are set to complete their team building for the new National League Speedway season tomorrow (February 25).

The former Cradley club will announce their final two signings to supporters at the sold out Dudley Wood Tribute Night at Dudley Heath Liberal Club on Friday.

Winger signing Adam Ryan will make the trip from his Cumbrian home and be officially unveiled to supporters. He will also be available for autographs and pictures with fans and a special print will be available on the night.

Meanwhile, Heathens have confirmed their first two signings to supporters which will see them start in the Heathens’ top flight and double up with Premier League involvement.

The Heathens have been making some big improvements, hopefully this year,” he said.

Things are looking up for Heathens as they gear up for a new season.

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Kidderminster C 13

Kidderminster were well beaten by their Midland rivals with a ton of positive from Stourbridge whose four try haul ensured maximum points.

Dudley Kingswinford secure留住 lineout ball

The lead didn’t last long though with Stefan Thorp try, converted for a 13-7 lead. After four changes for the visitors who found themselves 6-0 in front with 22 minutes to go.

Dudley Kingswinford 36 Whitchurch 33

The lead didn’t last long though with Stefan Thorp try, converted for a 13-7 lead. After four changes for the visitors who found themselves 6-0 in front with 22 minutes to go.

Stourbridge Saxons 27 Roslyn Park 22

A DAZZLING second-half display helped the Saxons to a scintillating victory over their London visitors. And although a late try from the visitors earned them a losing bonus, there were plenty of positives from Stourbridge whose four try haul ensured maximum points.

Kidderminster opened strongly but the first time Bedworth got their hands on the ball they made good use of an overlap to move the ball out wide, writes Martin Eaton.

RCS shrugged off this setback and 10 minutes later a great try by young flanker Mike Provost helped Bedworth to grab a grip of the game.

Kidderminster opened strongly but the first time Bedworth got their hands on the ball they made good use of an overlap to move the ball out wide, writes Martin Eaton.

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