**AMBITION PLANS TO REVAMP THE CENTRE OF KIDDERMINSTER HAVE BEEN UNVEILED**

Under the scheme two public squares would be built, and subways filled in to be replaced with pedestrian bridges. The idea is to attract more people to the town, and to give the centre an “important role as the civic heart of Kidderminster”.

The scheme includes developing the area outside the town hall in Vale Street and the Bull Ring near the post office, which is now shpaged with cars.

The subways under the busy Comberton Hill island on the ring road would be filled in and replaced with walkways and traffic lights.

Funding needs to be found for the project, but it is hoped finance from the private sector will be forthcoming from firms interested by the recent investment in the former British Sugar site, which will create 400 jobs.

The proposals are part of a new action plan for Wyre Forest by the district council that sets out how the district should change over the next 20 years.

**VISITORS**

The action plan says the existing subways act as “a significant physical and visual barrier for pedestrians”.

It adds: “A key ambition for the area is to encourage and increase pedestrian movement into the town centre, particularly taking advantage of the many visitors that go to the Severn Valley Railway.”

Residents have complained for years that the subways are dangerous at night, and put people off heading into the town centre from the nearby train station.

Artist’s impressions have been produced showing how a plaza around the town hall would look with fountains and trees.

And the traffic island in the Bull Ring could be opened up and replaced with a statue or water feature.

The plan says: “The traditional town centre should have an important role as the civic heart of Kidderminster.”

“However, identifying the centre of town is hard and there is no primary focus for public space.”

The ambition for this new space, together with the town hall, is to make it the civic heart and focal point of the town centre.

“This new space should be a high-quality piece of public realm and should be designed as a multi-functional space that enables it to be used for a variety of events.”

Residents can submit their views on the plans during a public consultation which runs until September 14.

The action plan will then go before councillors later in the year before being adopted.

Councillor Julian Philipps, cabinet member for place shaping, said: “These are ambitions that we have for the town and they will not be possible just using public sector money, so we want to attract firms and show them what they could be a part of.”
**Villagers find novel use for unwanted phone box**

Ruth Perry browsing in the telephone box library

**Villagers queue up at the telephone box book exchange which is proving a hit with people in Bribington**

"The kiosk is very nice street furniture, although it was getting dilapidated and was non-commis- sions with none of its internal organs left inside," said Mrs Perry, aged 61, retired teacher.

"We had to have an authorised body to take it over as Bribington Parish Council became our under- writers and they very kindly purchased it from BT for a nominal £1."

"At first we just painted it and even put the gold crowns back on, because they had been stolen, but we wanted to be useful, rather than decorative, and moved over what we could use it for. We heard of other places where phone boxes had children's paint- ings in - but hit upon the idea of turning it into a library for the village. I'm obsessed about children's books and I'm glad to see so many young people in this village using our library."

"Mrs Perry, together with neighbours Sue and Ian Daniel, Sue Pawley of history society chair- man Sarah Bradley, then started setting it up. They had to replace one pane of glass in the phone box and Bribington Woodhouse gave them the shelving, which the volunteers painted black."

"They put up the request in the parish newsletter for people to donate their used books - and Mrs Perry, who runs a second hand book shop at Harvington Hall, near Kidderminster, stored them in her hallway. "It was good fun setting it up and we had bags of books to stock it," said Mrs Perry, who has lived in Bribington for 23 years."

"Then, in May last year, we had a grand opening."

"At least 150 people now use the library regularly, dipping into its stock of 200 to 500 fact, fiction and children's books and then replenish- ing the shelves with their own spare ones."

"Among the regulars are retired teachers Chris and Heather Lofthouse. "We think the idea to use the telephone box as a library is a fan- tastic one," said Mr Lofthouse."

"We regularly borrow and donate to it. In fact, although our children have now grown up and left home, they also use the library on visits back home. "The opening of the box happened shortly after the death of my mother, who was an avid reader and a collector of books, so I was able to donate quite a few books in the beginning to help stock the library."

"Cyclists and hikers passing through the village also often stop and browse the shelves. Mrs Perry said: "People respect it and we make sure it's neatly stacked with quality books."

"The book exchange is now a focal point of Bribington and it was decorated with bunting for the recent Queen's diamond jubilee cele- brations."

"Villagers, who are proud of their book exchange phone box, also tend to the garden around it to make sure it is always neat and tidy."

---

**Road victim inquest opens**

AN inquest has been adjourned until October after a 78-year-old cyclist who died after being struck by a car in Kidder- minster, Arthur William Lane, of Woodkirk Road, Brierley, Kidderminster, on July 19.

"The inquest, at Kidderminster Coroner's Court, was adjourned until October following a multiple trauma."

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**Floodlight plans for cycle club**

PLANS for new floodlights at a Stourport sports club will be submitted in the coming weeks after £50,000 of funding was secured.

Wyre Forest District Council will be given the Olympic Legacy Grant for lighting at its race track for Wyre Forest Cycle Racing Club at Stourport Sports Park, next month.

It comes after British Cycling donated £70,000 to Wyre Forest Cycle Racing Club and the wider community to train and race safely throughout the winter months.

"The next step in the process is to submit a plan- ning application," said Councillor Ian Hardiman, the council's cabinet member for community wellbeing. "The lighting is required to increase the track usage throughout the winter months which will enable members of Wyre Forest Cycle Racing Club and the wider community to train and race safely throughout the winter months."

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Additional content from the Kidderminster Chronicle (thursday, august 02 2012)

**CONTENTS**

- Entertainment included during August/Fridays) call Tim Spiers on 01902 319363 or 01902 319466

**WHAT'S ON**

- Two Hour Cruise on Loch Erne
- 4 Nights Bed, Breakfast and Evening Meal
- Welcome Drink and Porterage
- Included Excursions as shown in itinerary
- 7 Nights Bed, Breakfast, Evening Meal
- Welcome Drink
- 5 Days AYAS
- 8 Days £25
- 5 Days AYAS £25

**KIDDERMINSTER CHRONICLE, THURSDAY, AUGUST 02 2012 www.expressandstar.com/free-editions**
Public asked to help shape council tax discount scheme

WYRE Forest District Council has launched a consultation exercise about options for council tax discounts for April 2013 onwards.

The present system of council tax benefit is being replaced, and the council is seeking views about its local scheme of discounts to help working age people pay their council tax.

Councillor Nathan Downham, cabinet member for resources and transformation, said: "All councils are facing tough choices as a result of the Government’s decision to end the national council tax benefit scheme and replace it with locally-decided discount schemes.

"The Government has decided that payments to pensioners cannot be changed and the level of support towards their council tax bill will remain unchanged.

Reduction

"But the funding from Government is being reduced by 10 per cent in April 2013."

This means a reduction of £50,000 for Wyre Forest, of which £110,000 has to be found by Wyre Forest District Council, with the rest to be found by Worcestershire County Council, the police authority and the fire service.

Councillor Downham said: "Councils are having to look at whether to pass this reduction on to people working age who receive council tax benefit, reduce spending on other services, or increase council tax.

"The options include the creation of a hardship fund that would allow the council to consider help for anyone disadvantaged by any reduction in support they receive.

Councillor Downham said: "We are asking for comments on the options that should be used to shape the scheme. The options we’ve outlined are based on the following principles: Every household with working age claimants should pay something; the scheme should incentivise people into work; people with greater savings receive less support; protection through a hardship fund to those who are least able to pay; and the scheme will be in support of the Government’s priorities of an increased supply of good quality affordable homes.

"People can see the options and a questionnaire on the council’s website. Responses can also be emailed to counciltaxconsultation@wyreforest.gov.uk".

Jo Beacham, who has launched More Tea Vicar, with the Rev Simon Harry, from Bewdley Baptist Church Picture: Melanie Martin Photography

Well, my old china, is it time for tea?

AN entrepreneur hopes to turn her thirst for fine china into profits after starting up her own business.

Bone china collector Jo Beacham, from Bewdley, has launched More Tea Vicar, which hails out vintage bone china for special occasions.

The 250-piece collection, which includes intricate 1940s-tiered cake stands and rare tea sets, has been built up by Ms Beacham since the 1980s.

The 41-year-old hopes to capture the imagination of Wyre Forest’s event managers and people organising a special celebration.

“I have been passionate about collecting unique pieces of fine china since I was a little girl and some of my fondest memories are of my grand- mother’s cherished tea sets,” she said.

“I felt I could turn them into a credible business.” Internet is already high, despite More Tea Vicar being just a few weeks old and the recession.

"In many ways the recession has brought back a real sense of nostalgia," she said.

"I am very hopeful the business will do well," she added.

"With it being a diamond jubilee and Olympic year I think people are going to be very interested in buying second-hand items.

"I am very excited about everything that it is British.”

Visit www.teavicar.co.uk or call 07973 534364 to book.
Grandmother’s legacy helps fight against breast cancer

A GRANDMOTHER left £50,000 in her will to Cancer Research UK to help combat the disease that struck three generations of her family. Margaret Wall, who was successfully treated for ovarian cancer in 2001, died aged 85 seven years later.

Her daughter Jane Rymer, who lives near Kidderminster, and granddaughter Sarah Wall also suffered from breast cancer.

Now years later, both have survived and presented the generous legacy to the charity during a tour of the Birmingham Cancer Research UK Centre.

It will be used exclusively to fund the charity’s breast cancer research across the UK.

Mrs Rymer, who promotes houses for parties and corporate events, said: “I’m so proud of my mother and the legacy she has left.”

The 54-year-old was diagnosed with an aggressive form of breast cancer in 2007 after making a chance comment about a ‘dimple’ to a doctor.

Mrs Rymer, mother-of-two, had undergone surgery to remove a lump, then four months of chemotherapy and three weeks of radiotherapy when Margaret died.

Margaret’s granddaughters, Sarah, 35, from Edgbaston, and her twin, who lives near Kidderminster, and granddaughter Sarah Wall also suffered from breast cancer in 2007 at the age of 30. She underwent treatment three months later, then four-and-a-half years but is now back at work.

Mrs Rymer, of Hackman’s Gate, near Belbroughton, added: “The news of those who have cancer and their families are deeply affected and while Sarah and I have beaten the disease it’s important to remember that not everyone survives.

“It’s our hope that mum’s legacy will help Cancer Research UK beat the disease for everyone.”

A fire station in Worcestershire will be opening its doors to the public on Saturday.

Visitors will be able to pick up a range of fire safety advice and have their vehicle weighed at the fire station in Bremningham Road.

Firefighters at Redditch will host the annual event from 11am until 3pm.

Rescue equipment and vehicles will be on display at the fire station in Bremningham Road.

Visitors will be able to pick up a range of fire safety advice and have their vehicle weighed.

The bushcraft course at Bishops Wood Centre, Crossway Green, Kidderminster.

Visitors can try their hand at new hobbies and learn traditional skills in woodworking and ‘age old’ crafts including a bushcraft course at Bishops Wood Centre, Crossway Green.

Centre co-ordinator Gill Franklin said: “This is just one of a number of courses we have.”

Businesses and residents in Wyre Forest are being urged to state their case for faster broadband as council chiefs look to share £3.5 million of funding across Worcestershire.

People can take part in a survey so Worcestershire County Council can pass on evidence of demand to suppliers.

The survey, which closes on September 2, can be found at www.worcestershire.gov.uk/broadband, by email bishopswoodcentre@s134 or by calling 01299 250513 or email bishopswoodcentre@worcestershire.gov.uk.

The funding from Broadband Delivery UK, a department of central government, follows the submission of Worcestershire’s Local Evidence of Demand to Support Broadband Plan.

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Jane Rymer and daughter Sarah Wall who presented the legacy to Cancer Research UK.
Elderly targeted but rich are protected

JUST weeks since the Prime Minister’s speech in Kent, the Government is re-opening the issues of the elderly and frail and the disabled.

The proposed closure of 54 Remploy factories is despicable. Where does the Government expect the disabled to find suitable work, when the jobs they are capable of doing are no longer there? If you have worked hard all your life, you deserve real dignity and security in your old age.”

The correct pronunciation of Black Country dialect is that employed by its native speakers. Ed Miliband and David Cameron would look like plonkers if they appeared in Dudley speaking the dialect with Received Pronunciation. For Standard English, the idea of “correct” pronunciation is more complex. I’m bilingual in Black Country and standard English. Would my pronunciation of the latter pass as correct? My accent is mostly received pronunciation, but with some Midland features.

Do’s and Princes William speak correctly? He doesn’t speak the Queen’s English, for his pronunciation is less posh than his gran’s, for example, calling Buckingham Palace “hiss”. I’m unlikely to be around when William determines what is the King’s English, but it is likely to have undergone further change.

Alan T Harrison, Green Lane, Leamore, Walsall.

Grammar rules of Black Country dialect

THERE is a difference between grammar and pronunciation. Grammar is a description of the way in which language works. Correct grammar correctly describes how features of language operate. Most of the “grammar” that my age group learned at school was grossly incorrect, being an inaccurate application of English of a description of classical Latin.

It is possible to construct a grammar of Black Country dialect. For example, its famously unique feature of constructing the negative without including “not” or “-n”, could be described along those lines: “The negative of verbs is formed by modifying the vowel of the modal or auxiliary verb, e.g. Mary didn’t give John an apple – Mary gave John no apple (Mary didn’t give John an apple).”

The correct pronunciation of Black Country dialect is that employed by its native speakers. Ed Miliband and David Cameron would look like plonkers if they appeared in Dudley speaking the dialect with Received Pronunciation. For Standard English, the idea of “correct” pronunciation is more complex. I’m bilingual in Black Country and standard English. Would my pronunciation of the latter pass as correct? My accent is mostly received pronunciation, but with some Midland features.

Erica Hallworth, Aldridge.

Booze alert is just triple

MEDICAL researchers in the US say even moderate amounts of alcohol can cause dementia. This is true from people who try to make deny drinking it. Dementia can be caused by a lot of things. I have known ladies with dementia who hardly touched a drop of alcohol.

Mr M J Small, Portland Road, Aldridge.

Praise for coalition

IN reply to the letter from I Bate, I say thank goodness the Conservatives are in coalition with the Lib Dems. I shudder to think what we would be facing if it had been up to Cameron and Osborne.

The forests would have been sold off, and the National Health Service would be in the hands of those who donate the most pound a day? This Government knows no bounds in targeting the elderly, frail and disabled, while looking after the filthy rich.

Mrs P A Jordan, WMPC press officer, Aldridge.

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Farmers’ market to set up stalls in town centre

A FARMERS’ market will be launched in Kidderminster next week.

Stalls will be lined up outside the entrance to the Swan Centre, at the bottom of the High Street between 9am and 4.30pm on Friday, August 10.

Markets will be held on every second Friday in the month when there will be a chance to pick up meat, fresh vegetables, fruit, jams and preserves, cakes, local beer and wine and fish.

It has been organised by Wyre Forest District Council in partnership with the Worcestershire Farmers Market Group.

Council leader Councillor John Campion said: ‘Farmers’ markets are a great opportunity for people to get a true taste of the county they live in. They are about local growers and farmers selling their goods directly to the public. ‘We are delighted to be able to offer this in Kidderminster. We hope it will attract shoppers to our town centre and help the prosperity of our rural communities too.’

Town centre manager Peter Michael said: ‘The Worcestershire Farmers’ Market Partnership has more than 12 years experience and ensures excellent stalls, both in quality and variety.’

Going over edge to help hospice

MORE than 20 fundraisers have signed up to go over the edge of a clock tower in a charity abseil. They have pledged to plunge 141ft off Abberley Hall, near Stourport, to raise funds for the Worcestershire-based St Richard’s Hospice on August 12.

Anyone wanting to take part must pay a £25 fee to cover costs and training on the day and have a minimum £50 sponsorship. For more information contact Lizzie Briander on 01905 763963 or email lizziestrachard@strichards.org.uk

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STUDENTS from five schools across the Wyre Forest and Hagley spent a week exploring higher education at the University of Worcester.

Discovery Week saw 25 gifted and talented students from schools belonging to The ContinU Trust take part in a host of activities, focusing on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) and humanities.

The summer school was designed to bridge the gap between the end of Year 11 and the start of sixth form study, for students showing particular strengths in these subjects.

Sessions included DNA extraction, forensic psychology, web journalism, literature and the geography of Ethiopian wetlands.

Hughes, aged 16, from Hagley, said: “We are delighted that the Wyre Forest school pupils enjoyed their time with us and hope it got them thinking about possibilities for further study in the future.”

The schools – Haybridge High, Woburnley CE High, Bewdley School, King Charles 1 High and Stourport High – are partners in ContinU, whose Opening Doors programme arranges collaborative enrichment activities for young people across the Wyre Forest and Hagley areas.

Subway to get makeover

People have long called for the subway to be given a facelift. August 13 when an artist will create a mural on the walls.

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Hughes, aged 16, from Hagley, said: “The discovery week was one of a number of events we have been running with schools recently to engage young people and encourage them to think about the opportunities available to them. “We are delighted that the Wyre Forest school pupils enjoyed their time with us and hope it got them thinking about possibilities for further study in the future.”

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A SUBWAY in Kidderminster will be given a makeover following calls from residents fed up of walking past the graffiti. Work will take place at the subway in Mill Street on August 13 when an artist will create a mural on the walls. People have long-called for the subway to be given a facelift.

Estate gets a later bus

RESIDENTS in Bewdley have later bus services across the Wyre Forest. A new timetable is being introduced following passenger requests.

The service, which is operated by Whittle Coach and Bus Ltd, will run at hourly intervals from 7.30am until 7pm Monday to Saturday.

Wyre Forest Veterinary Centre

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KIDDERMINSTER CHRONICLE, THURSDAY, AUGUST 02 2012 Page 9
How film put region’s own ‘Lakes’ in frame

THE Palmer’s Cross area of Wolverhampton is sometimes called the Lake District, as all the roads are named after the lakes. Windermere Road, Coniston Road, Derwent Road etc.

In 1965 Kalling Studios made a film in Wolverhampton called The Man in the Sky. It starred Jack Hawkins as a test pilot for a fictitious aircraft company called Conwy Airfield. It was filmed entirely on location in and around Pendeford Airport, and the ‘home’ of Jack Hawkins in the film was 3 Derwent Road. Many scenes were filmed there, inside and out, with Elizabeth Sellars, the actress who played his wife.

The film started around him test flying a new ‘Conwy’ aircraft, which was actually a Bristol Freighter, and having an engine fire.

Many famous British character actors were also in the film, including Donald Pleasance and Lionel Jeffries, and they watched as Hawkins ‘blew’ the aircraft around to turn off fuel, before making a successful landing, and then going home to his ‘wife’ in Derwent Road, who had been tipped off about the drama, and gave him a good scolding for putting his life at risk.

Powerful

A few years later, just round the corner in Grasmere Close, a real pilot and aircraft engineer, Keith Sedgewick, decided to build himself an aircraft in his garage.

He chose a single seat Currie Wittkop, but fitted a more powerful engine than was usual for the type, and made other changes to the basic design, so that he renamed it a Super Wittkop. It was completed in 1969, and he then test flew it at Halfpenny Green airfield, from where he was to fly it for many years.

Actual flying came to the ‘Lake District’ a few years later when Chris Tarrant, then of Timeless fame, now more widely known because of the television programme Who Wants to be a Millionaire, came to Palmer’s Cross School to present the prizes at the school fete.

With a typical showbiznious flourish he landed on the playing field in a small Brantly B II helicopter.

The man in the Sky is not a very good film, it’s one of Jack Hawkins more obscure efforts, made after his successes in Zulu and The Cruel Sea, but it does give fascinating glimpses of parts of Wolverhampton.

The film can be found on DVD, and is fascinating to watch, if only to try and recognise all the locations, including Derwent Road.

by Alec Brew

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As well as benefiting from much-reduced energy bills, the Government backed scheme will pay you a good return on the electricity you generate - more than you could expect from a bank or building society. And you can bask in the warm glow of knowing you're reducing your building's carbon footprint.

Act now and don't miss out. To discover how Eco2Solar could help you save energy and make money, call us on: 01562 745 265 or email info@eco2solar.co.uk or visit www.eco2solar.co.uk
POLICE chiefs are warning residents in the Wyre Forest District to be careful when warm weather.

Thieves who enter homes through an open door or an open window and don’t leave accessible windows open unoccupied.

“Keep doors locked at all times when not in use and don’t leave accessible windows open unoccupied.

“For example, if you are in the garden and leave the front door open, it would only take a opportunist thief to walk in and grab any valuables.”

Andy Hodge, left, with managing director Nigel Poyner

ONE of Europe’s largest manufacturers of garden products, Clows Top Timber, has strengthened its management team with the appointment of commercial director to help manage its development plans.

Mr Hodge said: “M&M Timber has an outstanding reputation for quality and customer service, price and professional trust. I intend to capitalise on M&M’s reputation and ensure that the company continues to lead the leading edge of supplying innovative quality timber products.”

He has recently completed a Master of Business Administration at Henley Business School and has achieved the Outstanding status from the Chartered Management Institute.

Currently the manufacturing company’s centre is turning its attention to a whole new range of innovative products, which will be making their debut at the Glee Show at the NEC in September.

Development plans for new homes on part of an 18th century manor house estate near Kidderminster have been scaled back.

Cala Homes has reduced the number of homes proposed for the site on land owned by Lord Rolleston in Hagley from 230 to 178.

It comes after villagers objected to the scheme, saying it would cause schools and other amenities to become overcrowded. The developer has also dropped plans to build a medical centre after protests from local doctors.

But it said the project will create 280 jobs during construction phase while new offices will be built with the potential to create a further 50 positions.

The site, part of the 35-acre estate, is bordered by the A445 Kidderminster Road and the A491, Shobrooke Road.

More than 150 people signed a petition against the scheme when it was first announced and hundreds attended a consultation event held in October. A planning application was submitted to Bromsgrove District Council but later withdrawn for a design rethink.

Cala Homes spokesman Jonathan Royce said: “We have engaged closely with local public concerned over the past six months and listened hard to what they were saying. We are very grateful to the local councils, health care trust and local people who have helped to further shape our proposals for this development, to ensure that it respects the character of the local area.

“As a result, we have reduced the number of new homes proposed in our original application from 230, now to 178.”

“…”There is a major shortfall in the supply of new housing identified in the area, with particular concern about the lack of affordable homes for local people,” he added.

Hagley Parish Council chairman Steve Colella said he would be taking a close look at the plans.

Panel needed to probe complaints

COUNCILS and the fire service in Worcestershire are looking for six people to deal with complaints on an independent panel.

The six authorities, including Wyre Forest District Council, are under a legal duty to set up the group. They must take into account the views of independent people before making a decision after an allegation that a member has breached the code.

Worcestershire County Council, Malvern Hills District Council, Worcester City Council, Wyre Forest District Council and Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Authority are also involved.

Six people will be appointed on a panel – and individuals can then be selected by one of the authorities to advise on a particular complaint. To apply email smallinson@worcestershire.gov.uk or call 01905766670 by August 13.

Andy on hand as timber firm grows

Outstanding

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Trees, which is based near Rowley, has appointed a new commercial director to help manage its development plans.

Andy Hodge brings a wealth of sales and marketing management experience to Owren Top-based M&M Timber and will be driving to further success and expansion of the business over the next decade.

Over the past 10 years, considerable investment in plant and equipment at the 23-acre manufacturing centre has enabled the company to achieve prominence as a leading player in the garden and leisure industry.

Innovative ranges of garden products and timber structures are now stocked in more than 350 independent garden centres and other outlets throughout the UK and sales of agricultural fencing, landscaping timbers and children’s play equipment are developing well.

Arboretum joins in celebrations of glassmaking

THOUSANDS of visitors will celebrate Shropshire’s 400-year history of glassmaking this weekend as art forms join forces for a festival.

The International Festi-

Panel needed to probe complaints

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An Extra £100.00 off suites this week.

VENE QUEEN'S WINDSOR TOWER OF LONDON

Four-day break departing September 21

See the State Apartments and St George’s chapel at Windsor castle plus the Queen’s new jubilee exhibition – The Queen: 80 photographs for 80 years. You can also visit the Tower of London, home to the priceless Crown Jewels and the newly titled Royal Greenwich, home to the Cutty Sark and the National Maritime Museum.

Royal Windsor, Tower of London and Royal Greenwich

Four-day break departing September 14

The organization says those who own and manage the land must play a key part in the NLPs decision-making process.

The call follows the announcement by environment minister Richard Benyon of 41 successful NLPs, a government initiative that seeks to

includ all sectors of society in the natural environment.

CLA Midlands rural adviser Donna Tavener said: “We need people with experience of the rural economy and land management to contribute to and monitor NLP proposals in their areas.”

“The association is already encouraging its members to engage with NLPs to ensure that equal attention is paid to all three pillars of sustainable development, including economic as well as social and environmental criteria.

Most importantly we need to ensure that NLP designation does not stifle rural enterprise due to a tightening of planning regulations. This underlines the need for a directly involved rural watchdog.”

The CLA says it has shown that farmers and landowners provide goods and services, including many environmental benefits that are undervalued.

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Solar firm beams with joy after taking award

THE sun is really shining for a Kidderminster solar energy company, which has scooped an award in the construction industry.

Eco2Solar, of Hoo Farm Industrial Estate, won its accolade for small and medium enterprises. It came at the West Midlands Constructing Excellence Awards, held at the International Convention Centre in Birmingham.

Its award was for “best practice” in providing solar energy installations for commercial clients throughout the West Midlands.

Judges praised the commitment of Eco2Solar to quality, customer service and the most up to date technologies.

The company was also recognised for its record end-of-year figures, with turnover well in excess of £5 million.

The firm now automatically qualifies for entry into the National Constructing Excellence Awards 2012 in London at the end of November.

“We’re delighted to be recognised for our services and growth in the West Midlands,” said managing director Paul Hitchens.

“Despite the challenging economic climate, we have remained at the forefront of our industry not only in the West Midlands but also further afield with high profile projects in London, the North East and North Wales being completed in the last few months.”

Volunteers’ work is award-winning

Volunteers in Worcestershire and Herefordshire have been celebrating following the national recognition of two of their Master Composters at a recent award ceremony.

Master Composters Jeremy Thomas and Sarah Blenkinsop each won awards at the Garden Organic Master Composter conference in Ryton, Coventry.

Jeremy won the Master Composter Achievement Award for wide-ranging activities to help others to home compost including his research and publication of A Guide to Community Composting, which is featured on www.letswasteless.com

Sarah won the Master Composter Innovation and Social Media Award for her blog The Compost Bin (www.the-compostbin.com) and use of social media to share her composting know-how.

Master Composters are volunteers who encourage others to take up home composting and support those who need help and advice. Volunteers have been helping to divert organic waste like grass cuttings and vegetable peeling from landfill. For more about composting visit www.letswasteless.com

Council aims to get cyclists on the move

ANYONE inspired by Bradley Wiggins winning the Tour de France is being reminded that Worcestershire County Council has a dedicated webpage with handy hints and tips to get people cycling on the road.

The website has maps to download, journey planners, safety advice, training courses and links to cycle forums.

Ed Dursley, Sustainable Schemes Manager said: “Bradley Wiggins and his fantastic achievement will be an inspiration to many people.

“Worcestershire is a great county to cycle in, whether its exploring the outstanding scenery from the Malvern Hills or the riverside routes of the Severn or Avon.

“Cyclists can ride along traffic-free routes, riverside promenades and canal towpaths or travel for miles on quiet country lanes.”

Councillor John Smith, cabinet member for highways and transport, said: “Worcestershire County Council will continue to actively promote cycling, and aim to put it at the heart of our local transport plans.

To see the county council’s webpage, log on to www.worcestershire.gov.uk/cycling

Town’s Home Guard stands firm

Members of Kidderminster Home Guard Reenactment Group stand guard at a 1940s theme night at the Black Country Living Museum, Dudley. Pictured from left, are Mike Fletcher, of Kidderminster, Malcolm Broadhurst, of Droitwich, Leonard Warrington, of Cookley, and Darren Williams, of Oldbury. Hundreds of people turned out for the event.

Volunteer Jeremy Thomas at home with his award

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Complete Bedroom Suites
4 Door Wardrobe
King Size Bed Frame
2x Bedside Cabinets
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All this at Half Price
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79a Darlington Street, Wolverhampton Tel: 01902 428489
In 2012, there was a meeting of Soroptimists that was joined by Reilly Dempsey, the programme director for Soroptimist International. She delivered a talk about the work of the organisation. She also provided insight into how the work is delivered, highlighting the need for local level involvement in the work. The talk concluded with a discussion about the current global impact report and the work that is being carried out in countries around the world.
You are cordially invited to
The Grand Opening of the
Rowland Hill Shopping Centre, Kidderminster

Saturday 18th August 2012
11 am-4 pm

Find the ‘Penny Black’ stamps in THE ROWLAND HILL CENTRE for the chance to win an incredible £500 of holiday vouchers.

Bring along the family and join in the celebrations at The Rowland Hill Shopping Centre, Kidderminster

Free entertainment
The fun begins at 11 am with official opening ceremony at midday by the Mayor of Kidderminster, John Aston

Travel back in time to see the history of The Rowland Hill Centre and Kidderminster town centre

Win £500 of holiday vouchers with The co-operative

Book your Summer 2013 holiday with us and receive a free gift

Free Face Painting
Free Balloon Modelling
звезды на фестивале

 два человека были арестованы в связи с серией ограблений в Киддерминстере.

 Они были арестованы в связи с ограблением в Киддерминстере.

 Их арестовали на юге, в районе Вестморленда.

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 Трое мужчин были арестованы в связи с ограблению...
Stone Roses return to join The Killers as V headliners

TENS of thousands of music fans will descend on Staffordshire later this month for the 17th annual V Festival.

American rockers The Killers make a welcome return to Weston Park to headline this year’s two-day pop and rock bonanza alongside Manchester’s comeback kings The Stone Roses, who are due to appear at V for the first time.

Ben will be Jesus at NIA

WINNER of TV show Superstar Ben Forster will take the starring role in Birmingham when Jesus Christ Superstar comes to the NIA on October 4 and on its newly announced additional NIA date of October 5.

Forster will play the leading role in the first ever UK arena tour of Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd-Webber’s hit musical from the 1970s.

He will join Aussie comedian Tim Minchin as Judas Iscariot, former Spice Girl and Superstar judge Melanie C as Mary Magdalene and outgoing Radio 1 breakfast DJ Chris Moyles as King Herod.

Tickets for the show are on sale from 9am tomorrow (Friday) priced at £32 (plus fees) available online from www.theticketfactory.com or by calling 0844 338 8000.

Apocalyptic concert for rocker Slash

SLASH, English-born guitarist with American band Guns N’ Roses, is coming to Birmingham NIA in October as part of his UK solo tour.

The gig on October 9 follows the success of Slash’s second solo album, Apocalyptic Love. It followed the Staffordshire-raised rocker’s 2010 debut album Slash and his first live solo album Made In Stoke 24/7/11.

Tickets will be on sale from 9am tomorrow (Friday) priced at £32 (plus fees) available online from www.theticketfactory.com or by calling 0844 338 8000.

Meanwhile, former Sex Pistols frontman John Lydon brings his new-look Public Image Ltd to Wolverhampton’s Wulfrun Hall tonight (Friday). Tickets are £25 (plus fees). Call 0870 920 7000.

Great knits to help babies

A PRODUCE market will be held in Bewdley on Sunday, offering a variety of fresh food for sale.

Local producers will man the stalls in Load Street between 11am and 4pm.

There will also be a variety of crafts on display for visitors to browse.

For further information call the organisers on 01299 401685.

See you on court

A BADMINTON tournament for under-17s is in Bewdley on August 16. It will be hosted by the Bewdley Colts club and there are categories, 13 and under, 17 and under.

For details, call 01299 871606.

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Gary Linaker presents, as athletics takes centre stage through the first six events. Assuming he made it on to the world's elite in the fight, Mo Farah is also in giving her title without a doubt. Noy Dobrynskai seems likely to be a force as she battles for a gold medal in the 1500. It's been a long wait since the 2010 Olympics – 2012. The anticipation for this year's event is second to none. Park from 9.00. The Fall of the Roman Empire. (2002)

Michael Portillo and Rob Brydon. (R)

Michael Portillo. (R)

Niro and Al Pacino.

The Mummy: Tomb of the Pharaohs. (1999)

Julia Bradbury’s Iceland Walk.

The Great St Trinian’s Train Robbery. (1977)

The Blue Planet – Julia Bradbury’s Sea View.
MONDAY
Red Sonja, Channel 5, 10.55pm
A female warrior seeks to stop an evil queen unmasking the destructive power of a magical orb that allows control of the elements, to make the malevolent monarch pay for murdering her family. Fantasy adventure, starring Brigitte Nielsen, (1985)

TUESDAY
Armed and Black, Channel 4, 1.05pm
A teenager raised by wolves returns to the village where it all began. He returns to whitenight. In: his wake, a bounty hunter sets out for a white wolf to retrieve his wolf. Award-winning, starring Errol Morris, (1996)

The Island, ITV1, 10.35pm
The naif survivors of an apparent ecosystem disaster, run and play inside their u-shaped sealed ark. Left to escape, Dr Hill, starring Ewan McGregor and Scarlett Johansson, (2005)

What's On!

MONDAY
Olympics Tonight
BBC1, 10.40pm
Nobby Logon and guests look back on day 10 at the London Games and present five coverage of the sports taking place today. These include the men’s basketball, group match between Argentina and Switzerland for the gold and favourites for the USA Men’s Games, and the men’s and women’s badminton quarter-finals. The review of today’s action includes a look at the women’s ultimate frisbee, including the women’s over-50s, which should have featured. The wrap of the world as the first batches in the Olympic glory that had eluded her so far in her career. There were also high hopes for Team GB at the Guinness, China. The programme-makers explain how these breakthroughs achieved in the creation of the oldest structure in the world, and how for a swimming team in the women’s 4x100m medley. Olympic 2012 official

TUESDAY
Treasure to Trash
ITV1, 7.35pm
These days, iTV1 has a habit of airing documentaries that are just as much entertaining as they are informative - this latest one not being any exception. Alias, all good things must come to an end and in the penultimate episode of the series, new boss of Ribble Reclamation has worked out his last day and in trying to copy the Date that merging his development business with the yard will see the big boys rolling in. Meanwhile, festival organiser Sophie has an unusual request of Tree and Lee of Beeston Reclamation, which leaves the brothers with no choice but to approach a rival supplier.

Wednesday
World’s Tallest Towers
Channel 5, 8pm
It’s a summer sight seeing a few feet from the Washington monument. The 150-foot patchwork quilt of bricks at the first section – the point where the money ran out in 1855 – followed by the rest of the sand-covered obelisk is a sight to behold. WashingtonDC’s iconic needle is just one of the structures featured in this one-off show, which also charts the construction of the Chrysler Building in Shanghai and the CN Tower in South Africa. The programme-makers explain how these breakthroughs achieved in the creation of the oldest structure in the world, and how for a swimming team in the women’s 4x100m medley.

Best of the Rest

MONDAY
The Bourne Ultimatum, Friday, ITV1, 10.35pm
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Circleclue

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?

LAST WEEK’S SOLUTION: The letter represented by the question mark is M. Macaque, monkey, mandrill, mandrill.

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Audi's engineers create a king of the off-road

IF YOU have deep pockets and need a large estate car with four-wheel drive, the option to meander off-road and a quality brand, there is only one option and that is the new Audi A6 Allroad.

Audi has honed 4-wheel drive quattro drive trains to perfection and the A6 Allroad with air suspension is a dependable, go anywhere product. This is the seventh generation and it differs from its sibling, the Avant estate, in several ways. It has flared wings front and rear and stainless-steel underguards at the front and the back of the vehicle. The wheel arches, bumpers, and extended sills are a contrasting colour, although you can order body coloured paintwork. The A6 has extended use of aluminium for its body, this reduces weight and decreases running costs. Audi suggests that by this, and the engineers tweaking the engine derivatives, possibly 20 per cent fewer emissions have been achieved.

The designers have smoothed the exterior and made it look not so much an off-road as more a Grand Touer. The interior of the new vehicle is typically Audi, with an air of quality that makes it superior to be cocooned in. It is curvaceous, it is luxurious; the leather, the stitching and the pipes work were all perfect.

The instrumentation is complex and involved, but if this was to be your Grand Touer or your office you would soon become used to it. There is plenty of space and the ability to adjust the steering wheel and driver’s seat means almost any size driver will be able to get comfortable.

Generous

The rear of the vehicle is comfy – two huge six-footers could fit without problems. Boot space is generous and there are points to attach straps or a cargo net. The 60/40 split seats can expand the capacity, however they don’t fold completely flat and are a bit awkward if you have huge amounts of luggage to move. The Allroad’s major attraction is its off-road facility and the wonderful air suspension which allows you to raise or lower the vehicle depending on the terrain. It can drop by 15mm for high speed motoring and gain 35 mm at the push of a button when you go off-road and need clearance. It has a hill descent function which will limit the speed depending on the surface.

The power options are four V6 engines (3.0 TFSI petrol or three V8 diesels) all 5-litre with power outputs ranging from 201 to 306bhp. Audi engineers have worked hard and the 3-litre diesel entry-level 204 bhp has claimed fuel figures in the mid 40s and 159g/m of CO2. The transmission is a dual clutch automatic seven-speed, available with optional paddles on the steering wheel.

Quattro means permanent four-wheel drive and this tells you the vehicle dynamics are going to be excellent with a reassuring feel in a variety of conditions. If this vehicle hardly ventures off road, it won’t be exploiting its true potential. The opportunity to try two Allroad models back-to-back was a really good comparison. Both were 3-litre diesels – a 313bhp and a more comfortable 245 bhp. Both had automatic transmissions and the performance was very similar. The higher performance engine loosed forward and required less gear changing for overtakes but there wasn’t a hugely discernible difference.

Both performed admirably on slippery roads and the small tracks that we ventured on showed that Audi’s four-wheel drive system is superb. Audi are the masters of speckling up and the extra list can be horrific. The on-road price of the 3.0 TFSI 245bhp vehicle that we tested was £44,890 but the actual vehicle we drove would have needed a cheque for £45,990.

The A6 Allroad will attract those who like the brand, its interior, the quality of its manufacture and a vehicle that is under-stated. The A6 Allroad range varies in price from £43,150 to £49,445.

Your essential guide to the world of motoring compiled by Motoring Editor Sharon Walters
Honda’s new CR-V is set for showrooms in the autumn

HONDA has revealed images and further information on the new European CR-V due to be launched in the UK this October.

For the first time, the CR-V will be offered with a choice of both two- and four-wheel drive on the 2.0 i-VTEC model, while improvements to the petrol and 2.2 i-DTEC diesel engines have achieved a significant reduction in carbon dioxide emissions.

The new CR-V will be in UK showrooms from October 2012 and it will continue to be built at Honda’s production facility in Swindon.

Adoption of a flat underfloor and sculptured wheel-arches have smoothed the air flow under the CR-V. A flat underfloor and sculptured wheel-arches have smoothed the air flow under the CR-V, while the longer roof combined with aerodynamically optimised front bumper and rear spoiler help to manage the air flow over the body. The result is a reduction in the drag coefficient by 6.5 per cent compared with the current CR-V to the benefit of performance, fuel consumption and exhaust emissions.

The load length has been reduced by 25mm to make it easier to use the boot space and improvements to the rear seats folded flat, the boot capacity of the CR-V has grown by 148 litres to 1,648 litres and with the seats folded up, the boot capacity increased by 140mm to 1,570mm, while the height of the load lip has been reduced by 25mm to make it easier to load heavy or awkward items. The boot of the CR-V can now accommodate two mountain bikes or four sets of golf clubs.

Within Honda’s global CR-V line-up, this power tailgate is unique to the European market. An addition of a keyless entry system and the power tailgate make it easier to use the boot space and improves its practicality.

With the rear seats folded flat, the boot capacity of the CR-V has grown by 148 litres to 1,648 litres and with the seats folded up, the boot capacity is a capacious 589 litres. The load length has been increased by 140mm to 1,570mm, while the height of the load lip has been reduced by 25mm to make it easier to load heavy or awkward items. The boot of the CR-V can now accommodate two mountain bikes or four sets of golf clubs.

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Take in a top West End show and have some free time in London for shopping and sightseeing. For the Dine and Dance option see the matinee performance before heading back to the hotel for dinner and disco (conditions apply). For the Saturday Night option you will see the evening performance. For both breaks the price includes a theatre ticket, and how you want to travel.

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Departures most weekends

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**Two Independent Members sought for West Midlands Police and Crime Panel**

The West Midlands Police and Crime Panel are looking for two committed and energetic people to join them.

Do you have a genuine interest in policing? Can you be an independent voice representing the communities you serve, to provide constructive challenge to the Police and Crime Commissioner? Are you willing to listen to the views of all sections of our local communities?

The West Midlands will be electing its first Police and Crime Commissioner on 10 November. He or she will be responsible for setting the priorities and resources for West Midlands Police, and supporting broader community safety activities.

The West Midlands Police and Crime Panel will publicly scrutinise the plans, budget and performance of the Police and Crime Commissioner. If appointed to this voluntary position you will serve on the Panel until April 2016.

For more information and to download an application form visit www.birmingham.gov.uk/wmpcp.

For an informal discussion please call Benita Wishart on 021 303 1727.

Closing dates for applications is 3 September 2012 and interviews will be held in late September.

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Departures most weekends
Teenager Connor hits unbeaten century

KIDDERMINSTER HARRIERS new-boy Danny Pilkington has been hailed as having a massive effect on pre-season as the team prepare for competitive action.

After sight friendlies, the first bold behind closed doors at Altham, Stowbridge now come to Aghlworth for the Worcestershire Senior Cup final on Saturday.

Pilkington will be involved and played a starring role in last Friday night’s 1-0 win at home to a young Wolves side, his goal the difference between the sides.

The summer arrival from York drilled in a free-kick with 13 minutes to go and his display another plus point to come out of the match.

The 22-year-old also shines in the friendly at Stradford the previous Monday, scoring one and making another as Harriers ran out 5-1 winners.

Wolves were unhappy about the refereeing decision that led to the free-kick winner, claiming Pilkington ran into Michael Thakw and was offside.

Deadlock

But the decision stood and Pilkington curled the ball around the wall and into the net to break the deadlock.

Thakw had earlier claimed Harriers from going ahead, after clearing Ricky Shakes goalbound effort off the line.

Shakes had cut into the box and fired past goal-keeper Aaron McCurvy with Thakw’s intervention keeping the score goalless.

Trialist Paul McCown was also funded last Friday afternoon at the club he served with as a trainee, with assistant boss Gary Whild pleased with the Wolves result.

He said: “It was an even game, I thought and, again, it was a good workout for the stage of pre-season where we are at.”

“It was good to see us believing in what we’re doing - in a very tight game.”

You look for contributions from players and we have looked at Danny over the last two games.

“Got a goal and an assist at Stradford last Monday and scored a great goal here that’s won the game.

“That’s massive for him and, although we keep talking about it, it was another step forward.”

Harrickers’ James Vincent between Robbie Parry and Jake Kempton

KIDDERMINSTER HARRIERS new-boy

KIDDERMINSTER Golf Club in the excellent golf played at Kidderminster coming out on top.

Mark Dudley, John Thompson, Scott Mason and Andy Longden maintained the trophy with a total nett score of 296.

They defeated Kings Norton while the two Kildrminsters, Richard and Andy, one apiece.

On a good batting wicket, Woffinden had the batmen capable of winning the match, but lost their first three wickets with only 20 runs on the scoreboard.

Joining

First was Danny Pilkington, caught for 10. Andy Kimberlin was out and bowled for six, and then Martyn универ the previous day, Smith, was caught for five.

Zac Turley was joined by opening bowler Richard Jeavons with another 47 runs in the eight overs.

Wolves had bowled out 11. But on the score sheet, Wolves had the scoreboard ticking over. A stand of 82 was ended when Kimberlin was out bowled for 96.

Two more wickets fell at 198 and 199. Turley had placed 199 wickets for 374, but not before Wolves had scored 81.

But then, Richard Jeavons and Andy Kimberlin had the scorecard ticking over. A stand of 82 was ended when Kimberlin was out bowled for 96.

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Samurai club proud of battling pair

Two former Samurai Judo Club players, Kelly Edwards and Danny Williams, have been in action for the Olympics.

The club’s squad of eight have been busy.

Edwards, competing at the lightest weight men’s group, under-48 kilos, had the worst possible draw. After a fine round, he was up against Japan’s Tomoko Fukumoto, the No.1 seed, and Edwards lost out to her opponent and rocked her a couple of times before being caught in throw for a high score which then led into a ground round for a maximum.

Because the international system in judo only allows those who reach the quarter-finals to back in the repechage, it meant that one debut and Edwards was out. Williams, in the men’s under-73 kilo category, had a better draw against Rachel Penn from Tajikistan, but it was still tough.

He had a good battle and for virtually all of the five-minute match the score was even. But he was caught with a good throw and that decided the contest and his elimination.

Olympics

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