Thousands attend Poppy Day events

‘Insult’ to town is rejected by leaders

CIVIC leaders have slammed a report which branded Dudley as the worst town for shopping in the country.

Dudley Council have teamed up with Halesowen on Saturday afternoon.

The town centre was ranked bottom of a list of 500 shopping destinations across the country for shopping convenience, claiming it had too many betting shops, charity stores and pawnbrokers.

Shops across the Black Country faced criticism in the Vitality Index by retail consultants Harper Dennis Hobbs with Halesowen also condemned on the list at 438th.

In Dudley the report recognised the town centre was hit by the Merry Hill shopping centre.

Dudley’s deputy council leader, Councillor Pete Lowe, said the report was an insult.

“Dudley has much to be proud of and I would urge people to visit and see all that we have to offer before making judgements from misleading statistics,” he said.

Switch on for festive lights

The Halesowen Christmas lights will be officially switched on on Saturday afternoon.

Dudley Council have teamed up with Halesowen Chamber of Trade and Cornbow Shopping Centre to stage the event, including fun rides and musical entertainment in the town centre.

From 11am there will be fun rides in High Street and entertainment on Hagley Street, before the switch-on ceremony being held at 5pm.

COMMUNITY leaders aiming to open an 18th century garden to the public say they will not be deterred by vandals who damaged the site.

Members of Halesowen Abbey Trust have been given access to the Grade I listed walled garden at The Leasowes park in Halesowen as they close in on finalising their purchase of the historic site.

They want to restore the garden, which dates back to the 1790s and used to serve the Leasowes Estate, but has been unused in recent times. However, on point inside the garden, trust honorary secretary Mick Freer discovered vandals had broken into the heritage site, smashing windows at a building, ripping up electric cables and even lighting fires on the two-acre plot.

Mr Freer is heading the trust’s purchase of the garden from Birmingham Metropolitan College and he said his group would not give up on its bid to open the garden to the public.

By Alex Ross

Security

“The vandals have created extra work but we must not be daunted,” said Mr Freer.

“We will succeed in spite of the negative elements that plague our society.”

Security measures will be essential and we need to concentrate on creating an income.”

Mr Freer believes the vandalism happened in recent weeks. They found empty cans and takeaway packaging littering the garden and graffiti.

The walled garden was used to grow vegetables and flowers for the estate, which would have about 20 family members and servants, contained greenhouses, a

HUGE stores of grit are piled high ready for workers to hit the streets of Dudley when the winter weather turns nasty.

Workers are monitoring the weather and the state of the roads and are on standby to begin their work.

A dedicated ‘weather watch’ scheme will also be implemented so people can get all the information they need on school closures, any affected services and gritting information, as some predict a hard winter ahead.

Borough transport boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said: “The winter can be a very challenging time for us. Obviously we cannot control the weather but preparations are in hand ahead of any severe weather.

“We have a stock of 4,000 tonnes of salt being delivered in addition to 2,000 tonnes we already have in stock.”

True grit — Councillor Khurshid Ahmed stands in front of the mound of grit at a warehouse on Lister Road, Dudley

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Commuters are ready for action now as forecaster predict a big drop from the milder temperatures of recent weeks.

Gritters get ready for the Big Freeze

New base for post office

A POST office has officially opened in a new location with longer opening hours.

Halesowen Post Office has moved into MSNB Food Ltd in Peckingham Street.

Mayor of Dudley Council for Market Ahsan opened of the new branch.

It will be open from 9am to 6.30pm Monday to Saturday and 9am to 4pm Sunday.

Postmaster Shiv and Nav Bawa said: “We’d like to thank the local community for their continued support and use of the branch.”

Accused has denied murder of pensioner

A MAN has denied murdering Halesowen pensioner Cynthia Beamoed and a London man.

Lee Harris, aged 32, who is alleged to have killed Mrs Beamoed and Philip Silverstone on consecutive days in June, pleaded not guilty to two counts of murder during a hearing at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

The body of Mrs Beamoed, aged 80, was found hidden inside her semi-detached house in Julian Road, Howley Grange, on June 29 after she was reported missing by family members.

Mr Silverstone, who had been stabbed, was found dead on June 30 at his flat in Spencer House, Balsall Heath, Birmingham, after concerns were raised for his welfare.

Before Balsall Heath Road, Balsall Heath, Birmingham, is formally accused of murdering Mrs Beamoed on June 27, while Mr Silverstone’s murder is alleged to have taken place on June 28.

A further hearing in the case will be held on November 28. Barns was remanded in custody.
Councillors join forces but not ‘Greater Brum’

Star support is right on cue

UKIP MEP fears threat to Black Country

Leader of council taken ill at Commons

THE council leader of Dudley Council has been recovering after collapsing while giving evidence during a committee hearing at the House of Commons.

Councillor David Sparks, who is also Chairman of the Local Government Association, became unwell at a session in London on Thursday.

He had attended the session of the Political and Constitutional Reform Committee session, which was held last month on at the House of Commons.

The session was suspended for 45 minutes after Councillor Sparks became unwell while answering a question.

A spokesperson for the Local Government Association said: “Councillor Sparks became unwell when giving evidence. It was not serious. He recovered soon afterwards. He left to go home shortly afterwards.”

The organisation posted on social media through its Twitter account saying “One of our members has been unwell at today’s Select Committee but is now fine and heading home, thanks to those who expressed concern.”

Councillor Sparks is also a member of the Dudley West Midlands Combined Authority and Dudley Wood Council.

Police discover cannabis farm

POLICE officers have seized around 5000 cannabis plants from a farm in the West Midlands.

The cannabis farm was found after a report that there had been a break-in at a property in the Old Forge Trading Estate in Dudley.

The discovery was made at 8.30am on Friday but no arrests were made at the site.

Detective Sergeant Richard Nunn said: “Some people may be under the illusion that cannabis is a safe and legal reality but it is quite different.”

Bowie on screen

THREE Victoria and Albert Museum’s David Bowie exhibition has been screened on cinema screens with a four of the display dedicated to the rock icon’s career.

It is screening on Tuesday at Dudley Showcase at 7.30pm and Wednesday at the Pierhead Cinema at 8.45pm.

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Police are called to cup game violence

VIOLENCE broke out at a junior football match in Halesowen.

Police were called after an official was allegedly head-butted and a car driven through the pitch during the match between under 18s sides in Sandwell. 

A police spokeswoman said: “A 44-year-old man informed them he had been head-butted and an individual properly admitted the offence. The individual has written a letter of apology and that has been accepted by all parties.”

Branch revamp

A BANK branch will temporarily close for a refurbishment.

The Gornal Wood branch of the Dudley Building Society will re-open at 10am on Monday, when the majority of customers can use branches in Cradley Heath, High Street, Kingswinford.

Boy, 11, is hurt as he crosses road

A YOUNG boy was badly injured when he was involved in a collision with a car in Cradley Heath.

The 11-year-old was cross the Parade on Saturday night when he was hit by a car. Paramedics were called to the scene shortly after 8.20pm and treated him for head injuries. He also had some facial injuries.

The region’s police and crime commissioner Dave Jamieson wants to get them road safety message across.

In Stourbridge, a parade began at 11am in Coronation Gardens. Other events included a wreath-laying ceremony. 

The Halesowen Chronicle will bring you more on the weekend in tomorrow’s paper.

Enchanted display at Merry Hill

A SPECIAL arts and crafts exhibition has been put together to get people up for the festive season.

The Enchanted exhibition at the Red House in Winter Gardens will run from November 8 until January. It features interpretations of the festive season including artwork, jewellery and glass.

More attend Remembrance Sunday

We will remember them — standard bearers lower their flags for the two minute silence at Dudley on Sunday.

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ALMOST £100,000 has been spent tackling the number of horses illegally grazing on a borough’s parks and nature reserves.

Don’t miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

By Alex Ross

The council has also revealed it has impounded more than 460 horses from roads and pathways over the past three years.

Officers say they work with animal charity RSPCA.

The council also posts enforcement notices at certain locations warning owners to keep their horses on council-owned land.

By Alex Ross

This month the council continues to warn horse owners their animals will be taken if found on parks and nature reserves.

The most recent action took place last month when two horses were seized from council-owned land off Brys Road, Penneth.

The council has inexplicably overlooked “May the Force be with you” from Star Wars and “I love the smell of napalm in the morning” from Apocalypse Now. Strange poll, strange result.

But then who reads the Radio Times these days?

We all have our personal best movie lines. One of mine is from the Celtic scene in Local Hero when Mac asks for a 42-year-old whisky and is told it’s not available. “Well,” he replies, “Give me four eight-year-olds and a ten-year-old.” And there’s a gem of a line at the end of Jungle Book when the man-cub Mowgli, having grown up with animals, is suddenly enchanted by his first sight of a little girl. Baloo the bear growls: “Forget about those. They ain’t nothing but trouble.”

Why’d he did the teenager Will Cornick murder his teacher? Because he is a psychopath. How do we know he is a psychopath? Because he murdered his teacher. Yet again nothing more than being wise after the event.

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

Living in a cold home can affect your health and wellbeing

Each winter people are dying as a result of being too cold in their homes

People of all ages are at risk

Call Dudley’s winter warmth service on 01384 817086

Don’t miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Special suprise for Bomber

Stray horses costing taxpayers over £90k

West Bromwich Albion sprang a surprise on club legend Tony ‘Bomber’ Brown when they invited his boyhood hero Denis Law to the unveiling of his statue. The Baggies’ record goal scorer described the appearance of the Manchester United striker as the ‘icing on the cake’ on an emotional day for the 69-year-old Albion legend.

Supporters gathered at The East Stand at The Hawthorns for the first look of the bronze statue of Brown, who scored 279 goals for the club over a 20-year period.

Chairman Jeremy Peace spoke ahead of the unveiling, describing him as a ‘phenomenal player for the club’. He said the statue had been three years in the making.

But it was the club’s surprise guest, 74-year-old former club youth team player, who sprung a surprise on club ownership.

CHANCE to win a sofa and gift cards

Don’t miss our exciting Christmas competition, we’re giving away a sofa and £200 worth of gift cards, all you need to do is answer our Christmas quiz. Head to our website and get involved.

Thank you for your humorous epitaphs. The expression “never speak ill of the dead” is obviously an awful one. A reader found a tombstone on which one grieving husband inscribed: “Katherine Young, who on 17th July 1791 began to hold her tongue.”

Another reader tells of a headstone in Yorkshire where the first lines record the death of a husband and the next line the passing of his wife. Underneath, in a different script, someone added: “She was not a virtuous woman.”

My father, too, as a fully paid-up Yorkshireman, felt no obligation to speak well of the dead. When one of his acquaintances died the local paper approached him for a few words to include in the obituary. “You may quote me, my father replied, “as saying that Mr ***** was a complete and the world is a much better place for his passing.” Needless to say they didn’t use it.

A poll of Radio Times readers suggests the favourite movie line of all time is Buzz Lightyear’s quote from Toy Story: “To infinity, and beyond!” The poll’s top 10 inexplicably overlooked “May the Force be with you” from Star Wars and “I love the smell of napalm in the morning” from Apocalypse Now. Strange poll, strange result. But then who reads the Radio Times these days?

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Don’t miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star
A MOVE to reduce the number of days rubbish is collected across Sandwell has been scrapped after workers rejected the idea.

Union bosses have now welcomed contractor Serco’s decision to stick to the current five-day bin collection after opposing the four-day week proposal.

The company, which has run bin and recycling collections on behalf of Sandwell Council since 2011, had proposed collections from Tuesday to Friday.

It said the planned shake-up, which would have seen staff doing a 37-hour week over four days, was part of a bid for “more efficient working.”

But Janet Holton, partnership director for Serco, said: “We proposed a four-day collection week to our employees for their consideration and feedback as it is a system we operate successfully elsewhere.

“The workforce preferred to continue on the existing five-day cycle and therefore those arrangements will be maintained.”

Matthew Law, convener for Sandwell Council’s bin contractors, said union members voted to reject the proposal on the changes to the working week at a meeting involving GMB and Unison members last week.

Serco is meeting company bosses today (Thursday).

MORE THAN 1,000 PEOPLE WAITED AT LEAST FOUR HOURS IN ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY AT RUSSELLS HALL HOSPITAL – A RISE OF MORE THAN 200.

But the trust in charge still beat its NHS-set target for the 13 weeks up to the end of September.

There were 1,050 patients who waited more than four hours compared with 816 people for the same period last year.

The hospital kept within the target of 95 per cent of people being treated at accident and emergency within the four hours, hitting 95.9 per cent.

The year before the hospital scored 96.4 per cent.

The figures also showed the hospital had a rise in accident and emergency admissions, up 1,562 to 25,536 over the period.

Paula Clark, chief executive at Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, said the hospital had not experienced the expected reduction in admissions over the summer.

She said: “One reason was a real rise in demand.

“Demand from the public has increased but we have more elderly patients and also seen a steep rise in children under two attending.”

Labour parliamentary candidate for Dudley South, Sajid Javid, met for the 15th time this year asking health bosses for a meeting over waiting times.

She said: “Waiting times have a massive impact on people who are ill and just want to be seen as quickly and efficiently as possible.

“People are really concerned.”

She added: “I will be writing to the hospital to ask to meet with them to see what we can do to support them in reducing times. We understand that resources are tight.”

The increase in people waiting more than four hours at accident and emergency departments at Russells Hall Hospital is mirrored at hospitals across the region.

Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust, which manages Sandwell General Hospital and City Hospital, has admitted admitting more than four hours, out of 99,218 admissions.
The Black Country Living Museum coal mine exhibit is 25 years old. CHARLIE BENJOTN reports

ITS dark, winding tunnels have transported a generation of museum visitors back in time to the subterranean world of the Black Country's mining history.

Now the Black Country Living Museum is celebrating 25 years since its £1 million man-made coal mine exhibit first opened to the public.

Four million visitors have been taken into the thick since November 1993, up to 1,500 a day during peak period.

As it comes to an end it splits into a maze of roadways and working areas, recreating the underground conditions as they would have been more than 150 years ago, with the roof coming down as low as 3.5 metres in some places.

The mine, which was built until 10 years after the museum itself was first opened, was the brainchild of former director of the museum Ian Walden and was funded entirely by the council and local businesses.

In total, there are over 200 metres of tunnels which makes the Into the Thick exhibit one of the largest, if not the largest, replica mine tours in the UK.

After originally looking at opening up an old mine to the museum due to use cement blocks to build a brand new, man-made mine to prevent risks to visitors and minimise flooding.

Despite being unable to reopen as an exhibit, the museum has a total of 42 disused mineshafts underneath it. Two of them are preserved at the Racecourse Colliery and Brook Shaft areas of the museum.

Back in the 1800s many of the mines across the Black Country not only en- 

carved their way to the surface but also those who lived in houses above them, which were slowly pitted down into the empty space below. The museum has an example of the phenomenon on-site in the form of a "filled cottage".

"It’s easy to forget the kind of working conditions miners were subjected to," said David Evans, Director of Collections, Learning & Research at the museum. "The mine tour is important because it immerses our visitors into the world of the miner in a way that hearing or reading about it simply can’t do."

"It is one of the most popular activities on our site for good reason and it especially resonates with children, the group which would have suffered the most at the hands of lax labour laws."

Ken Bradley, chairman of the Friends of the Black Country Museum group, said: "The museum wanted to illustrate how vital mining was to the area and how dangerous that work was.

"The site that the museum is built on actually had many working mines and there were enquiries made as to whether one of them could be used but the idea was turned down by the health safety people as there were lots of problems with it."

"The director decided that a way around this would be to do a recon- struction mine and that is how it came about."

"Mr Bradley said the contractors brought in to construct the mine were also involved with the living history for Viking attraction in York."

"The contractors at the time made panels out of synthetic materials to simulate the coalface," Mr Bradley said. "When they were laying them they came across a real coal seam.

"Although they weren’t allowed to leave the swallet open they actually took patterns and remade the panels to look exactly the same."

He added: "My father was a coal miner in a real working mine and stepping into the reconstruction for the first time all those years ago suddenly brought everything back because it is so realist."

As part of the anniversary celebrations the original tour guides have been invited back to the museum to take a tour themselves to commemorate the milestone."

Bryan Harris, of Gornal, 78, was a mine guide for more than 20 years from the 1969 opening. The former banker decided after he retired that he wanted to do something completely different. He said: "I loved every minute of it."

The trouble is, I suspect I am among the last of that generation and there cannot be many of the Black Country at all. Just as many younger people have also indicated the desire to see the famous industrial exhibits in favour of watching theexplo- ration of the quaint local stars of Chest- sea, Manchester City or United, which are more often than not the out- look of the younger generation will continue to support the likes of our aling towns and cities, and those whom I used to work on as the bright lights of Birmingham’s Bull Ring?"
Most people do not want this mosque

IN response to Councillor Waltho’s comments regarding officers supporting the new mosque scheme.

The question has to be asked, he is in possession of inside knowledge, as he is not a member of the Planning Committee.

I would also query the figures in opposition of the scheme, and his comments that “it would bring the Community together and transform an eyesore site.”

With two petitions on this application, of more than fifty thousand names, it has no chance of bringing the community together.

It will in itself be an eyesore, that most of the Dudley population do not want, particularly with the call to prayer being heard all over the town — which the original planning application stated could not be allowed to happen outside the site boundary.

Yet again we the people of Dudley, who pay for our councillors expenses, are being taken for a ride, while they are riding roughshod over our interests.

I note that the Friends of Dudley Hippodrome have missed their deadline to submit their proposed plans by one day and yet the Dudley Muslim Association have missed their deadline of 31st December 2008 by more than 2,000 days and are still wasting tax payers money with the council having to fight against their proposals.

PHIL CHERRINGTON
Dudley

Fair tax? Make big boys pay

WHY is it that when large companies and famous ‘personalities’ do not pay the full amount of tax that seems due from them it is always called tax avoidance.

Then when your local tradesman/friend of a friend earns a little cash on the side with some undeclared income it has become tax evasion. How, and why, does it change?

Could it be that governments, of all political colours, rely on big companies and ‘personalities’ for help? Or do they have high-power ed legal teams and accountants to help them avoid/evade taxes? Local tradespeople don’t, have those advantages.

Here is some advice to HMRC. Get some of the ‘big boys’. Make them pay. It isn’t fair to the citizens of this country that preferential treatment is given to some. Remember the Prime Minister said that we are all in this together.

M G OUCH
Wombourne

Concern at attack that injured dog

MY son took his dog on the lead on his regular 1am time walk at Cotwall End Nature Reserve, as he reached the woods a pack of five bull greyhounds — cross between a greyhound and a bull mastiff — attacked my son’s dog.

After a traumatic struggle, my son’s dog was fatally injured but had suffered severe bites. It had to be taken to the animal hospital where one bite required 25 stitches.

Police advised me that although it was a dangerous situation no law had been broken until the dogs attack a person. Can you imagine what the situation would have been had this been a child or a person carrying a dog?

The law is clearly in need of alteration to avoid a future horrific incident and I intend to appeal to my MP. I would urge all walkers at Cotwall End to avoid walking on their own.

M DAY
Dudley

No logic to lumping us with Muslims

It is with increasing consternation that I am reading more and more about the proposals for Greater Birmingham.

It is just typical of uneducated ill-educated bureaucrats in the European Union that they are investigating such a ridiculous idea. Drawing random lines across a map to define ‘regions’ is a sure fire way to cause dissent from the peoples on either side of them.

In 1914, two diplomats, one French and one British, drew a line across the Middle East to divide up the interests of France and Britain. Today the line created by Sir Paul Sykes and Francois Piotot, over a bottle of whisky, is at the centre of the attempt by IS to create a caliphate based on the Ottoman Empire.

The comparison between the two is that some demographic knowledge is required before any division or amalgamation of peoples.

Although I do not envisage taking up arms against the Brummies, I can see no way that any in the Black Country will ever identify as part of Birmingham, so there will be friction for as long as this ill thought out idea persists.

It is as sensible as drinking whisky whilst trying to sort out the troubles of the Middle East.

M DAY
Dudley

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, November 13, 2014

No logic to lumping us with Muslims

Fair tax? Make big boys pay

Concern at attack that injured dog

No logic to lumping us with Muslims

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Concern at attack that injured dog

MY son took his dog on the lead on his regular 1am time walk at Cotwall End Nature Reserve, as he reached the woods a pack of five bull greyhounds — cross between a greyhound and a bull mastiff — attacked my son’s dog.

After a traumatic struggle, my son’s dog was fatally injured but had suffered severe bites. It had to be taken to the animal hospital where one bite required 25 stitches.

Police advised me that although it was a dangerous situation no law had been broken until the dogs attack a person. Can you imagine what the situation would have been had this been a child or a person carrying a dog?

The law is clearly in need of alteration to avoid a future horrific incident and I intend to appeal to my MP. I would urge all walkers at Cotwall End to avoid walking on their own.

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A SON has been ordered to pay thousands of pounds in legal fees after he was sued by the foreign doctor who killed his father.

David Gray died from a massive drug overdose administered by Daniel Ubani on his first shift after flying to the UK from Germany to work as a locum doctor. Although Ubani was struck off the medical register in the UK, he continues to practise in Germany.

In their campaign for justice, Mr Gray’s two sons – Rory and Stuart – a GP in Cradley Heath – confronted Ubani at a medical conference in 2010 accusing him of being ‘a charlatan’, ‘a killer’ and an ‘animal’.

Rory Gray, aged 45, was sued in a German court by Dr Ubani for the remarks he made at the conference.

Dr Ubani was charged with death by negligence at a court in Witten and given a nine-month suspended sentence and ordered to face 5,000 euros (£4,100) costs but has since continued to practise.

Mr Gray, a scientist who lives in Germany, said he was taking legal advice from the UK because he did not want to commit further on the court actions.

Mr Ubani has refused to return to the UK, where he has been struck off the medical register by the General Medical Council. An inquest found grandfather-of-four David Gray, 70, was unlawfully killed in 2008 after Dr Ubani, working on his first shift in the UK as an out-of-hours locum, fatally administered 20 times the normal dose of diazepam.

Rory Gray, a 45-year-old Nigerian-born German citizen, was working for SuffDoc, part of the out-of-hours GP service provider Take Care Now. At the time of Mr Gray’s death, Mr Gray and his brother Stuart, who works at Church View Surgery in Halesowen Road, have claimed the German authorities failed to carry out an effective investigation into his death. They complained to the European Court of Human Rights but it found no violation of human rights.
Passengers flee as their bus bursts into flames

PASSENGERS were forced to flee a bus that burst into flames.

The blaze broke out at the back of a double-decker National Express bus in Quarry Bank High Street on Thursday morning, just before 7am.

Firefighters said that about 20 per cent of the bus was engulfed in flames towards the rear of the lower deck.

Robert Cartwright was heading to work when he saw the fire. He said: “I first noticed the fire when I pulled up behind a parked lorry which couldn’t get past because of it. The fire service turned up almost immediately. It only took them about two or three minutes. It was quite surreal to see this bus with flames just pouring out of it.”

National Express spokesman Jack Kelly said: “There were about eight people on the bus. The driver heard a noise, immediately stopped the vehicle and got people off. Nobody was hurt during the incident and we are working hard to establish the cause.”

Firefighters from Haden Cross and Brierley Hill were called to the number 41 bus which runs through Halesowen and Cradley Heath to Merry Hill shopping centre.

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ALL AREAS COVERED

It’s the best time of year to fit new windows!
CHERYL has changed her surname so many times that it has apparently been dropped now that she has released her fourth album, Only Human.

Never the strongest singer in Girls Aloud, her solo material has seldom lived up to her celebrity but she is getting things mostly right on Only Human, despite courting controversy with her liberal use of the f-word. We know she can do up-tempo dance-pop, I Don’t wanna Cain, the quirky Crazy Stupid Love (with guest Tiësto Tempah) and frantic Firecracker (on the deluxe album) prove that. But this time she actually achieves a decent ballad the, admittedly vocodered, title track.

Blending Philadelphia smooth disco with Bacharach-like pop sophistication, Rumer returns with an album of new material that lives up to the promise of her million-selling debut Sea- sons of the Soul (Into Colour (Atlantic Records), featuring the 70s sounding DANGEROUS, is a new album and well-crafted to appeal to fans of The Carpenters and Carly Simon.

JESSIE J has finally broken big in America with Bang Bang, helped by guest Nicki Minaj. It’s a stand-out track on her third album Sweet Talker (Island) on which she’s dominated her Essex girl pop. Other highlights include retro R&B club groove Soul Me With A Kiss (featuring De La Soul) and Blumin’ Up. Lyrically Jesse seems obsessed with people who don’t like her music. This is in concert at Birmingham Symphony Hall on Monday, November 17.

EDWIN STARR was, until his death in 2003, the UK’s favourite soul man thanks to his decision to leave the US to pursue his career in Britain, basing himself near Birmingham. His 1971 funk and soul album Involved has been remastered and reissued on CD by BBR. It includes his best known song, War, plus covers including Sly Stone’s Stand and George Harrison’s My Sweet Lord. The package includes 14 bonus tracks. Or experience Mo- town’s rarest voice on the remastered reissue 1968 debut Soul Master in- cluding hits Agent Double-O-Soul, Stop Her On Sight, Headline News.

After a slow start, silky smooth-voiced Rumer has returned.

The bonus tracks include his North- ern Soul classic Back Street. There are lots of Northern Soul compilations but if you want to dig a little deeper check out Dancing By Myself: Lost In Northern Soul for a plethora of vintage stompers. Raiding 60s soul vaults this 22-track CD from Cherry Red’s Righteous label unearthed gems such as The Five Royales’ Catch That Teardrop and I Need You by the Van Dellas. But Miss Orangatang by Lincoln Chase should perhaps have remained buried.

If 70s soul is your thing, the lush duets of Motown acts Thelma Houston and Jerry Butler on Soul Music Re- cords two-for-one CD reissue, Thelma & Jerry and Two To One (expanded edition) in one soulful package worth seeking out. A classy partnership.

X-rated Cheryl is still Only Human

Reviews by Leon Burakowski
WILLIAM & SONS
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Halesowen Chronicle  Thursday, November 13, 2014
Emotive look at Children on the Move during war

THE stories of children sent away to live with new families during the Second World War is being told in an exhibition.

Many youngsters from across England ended up in Staffordshire as they were ushered away from the firing line. And they built up relationships with their new families that ended up lasting a lifetime.

Evocative images are on display at the Museum of Cannock Chase in Hednesford in the Children on the Move exhibition.

Among the evacuees was Daphne Slade, who was evacuated from London to Norton Canes at the age of five.

She remembers clearly the blackout in London and how the lights went out for the first time. She was only five at the time. Daphne learned to play the piano in their new home.

When the London bombing got worse her parents moved in with them and then got a house three doors down. Ivy Field, from Birmingham, ended up at Pipewood boarding school for girls near Rugeley. She had originally been taken to Henley-in-Arden in Warwickshire before being transferred.

At Pipewood, Ivy spent a lot of time outside with the rest of the boarders, tending to chickens and her little vegetable patch, and attending the local church on Sundays.

She can remember the monthly Sunday visits by her family, and received one or two visits from her cousin who was based at Hednesford.

Ivy said she thanks her time at Pipewood for teaching her skills she might otherwise not have had the chance to learn, like typing, filleting fish and dancing. While she was at Pipewood her house received a direct hit, so she could never return to her original family home. All of her family had been out of the house at the time, and so they were all safe.

Another Pipewood evacuee was Ethel Ridley, who travelled there from Sparkbrook in Birmingham.

Children such as Shirley Webb had come from as far away as Kent, where she left behind her parents to stay in Colton.

Along with her brother, they were taken to the biggest house in the village which stood in its own grounds. They were taken care of by their 18-year-old daughter who did not really know how to look after small children. Shirley and her brother ended up spending more time with the house servants. They shared their meals with the servants and the cook in particular was a lovely lady who used to take them back to her home in Rugeley.

The exhibition runs until December 19. Collections officer Yvonne Cooper said: “There is a wide range of stories about children that were evacuated. “We have complemented it with artefacts from our own Second World War collection, which adds more to it.”

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He has since broadened his horizons and gone on to bathroom installations including full en-suites as well as keeping up with the heating industry.

Starting off with just one engineer; he has built up loyal relationships with his customers as well as his staff and in turn, his reputation and credibility are well known for being one of the best.

To date, we now have 10 members of staff and hope to build the company and create more jobs for local people.

2014 has been one of the company’s strongest and busiest years to date, thank you to all of our customers, new and existing.
Glassworks transformed into 27 stylish homes

A FORMER glassworks in Brierley Hill that was famous around the world has been transformed into homes.

The Royal Brierley Hill Crystal Works, a grade II listed building, lay empty for around 15 years before a major redevelopment got under way.

Old factory floors are being restored and offices overhauled to create 27 houses and flats, all while keeping ornate features. Former pulleys and period entrances now feature at the homes which have now gone on the market.

Dream

Developer John Woodcock died earlier this year and did not see his dream to transform the site come to fruition but the project has continued through his family firm. Mr Woodcock bought the old Stevens and Williams Royal Brierley glassworks, based off North Street, around eight years ago.

Around 17 homes have already been purchased on the site over the past two weeks, marketed by agents Walton and Hipkiss.

Brierley Hill Civic Society have welcomed the developed and paid tribute to the efforts of the developers.

Society member Tim Sunter said: “It is a very good development and I think people will be very impressed. It pays tribute to the heritage of the glassworks and it is nice that old period features like the pulleys remain inside.”

Estate agent Brett Walton added: “We have already had a lot of interest in this site. This factory lay derelict for around 15 years so it is great to see what work they have done so far.”

The development is due for completion next year. Production at the factory ended in the 1990s.

The Royal Brierley Hill Glassworks

A bedroom at one of the new homes

Some of the stylish living space

Heritage revamped into homes
**Fans scramble for Sachin ‘selfie’**

Sachin superstar — fans try to take ‘selfies’ with ‘God of Cricket’ Sachin Tendulkar, at Tesco Extra in West Bromwich. HUNDREDS of fans of cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar turned out to catch a glimpse of their sports hero and to capture the ultimate prize — a selfie with him. The Indian cricketer, who is the greatest run scorer in the history of the game, made a guest appearance amid tight security at Tesco Extra in New Square, West Bromwich on Saturday to sign copies of his book.

Dozens of them queued throughout the night ahead of his arrival at the store in the town’s new shopping centre. Organisers of the event say more than 500 people came along to snap up copies of his autobiography Playing It My Way, charting his career until his retirement last year.

In total 11 unions are walking out. They will then take action short of a strike until November 30. A series of strikes have been held in recent weeks by different groups of staff. Picket lines were set up outside New Cross, Walsall Manor, Russells Hall, Sandwell General and several other local hospitals.

Ravi Subramanian, Unison West Midlands regional secretary said: “The next set of industrial action will be even stronger as more unions are joining in. Health workers care for patients and their families every day of the year. The NHS depends on the goodwill and commitment of the workforce and this is now at breaking point.”

“The Government has made no attempt to resolve this dispute and staff have been left with no alternative but to take more industrial action. Jeremy Hunt needs to realise that this dispute is not going away. All we are asking for is fair pay.”

The Hospital Consultants and Specialists Association and British Dental Association are staging a week of action short of strike action between November 25 and 30. The Hospital Consultants and Specialists Association are staging a week of action short of strike action between November 25 and 30.

**GOODWILL and commitment in the NHS are at ‘breaking point’ according to one of the 11 unions taking strike action over this month.**

Nurses, midwives, cleaners, pharmacists, scientists, porters, secretaries, paramedics, occupational therapists, radiographers, dieticians, healthcare assistants, kitchen and maintenance staff will stage a four-hour stoppage in the morning on November 24.

The Hospital Consultants and Specialists Association is staging a week of action short of strike action to put pressure on the government to negotiate with them.

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Three get hands on with show

Show of Hands
Town Hall, Birmingham
INDIVIDUAL Rave
Knighthood, Phil Beer and Miranda Sykes are excellent and respected musicians but as show of hands they put on a show which is superb.

Their faultless and versatile abilities on a wide range of instruments and their easy and friendly manner made an almost two hour show just fly by.

With both Beer and Knighthood on guitars and Sykes with her trademark double bass they went straight into Be Lucky.

It was the comical tale of the horrors of the First World War where boys become men through a series of unpalatable experiences. Yet there are moments of subtle wit, bringing light relief to this moving piece. The action takes place in psychiatric hospit-

al where a renowned neurologist is tasked with ensuring young officers are in sufficient state to return to the trenches.

Condensing three novels into one two and a half hour read is not an easy task, but Nicholas Wright’s seamless script adapts this well. Stephen Boxer as Captain Rivers gave an emotional, understated performance, while Tim Delap as Steigfried Sassoon offered a powerful depiction and Garmon Rhys was superb as gentle soul Wilfred Owen.

The evening really belonged to the extraordinary portrayal of Billy Prior, a working class lad promoted to officer, who back Monaghan who perfectly depicted a soldier hiding his fear.

It was a well performed adaptation of a story from a thought-provoking period of history, but we forget.

Alison Norton

REVIEWS

Mir-fan-das out for YouTube star

Miranda Sings, Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton
THE YouTube phenomenon knocked off a UK tour in front of full house of her fanatical ‘Mir-fan-das’, mostly teenage followers of her virtual internet fantasy.

 Californian singer, co-

dominan and actress Colleen Ballinger arrived on stage as herself, giving a fine ren-

dition of Defying Gravity during which she trans-

formed into her alter ego Plastic Lama.

Swapping her sparkly dress for a pair of baggy red trackuit bot-

oms, an oversized man’s shirt and kicking off her heels for a pair of Crocs, the transmission was com-

pleted with a severe centre parting and a smear of lurid red ‘listik’.

She began a 70-minute au-

nance with the word-mang-

ering, pitch-imperfect, egotist whose bizarre ren-

tilinations of pop hits and show tunes, campaign against ‘porn’ (that is basically an-

ting even vaguely sexual) and rants against her ‘hat-

ers’ has won her around two and a half a million sub-

scribers on YouTube.

There was some great physical comedy. Miranda’s alternative to twerking has to be this good when n

unwell, in a stormer.

Turner. If Miss Faith could

be this good when unwell, in

a stormer.

The purils of audience particip-

ation were apparent when one male fan looked like taking redness out of her comfort zone during a

pretended dancing scene but Miranda stayed psycho ap-

proach enough to keep control.

Best of all was when she

read out hate posts from in-

ternet trolls dim enough to

think Miranda is for real.

Some of them sounded way

more crazy than Ballinger’s

comic creation.

Leon Burakowski

True Faith as Paloma defied doc

Paloma Faith, Symphony Hall, Birmingham
FOURTH night before this gig the Hackney soul singer had been in hospital on a drip but defied doctor’s advice to continue her tour.

Any fears that a below par performance would result were allayed by a bianchiing Trouble With My Baby and Paloma the tromper, dressed in a thigh high black dress with cameo details, took her iconic funky diva pose on to the Wolverhampton Civic stage.

Each album for Paloma is a new start and it was her third and latest album A Perfect Contradiction that yielded the majority of her songs from her debut opening with Take Me. There were no songs from her debut and only Picking Up The Pieces from her second.

A stunning version of River Deep Mountain High was performed in tribute to her inspiration Tina Turner. If Miss Faith could be this good when unwell, in a stormer.

The Worcester Chronicle

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It was founded in 1892 on land that was made available by the late Sir Alfred Gooch Bart in New Canal Street, Birmingham, and proudly displayed the heading ‘Birmingham Home for Lost and Starving Dogs’ above its doors, a sign that is still present on the building, having been restored by its current owners.

Almost 100 years later - in 1987 - the Duchess of York officially opened the New Bartholomew Street home, which had been purpose-built to provide shelter and protection for over 150 abandoned dogs in comfortable kennel blocks with adjacent facilities, such as its own vets’ clinic, puppy unit and isolation block.

The home is a charity which can only survive through the generosity and support of the general public and benefactors from the local community. Without this we would be unable to carry on the vital work of rescuing and rehoming abandoned dogs.

Rescued

We at Birmingham Dogs’ Home are here primarily to ensure that the abandoned dogs coming into our care are rescued from their plight, reunited with owners who may have lost them or rehomed to families that will respect and nurture them.

Our rehoming procedure is designed and operated principally to be both practical and fair. It takes into consideration the high number of dogs brought into our homes on a daily and weekly basis as well as our desire to find the best possible home for each individual dog in our care.

The public are free to walk around our homes to view our dogs at any time during our opening hours of Monday to Saturday 11am - 4.45pm, but they should be aware that not all dogs are available for rehoming. Some are stray dogs due to be claimed by their owners while others are under assessment by our staff for either medical or behavioural concerns.

Once you have spent time with one of our dogs and are satisfied that you would like to offer the dog a home, our rehoming staff will take you through the various stages required to complete the process. No pressure is placed on anyone to offer a dog a home. We do stress, however, to anyone considering this option that they must take as much time necessary before deciding to reserve a dog in our care.

Abandoned

Your help brings hope and happy tomorrows for abandoned dogs

Fundraising is the life’s blood of Birmingham Dogs’ Home. Without it we simply could not exist.

With no Government funding, we survive purely through the generous contributions of the general public, interested companies, groups, organisations and kind-hearted individuals who may or may not have purchased dogs from us and have remembered us in their Wills.

Legacies and other contributions are valued beyond compare and allow us to carry on providing care and protection for unwanted dogs.

This ensures that we can continue to rescue these unfortunate animals, oversee their welfare and good health and treat any conditions with first class veterinary attention all with one aim in mind ... to see them happily re-homed to loving new families.

Our highly trained kennel team do the rest with loving pastoral care prior to their four-legged charges leaving for pastures new.

There are various fundraising routes available for those who wish to donate. Whichever, we at Birmingham Dogs’ Home are deeply indebted to those of you who work so tirelessly to help us help them ...

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10 New Bartholomew Street • Birmingham B5 8QS
A *PRICELESS* painting depicting a Brierley Hill war hero rescuing a fallen soldier from the trenches has gone missing.

The oil painting depicting First World War soldier Sergeant WH Jordan rescuing a wounded comrade in May 1915, was painted by artist Francis Gibbons. Mr Gibbons, who lived in Wordsley, donated it as a gift to be hung in Brierley Hill council chamber in 1917.

The picture was later moved to Brierley Hill’s old free library, in Moor Street, and remained there until the 1970s when it was moved to the new library in High Street.

Mr Gibbons, who died on September 25, 1915, was painted by artist Francis Gibbons. Mr Gibbons, who lived in Wordsley, donated it as a gift to be hung in Brierley Hill council chamber in 1917.

The painting’s history was researched by members of Brierley Hill Civic Society who photographed the painting last July. But the painting is now missing.

Faced with the loss, Councilor Hilary Bills said: “It is very sad that the picture now seems to be lost. Given the historical context of the painting it must be viewed as being irreplaceable and therefore priceless. The picture appears to have been stolen.

We would urge anyone with information about its whereabouts to let us know as we would be only too happy to display it as part of our tribute to the 150th anniversary of the First World War.”

**USA-style primary to choose Tory candidate**

A US-style open primary will offer voters the chance to select a Tory candidate in a key marginal West Midlands seat of Dudley South.

The Conservatives are inviting people to choose from a shortlist of candidates to replace Chris Kelly, who is standing down after one term. The move copies political parties in the USA who let voters have the final say on the candidates, even if they are not party members.

It has been used in the recent Clacton by-election, which the Tories lost to UKIP, and in the upcoming Rochester and Strood by-election.

People have until November 21 to register at the website www.pollmysay.co.uk and a public meeting will take place on November 26. It is open to anyone who lives in the constituency and is aged 18 or over.

The constituency takes in Brierley Hill, Brockmoor and Pennsnett, Kingswinford North and Wall Heath, Kingswinford South, Netherton, Woodside, St Andrews and Wordsley.

The last election there were more than 61,000 registered voters.

The winning candidate will try to defend the 3,365 vote majority Mr Kelly won from Labour in 2010. But he or she will face competition from both Labour and UKIP.

The Conservatives in Dudley were knocked back earlier this month by the defection of two councillors — Gillian Simms and Cheryl Billington — to Labour.

**Mexican food outlet up for business prize**

BURRITO Kitchen has been refueling weary shoppers at Merry Hill shopping centre for nearly two years.

Its range of fast Mexican food has proved a hit since 25-year-old entrepreneur Tim Stillwell, a former contestant on TV’s The Apprentice, opened it after appearing on the hit BBC show.

Now the Eat Central outlet is beginning to gain wider recognition and was named one of the top 100 best up-and-coming businesses in the country.

Having recently bagged the title of best Midland’s start-up in the Lloyds Bank Enterprise Awards, it has now been named in the ‘G2 Smarta 100’. The list recognises the most resourceful, inspiring and ground-breaking small businesses in the UK.

The final winner — to be announced this month — picks up a cheque for £10,000.

Tim, from Birmingham, was inspired for Irish Mexican food when spending a year abroad.
Bruges by Eurostar

Four days various departure dates 2015

PRICE FROM £289

There are few places left where you can totally switch off for a few days from the pressures of modern day living than Bruges. Its beauty and tranquility is outstanding and the atmosphere of this perfectly preserved medieval town is totally unique.

Whether it’s a stroll by one of the canals, sipping a coffee in the Old Market Square with the chimes ringing out from the belfry, or perhaps a gentle trip around the town by horse and carriage, its serenity will captivate and it has something for all tastes.

A guided walk of this beautiful town will really show off its charm perfectly. Its streets are crammed with fascination and yet is so compact that the walking tour emphasises the main sites and attractions beautifully.

Climb the 366 steps of the belfry tower for breathtaking views, see the City Hall, the old Law Courts and the Basilica of the Holy Blood in which is housed some of Jesus’ blood. Another must is the Notre Dame Church where Michelangelo’s beautiful Madonna and Child, carved in pure white marble, is kept.

A chance to visit Ypres, centre of British activity in Belgium during the war and home to the Menin Gate, included to demonstrate this delicious craft.

A chance to visit Belfort, one of the canals, sipping a coffee in the Old Market Square with the chimes ringing out from the belfry, or perhaps a gentle trip around the town by horse and carriage, its serenity will captivate and it has something for all tastes.

Organised by RivieraTravel (ABTAV 4744)

New Year in Chester and Liverpool

Three days departing December 30

PRICE FROM £179

• Return coach travel
• Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
• Tours of Liverpool and Chester
• Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTAV 787X)

Christmas in Bournemouth

Five days departing December 23

PRICE FROM £399

• Return coach travel
• First nights half-board accommodation
• Traditional Christmas Lunch on Christmas Day
• Entertainment programme
• Visits to Salisbury, Stonehenge, Winchester and New Forest National Park
• Free time in Bournemouth
• Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTAW 0552)

Marina Island Breaks

HMS Belfast

Three days departing December 30

PRICE FROM £185

• Return coach travel
• Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
• Sightseeing tour of London
• Services of a tour manager
• Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTAV 787X)

Butterflies and Orchids

Two days departing March 6

PRICE FROM £125

• Return coach travel
• Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
• Visit to RHS Wisley gardens
• Services of a tour manager
• Single rooms subject to availability – supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTVA 787X)

Clasical Spectacular

at the Royal Albert Hall

Two days departing March 22

PRICE FROM £129

• Return coach travel
• Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
• Choir ticket for the Classical Spectacular concert (upgrades offered)
• Sightseeing tour of London
• Free time in London
• Services of a tour manager
• Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTVA 787X)

Saturday Night Theatre by rail

Two days various departure dates

PRICE FROM £149.95

• Return coach travel
• Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
• Ticket for the Saturday evening performance of a West End Show of your choice
• Free time in London
• Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Omega Events (ABTA V1591)

Welsh Association of Male Voice Choirs

at the Royal Albert Hall

Two days departing May 9

PRICE FROM £129

• Return coach travel
• Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation in an outer London hotel
• Services of a tour manager
• Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTVA 787X)

Loire Valley and Monet’s Garden

by Eurostar

Six days various departure dates 2015

PRICE FROM £559

• Return standard class seat on Eurostar
• Return rail connection to London
• Return coach transfer overseas
• Three dinners
• Services of a tour manager
• Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by PineroloTravel (ABTA V4744)

Hidden Portugal

Eight days various departure dates 2015

PRICE FROM £559

• Return flights
• Seven nights four-star half-board accommodation
• Boat tour to Muro and boat making demonstration
• Services of a tour manager
• Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Air Holidays (ABTA V7812, ATOL 2325)

Index

Tour Organisers Licence) for holidays by air. Prices are per person (unless otherwise stated). Please note Star Extra Travel is unable to take bookings over the telephone. Please read brochures/web pages for full description plus terms and conditions. Dates subject to availability. Coach pick up points offered: Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton (with the exception of holidays by air, Eurostar and certain cruises).
Liberty and death theme for opera season with passion

ONE of the world's most popular and passionate operas, Bizet's Carmen, is brought by Welsh National Opera to Birmingham Hippodrome next week.

Staged on Wednesday and Thursday, the story of a free spirit who would rather die than surrender her liberty will be conducted by James Suckale.

By Leon Burakowski

Pan ready for flight of fancy

PETER Pan is making a flying visit to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre.

Bilston Operatic Society is preparing for its musical version of JM Barrie's much-loved tale of the boy who never grew up and his adventures in Neverland, facing Captain Hook and his crew of scurvy pirates.

Young actors will be fitted for a flying harness and have been learning moves on a flying rig that will be replicated for the show next week at the Lichfield Street venue.

The cast includes Abi Studwicke and Lucy Fellows as Wendy, Alex Clarke and Ryan Harris as John, Laim Hewitt and Tom Horton as Michael, and Darci Dobson and Maya Bowles as Tinkerbell. In the title role, flying across the stage will be Maison Kelley. Peter Pan runs from Tuesday to Saturday. Call the box office on 01902 429212 or go online to www.wolverhamptongrandtheatre.co.uk.

Feel the noise at Slade convention

A CONVENTION for fans of Black Country rock legend Slade is being held in Bilston next spring.

Music venue The Robin 2 and the Slade Fan Club are staging the event on April 29 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the band's cult movie Slade In Flame.

The convention, which will include a screening of the film, will run from noon with an evening performance by tribute band Slade Memorialah.

Tickets are £14 in advance and £15 on the door.

Comic is top of charity variety bill

BLACK Country comic Doug Parker is the headline act at a charity variety show later this month.

BBC Radio WM's Jenny Williams is among the guest comedians at the Princess of Wales Centre in Cannock for the fundraiser on Saturday, November 25.

It starts at 7.30pm and is in aid of the Black Country branch of the MS Society, one of the Mayor of Walsall branch's nominated charities.

Vocalists Nick De Jarratt and Nicci will also perform.

Tickets are £10.50 and available from the Church Street theatre's box office on 01543 578762.

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Signed is bringing blues back home

FORMER Black Country schoolboy turned international blues star Joanne Shaw Taylor will be back in the West Midlands on Saturday.

Guitarist Joanne, who played her first gig as a child at the original Robin's R'n'B Club in Brierley Hill, will be performing at Birmingham Town Hall.

She was voted Best British Female Vocalist at the Blues Awards in 2010 and 2011.

Joanne, who has homes in Birmingham and London, will perform songs from her new album The Dirty Truth at the concert. Support will be from Bernie Marsdon.

Tickets are priced £17.50.
Drysdale and Robert Emms.
warrior to fulfil his destiny.
former stepmother Pasiphae
death of King Minos. His
changed in the year since the

20.00 News; Weather. Saturday Kitchen
4.30 Film: Eastern Odyssey. (R)
7.15 The Chase: Celebrity Special.
Radio 2.10 Jo Whiley, Benidorm
3.20 Live International
7.50 NFL: Rush Zone.
5.15 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R)
6.00 Film: Battle of Britain.
7.55 The Morning Show.
8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R)
9.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R)
10.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R)
11.00 The Joy of Cooking.
12.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R)
13.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R)
14.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R)
15.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R)
16.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R)
17.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R)
18.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R)
19.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R)
20.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R)
21.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R)
22.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R)
23.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R)
24.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R)
**SUNDAY'S TV NOVEMBER 16**

### BBC1
- **6.00 Breakfast.** 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00 Sunday Morning Live. 11.00 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) 12.00 Bargain Hunt. (R) 12.30 ITV News. Regional News. Weather. 13.00 Escape to the Country. (R) 14.00 Great American House Hunt. Regional News. Weather. 14.30 The Bill. 15.00 Dinner with Andrew. (R) 15.30 Midsomer Murders. (R) 16.30 It’s Not Easy Being an Elephant. (R) 17.00 Pointless. (R) 20.00 Film: Tropic Thunder. (R) 22.00 The Great British Bake Off. (R) 23.30 The Apprentice. (R)

### BBC2
- **6.00 Life in a Cottage Garden with Carol Klein.** (R) 6.40 British Gardens Revealed. (R) 7.30 Countryfile. (R) 8.00 BBC2 News. Regional News. Weather. 8.15 Saturday Kitchen Best Bits. 11.00 Countryfile. (R) 11.30 Weight Watchers: Big Lunch. (R) 13.00 Mindfield. (R) 14.00 The American Farmer. (R) 15.00 Antiques Roadshow. 15.30 Ideal Home. (R) 16.30 Big Time Rich Kids. 16.45 The Ape Show. (R) 17.30 The Apprentice. (R) 19.30 Great British Bake Off. (R) 20.00 The Apprentice. (R) 20.15 The Grand Tour. (R) 22.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 22.30 The Apprentice. (R)

### ITV
- **6.00 GCB: Fonteyn's Dream.** (R) 6.15 Put & Stick. (R) 6.45 Dive Daze. (R) 7.00 Doc Martin. (R) 7.15 Doc Martin: Derren Brown's Adventures. (R) 7.30 Casualty. (R) 8.00 Life and Soul. 8.45 The Mr Men Show. (R) 9.00 Bad Girls. 10.00 The Greatest British Escape. (R) 10.45 The Great British Bake Off. (R) 11.25 The Apprentice. (R) 11.45 The Apprentice. (R) 12.00 The Apprentice. (R)

### CHANNEL 4
- **6.00 MythBusters: Poppy.** 6.05 Roary the Racing Car. (R) 6.15 Angelina Ballerina. (R) 6.30 B3 and Bertie’s Great Adventure. (R) 6.35 Chuckle & Spin. (R) 6.45 The Mr Men Show. (R) 7.00 Horror of My Life. (R) 8.00! Film: Contagion. (R) 8.30 The Little Drummer Girl. (R) 9.00 Wallander. (R) 9.30 Horrible Bosses 2. 10.00 Modern Family. (R) 10.30 The Apprentice. (R)

### CHANNEL 5
- **6.00 The Great British Bake Off.** 6.15 Little Princess. (R) 6.30 The Adventures of Top Cat (R) 6.45 The Best Friend Ever. (R) 7.00 Doctor Who. 8.00 The Apprentice. (R) 9.00 Unforgettable. (R) 10.00 The Apprentice. (R) 10.30 The Apprentice. (R) 11.00 The Apprentice. (R) 11.30 The Apprentice. (R) 12.00 The Apprentice. (R) 12.30 The Apprentice. (R) 13.00 The Apprentice. (R) 13.30 The Apprentice. (R) 14.00 The Apprentice. (R) 14.30 The Apprentice. (R) 15.00 The Apprentice. (R) 15.30 The Apprentice. (R) 16.00 The Apprentice. (R) 16.30 The Apprentice. (R) 17.00 The Apprentice. (R) 17.30 The Apprentice. (R) 18.00 The Apprentice. (R) 18.30 The Apprentice. (R) 19.00 The Apprentice. (R) 20.00 The Apprentice. (R) 20.30 The Apprentice. (R) 21.00 The Apprentice. (R) 21.30 The Apprentice. (R) 22.00 The Apprentice. (R) 22.30 The Apprentice. (R) 23.00 The Apprentice. (R) 23.30 The Apprentice. (R)

### DIGITAL
- **BBC Three** 6.30 Wheelies 2013: Wootspoorts. (R) 7.00 The Apprentice. (R) 7.05 Escape to the Country. (R) 8.00 Sport Relief. 8.30 The Apprentice. (R) 9.00 The Apprentice. (R) 10.00 The Apprentice. (R) 10.30 The Apprentice. (R) 11.00 The Apprentice. (R) 11.30 The Apprentice. (R) 12.00 The Apprentice. (R) 12.30 The Apprentice. (R) 13.00 The Apprentice. (R) 13.30 The Apprentice. (R) 14.00 The Apprentice. (R) 14.30 The Apprentice. (R) 15.00 The Apprentice. (R) 15.30 The Apprentice. (R) 16.00 The Apprentice. (R) 16.30 The Apprentice. (R) 17.00 The Apprentice. (R) 17.30 The Apprentice. (R) 18.00 The Apprentice. (R) 18.30 The Apprentice. (R) 19.00 The Apprentice. (R) 20.00 The Apprentice. (R) 20.30 The Apprentice. (R) 21.00 The Apprentice. (R) 21.30 The Apprentice. (R) 22.00 The Apprentice. (R) 22.30 The Apprentice. (R) 23.00 The Apprentice. (R) 23.30 The Apprentice. (R)
**FILM CHOICES**

**MONDAY**

Setup, Channel 5, 10.55pm

*A Criminal Takes Part in a Profitable Diamond Heist, only to be betrayed by his partner in crime who makes off with the loot. The aggrieved thief swears revenge on his former friend, and seeks the aid of a powerful Mob boss in getting revenge and taking back his ill-gotten gains. Crime thriller, with Bruce Willis, Curtis ’50 Cent’ Jackson and Ryan Phillipps. (2011)

**TUESDAY**

The Painted Veil, BBC1, 11.50pm

In 1920s China, an English doctor’s wife has an affair but is betrayed by her partner in crime whom she flees with a politician. When her husband finds out, he plots having unexpected romances when his brother and her arrange to swap houses for the Christmas holidays, so former friend and seeks the aid of a powerful Mob friend makes surprise visits and finds the wrong person at a and quiet to work. However, both find themselves having unexpected romances when his brother and her friend make surprise visits and find the wrong person at home. Comedy, starting Father Ford. (2009)

**FRIDAY**

Daylight, Friday, ITV, 11.15pm

It’s debatable whether this eye-opening series will have an impact but we bet it will sign up a bunch of police officers, but if it has shown the job is really dull. Acting sergeant Will Taylor describes his own typical shift as a ‘routine, boring, it’s easy to see in the last in the current series, he has to deal with crimes ranging from the theft of a bike to a drug deal, so maybe the most complicated cases involve three sex workers who were arrested during a raid on brothel. The cops have to establish whether the woman are victims of trafficking, or if they are guilty of exploitation. Meanwhile, we also get an insight into Will’s own remarkable story, revealing that although he’s gone from being a street lawyer to a double amputee police officer, he’s always been driven by a need to see justice done.

**BEST OF THE REST**

**WEDNESDAY**

Obsessed, BBC1, 11.35pm

An ex- Forty winks and a happy family. His wife lives in his world crumbing around him when a temporary worker is assigned to his office. The man becomes desperately fixated on him, going to any lengths to seduce him. When an Obsession, the programme in which this completely obsessional goes on, is John Simm’s American accent.

**THURSDAY**

Trading Christmas, Channel 5, 9.30pm

Lonely widow Emily and frustrated writer Charles arrange to swap houses for the Christmas holidays – it’s little wonder that takess ome beating. Emily (O’Connor) and her son, Charlie, find their lives in danger. Thriller.

**FRIDAY**

Daylight, Monday, ITV, 11.15pm

A devastating explosion in the New Jersey Tunnel causes a horrific pile-up, trapping a group of motorists underground. A former emergency worker witnesses the blaze and heads in to guide the handful of survivors to safety before the waters of the Hudson river above them break through and flood the tunnel. Disaster movie, starring Sylvester Stallone. (1995)

**THURSDAY**

The Fall BBC2, 9pm

Jamie Dornan is a busy chap at the moment. As Wexford, he is a complicated character and it’s very easy to be carried away with this character and its very easy to believe in the story.

**FRIDAY**

Ben Fogle: New Lives in the Wild Channel 5, 9pm

New series. The return of the programme in which Ben Fogle meets people who have moved to inhospitable parts of the world after leaving the rat race behind. He begins by travelling to the Namibian desert to spend time with a 50-year-old Gideon David, who quit his career in life insurance to live in the largest conservation area in Africa.

**PICK OF THE WEEK**

Family matters to James as he searches continues

James Nesbitt is back as one of the best actors on television and has been for a while now. As he puts his name to quality and has a range that takes him from hero to villain.

At a time when the idea of another legal, medical or police procedural drama makes us yawn, it can’t be easy poring a credible role, but simply by playing In The Missing, Nesbitt has made it a hit on television. Of course, this particular drama is helped along by the fact that Nesbitt is joined by such a top drawer cast, but Frances O’Connor, who plays Emily Hughes in the hard-living drama, couldn’t speak more highly of her co-star.

She explains: “I love acting with James because he just brings it! Every time you do a scene, he always makes you real good and it’s a hundred per cent for you. I love all the choices he makes, he’s great. We’ve had to do some really tricky scenes but he’s been very supportive.”

O’Connor isn’t exaggerating when she talks of those tricky scenes. With such a sensitive subject matter – a little boy going missing while on holiday in France – it’s little wonder the nation has taken this eight-part drama into their hearts, and O’Connor doesn’t need much time to think about signing up to the part.

“I just loved these scripts – I thought they were brilliant,” she explains. “I was sent here and wanted to read more because they’re just such great page-turners. The other great thing about the show is that the dialogue is so real and psychologically so true. So when you’re acting, you feel it and you believe it.”

Nesbitt says: “I was really impressed with the way the character and its very easy to believe in the story.

She continues: “Because I’m a mother I personally relate to the story. I don’t know if I rel-ish the idea of someone taking my child, but clearly I can use my imagination. It’s every parent’s worst nightmare.”

This is the Missing, it’s one of the most complicated cases involves three sex workers who were arrested during a raid on brothel. The cops have to establish whether the woman are victims of trafficking, or if they are guilty of exploitation. Meanwhile, we also get an insight into Will’s own remarkable story, revealing that although he’s gone from being a street lawyer to a double amputee police officer, he’s always been driven by a need to see justice done.

**MONDAY**

24 Hours in Police Custody Channel 4, 9pm

It’s debatable whether this eye-opening series will have an impact but we bet it will sign up a bunch of police officers, but if it has shown the job is really dull. Acting sergeant Will Taylor describes his own typical shift as a ‘routine, boring, it’s easy to see in a 45-seater bus. But the most complicated cases involve three sex workers who were arrested during a raid on brothel. The cops have to establish whether the woman are victims of trafficking, or if they are guilty of exploitation. Meanwhile, we also get an insight into Will’s own remarkable story, revealing that although he’s gone from being a street lawyer to a double amputee police officer, he’s always been driven by a need to see justice done.

**INTERUPTED**

**FRIDAY**

Daylight, Friday, ITV, 11.15pm

A devastating explosion in the New Jersey Tunnel causes a horrific pile-up, trapping a group of motorists underground. A former emergency worker witnesses the blaze and heads in to guide the handful of survivors to safety before the waters of the Hudson river above them break through and flood the tunnel. Disaster movie, starring Sylvester Stallone. (1995)

**TUESDAY**

Madeleine McCann: A Global Obligation Channel 4, 7pm

In May 2007, three-year-old Madeleine McCann went missing in the Portuguese resort of Praia da Luz. In this documentary, journalist Martin Friel – who broke the story in the UK on GMTV – analyses the unprecedented campaign run by Kate and Gerry McCann to have their daughter in the public eye. He traces both the positive and negative reactions that this crusade evoked and hears from the father of a seven-year-old boy who went missing in 2003, but quietly disappeared from the national news.

**WEDNESDAY**

The Apprentice BBC1, 9pm

After a decade on the box, there was always a danger of this glorified job interview turning into a parody of itself. But that happened in no time, with comedians jumping at the chance of hamming up the chances of transforming Asian Sugar and the endless supply of bored, power-dressing wannabe apprentices. Little wonder the show runners wanted to shake things up a little this time, so the other week when Lord Sugar fired out not one but three contestants, Apprentice addicts were rocked to their core. So far in series 10, we’ve said goodbye to Chris, Robert, Scott, Lindsay, Nathan, Steven, Sarah, Ella, James and Jemma among others, so who knows how many will be kicked out of the latest edition?

**THURSDAY**

The Apprentice, BBC1, 9pm

After a decade on the box, there was always a danger of this glorified job interview turning into a parody of itself. But that happened in no time, with comedians jumping at the chance of hamming up the chances of transforming Asian Sugar and the endless supply of bored, power-dressing wannabe apprentices. Little wonder the show runners wanted to shake things up a little this time, so the other week when Lord Sugar fired out not one but three contestants, Apprentice addicts were rocked to their core. So far in series 10, we’ve said goodbye to Chris, Robert, Scott, Lindsay, Nathan, Steven, Sarah, Ella, James and Jemma among others, so who knows how many will be kicked out of the latest edition?
BRAIN GYM
No.299

Codeword

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.

Across

1. To which family of birds does the bittern belong?
2. In which religion is Brahma the creator god?
3. Which architect laid out Covent Garden?
4. What was the first major sound film?
5. What do Americans call eggplant?
6. Who played the sleuthing wife in the “Thin Man” films?
7. Which ideal state is named from the Greek for “no place”?
8. Which river has Lake Tana as its source?
9. Which French king was married to Marie Antoinette?
10. Which organ is stimulated by the drug digitalis?

Down

1. Make contact, then leave; it’s critical (5-3-2)
2. Morally by writing bugger letter (5)
3. Transaction in wood (4)
4. Squint at court order he produced (6)
5. Made a loan at a higher level (8)
6. He could turn out to be a paranoid big head (7)

Quick Clues:

Across

7. Perhaps (5)
8. Faultless (7)
9. Apart (7)
10. Preclude (5)
12. Pirate (10)
15. Intentional (10)
16. Send (5)
19. Refined (7)
21. Work (7)
22. Wrong (5)

Down

1. Envy (10)
2. Treacle (5)
3. Repair (4)
4. Thin (8)
6. Expel (5-3)
11. Wasteful (10)
12. Fugue (5-3)
13. Professors (4,1,5)
14. Professor? (4,1,5)
15. Fugue (10)
16. Raisin (7)
17. Deny (6)
18. Opened (6)
19. N9 (5,5)
22. Nearer (7)

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

Monday Night from £109.85

Saturday Night from £139.95

Dine and Dance from £194.95

Choose your show, price band* and how you want to travel

Rail inclusive breaks – Two or three days

Departures most weekends

Saturday Night Theatre from £149.95

See page 23 for full details and all price bands.

Coach inclusive breaks – Two days

Selected weekend departures

Saturday Night from £139.95

Dine and Dance from £194.95

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 a disco (conditions apply). Or the Saturday Night option includes a ticket for the show to see an evening performance.

Both breaks include a theatre ticket, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel, with full English breakfast (plus dinner for Dine and Dance options).

Pick-up points offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

*The “from” price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure details. Single rooms subject to availability – supplements apply.

Organised by Omega Events Ltd (ABTA Y590X)

For a theatre brochure please call the promotions team on (01902) 319999
(Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm), or go to expressandstar.com/starextravle

Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions
Traditional semi that is close to Warley Woods

This well presented traditional three-bedroomed semi-detached home with double bay windows in Grafton Road, Oldbury is close to Barnfield Hill Park and Brandhall golf course and Warley Woods.

It is for sale through Derek Spires at £149,950. With gas central heating and double glazing it has a porch, entrance hall, a lounges with laminate flooring, dining room, kitchen with a gas hob with extractor hood and oven and ceramic floor tiling, three bedrooms, fully tiled bathroom and a rear garden.

For further information contact Derek Spires & Co on 0121 4204646 or visit www.derekspiresandco.com
**QUINTON**

**WORLDS END LANE**
- Traditional Semi-Detached Property, EPC Rating C
- Lounge, Dining Room, Conservatory, Fitted Kitchen and Shower Room
- Five Bedrooms and Family Bathroom To The First Floor
- Property Benefits From Central Heating and Double Glazing
- Garage, Driveway and Large Rear Garden

£249,950 QUINTON 0121 4217766

**RIDGEGATE LANE**
- Traditional Semi-Detached Property, EPC Rating D
- Three Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Utility Room, Cloakroom/WC
- Three Wall Proportioned Bedrooms, Family Bathroom/WC
- Side Garage Driveway and Rear Garden
- Internal Viewing Recommended To Appropriate Accommodation

£190,000 QUINTON 0121 4217766

**WILMINGTON ROAD**
- Traditional Bay Fronted Semi Detached Property
- Lounge, Dining Room, Conservatory and Kitchen
- Five Bedrooms and Family Bathroom W/C
- Property Benefits in Gas-Fired Central Heating System and Double Glazing
- Side Garage Driveway and Garden To The Rear

£189,950 QUINTON 0121 4217766

**MEADOW ROAD**
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- Two Bedrooms and Family Bathroom W/C
- Side Garden and Driveway To The Rear

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- Traditional Semi-Detached Property, EPC Rating F
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- Three Bedrooms, Separate W/C
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- Driveway To The Front Garden, To The Rear

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**GRAYSWOOD PARK ROAD**
- Traditional Semi-Detached Property, EPC Rating D
- Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Conservatory, Fitted Bathroom/WC
- Three Bedrooms and Family Bathroom
- Side Garage Driveway and Rear Garden
- Property Benefits From Having No Upward Chain

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**STANLEY ROAD**
- Traditional Bay Fronted Semi-Detached Property, EPC Rating E
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- Three Bedrooms and Family Bathroom
- Property Benefits From a Gas Central Heating System and Double Glazing
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- Three Bedrooms and Family Bathroom W/C
- Gas Fired Central Heating System and Double Glazing
- Impaired Drive To The Front Garden, To The Rear

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**GROSVENOR ROAD**
- Semi-Detached Property, EPC Rating D
- Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility Area, Cloakroom/WC
- Three Bedrooms and Family Bathroom
- Property Benefits From Having No Upward Chain
- Outside There Is A Garage, Driveway and Garden To The Rear

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**SF KATHERINES ROAD**
- Traditional Semi-Detached Property, EPC Rating D
- Through Lounge Open Plan Kitchen/Conservatory
- Three Bedrooms, Bathrooms/WC
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- Recently Refurbished
- Viewing Recommended To Upward Chain

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**ST QUENTIN'S ROAD**
- Semi-Detached Property, EPC Rating C
- Lounge, Kitchen/Dining Room, Utility Room, Cloakroom/WC
- Three Bedrooms, Bathrooms/WC
- Property Benefits From Having No Upward Chain

£123,000 QUINTON 0121 4217766

**YORK ROAD**
- Semi-Detached Property, EPC Rating D
- Lounge, Kitchen/Dining Room, Utility Room, Cloakroom/WC
- Three Bedrooms, Bathrooms/WC
- Property Benefits From Having No Upward Chain

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- Lounge, Kitchen, Cloakroom/WC
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**HURSTY GREEN ROAD**
- Traditional Semi-Detached Property, EPC Rating D
- Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Ground Floor Bathroom
- Three Bedrooms, Separate W/C
- Gas-Fired Central Heating System and Double Glazing
- Driveway To The Front Garden, To The Rear

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Meriva’s appeal for family car buyers

By Anthony Martyn

Meriva range’s best and most economical powerplant.

By Anthony Martyn

Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, November 13, 2014

26

Meriva real appeal for family buyers.

This facelifted second generation Meriva gets a revised grille, but the chrome accents that frame the front fog lamps aren’t ‘eagle-eye’ graphic. For the first time, LED daytime running lights and LED tail lights are available as an option. If you’re in the mood to tick options boxes, you can also pay extra for some 18-inch alloy wheels.

The Meriva still differentiates itself from its many rivals via its rear-hinged back doors. The advantage of this design comes when entering and exiting the vehicle as the doors open to an angle of almost 90 degrees and you can step straight in. It is also helpful when they’re strapping the kids in or fitting child car seats because there’s no door in the way to manoeuvre around.

Plusher

The interior itself is based around the FlexSpace seating system which allows the rear seats to fold down and slide individually. Splitting the cabin on the plusher end is the FlexRail, a pair of metal runners between the front seats that various modular storage bins and arm-rests can be clipped to and slid along. It’s all very clever but those who have anything for plastics quality might feel that some parts of the front seats – show clear signs of cost-cutting. Still, that’s the case with many of its rivals.

Whereas you used to have to legions of different variations to wade through with this 1.6-litre CDTi, things are more straightforward. You either pay just over £19,000 and buy the S trim or you pay just over £21,000 and bag yourself the SE specification. The S isn’t badly finished with an ESP plus electronic stability control system, twin front airbags, an electric parking brake, a CD/MP3 CD player/stereo radio with USB and AUX in socket, electric front windows, electrically adjustable and heated door mirrors, remote central deadlocking and front side airbags.

Go for the up-spec SE version and you’ll find a panoramic glass sunroof, 17-inch alloy wheels, folding seat back trays and under-seat drawers, a trip computer, cruise control, curtain airbags, leather trim for the steering wheel and gear shifter and heated door mirrors, remote central deadlocking and front side airbags.

These days things are a whole lot easier. If you want to know how easy just go to a Vauxhall dealer and cal- cule them into lending you a Meriva 1.6 CDTi diesel. It’s a car that’s been steadily improved over the course of its lifetime, but replacing the old 1.7-litre diesel lump with a smaller but more modern, powerful and economical engine has given this particular Meriva real appeal for family buyers.

Developing a healthy 136PS, this Euro 6-compliant motor serves up a sup- erbly smooth performance. Fact this Meriva will get to 62mph in just 9.9 seconds and Vauxhall has worked at improving the quality of the six-speed manual gearbox so that changes are slicker and gear engagement more reassuring. Refinement at speed is a notable strong point, with the engine only really becoming noticeable when you pressed the throttle pedal. Trying to square the additional expense of the diesel variant with the petrol model and soon come to realise that the torque deficit you get with entry-level petrol engines requires you to flog them really hard to make progress. They look at their economy figures and then realise the error of their ways. They should have bought a car like this Meriva 1.6 CDTi.

Emissions are also kept well in check at just 115g/km which, like the economy figure, is even better than the lowly 1.3-litre Meriva 1.6 CDTi diesel engine you can also have fitted in your Meriva.

Residual values ought to be strong as well, with many buyers being attracted to the Meriva range’s best and most economical powerplant.

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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range (excl. Ampera): Urban: 12.7 (22.3) - 76.3 (3.7). Extra-urban: 23.9 (11.8) - 91.1 (3.1). Combined: 18.0 (15.7) - 85.6 (3.3). CO₂ emissions: 137 - 88g/km.*

*Available on selected models only, at participating Retailers. Conditional Sale. Finance subject to status. Terms and Conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 or over. Finance supplied by Vauxhall Finance. PO Box 6646, Cardiff CF1 9YF. Offer will apply to private individuals. Vauxhall Partners and small businesses. All other customers are excluded. FLEX Link Vauxhall Deposit finance is an Astro Excite. We can introduce you to a limited number of finance providers, commission may be received. Excess at end of finance agreement. All drivers must have a valid full UK licence for a minimum of 1 year. All policies are underwritten by Aegon Insurance Ltd. Other insurance options Terms and Conditions apply. The offer will cover the full premium for drivers aged between 21-75 (motor policy only). Only available through Vauxhall Insurance. Drivers aged 18-20 will make a contribution of £799 on their premium and must agree to the fitting of a teleinformatics box in the car. Every 3 months, your policy will be reviewed and if you drive well, we will return part of this to you. The policy may be cancelled for consistently poor driving. Only available through insurance. Offers are available on orders or registrations between 8 October and 15 December 2014. ©Fleet EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors.
Rapide a dream machine

By Matt Joy

You don’t have to be selfish to drive an Aston Martin; the beautiful Rapide S allows you to take three friends with you in a four-door coupe style. For 2014 Aston has tweaked the looks and the mechanicals to make this a 200mph dream machine. As with most Aston Martins, there is much about the Rapide S that is reassuringly familiar. The DB9-based exterior is as beautiful as ever, but is distinct from that car on account of the bullish nose as well as the extra pair of doors.

Of greater significance is the adoption of a new eight-speed automatic transmission which not only promises smoother shifts and the extra ratios but also a higher top speed; the Rapide S can now bust the 200mph barrier for the first time. The suspension has also been tweaked to improve the ride and handling and there are some new trim options too.

The Rapide S has the kind of looks to grab your attention whether you want it to or not; it has curves, grace and a swagger. This is about the Rapide S being good value for money with a sticker price like that, but you certainly get a lot for your cash. Those sensational looks, the magnificent engine, the cabin swathed in fine leather and a kick-ass Bang & Olufsen audio system. You can a car for the wealthy, no doubt, and although the well-heeled tend to be fussy about what they buy it’s safe to say they will be impressed by the Rapide S. A couple could use it as the ultimate GT with plenty of space for long weekends, while parents could complete the school run if they want to give their kids instant playground kudos.

The Rapide S has the kind of looks to grab your attention whether you want it to or not; it has curves, grace and a swagger.’

‘The Rapide S has the kind of looks to grab your attention whether you want it to or not; it has curves, grace and a swagger.’

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The above fuel consumption figures are based on all EU test program cycles and may not reflect real driving results. *Model shown: SX4 S-Cross 1.6 D DiS ALLGRIP Manual available at £15,499.†ALLGRIP 4-wheel Drive is an optional extra on 1.6 D DiS models only. **Offer applies to private customers and the first registered vehicle only. 3-year manufacturer’s warranty covering 3 years or 37,000 miles (whichever comes sooner) by Suzuki franchised dealers or service partners only. Terms & Conditions apply, see Suzuki website/servicecentre for details. Offer available while stocks last. Offer ends 31st October 2014. Prices, offers and specifications correct at time of going to print. On the road price valid from 1st October 2014 to 31st December 2014. Models shown: SX4 S-Cross 1.6 5-speed Manual available at £15,499 to SX4 S-Cross 1.6 D DiS ALLGRIP Manual available at £15,499. The features referred to in this advertisement and all specifications and equipment may vary depending on engine, transmission and model/grade. All prices and specifications correct at time of going to print.
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With the clocks going back and the weather taking a turn for the wetter, local retailer, Stourbridge Motor House, is on hand to ensure drivers stay safe in dark, damp and wintry conditions.

The dealership on High Street is getting behind the Vauxhall Winter Safety Check campaign by offering Vauxhall owners a thorough safety inspection of their car ahead of the winter season.

The dealer is also reminding Vauxhall drivers of the free-to-join MasterFit Service Club, which offers considerable savings on repairs, servicing and MOTs.

Michael Casey, general manager at Stourbridge Motor House, explains: "Autumn and winter bring a wealth of unpredictable weather conditions so it’s important that cars are in a suitable condition to combat all that nature throws at them.

"Whether making a quick school run trip or driving further afield, there are potential hazards on every journey, so we’ve keen to ensure Vauxhall drivers in the area are set for safe winter travel."

Solution

For drivers who want to get their vehicle checked and prepared for the cold winter months, the Vauxhall Winter Safety Check is the ideal solution. It costs just £25 and features a 25-point visual health check of aspects such as wiper blades, lights and tyre pressure, plus, where necessary, tops-up of vital fluids such as coolant, brake fluid, screen wash and engine oil.

Customers booking a Winter Safety Check will drive away not only with peace of mind, but also a free Winter Survival pack worth £20.

The pack, which comes in a Vauxhall branded bag, contains Autoglym De-Ice, a wind-up torch, a foldable shovel, a high visibility jacket and ice scraper.

In addition to the Winter Safety Check, Stourbridge Motor House is also reminding drivers who own a Vauxhall vehicle aged over two years that they could save up to 25 per cent off servicing and repairs and get half price MOTs when they join the free Vauxhall MasterFit Service Club.

Michael Casey concludes: "The Vauxhall MasterFit Service Club is a great way for owners to take care of their car for less and be assured that their Vauxhall is in the best possible hands with the people who know it best."
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Bromsgrove 7 Old Halesonians 1sts 24
A rare break from League action at the weekend saw Hales travel to local Bromsgrove, for a North Midlands Cup quarter-final.

Early driving mauls showed the intentions of the Hales forwards, particularly back row Owen Jones, Jay Martin and Nigel Burrows. Second rows Tom King and Guy Field did their bit with Field constantly putting Hales on the front foot.

The front row of Louis Paduan, Calum Young and Rich Taylor started to dominate early. After seven minutes of constant pressure the Hales pack forced a Scrum five yards out from the Bromsgrove line through Greg Smith. Chris Hooper converted.

It was Hooper who put flying winger Luke Woodall in for his first try. On 33 minutes from a lineout the Hales pack drove over for a try from second row Field, Hooper converted.

Following an accidental collision, Hales’ No. 8 Owen Jones was forced to leave the field with a suspected broken jaw. He was replaced by Andy FitzGerald. With only injury time left in the first half Hales switched off for a few minutes giving Bromsgrove the opportunity to score.

On 65 minutes, whilst the home side were pressurising a solid Hales defence, Carl Robinson made one of his soaring runs and fed winger Smith who took the ball over for his second try of the game. The remaining 15 minutes saw Hales reduced to 13 players following yellow cards for Martin and Young.

Despite this Bromsgrove could not break the resolute Hales defence, the 7-24 score stood at the final whistle. After the match team manager Simon Hussey said, “This was a very good performance in difficult conditions and a well-deserved result. Our thoughts go to Owen Jones who looks like he will be operated on for a fractured jaw, we wish him well.”

Old Hales return to league action this Saturday at home again against Bromsgrove, kick off 2.15pm.

The Seconds did not play. The Thirards won 12-10 against Old Milns with trys from Glover and George Reclus.

The Forths and Colts didn’t play either.

Old Hales Firsts take second loss in a row

Old Hales’ man of the match goalkeeper Steven Charlton whose side was beaten by one goal

South Nottingham 2 OHHC 1sts 1
OLD Halesonians Hockey Club Men’s 1st XI fell to their second straight defeat, as they played away versus South Nottingham.

Hales took control of the game early on, and defended impeccably from the frontline. Striker Graham Knight came close early on when he won a corner, drived under the keeper and just wide of the post.

Hales did however open the scoring, when Paul Woolall found the net from a penalty corner. South Nottingham reacted well and soon equalised before the half time break.

The second half saw Hales continue their excellent defensive work, but up front they were unable to uncover to get a second goal. South Nottingham too had their chances, but some excellent saves from Man of the Match Steve Charlton kept the scores level.

Devastation hit Hales in the final two minutes however, when South Nottingham found the net to take all three points. It was an excellent performance for Hales but they fell short on the smallest of margins.

North Stafford 0 OHHC 3rds 2
Old Hales went into the game looking to get over last week’s last minute defeat to Shrewsbury and travelled to face a North Stafford side who had won their last three games, and with Old Hales not taking a single point on their travels this season.

North Staffs had the majority of the possession in the first half but struggled to create chances. Old Hales took the lead through Alex Evans. His first effort was saved by the goalkeep but he made no mistake with the rebound.

Old Hales defended exceptionally in the second half. North Staffs had a few chances from penalty corners but when they got through the defence, goalkeeper Ryan Middleton was not to be beaten.

The second Hales goal came when a scramble in the circle led to the ball falling to centre half Reiss Thompson who slotted home, with North Staffs offered little in reply and Old Hales saw out the game fairly comfortably.

Results: Dartwich 3 OHHC Ladies 1sts 4, goalscorer Hae Andrews; OHHC 2nds 3 Barford Tigers 4 goalscorer, Ham Kirby, Ash Gruaves, Don Patel; OHHC 4ths 3 Edgbaston 1 goalscorer, Steve Butler (2), Mark O’Connell; Edgbaston 3 OHHC 5ths 4, goalscorer, fady Javed (2), Tom McGrath, Neil Hurst.

SEb should be fit for Chelsea

ALBION hope defender Sebastian Haller will be fit to face Chelsea next week despite the Belgian international suffering a hamstring tear.

The Blues believe the 27-year-old will recover in time for the Merseyside derby on November 22 after withdrawing from international duty.

Pascal Wehrli, at the club’s training ground for treatment this week after being forced off at half-time in Sunday’s 2-0 defeat to Newcastle.

Boss Alan Irvine said: “He’s got a very slight tear in his hamstring. There’s a little tear there but nothing that we’re concerned about and nothing that should keep him out.”
Villa is handed £20,000 penalty

Whiley adds Masters to clean sweep of titles

JOARDANE WILEY and her Japanese partner Yuri Kamiji added five more frames to the wheelchair tennis title sweep of four Grand Slam crowns this season when they retained their women's title at the Wheelchair Doubles Masters in Mission Viejo, California.

Gordon Reid and Michael Jeremiasz of France were runners-up in the men's doubles as British players on the Sunshine Foundation's Wheelchair Tennis Participation Programme finished the prestigious event with one title and two runners-up positions between them after Jamie Burdekin and Andy Lapthorne were also runners-up in the quad doubles. Whiley, from Halesowen, became the first British wheelchair tennis player in history to complete a calendar year Grand Slam in September/this year when she and Kamiji added the U1 Open women's doubles title to their Australian Open, Roland Garros and Wimbledon titles. The British No.1 and Kamiji are now the first non-Dutch pairing to win all four Grand Slams and the Doubles Masters title in the same season. Whiley and Kamiji were in fine form against Louise Hunt and Germany's Katharina Krueger, earning a 6-2, 6-1 victory.

Whiley was the only player not to drop her serve in the first set and she went on to serve out the match in the second, with Kamiji hitting a winner on match point.

“After winning all four Grand Slams this year this was a big one for us, but we wanted to make sure we ended on a high and we want to replicate it next year,” said Whiley. “We are absolutely thrilled and we will play together again at the Grand Slams in 2015. We are still learning and improving, but for now we are both looking forward to playing at the Wheelchair Tennis Masters in a couple of weeks, where we can hopefully translate our doubles success into singles success.”

After nine Brits qualified for the 2014 Doubles Masters, the event ended with Lucy Shuker and Germany's Sabine Ellerbrock finishing fourth in the women's doubles, while Arndt Cotterill and the USA's Greg Haroerick were third in the quad doubles. Go to www.wheelchairtennismasters.com.