POLICE get leads in hunt for murderer

DETECTIVES hunting the murder of retired teacher Beth Tate have received a following an emotional appeal by her son Daniel.

Officers want to trace individuals and cars seen near Mrs Tate’s cottage in Bewdley during the early evening of January 2 – the day police believe she was killed.

West Mercia Police said a small number of calls had been received following the appeal by Mrs Tate’s children, 55-year-old Hans Costello and David Tate, 51, earlier this week.

And officers said some had provided fresh information regarding sightings in the area which would not be pursued by police.

Mrs Tate, 77, was found beaten to death with a walking stick and stabbed at her riverside cottage, off Dowle Road, on January 6.

Anyone with information is asked to call 0300 333 3000 or Crimestoppers, on 0800 555 111.

In her appeal, Mr Costello a solicitor in Staffordshire, said: “It seems like it was such a nice day and it’s very difficult to imagine it.”

She added whilst much had been described as ‘suspicious’ she was now totally ‘horrified’.

Jobs joy at boom firm

A TIMBER business near Kidderminster is taking on an extra 20 seasonal staff to cope with demand.

Garden and landscape products manufacturer M&M Timber says there has been a swing towards ‘Good Life’ gardening. The firm, at Clows Top, is expecting even bigger sales gains this spring.

Production at its manufacturing centre has been as wing towards “Good Life” gardening. The firm, at Clows Top, is expecting even bigger sales gains in the spring.

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A £1.1MILLION extension of Kidderminster College was being officially opened by the town mayor today.

The extension has created an extra 6,450 sq ft of space over three floors at the Market Street campus.

The mayor, Councillor Anne Hingley, was invited to cut the ribbon on the development.

The extension has rooms for students to socialise, staff offices and provides more flexible teaching areas.

Plans for the scheme were drawn up after the Skills Funding Agency approved a grant of a third of the cost of the project.

Principal of Kidderminster College, Andy Dobson, college governors and business representatives in the town were at the opening ceremony.

College spokeswoman Francesca Anton said: “Due to the increased popularity of courses, and the rising profile and reputation of the college, the college has needed to expand.”

The college has around 4,000 students studying on both part-time and full-time courses.

The college is holding an open evening on Thursday, February 9, from 6 to 8pm.

“People still have time to approach us for Kidderminster’s Andy

Spitfire ace’s flying VIP visit

A SECOND World War fighter pilot received VIP treatment when he paid a flying visit to his beloved West Bromwich Albion.

Eric Carter, who saw the Baggies win the FA Cup at Wembley in 1931, was a special guest of the club at the FA Cup meeting with Norwich City at The Hawthorns.

The 91-year-old great-grandfather of Chaddaley Cuppett, near Kidderminster, who flew Spitfires and Hurricanes in the war, hit the headlines when he was denied the chance to sit in the cockpit of a Spitfire at the Potteries Museum, near Stoke-on-Trent, because of health and safety rules.

Albion officials who read his story invited him to watch the fourth-round tie from the press-box and to meet head coach Roy Hodgson.

“It was a bit different when I was a lad. When I first saw Albion I used to sneak in between my father’s legs,” joked Mr Carter.

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WEEKEND WINTER SPECIAL

18 holes of Golf on the Rowan Course per person Weekends After 12:00 until 26th February 2012
Work gets started on club’s £250,000 base

KIDDERMINSTER Judo Club.

Councillor Marcus Hart helped kick off the construction of the new £250,000 club, which is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

The club, based at the Samurai Karate Club, will be able to build on its successes with a much-improved facility.

Security

The move is aimed at making it easier, central and local government organisations so that people can register to a new system which will mean that they only have to register once.

The service enables people to report a death or birth just once. With radical, the information is shared with a number of central and local government organisations in the area for specialist practice.

The club will have a much larger mat area when their clubhouse is complete, plus improved changing facilities and kitchen area, a video analysis room and a mat area for specialist practice. It will also be able to build an analysis room.

Dave Little, Maurice and Jim Coates and fellow Samurai club members, and Ian Mills, one of the Samurais’ senior coaches.

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Firm has vital role in Antarctic expedition

GOVERNMENT plans to tackle metal thieves have been welcomed by Worcestershire County Council.

The council has had more than £100,000 worth of metal stolen during the last 12 months.

Criminals have made off with some 650 manhole and gully covers since the start of 2011, putting people at risk and costing the taxpayer.

Home Secretary Theresa May, announced that changes are to be introduced to make buying scrap metal for cash illegal and to increase fines for those breaking the law.

Councillor John Smith, County Council Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, welcomed the measures.

He said: “A small minority of law breakers have been putting public safety at risk and costing the taxpayer by stealing the manhole and gully covers on Worcestershire’s highways.

“Covers have been taken off the road leaving gaping holes on the highways. It really isn’t an exaggeration to say this could have resulted in innocent people being seriously injured or even losing their lives.

“Anything that deters these criminals can only be a good thing. I welcome these measures and would ask anyone who spots anything suspicious to get in touch with the police.”

A KIDDERMINSTER firm is playing a key role in an exciting project to bore through nearly two miles of Antarctic ice to search for life in a buried lake.

Specially-designed bellows made by Beakbane for the National Oceanography Centre will play a crucial role in the project to explore Lake Ellsworth, an ancient lake trapped below the ice of Antarctica.

The project involves drilling through the ice and sending down probes to sample the lake water and sediments on the lake bed.

The bellows will provide a sealed protective container for the water sampling probe, ensuring it remains sterile.

The project is a partnership between the British Antarctic Survey, the National Oceanography Centre and eight UK universities.

Flexible

The five-metre long polyurethane bellows manufactured by Beakbane of Stourport Road must be flexible down to -35 degrees, tough enough to withstand the journey to Antarctica and withstand exposure to hydrogen peroxide vapour.

Kevin Saw, the mechanical engineer who heads the NOC design team, said the water had been cut off from the outside world for millions, of years.

The results would show whether life could exist in extreme conditions of pitch dark, water temperatures of -2C and high pressures, and give a window on life on earth in the distant past.

The probe will be sealed inside the bellows – which will previously have been sterilised.

It will then be transported to Lake Ellsworth by sea, air and snow tractor.

“We must make sure we don’t take any microbes down there, so the Beakbane equipment is absolutely crucial to the success of the expedition,” said Mr Saw.

Beakbane’s managing director Mike Southwell said: “It is very exciting to be involved in such a ground-breaking project.

“Our great strength is our ability to produce bespoke products that suit our customer’s precise requirements, but this is probably one of the more exotic challenges we have faced so far.”

The bellows will be carried all the way from Kidderminster to Antarctica by air, sea, and finally by snow tractor.

Artist’s impression of the bore hole to the lake.

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Church Jumble sale date

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Nursery unveils its new facilities after revamp

A NURSERY in Kidderminster has unveiled its new facilities as part of a major refurbishment.

Franchise Community Primary School Nursery, and Chestnut Children’s Centre, will both run services at the revamped building, which is at the school’s site in Chestnut Grove.

Children and toddlers are already enjoying their new facilities and a second phase of the refurbishment is due to be completed in March. Cynthia Johnstone, manager at the school nursery, rated it as outstanding by Ofsted, said it had been an exciting start to 2012.

“We are so proud of our new accommodation. We can provide opportunities for all our children to enjoy so that they can reach their full potential,” Michelle Froggatt, Chestnut Children’s Centre manager, added. “The new facilities mean that we can enhance our sessions and services.”

The children’s centre supports families with youngers up to the age of five, offering music, swimming and play groups, as well as an antenatal clinic and breastfeeding support group and courses for adults.

Sarah O’Neill, who was at the unveiling of the new centre with her sons Matthew, nine weeks, and Lewis, 21 months, said: “The new centre is amazing. Everything you need as a parent of young children is available.”

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COMPETITION

Chance to meet Disney princess

EVERYONE loves a bit of Disney magic and that’s why the Chronicles have teamed up with the NIA, Birmingham to offer nine readers the chance of winning a family ticket to the Disney On Ice Princesses & Heroes show.

The show is running from Wednesday, March 14 until Sunday, March 18.

As part of the prize, two adults and two children will get the chance to attend the opening night of the show, which promises to take audiences on a fairytale journey through some of the most classic moments in Disney history. Hosted by Tinkerbell, the ice spectacular will see eight Disney princesses see their wishes come true with help from their devoted princes.

You will get to watch Ariel’s dreams be unlocked from under the sea and Prince Philip defeat evil forces in a race against time to rescue Sleeping Beauty’s Aurora.

Rapunzel will fulfil her dream of escaping the tower and see the floating lights; while Tiana celebrates her ambitions of owning a restaurant down in New Orleans.

Ambitions

Jasmine will tell her classic story as she discovers a whole new world with Aladdin and Snow White finds her one true love.

If that wasn’t enough already, Tinkerbell will also help to reveal Cinderella and Belle’s deepest wishes.

To find out more about Disney On Ice Princesses & Heroes visit www.thenia.co.uk

HOW TO ENTER

To stand a chance of winning answer the following question:

What is Rapunzel’s dream?

Send your answer on a postcard with your name, address and contact number (only one entry per household) to Disney competition, Chronicle series (editorial), 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

Closing date: Thursday, February 9

Usual rules apply.

Editor’s decision is final.

Chances to meet Disney princess

Fairytale journey through those classic moments
Blessing for cemetery

A £4.2 MILLION cemetery and crematorium for the whole Wyre Forest district will be officially opened later this month with a ceremony led by the Bishop of Worcester.

Wyre Forest District Council has announced that the Minister Road site, which has taken more than a year to build, will open from February 24.

A service of dedication will be held to mark the occasion which will be attended by representatives from religious groups and council officials.

The service will be led by the Bishop of Worcester, the Rt Rev Dr John Ings. Construction work finished earlier this month but the official opening was delayed until a time when religious leaders could attend to bless the site.

Proud

Cabinet member for community well-being on the district council, Councillor Tracey Onslow, said she was pleased a date had now been announced for the opening of the new facilities at the 23 new site.

“This has been a long-running project but one which we are very proud of,” she said.

“Everyone who has seen the site has been impressed by it. It has been designed to serve the needs of the Wyre Forest community for years to come.

“We are pleased the ceremony has now been arranged, the Bishop of Worcester has accepted our invitation to lead the event.”

The site includes a tree-lined avenue and landscaped areas featuring wild flowers, grasses, rockeries and a pond with a bridge.

The project has been created by the council with Dignity PLC and managed by Parkwood Consultancy Services.

Views sought on how to improve life in town

A £250,000 SCHEME has been launched to improve the appearance of a Wyre Forest town and deal with long-running traffic problems.

Worcestershire County Council has set aside the funding to tackle issues in Bewdley and is now asking residents and traders for comments on what they want to see.

An information event was being held on Monday (January 30) at the Guildhall, in Road Street, for people to give their views on the project.

Residents are being asked for their opinions on how the funding should be prioritised.

Among the improvements suggested include improving shared cycling and pedestrian paths, better bus shelters, street lighting and signage.

Creating areas where pedal bikes can be parked has also been put forward as a consideration when revamping the town.

Residents will also be asked for their views on how traffic congestion can be better managed and air quality improved.

People who cannot attend but still want to have their say can go online to www.worcestershire.gov.uk/bewdleyscheme website.

Councillor John Smith said: “Funding has been set aside to improve transport and the attractiveness of Bewdley. Before final decisions are made on exactly what should be included in that package we want to hear from residents and businesses.

“County councillor for Bewdley, Councillor John Campion added: “It aims to tackle some of the issues local people have raised, such as traffic congestion. There’s now the opportunity to help shape how that funding should be prioritised.”

Alveley Primary School headteacher Jackie Cutcliffe with year 6 pupils.

IT WAS smiles all round for youngsters at Alveley Primary School when they had been judged one of the best in the county following its ‘outstanding’ SATs results.

Dancing styles will include ballet, modern, Greek and national.

More than 800 contestants are expected this year and dancing styles will include ballet, modern, Greek and national.

The festival will finish with the junior, intermediate and senior championships at the end of the week.

Spectators are invited to come and watch competitors at a charge of £3 per person for adults. It will be £2 for children and senior citizens. Dancing starts at 3pm and finishes at around 8pm.

Programmes available at £2 each are now on sale from the Kidderminster Hub at Kidderminster Town Hall or at the Stourport Civic Centre.

School’s success

DANCERS are warming up to bid for a top title at the 2012 Wyre Forest Dance Festival.

It will take place at Stourport Civic Hall from February 23 to 17.

It is the second year of the festival and it aims to include all age groups and abilities.

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Aim for picture perfect

PHOTOGRAPHERS are being urged to get snapping ready to enter a school competition in aid of five Midland hospitals.

Viscount Cobham, of Hagley Hall, near Stourbridge, will be holding a session with Belbroughton History Society at Belbroughton Church Hall on Wednesday, March 21, at 7.30pm.

For further details call Sarah Bradley on 01922 730125 or Sarah Fitzpatrick, or some of the local people have raised, such as traffic congestion. There’s now the opportunity to help shape how that funding should be prioritised.”
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This unfair law must be changed

I WATCHED the dangerous dogs pro-
gramme on the BBC with dogs being put down. Some of those dogs were extremely dangerous and I agreed with them being put down. But amongst them were innocent dogs who were put down. There was one in particular, the police collected him from his owner after a complaint from a neighbour.

When the police dog handler col-
lected the dog the policeman said this dog is friendly and not a dangerous dog, but because of the complaint he had to take him away and measure the dog to see if he conformed in size to a pit bull. Because of its size and shape it was decided that it was a dangerous dog and the owner was asked to attend court and the magistrate decided that because of the measurements the dog must be destroyed.

Some days later the police dog handler collected the dog and took the dog to the vet to be destroyed, during this time the dog was wagging his tail and was living every minute of the attention it was getting. The police officer said that the law was wrong and just because of the measurements an innocent dog had to be destroyed. This law must be changed, its temperament and behav-
ior must be the deciding factor.

This poor innocent dog had the utmost faith in us humans was destroyed because of its measure-
ments, he had his faith in us until his last way of his tail and the memory of this injustice will be with me for the rest of my life. This law should be changed as soon as possible.

J Green, Longbourn, Bewdley.

Ducking euthanasia debate is cowardice

We are constantly reading about the arguments for and against assisted suicide and euthanasia, and no doubt both the pro and against sides contain some merit in one form or another.

Sadly, people of all ages at some time in their lives become terminally ill and with no hope of an “immediate cure” could very well wish to end their lives peacefully and without pain.

It’s the same as “very old” people who, myself being 81, have often said they wish the Lord would “come and take them”.

At the moment I am not in that category being relatively sound in mind and body, but who knows what’s around the corner for us all?

So I fully support the lady who recently called it “cow-
ardice” by our MPs for not having a debate on an issue which they themselves might one day wish was in place for one’s ultimate demise.

Mrs M Payne, Dudley.

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Letters

Council will shortly be
drawing up its budget.

Facility will include limited free access
to help stimulate the local
economy.

Survive or go under will
councils to offer incentives
for shoppers to spend their
cash locally rather than at
on the internet.

implemented last year, after
Independent Commu-
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Mrs M Payne, Dudley.
Symphony of praise as city venue celebrates 21 years

STANDING tall in the centre of Britain’s second city for the past 21 years the Symphony Hall has acted as a beacon for the biggest and best names in national and international music.

The music of pop icons such as Gary Barlow, Morrissey, Ringo Starr and East 17 has rung out through the hall alongside classical legends such as Ludovic Eimard and the London Philharmonic Orchestra.

Top comedians such as Lee Evans, Jimmy Carr and Tim Minchin have also commandeered the stage as part of an ever-eclectic line-up.

The man at the helm, director of both Town Hall and Symphony Hall Andrew Jowett, took some time from his busy schedule to chat about the history behind the iconic venue.

Skilled

“It’s one of the most significant buildings ever to be built in Birmingham,” he says. “It was one of the major leaders in the regeneration of the city centre back in the 80s.”

Mr Jowett, aged 61, of Pershore, Worcestershire, joined the Symphony Hall crew in November 1988, nearly three months before it opened to the public.

He spent the next few months bringing together a skilled behind-the-scenes team and making sure the best names in the business knew what the hall had to offer.

It opened on April 15, 1991, welcoming 4,000 people to two concerts by the resident City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Simon Rattle.

The successful first night was followed by an extended Royal British Legion Festival Youth Festival, with Prince Edward gracing the occasion.

“People sometimes say to me there anything you would change if you could go back and build it again. But I honestly don’t think I would – the building fundamentally worked from the word go. The minute we heard the first notes in the hall we knew it worked,” Mr Jowett says.

“The biggest problem for most concert halls is that classical, orchestral music sounds fantastic, but amplified music just doesn’t work. But we have the facility to change the reverberation and acoustics of the room which makes it work.”

We can host Billy Connolly one night and The Mahosingers the next. Liza Minnelli and Bruce Springsteen have played here, as have the Christmas carol concerts, and we have Lord of the Dance coming up in March.

One of his main points of pride, he said, was that the building is still as good as new. “The biggest problem for most concert halls is that classical, orchestral music sounds fantastic, but amplified music just doesn’t work. But we have the facility to change the reverberation and acoustics of the room which makes it work.”

It is 21 years since Symphony Hall opened its doors for the first time. CHARLOTTE CROSS goes behind the scenes of the city venue

This has been achieved by making much of the interior concrete and granite, with the wooden-look panels, actually a timber veneer made of four layers of plywood with a maple veneer.

stiletto heels, as well as thousands of people passing through the halls, so we have to have a regime in place,” he says.

Since the doors first opened to the public, it has hosted a number of famous faces off the stage as well as on. When the G8 conference came to the city in 1998, Tony Blair, Bill Clinton and Jacques Chiraq spent one evening at a concert at the hall. Smaller concerts and lesser-known names are not overlooked, either.

Hundreds of people flocked to the foyer bar for the free music events held there, including the weekly Rush Hour Blues event on a Friday night, and the monthly Jazz in the City jazz concert. Wolverhampton star Beverley Knight has performed there five times over the past six years.

“It’s like the Albert Hall in terms of prestige, but has better acoustics,” she says. “As an artist, when you’re standing on that stage looking out at the audience it really feels like something special.”

Among the regulars are Welsh male voice choir Only Men Aloud Member Tim Rhys Evans says: “To think of the ‘greats’ who’ve stood on that stage before you is always humbling, she’s still looking good after 21 years.”

More fire and police workers are leaving

THOUSANDS of complaints are being made about fly-tipping in the West Midlands region. Not only is the fraction of the culprits are being caught.

More than 6,000 plus of rubbish have been removed over the past year, with just 30 prosecutions by councils.

The authorities say it is difficult to track down those responsible, especially as the rubbish is often left miles from their homes, but they have continued to clear the streets.

Worried

They have warned that those caught could face court bills of thousands of pounds.

In Sandwell, in 2011, there were 2,726 reported incidents of fly-tipping, with five prosecutions, compared with 1,381 prosecutions in 2010 which saw 3,669 incidents.

In 2010-11 a total of 20 people were prosecuted out of 817 reports.

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The days when Bert shone light on Hippodrome stars

BERT Walker put Hollywood stars, quite literally, in the spotlight when they graced the stage of one of the Midlands' most popular theatres.

The Black Country lad rubbed shoulders with some of the greats from the world of entertainment when he worked at Dudley Hippodrome. Bert was just a teenager when he landed his much-loved job as a lighting technician.

And now, following his death at the age of 93, his sister Veronica has opened up his treasured photograph album which reveal his collection of memories from the world of showbiz.

Personalised signed photographs and beloved pictures taken by his colleagues feature in the album, which Bert handed over to his sister before he died last month.

“Never forget his time at the Dudley Hippodrome as he’d absolutely loved his life there,” says the grandmother-of-one who lives in Bearwood.

Memories from the world of entertainment

Bert grew up on Dudley’s Wrens Nest estate, attending Wrens Nest Primary School and the former Park School.

The Hippodrome opened on December 19, 1938, as a two-nightly theatre. It regularly attracted packed houses for plays, variety shows, musicals and pantos starting such acts as Harry Secombe and The Eric Winstone Band.

In 1945, when he was still a teenager, Bert started work in the theatre’s ‘spotbox’. The role involved managing the spotlight as it followed performers on stage.

For starstruck Bert, each show brought another celebrity performer to the theatre during its 1940s heyday.

On one show he would be working for legendary comedian Bob Hope, next it would be lighting the piano for Judy Garland, who Bert described as a “sweet kid”.

Singer Tessie O’Shea was also one of his highlights as was Bing Crosby, who had been “very friendly” to all the staff. Dozens of signed photographs were collected by Bert as stars thanked him for his work on their shows.

By 1949 Bert had begun dreaming of the bright lights of Hollywood lighting stage shows and motion pictures.

He moved to America in 1952 but after he married he gave up on those dreams.

The writing was on the wall for the Dudley Hippodrome not long after. The growing popularity of television and films was blamed for the slow decline in attendances and it finally closed in 1964.

After a number of entertainment ventures, Gala converted it in 1992 into a bingo hall, which it remained until September 2009.

It now stands boarded up with its future unclear.
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Parents join campaign to turn school around

A SCHOOL in Kidderminster is celebrating the success it has had in getting parents to help with improving its performance.

Teachers at St Mary’s in Kidderminster say it is now the most improved school in Worcestershire, and the involvement of parents has been a significant factor in turning it around.

The school won a national award from education charity HTI-Heads, Teachers & Industry in February for creating a dedicated, sustainable project aimed at significantly increasing the role of parents and the local community.

Several of the key projects began over a year ago, and are now making a noticeable, measurable difference.

“The “Go4it” projects have had a massive impact on pupils and parents,” said deputy head Joel Marshall.

One initiative, St Mary’s Angels, has raised impressive sums to support the school.

“It has taken a tremendous amount of effort and innovation to get to this point,” said Mr Marshall.

He said the St Mary’s Angels project had made a big impact on both parents and pupils.

Launched in October, it has raised £1,300 so far.

“The funds will enable us to introduce all kinds of creative projects designed specifically to increase creativity and innovation in the way our pupils learn about the world,” said Mr Marshall.

Pupils, from left, Charlie Mai Moule, James Cooper and Courtney Hope, who were taught about healthy choices by actors Anyssa Baki and Alister Bloomer

A SCHOOL in Kidderminster has been praised for its distinctiveness and effectiveness.

Wolverley CE Secondary School was inspected last month by inspectors from the Church of England.

Part of the Church of England family of schools since 2007, it has made rapid improvements. The school is now classed as “outstanding” at meeting the needs of all its learners.

Head Teacher, Richard North, was delighted, and said: “Wolverley has improved consistently. This inspection rewards the very hard work of students, staff and parents.

The school is very well placed to continue to grow and provide a very distinctive education.”

The inspector was particularly keen to comment on the positive, calm learning environment, saying that, “This is a well-ordered community with a high level of mutual respect.”

The report added: “The vision of the head teacher, supported by his staff and governing body, is creating an effective, forward-looking and caring school.”

Teacher Kerry Poole, co-ordinator of personal, social and religious education was delighted, and said: “There has been a real sense of purpose around this school is on a journey, with everyone being carefully nurtured and growth monitored and encouraged.”

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Cathedral to host dynamic dance

A DYNAMIC evening of dance is on offer at Worcester cathedral.

David Bates, Director of Birmingham Royal Ballet, will introduce internationally known London-based Spring dance Company and their acclaimed work Bread of Life.

Canon Dr Alyn Petersen, said the audience would have an evening to remember.

Tickets at £4 can be bought from Worcester Live box office on 01905 61427.

Musical on stage at town church

ST ANNE’S CHURCH boasts two performances of Benjamin Britten’s musical Noah’s Flood tomorrow (Friday) at Kidderminster Library, to introduce all kinds of creative and technical equipment designed specially to increase creativity and innovation in the way our pupils learn about the world,” said Mr Marshall.

Curtain up for pupils on healthy eating

Pupils at a Steurport school now have no excuse not to eat their greens after being taught all about healthy eating and fitness.

Burlish Park Primary School youngsters were paid a visit by London-based Quantum Theatre, whose actors performed an educational play called Personal Best.

The comedy followed the trials and tribulations of chief character Charlie on his healthy journey of enlightenment.

Joseph Lintzley, healthy schools co-ordinator at Burlish Park, said the show was a real hit with all year groups.

Burlish Park has Healthy Schools Status and the show was part of our curriculum to encourage a healthy lifestyle,” Mr Lintzley added.

“Many key messages were taught to the pupils in songs and rhymes and they have been saying and singing those around school ever since, which is excellent. It improved their knowledge and understanding about the importance of taking five portions of fruit and vegetables every day and the dangers of eating a balanced diet which is not keeping fit and healthy.”

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HS2 campaigners are weighing up legal battle

CAMPAIGNERS against the planned £56 billion high-speed rail line are looking into how to launch a judicial review of the scheme.

Court action could delay the 2016 start date of the controversial HS2 project which will see 225mph trains running between Birmingham and London from 2026. Supporters say it will create 22,000 jobs in the West Midlands and boost the region’s economy by £1.5bn a year.

But organisations including councils, environmental groups and action groups are investigating the possibility of a judicial review following transport secretary Justine Greening’s decision to press ahead with the project.

Setbacks hit opening of multi-million pound Tesco

THE opening of a controversial multi-million pound supermarket in Stourport will not take place until 2013 – months later than originally planned.

The new Tesco was expected to open this summer after work started at the former Carpet of Worth site, in Severn Road, last August. But bosses have revealed the 45,000sq ft store was not now expected to open until March next year.

Work has been taking place on roads around the site to create a new access for the supermarket.

This phase of the project is expected to be completed by April, according to officials, and was required to be finished before the site was to be handed over to Tesco.

Construction work on the store is expected to start after the access has been finished.

Work at the site was set to begin early last year but some details of the development took longer to finalise than expected.

And the official opening has now been pushed back by around six or seven months to the spring of 2013.

The supermarket will create 200 full and part-time jobs.

Plans for the store have proved controversial after rival firm the Mid-Century Co-operative launched a legal bid against the development.

It argued the new supermarket would kill trade in the town centre but planning permission was upheld by the Court of Appeal.

Tesco spokesman Jonathan Simpson said: “The road was due for completion in April of this year and the store is now due to open in early March 2013.”

Warning on fake emails asking for cash help

A WARNING has gone out over an email fiddle which tries to persuade people to pay out money.

Worcestershire Regulatory Services say a number of people have received emails which appear to come from friends who are overseas.

The emails ask the friend to help them out of money to be sent through a Western Union transfer.

The team is aware of one which went to a friend who was overseas through known email addresses or contact numbers, and not via unsolicited emails.

Steve Jorden, Head of Worcestershire Regulatory Services, said: “Scams are designed by criminals to get hold of money from people in need of help and require money to be sent through Western Union transfer.

Fake emails are proving elusive in gardens, the RSPB said as it launched its annual birdwatch.

The confiding weather has seen temperatures swing between warm and freezing, but the generally mild conditions have meant more food for birds in the countryside. It means that birds have not been visiting gardens for food. But people taking part in the Big Garden Birdwatch may have noticed that spring is starting early, with some birds already checking out potential nesting spots.

Half-a-million people took part in the event, counting the birds in their gardens and recording the highest number of each bird species seen at any one time.

Confused birds stay away from gardens

THE mild winter may mean some common-sight birds are proven elusive in gardens, the RSPB said as it launched its annual birdwatch.

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The first stage of a project to revamp parts of Wyre Forest is almost complete.

The Community Housing Group is knocking down five maisonette blocks and building 97 apartments and houses off Hurcott Road, at the junction with Bournebridge Road. Kier Partnership Homes intend to build 22 two-bedroom houses, 11 three bedroom, 11 four bedroom and 46 two bedroom flats, on the same site.

The £7 million Stourbridge bus station has its pigeon problem netted

NETS have been put up to protect new glass shelters at the £7 million Stourbridge bus station, from becoming perches for pigeons.

The first stage of the interchange realized the new glass walling on the shelters could form a tempting spot for the birds to gather.

Reports soon called in, and work has now been carried out. Staff from Eco Environmental Services have installed harmless anti-bird netting.

There are 11 upgraded stands at the station. Each is fitted with automatic doors which open when the bus arrives. The protective measures are among the latest works at the development which is rapidly taking shape in Forster Street East.

Work has been going on at the interchange since the old bus station was closed in October 2010. The station is due for completion by the spring. Much of the work, including construction of the frame, roof and walls, on the main bus station building was completed at the end of last year. A date has not yet been set for when it will open but bosses at transport authority Centro said the development was on schedule.

Spokesman Ed McDonald, of contractors Interserve, said: “The project to protect the shelters has been challenging and Eco Environmental Services have been very innovative.”

Centre spokesman Steve Swingle added the measures would keep the interchange looking smart.

A West Midlands MP has voiced his support for moving the clocks forward by one hour, despite a Bill failing to get through the House of Commons.

Chris Kelly, MP for Dudley South, backed the Daylight Saving Bill, which received its third reading in the House of Commons on Friday, January 20.

If the measure had gone through, it would have meant that a delayed study would have been commissioned into the costs and benefits of moving the clocks forward to Greenwich Mean Time plus one hour in the winter and two in the summer. That would possibly have been followed by a three-year trial.

Despite Government support for the proposal, the move faced opposition from MPs, who believed the extra hour of darkness in the evening would cause problems, particularly in the north.

Mr Kelly said: “The arguments in favour of clock change are compelling. This simple low-cost policy could bring wide ranging benefits to the whole of the UK.”

The benefits would include saving lives on our roads, creating jobs in the tourism sector, and reducing the fear of crime on dark evenings.

Among the arguments put forward by opponents of the move, was the fear that some parts of the country would not get light until as late as 9am.

But supporters of the change argue that lighter evenings would save lives on the roads during the late rush hour.

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Meet your Doom or learn how to Quarel

RETRO gamers will delight in the return of trend-setting action-shooter Doom to Xbox Live Arcade.

The 25-year-old shoot-'em-up looks and sounds the same -- it's tiny, hard rock soundtrack has become legend -- but that's part of its charm for nostalgic gamers, alongside the joy to wave to horses of monsters via an arsenal of heavy weapons.

Take it online for a fast and furious match or team up with a friend. It costs 400 Microsoft points.

Those more into brains than brawn should check out Quarel, an addictive new game on XBLA which combines Scrabble-like wordplay with strategy.

Challenge contestants and win their territory with higher scoring words. Cute animation and sound effects add to the fun, and it will even let you play against a computer. You can take on real world opponents online as well. 400 Microsoft points.

Chinese State Circus, Wolverhampton Civic Hall

THE talented Chinese State Circus gave their all with their home theatre tour that takes them the length and breadth of the West Midlands' major theatres this month. It was just a shame that there weren't a lot more people to see it.

The entertainment included human juggling, the Chinese pole, the legendary bicycle act where 12 artists manage to perform one single bike, foot juggling with drums and the hoop dancers. Another slight slip-up there but the performers got a huge cheer when on his second attempt he got it right. It makes you wonder if this is actually staged to happen.

Formidable

All this action is teamed with a captivating and atmospheric girl group of live musicians.

This was the UK premiere of Yin Yang, part of a 37-date theatre tour that takes them the length and breadth of the UK promoting a performance from the formidable Shaolin Warrior, known only as The One. People watched in awe as the 114cm tall Warrior, known only as The One. People watched in awe.

The show – as in the meaning of yin yang, two complimentary forces in the universe, masculine and feminine – used the different skills of the different sexes and how well they worked together. Nowhere was this better seen than in the finale section, where the girl stood on her Tip toes on the man’s head as he turned around on stage.
SEVEN GREAT GAMES IN ONE!

Double Crossword

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

Cryptic Clues:
Across
1. Almost begin to embark - that's right (5)
2. Give a hand signal when the approach is as near as may be (5)
3. After learning to recognize a headland on the mountain (9)
4. A key that is made to tally (9)
5. One who turns up the scaly creature (5)
6. Change the level of an onion, we hear (5)
7. Express to the professor in the sound of it (4)
8. Just the thing for the high-heeler (5)
9. Crossword accommodation may well be barmy (4)
10. Too easy for the Marquess? (5)
11. Disturbed by the chairman (5)
12. Stroke of the United Nations in under threat surroundings (5)
15. Split completely in a sorrowful way (5)
26. Small piece of land mentioned in Marxism (9)
27. One who solves the word (9)

Down
1. Priggish by an undefined article, we refused to work (2-6)
2. Changes too much? (5)
3. Subtle blending provides quality of sound around America (5)
4. Went boating and fell out! (6)
5. What the adroit expects to be, as far as any orders are concerned! (5)
6. Right time of life for the fanatical (4)
7. Escape from most of the Navy (4)
8. Timber transaction (4)
9. Ill-treatment for Lincoln around America (5)
10. Agrees with the amount scored (9)
11. Escape from most of the Navy (4)
12. Escorted - that's right (9)
13. Loud hailer (9)
14. Birds whose flight is unsteady (5)
15. One who sums up the depression for the abbot (5)
16. What the abbot produces a sound of when this approach refused to work (5)
17. Went boating and fell out! (9)
18. The shafts, we hear (5)
19. What the adroit expects to be, as far as any orders are concerned! (5)
20.同意 with the amount scored (5)
21. Delight (6)
22. Just the thing for the high-heeler (5)
23. The scaly creature (5)
24. The efficient (5)
25. Delight (6)
26. The efficient (5)
27. Unusual (5)

Quick Clues:
Across
1. Escort (9)
2. Merit (4)
3. Alan (9)
4. Stress (6)
5. Lift (5)
6. Bisect (5)
7. Level (4)
8. Harvest (5)
9. Not any (4)
10. Trunk (5)
11. Charcoal (6)
12. Increase (5)
13. Recovery (9)

Down
1. Loud hailer (9)
2. Percussion (9)
3. Driving bird (4)
4. Musical drama (5)
5. Delight (6)
6. Near (4)
7. Dazzling smile (5)
8. Willing (5)
9. All (5)
10. Ideal (9)
11. Pat (5)
12. Snail (5)
13. Christian festival (6)
14. Invitations (5)
15. Tend (4)

Brain Gym
No. 154

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letters to the right of the main grid to start you off.

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Solutions:

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14. Birds whose flight is unsteady (5)
15. One who sums up the ...
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for real friendship, please get in touch. Phone numbers
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friendship. If you too are looking for this kind of
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KIDDERMINSTER CHRONICLE, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 02 2012
www.expressandstar.com/free-editions

Page 30
**SPORT**

**Hancock returns to meet the Heathens’ supporters**

Heathens’ speedway fans will be flocking to Dudley to witness a long-forgotten hero: Greg Hancock.

The reigning speedway world champion won his second crown 14 years after claiming his first and promised a return to his professional roots.

The former Cradley ace made nearly 400 appearances for the old Cladils club and notched more than 4,000 points before leaving in the late 1980s.

The 64-year-old, who now lives in Sweden, will take the stage and meet supporters at The Venue Conference and Banqueting Centre, High Street, Dudley, on March 23.

He will be joined by a number of former Cradley riders including former world champion and mentor Heathens coach Jon O’Donovan and Colin Pratt.

**Busy**

Hancock: “I know what the Heathens mean to the people and they are just so passionate about their team.”

The Cradley Days were special to me and so many people.

“It will be nice to come back and see the fans where it all started close to my home town. I always get a chance to catch up with my fans once again.”

Levhans chairman Nigel Pearson said: “Greg is a very, very busy man these days and seldom gets a chance to come home these days.”

It will be a very rare appearance for him back home where it all started to the joy of the old Cladils club and supporters.

The cost is £20 and still available at www.clubheathens.co.uk or by contacting HSSC, 2C Muirarow Way, Dudley, West Midlands, DY1 2T8.

More details: 07766 745059

**Hole-in-one happiness for David Randle**

Kidderminster Golf club member David Randle has hit an ace – but at the age of 67.

He now looks forward to his next ace – but hopes he will not have to wait as long.

It was a case of what might have been as KCs lost a game they could, and probably should have won after dominating territorially for most of the match. They looked sharp from the off and early pressure brought a try just three minutes in.

An incisive run by centre Nick Martin punched a hole in the visitors’ defence and his long cross-field pass from Jodi Knott created opportuni- ties for the old Cradley forwards including former world champion and mentor Heathens coach Jon O’Donovan and Colin Pratt.

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**KIDDERMINSTER CHRONICLE, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22 2012**

**SPORT**

**Leaders send hosts to bottom of table**

Hole-in-one for David Randle

Kidderminster Golf club member David Randle has hit a hole in one – at the age of 67. David has been playing golf for 40 years, 30 of them with Kidderminster. He achieved his lifetime’s ambition on the 75-yard par three. This was the first time he had hit an ace in a tournament, but he did not hold it on the course.

He now looks forward to his next ace – but hopes he will not have to wait as long.

Aldridge & Walsall 0 Stourport 7

Stourport’s player of the match Lewis for a thunderous shot into the bottom corner past the Aldridge keeper.

Not long afterwards Jade Mar- rone-Miller made it four when Sarah Cavendish switched play effi- ciently to Lewis on the right who crossed for Marshall-Walker to score.

Vincent was rewarded for his hard work when she added a fifth Stourport goal, calmly fi- cking a rebound over the grounded keeper. Her second and the visitors’ sixth, was a fine strike on the far post from a well-worked team effort, which began with Harvey. Burrell and Katie Miller waving down the right, and linking with Lewis whose strike across the D found Vincent to score.

Lewis rounded off her fine per- formance with a third goal when Johnson opened up the home defence with her skills down the left.

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KIDDERMINSTER judo twins Sally and Rachael Moon have had a gold medal and a medal-laden week.

The girls, who train at Wolverhampton Judo Club, began by competing in Sheffield against junior players (aged 16-19) for a place on the Junior Great Britain squad.

Sally competed in a tough under-70kg group and battled her way to bronze, beating the Welsh number one on the way.

Rachael managed to finish one place higher in the under-78kg group, taking the silver medal by beating her team-mate, who is currently ranked number two in Britain.

This ensures the twins both have a place on the Junior GB squad.

Three days later they competed in the West Midlands and county at the 2012 Commonwealth Judo Championships in Mandeville.

Both managed the same placings. Rachael took bronze in under-78kg and Sally bronze in the under-70kg sections.

At half-time Burr introduced Anthony Hendrie for his “no airs and graces” influence on the team.

Equally, Wellington have had a gruelling but medal-laden week.

Wolverhampton Judo Club, began by competing in Sheffield against junior players (aged 16-19) for a place on the Junior Great Britain squad.

The Sundries, who had a good chance in the very first minute and scored after 25 minutes equalise after 25 minutes

Down two years, the late Stourbridge’s hopes of promotion from the Evo-Stik Premier Home draw. The centre-back is, at least, expected to spend several weeks on the sidelines and could even miss the rest of the season for a second time.

Rangers after this West Midlands clash.

Andy Marston of Kidderminster’s Samurai club take gold at the Commonwealth Judo Championships in Cardiff.

Though a 10-year junior in judo, which includes two victories at the British Junior Nationals and a recent seventh place at the World Masters, this was undoubtedly Marston’s best-ever win.

His experience is key and helps him.

By Andrew Hafner

Green gets the late equaliser

Gemal Alt 1 Wellington 1

GORNAL got ground out by Black Country Rangers after this West Midlands Premier home draw.

Both teams were happy to take a point from a game that lacked any real quality or goal threat.

In stoppage time Banbury put the result beyond doubt with a second goal.

Hopes hit as Hatters head for victory

Kidderminster’s Blue Square Bet Premier promotion hopes took a knock as they suffered a 2-0 defeat at struggling Stockport on Saturday.

Harriers trailed 2-0 before Nick Wright’s deflected shot gave them a lifeline. Despite jolting on the pressure, the home defence refused to buckle, leaving manager Steve Burr to run off dejected.

“I thought we did particularly well, we just didn’t finish it off,” said Burr.

“I don’t like to be disrespectful to Stockport because they won the game, and fair play to them, but in the first half they had a heavy penalty on 22 minutes. Ormson’s long clearance was fished on by Tom Elliott and Suzan McCann drilled a 20-yard effort into the bottom right-hand corner of Tony Bond’s goal.

Harriers responded and Callum Gittings forced a save from Ormson before Luke Jones directed his far-post header narrowly wide.

Kidderminster were dealt another blow when full-back Tom Sharpe was stretchered off with a serious knee injury.

At half-time Burr introduced Anthony Malbon who immediately won a corner from which Gittings headed wide. On 54 minutes, the Hatters extended their lead when Danny Euros rose and forward and hit a drive that squirmed between Bond and his right-hand post.

Harriers replied almost instantly, Hendrie finding Wright to reduce the arrears.

KIDDERMINSTER Harriers face an anxious wait on defender Tom Sharpe as he settles in for what could be the next course of action with the injury victim.

Shaps went off after 34 minutes of the 2-1 defeat at Stockport on Saturday, with their 23-year-old having suffered a cruciate ligament injury.

The centre-back is, at least, expected to spend several weeks on the sidelines and could even miss the rest of the season for a second time.

A dropped knee ended his campaign last year but it’s his other knee, the right, that has been damaged this time.

Influence

Meanwhile, Burr has hailed former Villa and Morecambe striker Lee Hendrie for his “no airs and graces” influence on the team.

Hendrie has made 10 starts for Harriers and was a key influence in his short spell.

He got around the lines and could even miss the rest of the season for a second time.

“His experience is key and the way he has fitted in with the lads has been great.

“He gets around the fields and just gives them that bit of encouragement.

“The lads here have a lot of respect for him and his no airs and graces with Lee, he just loves playing.

Town let their lead slip away

Dudley Town 2 BC Rangers 3

DUDLEY Town let slip a second-half lead as Black Country Rangers extended their lead at the top of the West Midlands Premier League.

Danny Ludlow chipped a goal back in the 52nd minute and Brenna Hals made it two as Rangers fought back on board.

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