OOOPEN UP
OWN COP SHOP

Two long-serving members of a Black Country performing society have been honoured for their tireless work on stage and behind the scenes.

Halesowen’S Startime Variety presents the accolade to the performer members think has contributed most to the society over the past 12 months. And for the first time ever it has been awarded to two people - 27-year-old Josie Rock and Leanne Ditchfield, 26.

As well as performing in the show, both Josie and Leanne have undertaken roles behind the scenes over the years.

Josie, a member of Startime Variety for 16 years, produced this year’s successful summer show, called Startime Goes Pop, for the group. She also makes props for the shows and helps paint the scenes.

And Leanne, a member for 10 years, has produced programmes for the group’s performances for the last five years and helps prepare the costumes.

Josie, a sales consultant from Halesowen, said: “I am really pleased for Leanne, a librarian from Rowley Regis, who is the first person to be recognised in this way by Startime.”

Youngsters from across the Black Country were joined by singing sensation Connie Talbot for the first of the region’s annual Young Voices concerts.

More than 5,000 youngsters from 160 schools, aged between seven and 10, are taking part in the shows in Birmingham’s LG Arena. The first of the shows was held last night.

Dudley schools involved in the shows include Grove Primary School, Kingwellford, Mingshaw Primary School, Dudley, Russell Hall Primary School, Dudley, Newfield Park Primary school, Halesowen, Ludley Primary school, Halesowen and Gip Mill Primary School, Stourbridge.

Stevey schoolgirl Connie Talbot, 11, who made her name on the ITV show Britain’s Got Talent, sang her new song Beautiful World at the event. Pupils Amy Preece and Emily Dunn-Battle both aged 10, from Grove Primary School, Col Lane, Kingwellford and said they had a fantastic day at the LG Arena, and had enjoyed rehearsing for it at school.

Amy said: “We had our rehearsals at the after school club, and had extra ones as it came closer to the show.”

Favourite

Emily added: “Our favourite songs are the pop medley and the Queen medley, and we love doing the actions.”

It was during this time the deposits in his secret accounts soared from almost £18,000 to £57,000.

Prosecutor Miss Laura Hobson said: “He claimed to have multiple savings accounts when making his written application for job seeker’s allowance in June 2008, despite having no bank accounts with £7,704 on them, a figure that increased steadily.

He spread it among nine different bank accounts. Wolverhampton Crown Court was told. The 36-year-old, of Upton, told officials he had no means to enable him to claim the money for himself. He continued to collect the bond payments for almost two years before investigators were tipped off.

It was during the time this deposit was in his secret accounts that he was moved to Monday night, due to the public sector strike action. This is the 15th year of the Young Voices concerts which raises funds for children’s cancer charity CLIC Sargent.

Schoolchildren hit the right note for big song event at Arena

A father of two with £57,000 stashed away in secret bank accounts has been locked up for pocketing more than £15,000 in a benefits scam.

Balbir Rai concealed the cash from the Department for Work and Pensions, a court heard.

He spread it among nine different bank accounts, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told. The 36-year-old, of Upton, told officials he had no means to enable him to claim the money for himself. He continued to collect the bond payments for almost two years before investigators were tipped off.

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Fraudster had secret cash stash

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Residents called to foot bill on bin thefts

Dudley people are being asked to foot the bill after a spate of bin-surface waste wheelie bins. New figures show there were 349 of the green plastic bins from outside people’s homes in the borough in one year.

Residents who fall victim are asked to pay £25 if they want the bin replaced. However, the council says there is discretion to waive the charge if they have taken good care to prevent damage or theft of their bins.

Councillor David Stanley, who is in charge of waste, said: “Many of the bins were taken by people who used them to build bonfires to keep warm while they drank beer.

He added that the thefts occurred during the autumn and winter and that the north of the borough – Codsall, Sedgley and Cwissance – was hit the most.

Tony and Hang Timmis, both aged 64, of Talud House Lane, Penson, were charged after their green recycling bin was stolen from the edge of their drive – and the council then demanded £25 for a replacement.

Assessed

“The bin was full of private waste, as well as those with energy saving tips and local council information. Because of this, as a result of this, the council assessed the value of the bin at £25,” the ruling.

Councillor Stanley said: “If residents have been correctly disposing of waste, they should not face any charges.

Brown, of Marshwood Court, Halesowen, was jailed for two years last year, but after three months appeal judges reduced the original three-year term.

They replaced it with a 12-month sentence after agreeing to undertake 90 hours of community service. The court had been told that Higgin had been on a 10-year alcohol rehabilitation plan.

Mr Mchael Doyle, defending, said Higgin had left his house following a row between his mother and her partner the evening before the crash happened.

He was found in West, which had included a pint of cider under Jack Daniels whiskey, with his girlfriend before driving home.

“I thought wrongly that he was OK to drive,” said his girlfriend.

Higgin was ordered at the hearing to pay £500 costs. He had pleaded guilty at an earlier hearing to driving while over the alcohol limit.

“Every week we’re investigating. Regular patrols are being carried out in the park area,” he said.

“Tickets@ halesowenchoralsociety.org or by calling 0121 550 7206.

Grove

A motorist who was more than twice the alcohol limit was found dead in an exotic car on its roof.

Todd Harris had been drinking before losing control of his Bentley Languish on Sunday, Halesowen. Harris, aged 22, needed to be cut out of the vehicle by fire crews.

He was not seriously injured but his girlfriend was taken to hospital from paramedics at the scene.

Police arrested Harris and a breath test gave a reading of 35mg of alcohol in 100ml of breath. The limit is 35mg.

Harris, of Crabbe Street, Hodgebridge, was disqualified from driving for 31 months and handed a community order containing 40 hours of unpaid work.

The court heard Harris told police he did not remember the collision, which happened at 2.20am.

Mr Michael Doyle, defending, said Harris had left his house following a row between his mother and her partner the evening before the crash happened.

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“Every week we’re investigating. Regular patrols are being carried out in the park area,” he said.
Views are sought on plans for market

Zoo’s speedy new addition

Keeper, Jay Haywood (right) with students Harvey Price, Harley Hunt, Hannah Follows and Timmy the tortoise

An African spurred tortoise has joined Dudley Zoo, where he has been named Timmy and assistant curator Richard Brown said he was proving popular with keepers at the zoo. He said: “He’s been following staff around and he can really motor. He’s 60cm long as a tortoise pretty much double his size in years to come.”

The consultation asks shoppers and traders about paving, seating, public art and lighting. The plans have received a mixed response from people in town, with some welcoming the more modern designs for the market stalls while others have said they believe the revamp is not needed.

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After that, new proposals were drafted up which showcase the market, including additional parking, new footpaths, improved controlled crossing points and new cycle parking in Castle Street, as well as improvements to the steps and forecourt of St Edmund’s Church.

Responses

The redevelopment of the market place now includes Castle Street, up to and including the Earl of Dudley statue.

Councillor Angus Adams, cabinet member for economic regeneration, said: “The market place consultation looks at ways in which we can sympathetically restore and highlight the fantastic features of Dudley’s historic town centre.”

More than 600 people took part in the first consultation earlier this year.

More than 200 people have had their say on new £6milion plans to revamp Dudley’s historic market place.

Since a second public consultation began, Dudley Council has been inundated with people sharing their views on the scheme.

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Howling dogs lead to woman in court

A dog owner was given a £320 court bill after neighbours complained her two pets were barking and howling in the evening, causing a noise nuisance.

Bus driver Rachel Bell, aged 50, was found guilty of breaching a noise abatement order at Dudley Magis-
tates Court following a trial. Magistrates last week told her she must recognise the “annoyance” her dogs’ noise might cause neighbours - but said they sympathised with her need for company.

A CARER for children and young people in Dudley has been given a five-star thank you from Barnardo’s for her commitment to their fostering service.

Pauline Heathcock provides short respite care at the Cophorne Hotel, Merry Hill.

Tracey Coleman, support worker at Barnardo’s fostering service, said: “We have fantastic carers who give their time and love tirelessly to make a difference to children and young people who have had a difficult start and some who also have disabilities.

“This is a great way of giving them some time out and showing them they really are valued. We are very grateful to the Cophorne Hotel who generously offers That facilitites for the day free of charge.”

The hotel train and provide ongoing support for carers and are constantly looking for more black and ethnic minority volunteers to get involved.

Chance

Matt Ward, father of two and general manager at the Cophorne Hotel, said: “When the chance to open our doors to the local community and help people who are committed to children came up we were really keen to get involved.

“It was the perfect opportunity to be able to support Barnardo’s and the great work they do.”

For more information call 01384 458585.

Pampering for caring Pauline

Carer Pauline Heathcock, right, with Judith Worrall and Julie Miller, from Kidderminster, enjoying star treatment.

Pauline Heathcock provides short respite care at the Cophorne Hotel, Merry Hill.

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New opening

The NwWest branch in Blackheath is now open and people for the first time after customers ask for longer tim es. It w ill open from 9am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm to 4pm through the week, apart at 9.30am start on Wednesdays.

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Options for troubled park to be discussed

A dispersal order giving the police powers to break up nuisance gangs could be brought in at a trouble-plagued beauty spot in Wordsley.

The order at just one of the options being considered for King George V Park.

Other suggestions include installing floodlights at the picturesque park, which is know to gather at night.

The possible measures to protect the park from been-fueled vandal attacks will be discussed at a meeting of residents, councillors and members of Dudley Council’s Green Care team which looks after the park.

Councillor Geoff Southall said residents had been invited to a public meeting, residents, councillors and members of Dudley Council’s Green Care team which looks after the park.

The meeting will take place at the park tomorrow, December 2 and involves nearby residents.

Police, councillors and members of Dudley Council’s Green Care team which looks after the park.

Flats have been torn up, litter strewn around the site and items such as fences and benches have been destroyed in previous attacks.

Councillor Southall said that while it was not a public meeting, residents had been invited to a public meeting.

The meeting will allow us to gauge the response so far. Janet Jones, head of fundraising said: “It is really exciting to see so many registrations coming in. It is such a success!”

The entry fee is £12 for adults and £5 for children under 12. Those who take part get a free Santa suit and registration can be done online on www.marystevenshospice.co.uk

Entry forms can also be obtained from the fundraising office by calling 01384 377778.

Santas set for festive run

More than 400 people have signed up for an annual festive fun run in Stourbridge. A 200 place are up for grabs in the Santa Jog organised in aid of Mary Stevens Hospice. Among those heading to Mary Stevens Park for the 5k run on December 11 at 10.30am will be 21 members of staff from Waitrose. Led by acting branch manager David Harcourt, the team has been in training for weeks.

More than 540 people entered the event in 2010, despite the snow, and the hospice fundraising team says it has been delighted with the response so far.

“We also want to get the views on floodlighting the park,” he said. “This meeting has been organised to try and deal with problem once and for all,” he said.

“We are looking at the possibility of asking dispersal order for Belle Lane as one of the measures, and this meeting will allow us to get the support for that.”

“Police will be at the meeting as well. We will let them know we are looking at it.”

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A campaign to get a new University Technical College (UTC) built in Dudley has taken a leap forward after Education Secretary Michael Gove agreed to meet Dudley North MP Ian Austin to discuss the plans.

The issue was raised during the education questions session at the Commons.

Mr Austin has been campaigning to get a UTC in Dudley following the success of a £9.5 million project in Wallall, which he visited in recently.

He told the session: ‘Credit where credit is due, I have to say I thought it was fantastic.’

He said that details of the plans had yet to be finalised but that a meeting with Mr Gove was forthcoming.

Mr Gove replied: ‘It will be a joy.’

Speaking after the Commons session, Mr Austin said the visit to the Wallall UTC had re-energised his desire to see one in Dudley. ‘I’m delighted that Michael Gove has agreed to meet me to discuss the issue,’ he said.

‘An area like ours which has lost jobs in traditional manufacturing but failed to attract new industries and new jobs needs to encourage young people to think about careers in engineering, advanced manufacturing and areas like research, development and design which exactly what the UTCs are being established to do.’

Ballot date for hospital

Ballot papers were being sent out to more than 13,000 homes this week as part of forthcoming elections for governor positions at Russells Hall Hospital.

Members of the Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, which runs the hospital, are being urged to vote for their local candidates in the forthcoming council of governor elections to help them play a key role in the trust’s future.

The trust’s staff members will also be asked to make their vote count in the constituencies of non-clinical staff and allied health professionals and healthcare assistants. Ballots close on December 13.

Tattoo shop hit by theft

A tattoo shop was stripped of equipment in a burglary in Sandwell.

A box of specialist tools and equipment, worth about £500, was stolen, along with its contents.

Anyone with information is asked to call police on 01384 111 5000.

Heath is appealing for anyone with old coats to donate them to help the homeless until Friday this week to help those in need.

The Salvation Army base in Cradley Heath is appealing for anyone with old coats to donate them to help the homeless this winter.

The centre will be open from 9am to 5pm.

Volunteer Victor Fletcher said: ‘The Salvation Army is recognised world-wide and working with Daybreak and its 800,000 viewers, we will be looking after the elderly, the homeless and children living below the poverty line.’

The Cradley Heath centre is one of 200 across the country chosen to help in the effort to spread a little warmth this winter.

The centre will be open from 9am to 5pm as a drop-off point, and the appeal will be publicised on Daybreak to get the word out.

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National award for Somers Club efforts

dudleychrons@express
andstar.co.uk

A members’ club in Halesowen, noted for its fundraising efforts, has been voted the best in the country for the second time in two years.

The Somers Sports and Social Club beat off competition from 12,000 others to receive the accolade. Judges from industry experts at Club Mirror gave the Somers, off Grange Hill, the honour at an awards ceremony in Manchester on November 10.

Club managers Joanne and Ian Bamford were also voted in the top five as the club has been turned around from near closure to becoming a thriving part of our local community.

Expectations

“To be honoured in this way by Club Mirror for the second time in two years has to show that we are in tune with the requirements and expectations of our members and to this end we would like to thank everyone for their support and especially thank our managers and staff.”

The club recently raised £2,530 for Dudley’s Bessels Hall Hospital and has helped charities in the area over many years.

It’s Grange Hill-listed headquarters, The Somers, has been home to the club since 1891 when it was given as a trust to the workers and families of Walter Somers Ltd.

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It’s simple to repair or improve your home, our new service could be the answer.

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**Bogus callers alert**

Eight reports of bogus callers targeting housewives have been reported in Dudley over the last couple of months according to new figures.

Police say six “distraction burglaries” were reported in the borough during October and another two in November.

There have been claims some of the callers said they were from “the water board.”

Bosses at South Staffs Water say around half bogus callers use this claim in order to gain entry to houses of elderly or vulnerable people but employees of South Staffs Water would never use this phrase and the company is urging residents to be vigilant in checking the identity of callers if they have any doubts about them.

All South Staffs Water employees, and authorised contractors, wear a uniform and carry identity cards that they will produce when calling at a customer’s home.

If in any doubt, do not callers in and contact your local police station on 01045 133 5000.

**Firmstar – The Crooked House pub in Himley**

It will be fights, camera and action for a Famous Black Country pub soon as filming begins for a ghost movie.

The film, called The Crooked House, will be shot at the titling pub in Himley and will be released in the UK and US. Los Angeles film director Mr Todd, who comes from Wednesbury, will travel from LA in the new year to begin work on the project.

The main film will tell the story of an LA-based English film director who buys the Crooked House and moves in with his American wife.

Soon ghosts start to appear and set off a chain of events, climaxing in a dramatic ending. A cast of up-and-coming actors from both the Midlands and America have been given parts in the movie, using contacts Mr Todd has made through his career.

While shooting the film Mr Todd, 46, will also make a documentary about ghosts in Dudley – looking in particular at the castle and the Talbot Hotel.

He said: “It’s very exciting and I’m so glad it’s all finally coming together. This will be a great thing for the area and will really put the Crooked House on the map. It’s such a fascinating place that I just knew I had to make a film there when I visited.”

Mr Todd said he believes American audiences will love the film.

He said: “Americans are into anything that is typically English and this definitely fits the bill.”

**Narina is recreated**

Trevor Baker, Margaret Parker and Sharon Baker take a trip to Narina

Children will be able to step into the magical land of Narina this Christmas thanks to donations to a Dudley church.

Big Christmas trees, snow and even Aslan the Lion will greet schoolchildren visiting a winter wonderland created by the Revival Fire Church Mission, Wolverhampton Street.

Volunteers have spent two weeks creating a festive experience inspired by C S Lewis The Chronicles of Narina in a 9,000 sqft warehouse next to the church.

Donations of trees and other decorations have been used to transform the warehouse to create a trail for children to explore landmarks made famous in the book.

The show will open on December 3 until December 21 with the Mayor of Dudley Councillor Michael Evans paying a visit to the display and interactive experience on December 4.

Church leader Trevor Baker, aged 59, who leads the congregation with his wife Sharon, says the display was created to get across the Christian messages behind Christ- mas and to give everyone an interesting experience.

Everyone is making cutbacks at this moment but we didn’t want to cut back on Christmas and there is a wonderful message in the story of Narina that good can triumph over evil.

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Fuel consumption figures for the Civic 5 door 1.4-i-VTEC Si Manual & Jazz 1.2-i-VTEC S Manual in mpg (l/100km): Urban 38.7 – 42.8 (7.3 – 6.6), Extra Urban 56.5 – 62.8 (3.9 – 3.6), Combined 47.9 – 61.4 (5.9 – 4.9), CO2 emissions: 135 – 123 g/km.

Terms and Conditions: £99 Advanced payment offer on Civic 1.4 Si Manual. Nil advanced payment offer is available on Jazz 1.2 i-VTEC S Manual. All offers are correct at the time of going to print however Honda (UK) reserves the right to change this offer at any time. Models subject to availability. Written details available on request. The facilities offered are for the hire of goods. The scheme is available to recipients of the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance or War Pensioner Mobility Supplement. To qualify for this offer you must be in receipt of a minimum of 12 months allowance. Valid for applications between 1st October to 31st December 2011 to Motability Operations Limited (Registered Company No. 1570987, City Gate House, 22 Seabourne Road, London E16 2RB). Promoter is Honda Motor Europe Limited trading as Honda (UK) at 470 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 8QY.
A landlord from Halesowen has won £32,000 in benefits fraud.

Melissa Porter, 42, from Compton Road, was convicted at Wolverhampton Crown Court of fraud.

She had claimed more than £80,000 in benefits since the original claim was made.

The fraud was uncovered by investigators.

Porter had been investigated last year, but was later released.

She claimed she had not realised fraud had occurred.

Andy Burton, who is also a director of Pension Fraud Watch, was named Landlord of the Year.

The awards ceremony was held at the NEC in Birmingham last month.

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Fishing lake plan approved

A revised bid to install a fishing lake on land in Halesowen has been given the go-ahead despite concerns over wildlife.

Proposals for the development on land currently used for horse grazing in Hagley Road were thrown out by Dudley Council planners last year and dismissed on appeal by the planning inspector.

But renewed plans without an amenity building, which was originally proposed, were approved by the council’s development committee last week.

Councillor Kevin Turner told the meeting that 25 people had raised concerns and said he was “surprised” the plans had been submitted again.

He said important wildlife and archaeology at the site would be lost.

Residents were worried there would be extra traffic and also have concerns about the noise, he said.

But landlord Andy Flaherty said he had worked with the Environment Agency and they had no objections to the proposals.

A property businessman with houses across Sedgley and Gornal has won a prestigious Landlord of the Year award in a national ceremony.

The national Landlord and Lettings Awards were held on November 16 and Andy Burton beat 20 others from across the country to claim the crown.

It is the third time Mr Burton, who is also a director of Pension Fraud Watch, has been awarded this, said Mr Burton, aged 57, of Compton Road, Wolverhampton.

He said: “I’ve been letting for 33 years now and was nominated by my tenants, so it is a great achievement.

“I operate a black book system to make sure I’m providing the best service.

“I try to treat my tenants as customers, rather than just a way to make money.”

The awards ceremony was hosted by television presenter and property investor Melanie Purtier.

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Melissa Porter.

Andy Burton celebrates winning this year’s national Landlord of the Year award.
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aldi.co.uk
DIY decorations to brighten homes

PEOPLE can make their own Christmas decorations during a special workshop for adults in West Bromwich.

The session on December 5 will be held at the Oak House Museum in Oak Road between 10am and 1pm.

Jane Hanney, museum assistant at Sandwell Museum Service, said: “We ran a similar workshop last year, and it was totally sold out.

People really enjoyed the session and were excited about making their own decorations.

“We ran so many events for families and children, and adults were saying that they would like to join in too.

“Visitors can make a unique stitched Christmas decoration to take home and display this Christmas and keep for the future.

“We have limited places, so we ask that those wishing to take part call the house to book a place.”

The session costs £4. To book, call 0121 553 0759.

Visit
Other activities at the Oak House Museum this Christmas include a Tudor Christmas event on December 4, a visit from Santa and activities on December 10 and a Carols by Candlelight event with the Salvation Army on December 15.

For full event listings, visit www.facebook.com/sandwellmuseum

Council home sales show a recent drop

NUMBERS of people buying their council homes in Sandwell have plummeted in recent years.

Sales were in their hundreds from 2001/02 to 2007/08, peaking in 2003/04 when 1,026 people bought their homes.

But the past two years only 102 people took up the option.

Councillor Ray Nock, the leader of Sandwell’s opposition Conservative group, said numbers have fallen after discounts were discontinued.

He said: “I’m not surprised that the right to buy numbers have dipped after Labour withdrew a number of discounts. “I am so pleased Government has announced it will be reintroducing a form of right to buy with five per cent deposit on mortgages to help Sandwell residents buy their council homes. I think this is the way forward.”

Latest figures show in 2007/08 213 people bought their council home. But that figure more than halved to 91 the year after and went down again to 47 last year.

A total of 4,376 people have bought their homes over the past 10 years.

Councillor Nock said he was backing a Whitehall suggestion to reintroduce a form of the right to buy scheme launched in the 1980s.

Margaret Thatcher’s Government of the time allowed council tenants to buy their council homes at a discount.

Tenants who lived there for up to three years got a 33 per cent discount on the property’s market value, increasing to up to 50 per cent discounts for people with tenancies of 20 years.

The Communities and Local Government Secretary Eric Pickles recently said at the Conservative Party conference he was planning to relaunch the scheme. He has not yet said what discounts will be offered.

Councillor Nock added he hoped the move would bring in cash, as well as help people from the borough to get on the property ladder.

Council bosses hope to build 700 homes a year up to 2015 to help struggling residents from the six towns get to buy their first homes. It is anticipated it would cost £280 million.

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Juicy treats are now put aside for the animals. The generosity of workers in the town means the animals get treats such as grapes, sweetcorn, pomegranate, spring onions, plums and strawberries. Kirsty said: “Most days I leave a few minutes spare in my lunch break and then make a mad dash to the market.

“Some of the stallholders have fruit and vegetables in boxes and the council’s employees also look for tasty leftovers and keep it in their storeroom.

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The fruits of the labour

Dudley Cabbies hit in blitz

Two private hire taxi drivers have had their licences suspended and one minibus banned from the road after police found they were being driven with “dangerous” defects.

Halesowen police working with taxi licensing enforcement officers from Dudley Council checked private hire taxis during the school run.

During the operation nine cars were checked and a third were found to be driving despite problems including poor tyre tread, broken headlights and indicators.

Sgt Martin Hall, from the Halesowen North neighbourhood policing team, said the event had been carried out as part of ongoing partnership working between the police and council.

“One vehicle – a minibus – had to be taken off the road completely due to the number of defects and the general poor condition,” he said.

“When there are defects such as a bad general condition, tatty treads, or lighting offences it can be a danger and enforcement officers are quite rightly very hot on these.”

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Tues. 24th Jan. 19.00-21.00. 3 wks. £21.60 #

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Both 5 wks £25.50 #

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Wed 11th Jan. 19.15-20.45, 4 wks. £24.80

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PILATES

Beginners: Thurs 10th Jan. 19.00-20.00, 11 wks. £33.00

Beginners: Wed 11th Jan. 18.00-19.00, 11 wks. £33.00

Beginners: Thurs 12th Jan. 18.00-19.00, 11 wks. £33.00

Improv: Thurs 12th Jan. 19.05-20.05, 11 wks. £33.00

Improv: Thurs 12th Jan. 20.10-21.10, 11 wks. £33.00

Beginners/Oakfield. Fri 13th Jan. 19.00-21.00, 11 wks. £39.60 #

LEGS, BUMS & TUMS

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ADULT SWIMMING LESSONS

Courses begin Mon for 11 wks. £33.00 #

19.00-19.45 Beginners and Improvers:

Tue 10th Jan 14.45-15.30

Wed 12th Jan 19.00-20.00

Improv: Thurs 14th Jan. 19.00-20.00, 11 wks. £66.10 #

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In a group of 2 or 1. Contact the office for further details

RLSS NATIONAL POOL LIFEGUARD

13th Feb 2012, 10 Apr 2012, 32nd July 2012.

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EMERGENCY FIRST AID

Sat. 25th Feb OR Fri. 23rd Mar. Both 09.00-16.00. 1 day. £36.50

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Fri. 24th Feb OR Sat. 24th Mar. Both 09.00-13.00. 1/2 day £24.30

START YOUR OWN BUSINESS

Mon 19th Jan. 19.00-

21.00 OR Wed 1st Feb. 19.00-20.00 Both 8 wks. £40.80 #

INTRO TO TRADING ON THE STOCK MARKET

Wed 14th Jan. 19.00-21.00, 3 wks £21.60 #

Short’N’Sweet

PLAY THE GUITAR

Beginners: Thurs 19th Jan. 19.00-20.00, 10 wks. £36.00 #

Cont. Beginners: Thurs 19th Jan. 20.00-21.00, 10 wks. £36.00 #

Improv: Thurs 10th Jan. 19.00-20.00, 11 wks. £56.10 #

Short ‘N’ Sweet

Fri 19th Jan. 13.30-15.30, 3 wks £21.60 #

What is Short’N’Sweet?

An introductory tastes course of 6 hrs in a small group

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**LEARNING4LIFE SWIM SCHOOL**

**TERM DATES**: Wed 4th Jan.–Sun. 1st Apr. Mon-Tues All other 10 wks.

**Cost**: All lessons from Beg. to Int. 3.

First Steps and Pre Beginners £34.55 £46.60

Rookie, AS, W. Skills, L’aving and ALS £48.40 £52.80

We operate 7 days a week and offer sessions at the following standards:

**First Steps**:

An ideal first class for children aged 5 years and over who want to learn to swim. A maximum of 6 children in a small group with a fully trained volunteer activity. This is an ideal class for aspiring young swimmers. Not too old or too inexperienced to become qualified lifeguards or aquatic teachers.

**Pre- Beginner**:

Min age 4 1/2 years. Provides familiarity activities and skills to develop self-confidence and performance in water.

**Beginner**:

Min age 4 1/2 years. Provides skill development to swim 5m on a front stroke and 5m back crawl.

**Intermediate 1**.

Develops confidence in deep water and front crawl breathing action to swim 20meters on a front stroke and 20m back crawl.

**Intermediate 2**.

Helps to build stamina and endurance to swim 50m on a front stroke and 25m on back crawl.

**Intermediate 3**.

Develops competence on all four strokes (25m) and a front and back stroke for 100m.

**Advanced Swimmer. AS**

To further develop swimming skills, speed and stamina.

**Water Skills.**

To develop survival and rescue skills.

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Min age 10 years. Must be able to swim 20m on a front stroke and 20m on a back stroke. Develops water safety knowledge and performance in self-rescue skills through Lifesaving 1, 2 and 3 Bronze Medal Award.

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For students who have achieved their Bronze Medal. Works towards the ILife and Merit and Life Support 3 in an environment which supports the candidate to develop the necessary skills and confidence to volunteer in this capacity. This is an ideal class for aspiring young lifeguards. Not too old or too inexperienced to become qualified lifeguards or aquatic teachers.

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**WHAT'S NEW @ Learning4Life**

**Jan-Apr 2012**

**2nd Edition**

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**Dudley**

**REDECTED FEES**

Where you see this # you sign can claim a 25% reduction on tuition fees if you are in receipt of a state pension and pay a registration fee of £3.00 if you are in receipt of certain benefits.

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**PLAY THE GUITAR**

A brilliant opportunity for kids (over 9 years old) to learn on electric guitar and have fun! Provide your own guitar, an adult must remain onsite with children aged 5-8 years old.

**Other conditions apply**

Beginners: Mon 9th Jan. 5 wks. 16.45—17.45, £14.30

Intermediates: Thurs 12th Jan. 11 wks. 17.45—18.45, £14.25
Blackpool honour for comedian Tommy

Former Miss Universe’s last dance

Andy Altmann have been creating the incredible work of art, close to a ‘Moody Pyke’s’ stool, and successfully transformed them into him alphabetically, including Frank Mant, Al Murray and Neill Morrissey. ‘It’s his lost news and I’m shocked and really chuffed that people are now walking all over me,’ said Tommy, who lives with his wife, Val, in Alexandra Road, Halesowen.

’Tve only ever performed in Blackpool three times – more than 10 years ago at private functions for some thing like the George Formal Society’s annual dinner. So to feature alongside all those famous comedians is a surprise to me.’

Artist Gordon Young and designer Andy Altman have been creating the artwork. ‘It is the centrepiece of the new headland after Blackpool Tower, over the last five years. It is made from more than 140,000 pieces of granite, letters set in concrete blocks and was launched by Ken Dodd.

Mr Young said: ‘We wanted to mark the fact as so many wonderful British and international comedians had appeared in Blackpool. With the help of local expert Barry Bond we were able to find some of the funnier names. We’ve found some of the names of the first- time visitors, including Tommy Munden, and their contributions to entertainment history is now set in stone.”

Multi Million Pound Clearance Event

EXTENDED FOR ONE FINAL WEEK

EVEryTHING REDUCED, STOCK MOVING FAST

By order of the Directors, Cousins have demanded that all remaining items of furniture, carpet, beds and accessories must be cleared.

All stock purchased in the Clearance will be delivered to you in time for Christmas.

These offers are only available in store, not through Cousins’ website.

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They are quite lively, they are good fun – especially in the wet, says Chris, 25.

Once they were ‘nerdy’ cars now they have youth appeal

CHRIS Whitehouse was barely born when the last Ford Capri rolled off the production line in December, 1986. This year he bought his third Capri, seven years after picking up his first at the tender age of 18.

“Drivers of modern cars would be surprised if they drove one of these, especially in the wet,” he says. “They are quite lively. They are good fun.”

A survey of a growing number of young motorists who are turning to older cars.

Once old cars were the Cinderellas of garage forecourts. Now young Black Country drivers tell MARK ANDREWS why they can’t get enough of them.

Among the younger set, Del Boy, in Only Fools and Horses also owned a Capri, or parts of two people have called me Del Boy,” admits Chris from Happerley Road, Rowley Regis.

But soaring insurance costs, coupled with the simple mechanics and low depreciation of older cars, has led to a surge in demand for cars from the 1970s and 80s.

And major survey amongst young motorists have returned to the fact that an older car, even a run-of-the-mill motor such as a Vauxhall Cavalier or Ford Sierra, will cut far more of a dash than the knockabout vehicles of today.

“I’ve always liked the Capri. I just like the shapely,” says Chris, who also has a modern Volvo.

“I’ve got far more people look at me in the Capri than I do in the Volvo, and that is all body-kitted up,” he says.

“But for a lot of young people it is the cost of insurance. When you hit 21 the classic car insurance kicks in, and it’s the difference between paying £300 and three grand.

“All the prices are shooting up. If you buy a Corsa or something, it’s worth next to nothing when you come to sell.”

Another youngster who has caught on to the appeal of classic motoring is 17-year-old Sam Rodgers from Bearley Hill, near Dudley, who spent two-and-a-half years restoring his 1989 Mini with the help of his father.

“At first, when I was growing up, I wanted a Civic or something like that, but by the time I was 14 I really wanted a Mini,” says Sam, who is studying for his A-levels at King Edward VI College in Stourbridge.

“My dad said I really wanted one I could have one, but we would have to do it ourselves.

“We paid £100 for it, and then every night we would free we would out in the garage working on it. More young people are looking at older cars, but it is hard to tell which is which.

“There is a lad I was at school with, he’s got a Mini now, and there is someone at college who has got an old Brett Guest, a chef from the Kates Hill area of Dudley, was 18 years old when he bought his 1986 Mk1 Ford Cortina five years ago.

“Every time you fill up with petrol it takes you half an hour, because everybody wants to talk to you about it.”

“If you look at modern cars today they all look the same. A few years ago the Subaru Impreza had its own shape, but now if you park a Subaru Impreza, a Seat Leon and a Ford Focus ST next to one another, it would be hard to tell which was which.

“Now you are thinking of older cars, then it is a lot different. If you have an old Citroen, for example, it will eventually inherit its immortality.

“Television and film exposure could be another reason why some seemingly unlikely cars have become the must-have thing among the younger generation.

“A few years ago the Honda Civic was a car that would normally be associated with youth culture.

While praised for its engineering and durability, it suffered from an ‘old man’s car image’ – perhaps not helped by its appearance as Victor Meldrew’s car in One Foot In The Grave. But the 2001-2003 Civic tops the poll of ‘nerdy’ cars in Britannia Rescue survey, with 45 per cent of classic car dealers reporting renewed interest in the car following an appearance in the film The Fast and The Furious.

However, the 1,115 drivers aged 18 to 25 who took part in the survey said their liking for older cars had nothing to do with these celebrity status, and was more to do with style (19 per cent) and low depreciation (18 per cent).

Even the much-despised Austin Maxi seems to be gaining a new lease of life. “A lad over the road has got a Maxi, it has been in his family since about 1973,” says Brett.

“He put it up for sale a while ago and he was over-run with kids wanting to buy it. In the end he decided he couldn’t part with it.”

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This musical is a real dream

Dreamboats and Petticoats, Grand Theatre

Most of them weren’t born when the music was released but this young troupe really came of age in this magical musical.

Dreamboats and Petticoats is a potted Grand Theatre and the audience joined in with all their favourite hits, swept along by the charm to relieve the
time. The stage was fairly basic but that was all that mattered, the story was told through the songs and they came thick and fast. Featuring hits from the era of Roy Orbison, The Shadows, Eddie Cochran, Billy Fury, Chuck Berry and many more. Dreamboats and Petticoats takes you back to an age when rock’n’roll ruled.

The show included songs such as ‘To Know Him Is To Love Him’, ‘Little Drummer Boy’, ‘Happy Birthday Sweet 16’ and ‘The Love That Never Dies’. The cast was exuberant and never received a bad note. The audience was also thoroughly entertained by the night.

Not since the Corrs has there been a talented family that could take the folk scene by storm but there is now. They are three sisters, Emily – vocals, Camilla – vocals and ukulele and Jessica Staveley – vocals and guitar, collectively and appropriately called The Staves.

Although the trio have already played Glastonbury, they are still very much an up-and-coming band but they have the stage presence and ability to be big. The sisters’ harmonising is a sheer delight and their crystal clear tones, notwithstanding a piece of sliced crust annoying Emily, lift you to another place.

As you would expect their repertoire is limited at the moment, with their first album yet to be put together, so you have to be content with a couple of EPs but what they have got is perfect in its execution and wonderfully enjoyable. The sisters sing together like they can communicate telepathically demonstrated with precision on ‘Fever’, a ballad which builds up slowly to eventually catch you unaware and before you know it has you tapping your

feet.

Also, certainly worthy of mention was support act Katie Rose Bennett whose jaunty, thoughtful and clever lyrics were a delight to the senses.

Sue Attwater

Danny Farragher

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**Italian Designer Furniture**

- 25 leather tub chairs was £40 each now £99 each
- 15 wing chairs was £600 each now £199 each
- 9 leather/fabric sofas suites was £2100 now £1999
- 2 Italian leather suites was £2330 now £799
- 12 Italian design sofas was £1950 now £899
- 4 corner suites was £1499 now £799
- 15 wing back chairs was £500 now £199
- 4 design chrome leather was £1799 now £899

**General Furniture**

- Solid oak tables with four leather chairs, was £799 now £399
- Leather 3 piece suites was £600 now £199
- X6 british sofas was £2100 now £799

**Jewellery and Watches**

- Rotary LTD Edition Watches in Rose Gold or Titanium, Sapphire Crystal Glass. Water resistant to 100m, fully automatic with deployment strap less than half price e.g., was £375, now £175
- Charm by the Devil launch of designer charm bracelets at amazing prices

**Oak Furniture**

- Solid Oak Dining table with 4 leather chairs was: £799 / now £399
- Circular hardwood 5 draw chest £199
- Circular hardwood 4 draw chest £199
- Solid hardwood 3 draw chest £199
- Solid hardwood 1.8 table+6 chairs £499
- Solid hardwood coffee table £39
- Solid hardwood lamp table £39
- Solid hardwood console table £39

**Leather Sofas & Recliners**

- Roma corner unit 3.2 unit - was £1100 now £499 includes VAT
- Brown & black
- Panther 3 and 2 recliner was £1299 now £699 Brown & black
- Sophia 3 + 2 was £1999 now £999 includes VAT
- Black & brown
- Stella 3 + 2 was £1299 now £599 includes VAT

**Beds and Bedding**

- One day sale memory master double ortho mattress with generous memory foam topper £799
- first 200 customers £39.99 yes that’s unbelievable but true just £39
- Genuine all over bonded leather twin recliner sofa £399 Aspen genuine real cow hide large sofa mp £259 just £99 each (sorry maximum 2 per customer)
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**Make-Up and Cosmetics**

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WIN £50 Merry Hill gift card and safari park pass

FAMILIES are being given the chance to get into the festive spirit at Merry Hill Shopping Centre’s Christmas Grotto, which is open to shoppers until Christmas Eve.

The centre has been transformed into a winter wonderland with the arrival of the grotto which features a whole host of festive activities, including cheeky penguins and interactive games created especially by Santa’s elves.

Shoppers can climb aboard the Merry Hill Express in Fountain Square, on the lower mall near M&S – the experience starts from just £3.95 per child.

HOW TO ENTER
To stand a chance of winning simply answer the following question:

Where can shoppers climb on board the Merry Hill Express?

Send your answer on a postcard with your name, address and contact number (only one entry per household) to Merry Hill competition, Chronicle series (editorial), 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES. Closing date: Thursday, December 8. Usual rules apply. The Editor’s decision is final.

Expect plenty of fun and games at the display

Santa will be in his grotto at Merry Hill until Christmas Eve

Expect plenty of fun and games at the display

Santa’s Christmas train, the Merry Hill Express

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Halesowen Chronicle, Thursday, December 01, 2011 Page 19
**Cancer patients’ bus axed to save money**

HUNDREDS of people, including cancer sufferers travelling for radiotherapy, will be hit as a hard-up charity cuts its bus service between Sandwell and Birmingham.

The Murray Hall Community Trust is stopping the Bridges Support Service for people having cancer treatment at Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Edgbaston after it overspent by £20,000. Changes will affect 470 people, the trust said – although patients will still be able to travel to Sandwell, City, Rowley Regis and Rowley Hills hospital.

Trust chief said stopping the service would only save £20,000 – a quarter of the money it needs to save – and it is not certain how they will balance the books.

Cancer survivor Arnold Farrington, aged 76, of Oldbury, said: “The NHS has done me proud but this decision makes it seem as though the people making the decisions are not concerned for the people going through all this.”

Manolis Patel, health services manager for Murray Hall, said: “We have asked the primary care trust for more funding but they have money set aside in their budget as well.

**Grin**

Spokeswoman Laura Broster said it already funded patient transport services from hospitals in the borough and to City Hospital at Walsall Green.

Murray Hall was set up to fund a Macmillan Cancer Support grant and in return it has asked for patient it can in a bid to help fund alternative transport.

**Report**

AN AIRLINE boss has promised to investigate reports that passengers travelling from India were stranded in the UK after a whirlwind tour to pay an extra £20,000 towards the cost of completing their journey to Birmingham Airport.

It also led to angry scenes at a Smethwick Travel agents shop.

Those on board said they were “held to ransom” for six hours in Vienna. It came after a flight with Austrian airline Contel Air from Austria in India stopped by.

Passengers, many from the West Midlands, told how they had to hand over about £20,000 to pay for the rest of the journey and cover the landing tax. More than 150 passengers got back home.

Contel Air’s director of passenger services Bhupinder Kaur said: “It shouldn’t have happened and I will investigate why it happened. The people who had to pay the money will receive a refund.”

Asked if the company was going bust, he said: “There is no chance of that. Comtel is a very strong company, 16 years in Viena.”

Meanwhile, customers who booked the Contel Air flights with a Smethwick travel firm had crawled into the shop demanding a refund for all flights to India. Scores descended on Yekater Travel, in High Street, on November 16.

Staff at the travel agent told furious passengers they should apply under the Air Travel Organisers’ Licence (ATOL) scheme to get a refund.

Harshpal Singh, aged 26, of White Road, Smethwick, said he was worried about his uncle in India who was due to fly back to the UK in early December. “We have paid £490 for the ticket,” he added.

**Jurisdiction**

Birmingham Airport spokesman Daniel Scull said: “Contel Air has a contractual arrangement with an approved airline to operate this service. A spokesman for the Civil Aviation Authority said: “It is an Austrian airline, so we have no direct jurisdiction over it.”

We are looking to see if people bought their holiday in Britain bought it via an ATOL licensed tour operator.

A spokesman added that the tour operator needs to step in to arrange new flights for those affected.

**Mass zumba boost for charities**

ABOUND 100 people took part in a charity zumba event in Birmingham.

Parties were faced for three hours at the Aston Balm.

The amount raised is expected to be about £3,000. Abound Children’s Hospice, Cancer Research UK, the Refuge for Women and Children and Global Children’s trust are all set to benefit.

**Rugby masterclass**

TEENAGERS in Tipton have been getting a masterclass in rugby from Austin Healey.

The 36-year-old, who played for England and Leicester Tigers, was at RSA Academy along with three players from Worcester Warriors.

They were teaching students at the academy, which only started rugby coaching last year, and skills including tackling, running, passing and evading a tackle.

The visit was arranged by sports teacher John Anderson with help from sports television channel ESPN.

The school’s Lesley-James said: “The kids had a brilliant time and have benefited from some top quality coaching.”

Staff at the Bilston Road school are now trying to organise for Healey, who took part in the south west of England and the Midlands in 2008, to return to the school for more coaching in the summer.

**I nvestigation after passengers stranded at Austrian airport**

A PILOT scheme to cut absences at Sandwell Council, where workers ring nurses directly instead of their manager, will be rolled out across the whole of Worcestershire.

Last year’s absence figures showed staff took an average of 10 days off each.

Staff at the adult care department then became the first to trial a scheme under which they will ring an occupational health adviser, a qualified nurse, instead of their line manager to call in sick.

The move comes after latest figures showed employers took an average of 9.6 days off each in 2010/11. The national average is about eight days.

Now council chief executive Jan Britton has said the scheme could be in place for the whole authority by Christmas.

**Private**

He said: “The pilot project in adults is going well and the plan is to roll it out next year to the rest of the council before Christmas.

The average figure of 9.6 days absence per council worker is down on figures for 2008/10. In that year, the authority’s staff took an average of 10.8 days off each and for every day an employee was off work, the council lost £157 a day.

Last year, figures place national sickness absence for councils at 10.9 days off each per employee, an average absence stands at between two and six-and-a-half days per employee.

**O pening this spring**

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Wallace & Gromit: Cracking Contraptions Manual 2 (£12.99)
From the Bin Vac 6000 to the Mind Manipulation-o-matic via the LAD Labour Assisting Device, another selection of barmy creations from the wonderful world of Wallace and Gromit are brought to life with detailed technical descriptions. A collaboration between Haynes and Aardman animation.

MG: Britain’s Favourite Sports Car (£20)
The third edition in the Haynes Classic Makes Series pays homage to the pride of Longbridge. Handsomely illustrated and rich in detail, enthusiast Malcolm Green’s work on the MG has been updated by motoring journalist Andrew Roberts.

Millennium Falcon: Modified YT-1300 Corellian Freighter (£14.99)
With the exception of the USS Enterprise (which has also had the Haynes treatment), there can be no spaceship more famous in the annals of science fiction than Han Solo and Chewbacca’s craft from the Star Wars movies. The souped-up freighter is explored here in meticulous detail in this manual approved by Lucasfilm and created by a team of Star Wars devotees.

Driving Games: From Gran Trak 10 to Gran Turismo (£9.99)
It is fitting that an imprint so associated with the mechanics of the motor car has seen fit to cast its expert eye over the evolution of the driving genre in video games. Fifty of the best releases are selected, from arcade and home console releases, ranging from the very basic Chequered Flag for the ZX Spectrum in 1983 to Forza Motorsport 2 for the Xbox 360. But don’t expect it to be bang up to date, this was put together in 2008.

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The souped-up freighter is explored here in meticulous detail in this manual approved by Lucasfilm and created by a team of Star Wars devotees.

Drifting Games: From Gran Trak 10 to Gran Turismo (£9.99)
It is fitting that an imprint so associated with the mechanics of the motor car has seen fit to cast its expert eye over the evolution of the driving genre in video games. Fifty of the best releases are selected, from arcade and home console releases, ranging from the very basic Chequered Flag for the ZX Spectrum in 1983 to Forza Motorsport 2 for the Xbox 360. But don’t expect it to be bang up to date, this was put together in 2008.

Outlet of the Day: Haynes Workshop Manuals

AYNES workshop manuals have long been a mainstay of an amateur car mechanic’s garage or workshop but in recent years the respected imprint has diversified into other areas, including out-and-out fantasy engineering. Here’s a round-up of several new Haynes titles, for vehicles both real and imagined.

Wallace & Gromit: Cracking Contraptions Manual 2 (£12.99)
From the Bin Vac 6000 to the Mind Manipulation-o-matic via the LAD Labour Assisting Device, another selection of barmy creations from the wonderful world of Wallace and Gromit are brought to life with detailed technical descriptions. A collaboration between Haynes and Aardman animation.

MG: Britain’s Favourite Sports Car (£20)
The third edition in the Haynes Classic Makes Series pays homage to the pride of Longbridge. Handsomely illustrated and rich in detail, enthusiast Malcolm Green’s work on the MG has been updated by motoring journalist Andrew Roberts.

Route Master Bus: 1954 onwards (all marks) (£21.99)
This enthusiast’s manual celebrates the classic red double-decker that became an icon of London and served the capital for more than half a century. The much-debated bendy buses certainly never replaced the Routemaster in the hearts of Londoners and some might say Britain has never been quite the same since they were finally retired from service in 2005.

Co-founder of the Routemaster Association Andrew Morgan must have considered putting this book together a labour of love, he even owns a rare single-decker Routemaster.

Driving Games: From Gran Trak 10 to Gran Turismo (£9.99)
It is fitting that an imprint so associated with the mechanics of the motor car has seen fit to cast its expert eye over the evolution of the driving genre in video games. Fifty of the best releases are selected, from arcade and home console releases, ranging from the very basic Chequered Flag for the ZX Spectrum in 1983 to Forza Motorsport 2 for the Xbox 360. But don’t expect it to be bang up to date, this was put together in 2008.

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‘Tis the season to get gaming

HERE’S a round-up of the more family-friendly console games available this festive season.

The Kinect add-on is really beginning to take off with Xbox 360 users. As well as turning the X360 into a Wii-style console, it is also set to become a futuristic aid to operating the console, particularly as Microsoft’s device is set to become even more of an entertainment centre.

Before Christmas, an Xbox Live update promises to make every Xbox 360 feel brand new with a fresh dashboard incorporating voice control and gestures for navigating via the Kinect sensor. There will be applications for catching-up on TV and movies on demand, internet video, social networking and Cloud storage for game saves and each Live member profile.

Kinnect Sports Season Two

The developers have listened to sports fans and have introduced six new sports to Kinect - skiing, darts, tennis, golf, baseball and American football. All six allow two to four players in either turn-based or simultaneous play. There are also lots of mini-games, known as ‘activities’, at which you can also challenge your friends whether they are in the room with you or somewhere else in the world via Xbox Live. There is also an in-game calorie counter if you want to use Kinect Sports Season 2 to burn off the festive excesses.

Kinectimals: Now With Bears

The sequel to the best-selling kids’ title for Kinect is bound to be another hit with the introduction of cuddly bear cubs. Though you can still opt to adopt a playful cat if you prefer, your furry pet can now be another hit, too, with an even wider variety to choose from, including panda, black bear, grizzly, cinnamon and polar bears. Care for them, teach them tricks and even talk to your exotic pet.

Dance Central 2

Get the party started as the definitive dance title – the Kinect’s nº1 dance game – returns with more moves, more songs and promises more fun. New songs include ‘Grenade’ by Bruno Mars, ‘Born This Way’ by Lady Gaga, ‘Rude’ by Bruno Mars, ‘Born This Way’ by Lady Gaga, ‘Rude’ by Bruno Mars, ‘Born This Way’ by Lady Gaga, ‘Rude’ by Bruno Mars, and ‘I Gotta Feeling’ by the Black Eyed Peas.

Disneyland Adventure

Go on a virtual trip to the many worlds of the Disneyland park, meet and greet your favourite Disney characters, explore real iconic park locations and engage in up to 100 quests, with the Kinect adding that extra pinch of pixie dust.

Disney Universe

More Disney magic with a mischievous twist is available in this non-Kinect title where you can suit up in an outfit based on your favourite Disney or Pixar character for a Little Big Planet/Lego style romp through levels drawn from classic Disney movies, both animated and live action.

Lego Harry Potter: Years 5-7

This is also a non-Kinect title but the witty Lego take on the Harry Potter saga is great fun and here reaches its big finale, the showdown between Harry and Voldemort.

Games reviewed on Xbox 360, Disney Universe and Lego Harry Potter are also available for other formats.

Calling all Batman fans

BradyGames have published probably their most handy-some title yet in their strategy guide Signature Series with Batman: Arkham City (£12.99). It is a complete walk-through of the entire new Batman game with every area of Arkham City mapped while every super-villain gets a biography. Not just a good guide to one of the year’s top games but a good tie-in souvenir in its own right.

GAMES
Massive price crash at Sony
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**Saturday TV**

**BBC1**

- Antiques: 3 p.m. "Secrets of the royal cabinet" (6)£ with Simon Schama. (1) History of furniture and art in royal households. (2) Part 1.
- Sherlock: 9 p.m. (5) BBC Classic Film Channel
- TV: 10 p.m. (5) BBC Two
- Antiques: 11 p.m. (5) BBC Two Channel 4
- TV: 12 a.m. (5) Channel 4

**BBC2**

- Antiques: 3 p.m. "Secrets of the royal cabinet" (6)£ with Simon Schama. (1) History of furniture and art in royal households. (2) Part 1.
- Sherlock: 9 p.m. (5) BBC Classic Film Channel
- TV: 10 p.m. (5) BBC Two
- Antiques: 11 p.m. (5) BBC Two Channel 4
- TV: 12 a.m. (5) Channel 4

**ITV1**

- Antiques: 3 p.m. "Secrets of the royal cabinet" (6)£ with Simon Schama. (1) History of furniture and art in royal households. (2) Part 1.
- Sherlock: 9 p.m. (5) BBC Classic Film Channel
- TV: 10 p.m. (5) BBC Two
- Antiques: 11 p.m. (5) BBC Two Channel 4
- TV: 12 a.m. (5) Channel 4

**Channel 4**

- Antiques: 3 p.m. "Secrets of the royal cabinet" (6)£ with Simon Schama. (1) History of furniture and art in royal households. (2) Part 1.
- Sherlock: 9 p.m. (5) BBC Classic Film Channel
- TV: 10 p.m. (5) BBC Two
- Antiques: 11 p.m. (5) BBC Two Channel 4
- TV: 12 a.m. (5) Channel 4

**Channel 5**

- Antiques: 3 p.m. "Secrets of the royal cabinet" (6)£ with Simon Schama. (1) History of furniture and art in royal households. (2) Part 1.
- Sherlock: 9 p.m. (5) BBC Classic Film Channel
- TV: 10 p.m. (5) BBC Two
- Antiques: 11 p.m. (5) BBC Two Channel 4
- TV: 12 a.m. (5) Channel 4

**Digital**

- Antiques: 3 p.m. "Secrets of the royal cabinet" (6)£ with Simon Schama. (1) History of furniture and art in royal households. (2) Part 1.
- Sherlock: 9 p.m. (5) BBC Classic Film Channel
- TV: 10 p.m. (5) BBC Two
- Antiques: 11 p.m. (5) BBC Two Channel 4
- TV: 12 a.m. (5) Channel 4

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With a price tag of £149,950, this double-fronted traditional two-bedroom end terrace benefits from double glazing and gas central heating with thermostats to all radiators. The property in New Street, Kingswinford, has been improved and tastefully decorated throughout, and briefly comprises a dining room (through room), with woodburner. A large rear garden is lowered from a paved patio area, with paved access to a rear door accessed of Barnett Lane providing of road parking for one car. Call 01384 288188 for details.

**A traditional home selling for £149,950**

This double-fronted property is located in New Street, Kingswinford. It maintains many original features.

**Halesowen, Wylde Green**
A modern 2 bedroom house in a popular location. The property comprises of fitted kitchen with integrated appliances, two bedrooms, lounge/dining area, rear patio and off road parking. Close to local amenities and schools. Viewing Essential.

**Halesowen, Underhill**
A fully refurbished modern duplex apartment above a restaurant in a character building, with private allocated parking space. The property comprises of: Two Bedrooms, Lounge, Kitchen, Ensuite Bathroom, Front and Rear Gardens, Driveway Parking and Garage.

**Halesowen, Summerfields Avenue**
Fitted kitchen, double glazed uPVC windows, gas central heating, large rear garden, driveway parking.

**Halesowen, Appleyard Way**
A spacious detached two storey home located in a very popular residential area.

**Halesowen, Wylde Green**
A traditional home selling for £149,950.

**Halesowen, Summerfields Avenue**
Fitted kitchen, double glazed uPVC windows, gas central heating, large rear garden, driveway parking.

**Halesowen, Appleyard Way**
A spacious detached two storey home located in a very popular residential area.

**Halesowen, Wylde Green**
A traditional home selling for £149,950.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property Address</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Halesowen Road, Cradley Heath</td>
<td>£170,000 NEW</td>
<td>A three bedroom mid terraced property comprising two reception rooms, kitchen, downstairs bathroom, loft room, double glazing and central heating, rear garden and no upward chain.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ely Close, Rowley Regis</td>
<td>£90,000 NEW</td>
<td>A two bedroom mid terrace property comprising lounge, kitchen, bathroom, allocated parking, rear garden, double glazing and central heating.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chatsworth Road, Halesowen</td>
<td>£120,000 NEW</td>
<td>A three bedroom semi detached property comprising lounge, kitchen, bathroom, driveway, garage and rear garden, double glazing and central heating.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highfield Road, Halesowen</td>
<td>£110,000 REDUCED</td>
<td>A three bedroom semi detached property comprising lounge, kitchen, bathroom, driveway and rear garden, double glazing and central heating.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelton Lane, Halesowen</td>
<td>£120,000 REDUCED</td>
<td>A two bedroom terraced property comprising lounge, kitchen, bathroom, parking and rear garden, double glazing and central heating.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frankley Avenue, Halesowen</td>
<td>£200,000</td>
<td>A three bedroom semi detached property comprising lounge, kitchen, shower room, front and rear gardens, garage, central heating and double glazing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hill Top Avenue, Halesowen</td>
<td>£100,000</td>
<td>A two bedroom terraced property comprising lounge, kitchen, bathroom, double glazing and central heating, driveway and rear garden.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queens Drive, Rowley Regis</td>
<td>£200,000</td>
<td>A three bedroom detached bungalow comprising lounge, dining room, kitchen, bathroom, garage, driveway and rear garden, double glazing and central heating.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Willetts Drive, Halesowen</td>
<td>£180,000</td>
<td>A two bedroom semi detached property comprising lounge, kitchen, first floor bathroom, driveway and rear garden. No upward chain.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regis Road</td>
<td>£170,000</td>
<td>A four/five property comprising breakfast kitchen, shower room, open plan lounge, bathroom, double glazing and central heating.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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HONDA drivers can be ready when the cold weather comes thanks to a new winter care programme which includes a seasonal health check, a full winter service – and the chance to purchase a pair of tyre socks.

Honda’s snow socks are tyre covers which are designed to be easy to use and provide a solution to help get customers through those particularly slippery driving conditions. They can be kept in the boot and slipped onto the front set of tyres whenever needed. From £70 per pair, snow socks provide extra traction to increase grip on snow without causing noise or vibration while driving.

Once the car is back on a clear road, they can be removed and stored in the boot of the car ready for when they need to be used again.

“After several severe winters in a row, we are keen to ensure Honda customers are fully prepared and able to stay mobile where possible,” commented Dave Hodgson, Managing Director of Honda UK.

“Snow socks offer the perfect combination of affordability and ease of use without the worry of where to store them.”

Honda is also offering customers who purchase a set of winter tyres effective storage solution.

For E50 plus VAT, customers buying a winter set can place their spare “summer” ones in secure storage. This cost covers a 12-month period and includes two tyre transfers for the Honda dealership – perfect for winter and summer wheels.

Battery

Honda drivers can make sure their car is in tip-top condition for the cold weather. In a Honda service deal for a reassuring winter health check.

Qualified technicians will inspect the battery, windscreen, tyres, brakes and lights, and will also ensure

the engine coolant and screenwash are all topped up.

The winter health check costs just £40 and customers will receive a complimentary winter safety kit worth £49.

This handy pack includes a foldable snow shovel, foil blanket, high-visibility vest and LED torch.

For that added extra piece of mind, drivers can book their car in for a full winter service. On top of an oil and filter change and checks across the car underhood identified by qualified technicians, Honda is also adding a year’s complimentary UK roadside assistance with E50.

To book in for a health check or winter service and to order a set of snow socks visit www.honda.co.uk for further information and to find your nearest Honda dealership.

The following table shows the price of various models and their details:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Reg</th>
<th>Colour</th>
<th>Odometer</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MINI ONE CONVERTIBLE 1.6</td>
<td>08</td>
<td>Reg</td>
<td>Silver</td>
<td>61k</td>
<td>£3995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MINI COOPER 1.6</td>
<td>06</td>
<td>Reg</td>
<td>Silver</td>
<td>56k</td>
<td>£5995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RENAULT LAGUNA 1.8 AUTHENTIQUE</td>
<td>08</td>
<td>Reg</td>
<td>Silver</td>
<td>62k</td>
<td>£5695</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FORD MONDEO 1.8 TDCI EDGE</td>
<td>07</td>
<td>Reg</td>
<td>Silver</td>
<td>54k</td>
<td>£4695</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MERCEDES C200 CDI SE</td>
<td>06</td>
<td>Reg</td>
<td>Silver</td>
<td>48k</td>
<td>£3695</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEUGEOT 307 2.0 HDi 136 GT</td>
<td>05</td>
<td>Reg</td>
<td>Silver</td>
<td>43k</td>
<td>£2695</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT 1.9 SEDAN</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>Reg</td>
<td>Silver</td>
<td>43k</td>
<td>£1695</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Terms and conditions apply**
The new Myvi SXI is offered with an interest free finance package until the end of next month benefiting from this new offer are advised to contact their nearest Perodua Motability dealer whose details can be found by visiting www.peroduamotability.com or by calling 01491 415230.

This new offer is valid with a specific period and is available to all Motability customers from as little as £46.73 per week. This offer means that Myvi SXI customers interested in purchasing a new Myvi between now and the end of December. This offer is available across the Perodua range and is completely free of charge to Motability customers whose applications are submitted to and accepted by Motability up to December 31.

The stylish Myvi super-mini, which currently available to Motability customers from  as little as £46.73 per week.

The practical Myvi has a practical and simple to use-60/40 split fold flat rear seat system which transforms the vehicle to carry luggage and bulky items with ease. Motability customers interested in purchasing a new Myvi between now and the end of December.

The Myvi is incredibly spacious for a super mini, with a surprising amount of head and leg room allowing five adults to travel comfortably. The Myvi has air conditioning, four electric windows, electric door mirrors, integral radio/CD player, central locking, plus much more as standard.

FREE reverse park control is now available to all Motability customers opting for a new Perodua Myvi during November and December.

This new offer is available across the Myvi range and is completely free of charge to Motability customers whose applications are submitted to and accepted by Motability up to December 31.

The stylish Myvi super-mini, which already has a high specification as standard, will now benefit from reverse park control helping avoid any unwanted bumps and keeping the Myvi in perfect condition.

With competitive weekly payments no advance payment required across most of the range, the Myvi is currently available to Motability customers from  as little as £46.73 per week.

The Myvi has air conditioning, four electric windows, electric door mirrors, integral radio/CD player, central locking, plus much more as standard.

A four-speed fully automatic version of the Myvi SXI betw een now and the end of December.

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This offer means that Myvi SXI customers don’t have to part with their hard earned cash all at once or worry about interest charges - simply let Perodua pay the interest for you!

This new offer is valid with a specific finance deal which works with a 50 per cent deposit of £3,499.50 and the balance is repayable over a period of 24 months, with 23 payments of £145.81 and one final payment of £145.87.

Practical
The Myvi is incredibly spacious for a super mini, with a surprising amount of head and leg room allowing five adults to travel comfortably. The Myvi has air conditioning, four electric windows, electric door mirrors, integral radio/CD player, central locking, plus much more as standard.

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Halas ladies have a gr-eight run of victories

Halas Ladies 0 B-ham Medicos 0

For the second week running, Halas Hawk Ladies recorded an 8-0 win, this time against Birmingham Medics in the Birmingham County Women’s League. The first half was a much closer affair with the teams separated by only one goal, which came from a 30-yard trademark shot from Katie Monk. But the second half was a totally different game with Halas taking advantage of the slope and scoring three goals in the first 10 minutes of the second half. It was goal number 80 for the season which made a great 6-0 final score. Mandy Woman, the captain for the 2011/12 season, was unveiled to a lavish ovation at a fans’ meeting.

Halas U14s girls put in their most clinical performance for a long time, stopping with two early goals against Kewford. They led 0-12 and 0-16 after half and full time, beating Kewford 18-0, which was the highest scoring game in their history. The team is undefeated in the whole league season so far. Hudham & Son have announced their support in the form of a £5,000 voucher.

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Halas Ladies 0 Poolo Town 0

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