TWO doctors’ surgeries will be closed and their services brought under one roof in a proposal that is being enforced by a crisis in general practice.

Two surgeries, Tenlands Road and Coombswood, will be shut and patients sent to the town’s health centre instead, under the plans which are going out to consultation.

In a letter to patients Dr Ruth Hearn, from Stourside Medical Practice, which runs the surgeries, said: “General practice in the UK is in a state of crisis.

"According to NHS England figures, 92 practices closed in 2016. While 34 merged with other practices, the remainder shut completely. This means 265,000 patients had to register with a new practice.

Ensure
"We would like to ensure that the service we offer is safe and stable and that we take the necessary steps to ensure that we are not at risk of closure.

After a great deal of thought and consideration, we feel this is best achieved by bringing our services together under one roof.

Subject to the outcome of the consultation process, and the decision of Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group, we would like to transfer all our services from Tenlands Road and Coombs Road surgeries to Halesowen Health Centre."

Dr Hearn said money saved from running two sites would be spent on providing an extra GP on one day a week.

She also said there had been instances where a doctor had to react to a medical emergency alone and that practice leaders were keen to have more people on duty.

Health professionals are keen to hear the views of patients in a consultation that will run until January 22. Patients have been asked to register with a new practice.

The GP staffing crisis has led a health boss to suggest that refugees and asylum seekers could be trained to become GPs.

The refugees and asylum seekers with clinical training would need five years of training and have to pass clinical and language tests, as well as having GP training, said Andy Williams, lead for Black Country Sustainability and Transformation Partnership.

Report by Richard Guttridge

Lucky escape for lorry driver on M5

This lorry hit a barrier on the M5, near Halesowen, but the driver escaped serious injury

Picture: CMPG

A LORRY jack-knifed after smashing into a barrier on the M5 near Halesowen, forcing a stretch of the motorway to be closed for more than five hours.

Motorists faced delays following the accident on the southbound carriageway between junctions three, for Halesowen, and four for Bromsgrove.

The driver was taken to a hospital after the accident, which happened at about 9.30am on Tuesday morning.

The lorry was left blocking three lanes and part of its cab had been separated due to the impact, lying next to it on the ground.

Debris was also scattered across the motorway.

The lorry driver was not seriously hurt.

CRIME

Nearly 250 firearms handed in to police

MORE than 240 weapons have been handed in to West Midlands Police following a two-week firearms surrender.

More than 100 working firearms – including rifles, shotguns, revolvers and handguns – were handed in during the campaign last month.

Silencers, starting pistols, air weapons and two deactivated machine guns – including an AK47 and a ‘Tommy Gun’ – were taken into stations across the force area. The weapons and potential weapons will all now be destroyed.

As part of the campaign officers wrote to suspects urging them to switch to the ‘straight and narrow’ and called on family members to report those involved in crime.

COUNCIL

Snowbuster packs aim to boost safety

A WINTER warmth scheme led by Dudley Council is offering free snowbuster packs to residents.

The packs contain a snow shovel, high visibility jacket, five-litre bag of salt and a salt spreader.

Dudley councillor Laura Taylor said: “We want to help our communities keep residents safe. Call (01384) 817086 to request a snowbuster pack for advice on staying warm at home.”

ROADWORKS

Temporary traffic lights on busy route

ROADWORKS that have got under way on a busy route in Blackheath will last until after Christmas.

Motorists have been warned of possible delays on Homer Road in Blackheath, near the Sainsbury’s store, and at the junction with Long Lane until December 29.

Temporary traffic lights are in place as road safety measures are being installed.

INSIDE

THE BOYS ARE BACK IN TOWN

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FORMER Goodyear workers have been spreading some festive cheer by handing over a massive donation of £2,000 worth of food and toiletries to our Feed a Family This Christmas appeal.

This incredible generous gift of more than 2,500 items will go towards helping families and individuals in need across the Black Country.

Trolleys were loaded with everything from tins of vegetables, noodle pots and pasta to bottles of squash, long-life milk and jars of coffee. There was also an array of sweet treats including chocolate selection boxes for youngsters and vital toiletries including toothbrushes, shampoo and deodorant.

Families with babies were also included with much-needed donations of nappies and wipes among the items donated by the Goodyear workers.

Cooperative-food co-op.
Bogus caller is caught on CCTV camera

Police want to speak to this man

POLICE have released CCTV images of a man they want to speak to after a bogus caller tricked his way into a Halesowen pensioner’s home.

The man called at a property in Carter Lane saying he was there to collect VAT for some recent repairs. The 85-year-old homeowner let him inside, as he owed a company some cash for fixing his roof earlier in the autumn.

But the suspected would-be conman was forced to leave the house empty-handed after his intended victim questioned the amount quoted.

Home CCTV installed at the property caught the suspect on camera and the tech-savvy pensioner handed the footage over to police at once, following the incident on November 8.

Vulnerable

Detective Constable Sean Lowe said: “The attempt to defraud this individual had some level of planning behind it and had the homeowner been more vulnerable the person responsible may well have been successful in stealing hundreds of pounds. “Thankfully that is not the case but I am concerned that this individual may seek to target other more vulnerable members of the community.”

Anyone with information is asked to contact DC Sean Lowe via email s.low@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk or they can contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or at crimestoppers-uk.org quoting 20DY/24790/17.

Winter weather makes it snow go across borough

HEAVY snowfall at the weekend brought early festive cheer to thousands of youngsters, especially when they got Monday and Tuesday off school.

It was less fun for the commuters who had to make perilous homeward journeys on Friday or those who had to dig themselves out for a slip-sliding journey to work on Monday morning.

The winter wonderland meant cancellations and chaos for many with bus and train services severely restricted, but consolation was enjoyed by many families going sledding and snowmen-making.

The region’s attractions were closed at the weekend and early in the week, until roads became more passable on Tuesday and a thaw set in on Wednesday.

The Black Country Living Museum was closed on Sunday and the museum was contacting those who had booked for the Santa Hunt. The Santa-Jog that was due to be held in Mary Stevens Park in aid of the hospice on Sunday had to be called off but has been rescheduled for Sunday.

Residents in Halesowen made the most of the snow by recreating a shell memorial, that is planned for Shof Corner, out of snow.

The frozen sculpture, which has the message ‘lest we forget’ and a soldier silhouette carved into it, pays tribute to the new monument that will be installed in the area, a project led by Councillor Graham Colbourne, who was in attendance.

A 90-year-old’s show has been rearranged for December 21. Contact the venue for further details.

National Tyre Offers

- Premium Economy

Best Prices in Town!

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Prices include VAT & fitting etc.
Top comedian cancels tour due to ‘family circumstances’

COMEDIAN Peter Kay has cancelled his upcoming tour – set to come to Birmingham next year – due to ‘unforeseen family circumstances’.

The Bolton comedian this afternoon released a statement, stating: “Due to unforeseen family circumstances I deeply regret that I am having to cancel all of my upcoming work projects.

“This unfortunately includes my upcoming stand up tour, Dance For Life shows and any outstanding live work commitments. My sincerest apologies. This decision has not been taken lightly and I’m sure you’ll understand my family must always come first.

“I’ve always endeavoured to protect my family’s privacy from the media. I hope that the media and the public will continue to respect our privacy at this time. Once again I’m very sorry.”

Firefighters’ fun song has a serious aim

FIREFIGHTERS in Quinton have given their own twist to a Christmas classic in a bid to get people to test their smoke alarms.

Singing new words to Wham!’s festive favourite Last Christmas, firefighters at Woodgate Valley Fire Station are urging people to make sure they are prepared in case of a fire.

Three firefighters appear in the video, with their comrades off camera hurling snow balls at them, while a lead singer croons his unique version of the hit.

He says: “Last Christmas, we gave you an alarm. But the very next day, you took the battery away. This year, keep your safe, we are going to give you something special.”

He adds: “Our smoke alarms have a 10 year battery, and can’t be taken out, please test them out once a week. “His colleague holds up a poster with the number 08000900025.

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The statue of Frank Foley sitting on a bench in the park, inset, hero Frank Foley was called by the police to reports of a man in the canal just off Powke Lane.

“They were called by the police to reports of a man in the canal just off Powke Lane. “Two ambulances, a paramedic vehicle and ambulance staff commenced emergency life support on scene.

“He was taken by land ambulance on blue lights to Russells Hall Hospital whilst CPR continued en route.

“Sadly, despite their best efforts, nothing could be done to save the man and he was confirmed dead a short time later at hospital.”

Folk star in concert

FOLK music star Eliza Carthy & The Wayward Band are in concert at Birmingham Town Hall on Monday evening. See www.thsh.co.uk or call 0121 780 3333.

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Inquest opens into death of missing man

AN INQUEST into the death of a 43-year-old Stourbridge man whose disappearance sparked a major nationwide search has opened.

The South Staffordshire Coroner has opened the inquest into the death of Matthew Gill, who was known to many by the nickname Liggy.

Mr Gill, who was found dead on land off P Anastwood Drive, near Stourton, had been missing from his Stourbridge home since October 6.

The cause of death has been recorded as hanging.

The disappearance of the Kidderminster BBQ employee sparked a search which saw football clubs – including Albion and Wolves – and businesses offering their help.

A huge appeal was also launched, with the Facebook page FindLiggy gaining more than 9,000 followers.

But the search came to a tragic end when Mr Gill’s body was found on the afternoon of Sunday November 26 close to where his car, a silver Smart Roadster, had been found earlier in the week.

The inquest was adjourned and a provisional date of March 8 has been given for the full inquest.

Recreating the night Dickens came to Brum

MORE than 150 years ago Charles Dickens visited Birmingham to give his first ever public reading of A Christmas Carol.

That December night in 1853 will be conjured up by actor Clive Francis when he recreates A Christmas Carol.

Tickets start from £12.50, see www.salmon-in-the-stour.co.uk for further details.

A rescue charity is appealing with donations to help pay hefty vet bills for abandoned dog Elsa’s care.

The Animal House Rescue Charity has taken on the care of a Dogue de Bordeaux they named Elsa. She was found frozen and near death at Corn-greaves Nature Reserve in Cradley Heath.

The dog is now being cared for by YourVets in Smethwick but help is needed with substantial vet bills. The dog, supposed to weigh around 45 kilos, currently only weighs 17 kilos.

Anyone who can help with a donation is asked to call 0121 4225709 or 07989 284683.

A BUNGLING burglar who left a tell-tale shoe print behind during a Cradley Heath break-in has been jailed for two years and four months.

Damien Pearsall left a muddy print on the floor while stealing a £2,000 computer, £400 mobile phone and the keys to a van.

The print displayed the distinctive pattern of the sole of an Adidas trainer, said Mr David Bennett, prosecuting.

Six days earlier he had escaped with three watches, a laptop and jewellery from a semi in Dudley Road, Rowley Regis.

During that raid he broke in through a rear door but was filmed by CCTV cameras at the property that clearly showed him wearing the tell-tale trainers.

The shoes were found at his home along with one of the watches stolen during the first break in.

Mr Simon Williams, defending, said Pearsall had a drug problem and had made attempts to pay off a debt.

Pearsall, from Moor Street, Wednesbury, whose previous convictions in Birmingham and the Black Country.

The 30-year-old criminal also left a spot of blood while breaking glass by a door and forensic checks matched it with his DNA.

A WEBSITE has been set up to support the Salmon in the Stour project.

The four-year project aims to improve the River Stour and all its tributaries for both wildlife and people.

The project is being co-ordinated by the Severn River Trust, Environment Agency, Worcestershire Wildlife Trust and the Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country.

A picture of what needs to be done is currently being built up. Some of the targets include removing barriers to fish migration, re-naturalising artificial banks, tackling the spread of invasive species and identifying and resolving sources of pollution.

The Stour, which passes through Halesowen, was once an important industrial watercourse and has been heavily modified by man.

Go to the severnriverstrust.com/projects/salmon-in-the-stour website for further details.

Freezing dog was hours from death

Bungling burglar caught after leaving a tell-tale shoe print
Food critic needs to Shed his prejudices

Yours truly, a long-haired food critic named Jay Rayner gave his verdict on the London Christmas feast of yesteryear. His summary is best described as withering.

He said there was not a single good bowl of minestrone in the kitchen which ‘because the local population doesn’t want it to be almost so good that what type of food he did like. Well he has now.

Recently he took to Twitter to share his thoughts on an acutely trendy new restaurant in south London called The Shed. He opined: ‘As at a restaurant that recognises food is all about mood. Of all the shed-based experiences, out of this one sounds like the best.’

He added: ‘He very recently tried out a dish called “Contemplation”, which looked delightful in the soft-focus pictures on the restaurant’s website.

‘The Shed was, in fact, a wind-up. It was created by a chap called Oobah Butler to highlight the absurdity of the people who rave about seemingly cutting-edge food, and the perils of reading too much into online reviews. “Contemplation”, like other dishes “Empathetic” and “Comfort” were mocked up using such delightfully old-fashioned household paint, plus a couple of toilet block samples to give it that special je ne sais quoi. For what’s worth, I think Mr Rayner is right. People in the Black Country appreciate good food. It just that it would take a Phd in marketing to under how much to persuade us to eat the contents of the bathroom stool.

‘The idea, if you were a wheel-round to help Mr Rayner achieve his dream of food-Complaining, I’d be delighted to chip in.’

IT’S here. It’s official. You can always get over the years ... and all because I’m not a fan of Christmas.

‘Twas being browbeaten into making a meal over the years ... and all because I’m not a fan of Christmas. It seems just because I can’t get carried away with Christmas, it ruins things for others. I’ve got nothing against charity – I regularly have to endure over the years ... and all because I’m not a fan of Christmas.

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Boundary changes would rip Dudley apart

HAVING failed to put Halesowen into a constituency with part of Birming- ham, the Boundary Commission has now decided to tear apart Dudley leav- ing only part of the old borough in a constituency bearing its name, and dumping the other parts into constitu- ences outside the Dudley borough.

Half the town centre and Oakham would be ripped from their historic roots and transplanted into a constit- uency based around Smethwick. The other half, mostly Netherton, would be absorbed into Halesowen and Rowley Regis constituency.

We thoroughly enjoyed it and the supporting act, Veng- aboys, were really good also. The only thing that spoilt it for me was a very showy young lady sat directly in front of me. When the music got to her she decided to stand up, wigging her hips to the music and completely blocking my view of the group. After a while I politely asked her to sit. She wasn’t very happy about it and eventually did so. How- ever, this was repeated several times.

I had paid good money to see the show and wanted to be able to see what was going on. If you want to stand and dance around why not book tickets in the standing area?

If they can walk that far why the badge?

I think the Boundary Commission has got this one wrong. There is no need to split Dudley up, the local people in the town centre and Oakham are perfectly happy being one constituency.

The only justification for this is to reduce the number of MPs and create similar sized constituencies – a princi- ple selectively ignored in other parts of the country where it would upset the locals. But it’s okay to break up the historic communities that make up Dudley, and give them to MPs who will struggle to understand and represent the local interests of its constituencies?

Let’s tell those fools at the Boundary Commission to back off, go back to the drawing board, and start again.

A CROMPTON

Dudley

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Woodsetton and half of Old Park, just two miles from the town centre, to- gether with Sedgley and Upper Gornal, would be separated into a constituency with Bston and Colesley. This piece of mischief would create a constituency, comprising a significant part of Dudley borough, called Wolverhampton South & Colesley.

This would lead to the farcical situ- ation of MPs, representing north and central Dudley, gathering in counting halls in Sandwell and Wolverhampton to hear their election results.

This is just plain wrong.

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Duo work to protect dogs

TWO generous Black Country businessmen have made a return journey to Romania to step in over the suffering of stray dogs.

Paul Morris and Stuart Sowden were so moved by the plight of dumped, abused and injured dogs that they offered to carry out vital work at a rescue shelter in Bacau.

They first visited in October and inspected the shelter, determining what best could be achieved in a week and ordered materials. One of the biggest challenges was the winter weather in Romania which is harsh, reaching -25 in winter. The open kennels at the shelter in Bacau

Paul, who heads the mechanical and electrical contractors, said they knew they wanted to get involved and use their skills to help improve the shelter.

“We felt like the least we could do and so went helping on a plane to Bacau ourselves,” he added.

Stuart Sowden, left, and Paul Morris

They then returned recently and replaced the roof on around 20 dog pens – 60 metres in length. On his return, Paul said: “We do intend on visiting again to continue with the work. This will be when the weather has turned, around Easter time. We intend to continue with the roofing.”

“We will look at installing a dedicated water supply and stand pipes along the full length of the shelter.”

Before flying out, Paul had said: “This project is definitely going to be a challenge for us and very emotionally draining I’m sure, but we couldn’t sit back and do nothing.”

His wife Claudia has also been organising a fundraising appeal to buy new kennels.

For more information and to find out how you can get involved visit: www.sadiesstraydogrescue.com or join the Sadie’s Stray Dog Rescue group on Facebook.

Rescued dogs at the shelter in Romania

At work on the kennels to make them winter-proof

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in association with Omega

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Return flights to Dublin incl. transfers
Hand luggage only
2 nights B&B at the Bonnington Hotel, Dublin
A admission to the Punchestown Festival including return coach transfers
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Directors are in court over waste mountain

A COMPANY director has admitted offences relating to a mountain of waste at a Dudley industrial estate.

Brian McIntosh, aged 27, of Adams Hill, Badgeworth, a director at Mak Waste Ltd, pleaded guilty at Wolverhampton Magistrates’ Court to knowingly causing the contravention of an environmental permit. It relates to a yard once operated by Rowan Oak Waste in Shaw Road.

He appeared with Edward Boulton, 42, of Lightmoor, Telford, and Randle Hawkins, 58, of Upper Gornal, and Kevin Allan, 58, of Rowndown Way, Perton, both directors at Rowan Oak.

Boulton denies failing to comply with an environmental permit. Hawkins and Allan had yet to enter pleas.

Boulton denies failing to comply with an environmental permit. Hawkins and Allan are due to appear at Wolverhampton Crown Court on January 4.

MP Williamson says ‘kill British jihadis’

BRITISH jihadis who fight for ISIS should be killed to make sure they never come back to the UK and pose a threat, South Staffordshire MP Gavin Williamson said.

The Kinver MP, who is the new Defence Secretary, has vowed to eliminate those intent on bringing ‘destruction, death and bloodshed’ to Britain.

He said: “My view is a dead terrorist can’t cause any harm to Britain. The MP said the armed forces were working ‘right across the globe’ to ensure jihadis are never able to come back to the UK.

But former director of public prosecutions, Lord Macdonald, said: “It simply will not be lawful in all circumstances to kill jihadis, as the Secretary of State seems to be suggesting. We can’t simply say that everyone who has gone to Iraq will now be killed down and killed. That’s a juvenile response. It’s not a serious, grown-up policy response for a senior British Government minister.”

Other stories

PG18

A&O

1300 130 051

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Other stories

PG18

A&O

1300 130 051
Sister pays tribute to victim of house fire

Gary Gooding, 42, from Netherton, could not be revived after he was found in his burning house.

The victim of a house fire thought to have been started by a lithium battery has been named as Gary Gooding.

The battery was on charge at the Blackbrook Road property in Netherton when the fire started, say investigators.

Emergency services were called at 6.10am on December 1 to the property where Mr Gooding, aged 42, was helped to the property.

His sister Carly Gooding took to Facebook to leave an emotional tribute and to warn others to beware of chargers.

She said: “Our family will never be the same again but we don’t want anymore lives lost through this tragic accident.”

To sign up to free email alerts for bins and recycling visit www.sandwell.gov.uk/emailupdates

Changes to your Christmas bin collections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Your usual collection date</th>
<th>Christmas collection date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 25 December</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Friday 29 December</td>
<td>Saturday 30 December</td>
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<td>Monday 1 January</td>
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<td>Tuesday 2 January</td>
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<td>Thursday 4 January</td>
<td>Friday 5 January</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 5 January</td>
<td>Saturday 6 January</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Garage waste collections are having a break for the winter. There will be no green bin collections from 4 December 2017 until 23 February 2018.

www.sandwell.gov.uk/bins

The tip at Shidas Lane, Oldbury, is open 8am-4pm every day. The only days it will close are Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

Hospital is closing to create more home help

A HOSPITAL specialising in mental health treatment will close following a shake-up of services in Dudley.

Birch Day Hospital, on King Street, is being shut to make way for a new mental health service that will see patients treated at home.

The decision has been made by Dudley & Walsall Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust, which believes the changes will make it easier for patients to get help.

A trust spokesman said: “We are working with patients and families to support them safely through the transition of care.”

Careful consideration was taken over the closure, the trust says, and comes after a public consultation.

Assessment

As part of the restructure patients will be able to seek assessment every day of the week and will also be entitled to three visits a day from a carer.

The service is aimed at older people and has been given the go ahead by Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group.

To make way for a new mental health service that will see patients treated at home.

“We are working with patients and families to support them safely through the transition of care.”

To make way for a new mental health service that will see patients treated at home.

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To make way for a new mental health service that will see patients treated at home.
Food fair is festive success

FAMILIES braved the wintry conditions to enjoy a festival of street food and music in Stourbridge.

There was plenty of hot food to warm the cockles of those who turned out for the ‘Street Food Fair’ on Saturday, not to mention a drop of mulled wine and sloe gin. More than 1,500 people turned out next to the canal at the Bonded Warehouse for the event which was organised by Sarah New.

She set up the venture last year and has not looked back with the food festival proving popular with Black Country visitors. And rather than put people off, the snow helped turn the festival into a ‘winter wonderland’ and saw it take a Christmas market feel. Buskers were also on hand to keep spirits high.

Mother-of-two Sarah, aged 54, from Walsall, said he was delighted with how the event went.

“It was fantastic. It turned into a winter wonderland,” she said. “We must have had 1,800 people which, in the conditions, is brilliant.

“It was a huge success. A few stall-holders weren’t able to attend because they just couldn’t get here but we had more than enough traders.” Sarah admits the turnout at her events had defied her expectations and that she is excited for the future with more festivals planned for next year.

She said: “It is about bringing the community together and supporting local talent. We have got so much talent in Stourbridge and the Black Country.”

Lots to laugh about as comedians visit

THERE’S lots to laugh about in Wolverhampton with top comedy shows including controversial Russell Brand bring his Re:Birth show to the Civic Hall on Wednesday (December 20). Roy ‘Chubby’ Brown brings his politically incorrect gags to the Civic on December 21 when the venue hosts I’m A Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here’s Joel Dommett on December 29, a show postponed from November. The Laugh Out Loud Comedy Club night is at Wolverhampton Art Gallery this Saturday with Scottish comedian Raymond Mearns.

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**WHISKYS**

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<tr>
<td>Grants 70cl</td>
<td>£11.99</td>
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<tr>
<td>Famous Grouse 70cl</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jack Daniels Fire 70cl</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jameson 70cl</td>
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<td>Makers Mark 70cl</td>
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<td>Jim Beam 70cl</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jack Daniel Honey 70cl</td>
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<td>Bushmills 70cl</td>
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<td>Paddy 70cl</td>
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**LIQUORS**

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<td>Fire Ball 50cl</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jagermeister 70cl</td>
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<td>Cointreau 70cl</td>
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<td>Archers 70cl</td>
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<td>Warminks 70cl</td>
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<td>Sheridan's Coffee Liqueur 70cl</td>
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<td>Glayva 70cl</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grand Marnier 70cl</td>
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<td>Sambuca 70cl</td>
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<td>Pimm's Strawberry 70cl</td>
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<td>Pernod 70cl</td>
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**WINES UPTO 50% OFF**

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<tr>
<td>Blossom Hill Red/White/Rose 75cl</td>
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<tr>
<td>Echo Falls Red/White/Rose 75cl</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardys Nottage Hill 75cl</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardy's Stamp (Assorted) 75cl</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hardy's Voyage Shiraz 75cl</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fish Hook Shiraz 75cl</td>
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<tr>
<td>Echo Falls Fruit Fusion Assorted 75cl</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yellow Tail 75cl Assorted</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jacob's Creek (Assorted) 75cl</td>
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<tr>
<td>Casillero Del Diablo (Assorted) 75cl</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anaken Merlot 75cl Chilen</td>
<td>3 for £10.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kumula (Varieties) 75cl</td>
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**PORT & SHERRY**

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<tbody>
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<td>Portman's Fine Ruby Port</td>
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<tr>
<td>Croft 75cl</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harveys 75cl</td>
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<td>Harveys ltr</td>
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**FRUIT WINE & SPARKLING WINE**

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<td>Stone's Ginger Wine 70cl</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crabbies Ginger Wine 70cl</td>
<td>£4.49</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mulled Wine 70cl</td>
<td>2 for £5.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prosecco 75cl</td>
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<tr>
<td>Martini Asti 75cl</td>
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<tr>
<td>Martini Prosecco 75cl</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anised 70cl</td>
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<tr>
<td>White Peppermint</td>
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<tr>
<td>Snow Ball (113ml x4) 2 Pack</td>
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<tr>
<td>Babycham (200ml x4)</td>
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**BOTTLED ALE**

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<td>Sadlers 500ml</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bombardier 500ml/ Bombarider Gold 500ml</td>
<td>3 for £5.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Holdens 500ml</td>
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<tr>
<td>Badger's 500cl (Varieties)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Newcastle 500l</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hobgoblin/Pedigree/Ambot Ale/Old Empire/Wainwright 500ml</td>
<td>ANY for £5.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Old Speckled Hen 500ml</td>
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<tr>
<td>Enville Ale 500ml</td>
<td>£1.99 Each case of 8 bottles £14.99</td>
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<tr>
<td>Batham's Bitter 500ml</td>
<td>£1.99 each case of 1 of 12 bottles £20.99</td>
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**BOTTLED BEER**

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<tr>
<td>Stella 330ml</td>
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<tr>
<td>Budweiser 300ml</td>
<td>24 for £15.99</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peroni 620ml</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hop House 13 Lager 650ml</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stella 660ml</td>
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**BOTTLED CIDER**

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<tr>
<td>Thatchers (Varieties) 500ml</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weston's Vintage 500ml</td>
<td>4 for £5.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rattlers Original 500ml</td>
<td>2 for £4.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brothers Old Mount, Rekorderling ANY 3 FOR £5.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weston's Scrumpy 2 ltr Jar/ Old Rose £4.99 EACH 2 ltr Jar</td>
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**CANS**

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<tr>
<td>Tetley's Bitter/Smooth 500ml</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guinness Draught 8 CANS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stella 500ml</td>
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<tr>
<td>Budweiser 500ml</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carlsberg Pint 8 CANS</td>
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<td>Carling Black 8 CANS</td>
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<td>Fruit 300ml</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strongbow Dark 8 CANS</td>
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<td>Fruit 568ml</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thatchers Gold 8 CANS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Red Row 500ml</td>
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<tr>
<td>K Cider 500ml</td>
<td>8 CANS £7.50</td>
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CHRISTMAS DAY: 12 noon-2pm
BOXING DAY: 11am-5pm
USUAL HRS 27th-30th Dec
NEW YEAR'S EVE 10AM - 9PM
NEW YEAR'S DAY 11AM - 2PM

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I’ve just watched an advert on the television for a Parker pen. In the 1970s and 1980s these were the ultimate gift for achievements, good exam results, completing your degree or a new job.

A shiny case, reliable writing implement with a stylised arrow pen clip and a padded leather look box. It was an item of beauty.

Thirty plus years on we rarely need a pen or pencil, the technology we carry acts as a notebook, journal or diary, immediate words written, saved and able to be sent at the touch of a button.

I love the mechanics of today’s documentation, but we might miss the delight of pen and paper. My son would struggle to find a pencil in his house, it is not a necessary implement for today’s society.

Our children do their homework on a laptop and the teacher works from an interactive whiteboard in the classroom. No longer will a secret handwritten note be passed around behind the teachers back, a text message will appear on the recipient’s phone instead.

I personally make lists, keep notebooks, write stories and draw and love to look back on the scribbles and words that remind me of specifics and create visual images.

I get amazing delight from purchasing new sketchpads, diaries and journals and complete excitedly when I write in them for the very first time.

**Brain**

I run a drawing group every week in Marl Drayton and am thrilled by the ability of the members with only a pencil and sketchbook. A sense of achievement from the final picture and great fun too.

It helps with articulation and creativity and exercises different parts of the brain. There are some fabulous products around this year which make wonderful Christmas presents for anyone and everyone. Make up a package of brightly coloured sketch pads, diaries and project books with a colour theme or design from Wilco or B&Q, add some shiny pencils, pens and character rubber stamps. WH Smith has beautiful notebooks to suit any personality. You can buy lists pads with rip off pages, journals with spaces for photos and keep ones. The Works sell value art and paper products to keep any age happy.

Someone who loves to write would love a delightful boxed fountain pen and bottle of ink or a pen and pencil combination encased in wood or glass, online sellers such as Amazon and eBay have exciting offers and the gift company ‘not on the high street’ offer person-alised and unusual hand written gifts.

I embrace the new technology, the incredible range that is available. The fountain pen has been replaced by the Sharpie and brushes and colours by a tablet screen but there is delight in the creativity of what the simple things can bring us.

www.jfllifeandloves.com

Follow: jfllifeandloves on tumblr

**Making a table sparkle with silver and white:** Luxury Hotel Collection Harrogate 44 Piece Cutlery Set, £130; Linea Set of 10 Copper and Champagne Crackers, £16; £18 for pack of 10; Linea Hotel Collection Pembury glassware, from £22; Linea Paper Stars LED Lights, £14; Silver Effect Mercury Baubles, £6; Star Votive Candleholder, from £6-£20; Prent Natural Snow Garland, all House of Fraser.

**Colette’s Christmas tips:**

A glamorous setting featuring top picks from Debenhams, including Jasper Conran Round Metalic Napkins, currently reduced to £9.80 from £14 for set of four; Gold Beaded Napkin Rings, currently reduced to £11.20 from £16 for set of four; Canvas Home White Metallic Glazed Davielle Dinner Plates, £30 each, and also matching Bowls £15 each (all from Debenhams).

**THE festive season is almost upon us,** which means it’s time to step up to the table and transform it into a stunning setting for the most important meal of the year.

Choose from a colour scheme of silver, gold or classic red and white (may be with a dash of Highland tartan). A Christmas table that will attract just one or two key colours, and then build up to the table scheme in new directions,” she adds.

**Stay true to tradition**

“Clusters of paper honeycomb, and pom-pom decorations hang on the table, and so it’s timely to remind you that you’re lucky it may serve a dual purpose if we have a snow fall. Again if you are fortunate you might also be able to find a ‘snow baby’, those charming decorations date back to Victorian times and are delightful little model figures.

**Forget a ny minimalist tendencies and embrace the nostalgia that will ignite the festive spirit.**

**A collection of beautiful mercury glass stars, to your present plate or dining table setting.**

**THE festive season is almost upon us,** which means it’s time to step up to the table and transform it into a stunning setting for the most important meal of the year.

Choose from a colour scheme of silver, gold or classic red and white (may be with a dash of Highland tartan). A Christmas table that will attract just one or two key colours, and then build up to the table scheme in new directions.

**Stay true to tradition**

“Clusters of paper honeycomb, and pom-pom decorations hang on the table, and so it’s timely to remind you that you’re lucky it may serve a dual purpose if we have a snow fall. Again if you are fortunate you might also be able to find a ‘snow baby’, those charming decorations date back to Victorian times and are delightful little model figures.

**Make a table sparkle with silver and white:**

Luxury Hotel Collection Harrogate 44 Piece Cutlery Set, £130; Linea Set of 10 Copper and Champagne Crackers, £16; £18 for pack of 10; Linea Hotel Collection Pembury glassware, from £22; Linea Paper Stars LED Lights, £14; Silver Effect Mercury Baubles, £6; Star Votive Candleholder, from £6-£20; Prent Natural Snow Garland, all House of Fraser.

**Gold and animal print make for a funky table setting:**

Leopard Print Dinner Set, currently reduced from £25 to £20; Glitter Stag Ornament, £5, George Home at Asda.
President of church has resigned in faith row

A SPIRITUALIST church president has stepped down after she was suspended over a row centred on a medium brought to the church.

Laraine Killarney was suspended from Stourbridge Spiritualist Church last month.

Spiritualists National Union took the action following a complaint over medium Paul Breereton, who was allegedly invited to speak at a church meeting without being a member.

Union minister David Bruton said there was also complaints over the running of the church.

He said: “I vehemently deny asking Paul Breereton to come to the church. We have an excellent committee but there are four or five on who are causing trouble. What is going on is completely against our faith. "I am withdrawing from the church but not from my faith." Kath Garrad has been appointed as acting president of the church, which is based in Union Street.

Mr Bruton said: “The suspension came in following a complaint made.

"It was part of the procedure to suspend the individual as the investigation into the complaints takes place.

"One of the complaints about allowing someone to speak at the church AGM who was not a member. It was in relation to the fact that person had been declared to be a working medium at the church. That person was Paul Breereton."

The church holds services every Sunday, and in the week. Congregations can be as large as 200 and the church is one of the largest in the union.

By Alex Ross

Simon Smith, aged 50, from Brierley Hill, has been missing from his home since December 3

CONCERN is growing for the safety of a man who has not been seen for more than a week.

Simon Smith, aged 50, from Brierley Hill was last seen on December 3.

Police said he had spent the day visiting family in the area but never returned home.

He has not made contact with family and friends since that day and they are said to be extremely worried about his safety.

Simon is described as white, 6ft 8ins tall, slim, with short curly brown hair. The last time he was seen, he was wearing blue jeans, a red jumper, black jacket, a black and green beanie hat and black trainers.

West Midlands Police have urged anyone who believes they may have seen him to call them on the non-emergency number.

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Enrich your habitat and help protect wildlife too

**PEOPLE'S Trust for Endangered Species (PTES), a UK conservation charity, has released its annual Christmas gift catalogue.**

The creative and quirky range of gift ideas will help the most endangered wildlife across Britain and throughout the world, with 100 per cent of profits going directly to help wildlife in need.

There are gifts to suit all interests varying from improving your own habitat with beautifully designed tea towels and cushions, to supporting conservation projects by giving snow leopards a safe place to roam.

There are also gifts for all budgets from wooden keyrings for £4.50 to original watercolour wildlife illustrations for £45. New items this year range from eco-friendly seedballs to original wildlife themed artwork exclusive to PTES so whether you want to save the bees or protect the pine martens, there is something for everyone.

The Gift range of wildlife gifts, ideal for anyone wild about wildlife, can be viewed and purchased online at www.ptes.org

**Gifts of Nature (prices range from £10 - £50)**

PTES has some unique gift ideas in their Gifts of Nature range. 100% of the money raised will help save endangered species worldwide. Gift options include:

- Honey mouse hamper: providing newly released dormice with food until they can fend for themselves in the wild.
- Gardener's friend: encouraging the public to create hedgehog holes and connect their gardens to form Hedghog Highways.
- Winter wonderland: supporting coppicing practices in ancient woodland to help species such as red squirrels and hazel dormice through winter and spring.

**Location, location, re-location:** relocating the rare pine marten from Scotland to a new lasswood homeland in Wales.

- Tails of the riverbank: helping save water voles in the UK and boost their numbers by improving their riverbank homes.

**Passage to India:** working with villages in India to plan agricultural work around elephant migratory routes & promoting alternative forms of livelihood.

- Save orangutan forest: training forest managers in Indonesia to help the Bornean orang-utan from extinction.

**Wildlife Guides & Publications**

For a comprehensive understanding of Britain’s mammals in both the countryside and urban environments, PTES has two concise and beautifully illustrated guides so you can learn more about the wildlife living on your doorstep. Urban Mammals: A Concise Guide and Britain’s Mammals: A Concise Guide are priced at £9.99 each or both for £16.00.

**Canvas shopping bag**

Done shopping in style with a beautifully designed laminated canvas bag printed in water based inks. With a large capacity of 38 x 4 x 40cm, it is the perfect size to take wherever you go. Made to a standard approved by 'Bag of Ethics'. Choose from: dormouse or hedgehog motifs. Only £3 each.

**A5 notebooks**

Choose from Mr Badger, Honey the Hedgehog, Rusty the Fox and Vintage Apple. Each fabulously designed a5 notebook is £4.50 each.

**Dormouse Christmas cards**

Exclusive to PTES, this delightful dormouse Christmas card is sure to make you want to curl up by the fire with a mince pie. Each card is 12.5 x 12.5cm and features the message “Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year”. A lovely card to spread some Christmas cheer, and are priced at £4.50 for a pack of ten.

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**Snow leopard patrol: creating new patrol zones across Mongolia so more snow leopards can roam free**

- Funky gibbon: training forest rangers to monitor and report illegal poaching of western hoolock gibbons and educating communities to respect this species.

**Wildlife Guides & Publications**

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**Remodelista: The Organized Home, £20**

The quirky designs transport you to another world, where the imagination runs wild. One-of-a-kind images are enhanced to create curious and fascinating pieces, from pea-pod people to giant eyeballs. Finally, for those who need a little inspiration keeping their home or work space tidy, Workman Publishing has also released Remodelista: The Organized Home, £20, full of tips for simple, stylish storage.

The extra large sections in the book are a treat, and the photographs of the homes are truly inspirational. It’s the perfect antidote to the manic festive period.

You can lean how to tame the cord jungle, decant and ‘think beyond the box’. With interest growing in the concept of mindfulness, A Book That Takes Its Time, £21.99, offers plenty of food for thought.

This one-of-a-kind guide would be the perfect present for a loved one or for yourself. If you’ve not yet embraced the concept of taking pleasure in the simple things, the here and now and living ‘in the moment’, this book will take you on a mini mindfulness retreat.

A beautifully presented and very clever creation, it comes from the creators of Flow magazine, Irene Smit and Astrid van der Hulst who say: “We need more stillness, more downtime, more mindfulness. And that’s what this book will bring you. In fact we invented something entirely new to do this.

Each chapter is full of inspirational ideas to encourage you to make more time to learn, create, relax or simply breathe.

**Perspective**

It’s the perfect antidote to the manic festive season ahead, before you worry less, feel more at peace and change your perspective.

It also offers solace in the dark and depressing post-Christmas lull, when it can be easy to fall victim to the January blues.

Life is so much better when you enjoy living in the now, when you focus more on the beautiful moments and when you don’t expect so much of yourself all the time.

There are hands-on activities such as crafts and journals, with stickers, postcards and decorative papers for collaging, enabling you to create a lovely keepsake. Instead or simply reading about the concept, you can actively take part and put its theories into practice.

This is not a traditional page-turner, this is a book that requires you to take your time, indulge and enjoy.

Also available from Workman Publishing is the John Derian Engagement Calendar priced at £18.95.

John Derian is an American decoupage artist and designer who transforms printed images from the past. His decoupage plates, platters, paperweights, coasters, and bowls are sold at upscale home stores, in catalogues, and at gift shops worldwide.

The planner pulls together 52 favourite John Derian images in a cross between a desk diary and a calendar, which is small enough to be carried with you.

There is a spread for every week of the year, decorated with all manner of interesting subjects such as anatomical prints, beetles and a long-lost love note. Together they constitute a beautifully designed and sophisticated product. It comes gift-boxed with a ribbon bookmark and would be the perfect addition to any desk, either at work or in the home office.

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**Bee the buzz**

This guide put together by Julie Carlien and Magret Gurnichal, with photographs by Matthew Williams, encourages readers to buy fewer (and better) things, get rid of the plastic and display, not stash, belongings.

You can lean how to tame the cord jungle, decant and ‘think beyond the box’. There are more than 100 tips for room-by-room improvements, with interviews from experts such as a kindergarten teacher, a hoteller and a boat builder on how to make the most of limited space.

With new year resolutions on the horizon, it’s the ideal read for the Christmas holidays and will inspire you to get organised for 2018.

**Beautiful new books with pages of pure inspiration**

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Creators of Flow magazine, Irene Smit and Astrid van der Hulst

**The John Derian Engagement Calendar**

**More examples of John Derian's decoupage creations**
AN ACTRESS from Stourbridge is proving to be in demand on both stage and screen.

Esther Stanford will be seen starring as Camilla Johnson, the girlfriend of security guard Barry Biglow, in daytime TV drama series Doctors.

At the same time she will be performing with Black Country comedy group The Fizzogs in their latest show – The Wicked Wizard of Fizxog – at the Netherwood Arts Centre from tomorrow (Friday) to Sunday.

Esther is no stranger to performing having developed an impressive portfolio over 20 years as an actress.

“I’m very lucky that as an actress I get to perform a variety of roles from drama to comedy to Fizzog madness,” she said.

In Doctors I play Camilla Johnson, Barry Biglow’s annoying girlfriend. I think you hear me before you see me, bossing him round via an answering phone,” said Esther.

Tour

She is also looking forward to joining The Fizzogs on stage.

“This is my third Christmas tour with The Fizzogs playing the comedy character Eunice Clagg. I thoroughly enjoy working with the Fizzog girls. They are all genuinely lovely and very talented funny women.”

Esther trained at the ITV Workshop where her fellow students included Birmingham’s Oscar-nominated The Theory Of Everything star Felicity Jones and TV presenter Alison Hammond, who is currently in pantos in Malvern and switched on Dudley’s Christmas lights.

Esther’s other television appearances include previous episodes of Doctors, as well as EastEnders, Heartbeat, Peak Practice and Hetty Wainthropp Investigates.

She founded and has run the Stourbridge-based Dramaworkshop for the last seven years and has helped nurture the careers of many budding actors.

Two of the current Fizzog cast – Rebecca Fuller and Gregory Pipe – trained with her.

After its opening three consecutive nights at Netherwood, the Fizzogs’ show will resume in the New Year at the Crescent Theatre in Birmingham, visiting Telford, Bridgnorth, Bromsgrove, Walsall and Kidderminster venues. See www.thefizzogs.com/get-tickets-to-see-the-fizzogs

The Fizzogs as their most famous characters the Dancing Grannies

Esther as her Fizzogs character Eunice Clagg will join the touring show
Hyperflex Aqua Rotary Shaver

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The Hyperflex Aqua is a rotary shaver that features superb shaving technology, designed to be tough on stubborn but easy on contours. Fusing Remington’s Hyperflex technology for close shaving with the ComfortFoil™ cutters, it gives the most comfortable shave with maximum coverage. The head on the shaver uses silver ions to resist bacteria to give a cleaner shave with less irritation. The cutters are supremely adjustable to the contours of the face capturing hair growing in any direction for a quick and close shave. It is 100% waterproof for use in and out of the shower, giving you ultimate choice for a suitable shave. Powered by a Lithium-ion battery, there is up to 50 minutes usage time on a full charge, it features indicator lights for when charge is ready or needed. The shaver is cordless and comes with a charge stand of universal voltage and has a manufacturer’s two-year guarantee.

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BV952 Albert Brown
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BV950 Mule Beige

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These superb gentlemen’s mules and slippers are hand crafted using the finest nappa leathers. The soft leather uppers provide comfort your feet will thank you for.

Choose from the Outdoor Mule with a rugged hardwearing sole and a fully padded insole, suitable for indoor and outdoor wear, the Albert and Mule both with a soft half leather lining, or the Grecian with a soft wool lining.

Available in sizes: 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14.

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BV952 Albert Brown
BV937 Outdoor Mule Beige
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This attractive and compact sewing machine is perfect for both beginners and experienced machinists alike. It features eight thread patterns, two speed settings and a light for detailed sewing. Its lightweight design, carry bag and handy spool drawer make it easily portable. Powered by mains adapter (included) or four AA batteries (not included) if you’re on the move. Comes complete with 16 coloured thread spools, 16 coloured bobbins, five needles, a needle threader, measuring tape, thimble and foot pedal. Measures: W27.5 x D12.5 x H26cm.

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Offering a warm welcome

Managers Paul and Carol always ensure a warm welcome to customers both old and new at Blackheath’s Shoulder of Mutton pub. For all the sports fans they boast three large TV screens featuring all sports on Sky, BT and all BOX OFFICE Events not to mention AT THE RACES. For those who like ‘doing’ rather than ‘watching’, there is the availability of the pool table and dart board.

Loyalty
The pub itself boasts a wide range of ciders, lagers, wines and spirits including four ‘Real Ales’ which they rotate weekly. Regulars very often enjoy ales such as Bathams, AJ Ales, Oakham, JHB, Stairway To Heaven and MA Pardoe’s Entire, plus many more!

The pub also run a loyalty scheme which means customers can get 10p back on their card for every pound they spend. A pub spokesman added: “With a juke box and free WiFi to compliment the regular entertainment every Friday, customers cannot ask for much more from a local pub!”

SHOULDER OF MUTTON
65 Birmingham Road, Rowley Regis B65 OHS

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They’re just too good to be true!

O h what a night! The internationally acclaimed stage sensation, Jersey Boys, is working its way back to Birmingham with a festive run at the city’s New Alexandra Theatre.

The hit musical has won 57 major awards, including the Olivier Award for Best New Musical, and will be on from tomorrow until January 6.

Jersey Boys tells the true life story of four boys from the wrong side of the tracks who wrote their own songs, invented their own unique sound, and sold 100 million records worldwide as Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons.

Featuring hit after legendary hit including ‘Beggin’, December 1963 (Oh What A Night), Can’t Take My Eyes Off You, Walk Like A Man, Bye Bye Baby, Big Girls Don’t Cry and many more, Jersey Boys is a story full of heart, humour and sheer musical razzmatazz.

The show features a starry cast of West End actors, including Simon Bailey who stars as Tommy DeVito. Simon has carved out an impressive career after starring in Bat Boy, Marry Me A Little, I Can’t Sing! The X-Factor Musical, Phantom of the Opera, Parade, Passion, Les Miserables and Joseph.

He was present when Jersey Boys began its nine-year run in London and went to the first night. “I didn’t know about the music at first. But I went to the first night and within four minutes I knew I had to do it. I’ve bided my time until the part became available.

“Be honest with you, the show is so well written and so slick. The story is fast-paced and intelligently written. Essentially, you get the same story – the story of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons – told by four different people. Seeing everyone’s individual take on what happened is great because everyone gets to tell their side of the story. The way that the music comes in is brilliant. It’s so fast-paced. You kind of forget you’re watching something. It’s seamless and faultless.”

IDENTIFY

Simon loves shows that give fans the maximum value for money.

“You are fully entertained for two-and-a-half hours. You just want to watch it again and again. I saw it 8 or 10 times and I became a fan of the show before I got to be in it.”

The present tour features Michael Watson as Frankie Valli, Simon as Tommy DeVito, Declan Egan as Bob Gaudio and Lewis Griffiths as Nick Massi. All four have previously performed their roles in Jersey Boys to great acclaim: Michael and Simon in the West End, Declan in the West End and Australia, and Lewis in the first UK and Ireland tour.

Simon was delighted to be cast as De Vito. “Tommy is great. The thing I loved about it is that you need to find something you can identify with. I always identified with his desire to succeed. While I may not agree with him methods – but they make him fun to play – I respect and admire his desire to succeed. If you are growing up where they grew up, you either went into the army and die, go into the mob and die or be a star and don’t die. Being in a band got him out of the wrong place. He did what he had to do. He discovered Frankie and it all came together.

Tommy was the catalyst.”

Simon spends most of his time in London’s West End but was thrilled to be given a chance to get back on the road.

“This is my third tour. I did the Phantom of the Opera 25th anniversary back in 2012 and I did something at the start of my career. I’ve always enjoyed travel, internationally and nationally, so being on the road is great. Leaving London for a while is no bad thing, it refreshes you. I love the energy the audiences bring. We are in for a couple of weeks at a time and the audiences want to enjoy it.”

Simon says the days of getting great shows in the West End and second tier shows in the provinces are long gone. These days, there’s no difference in quality. Fans at Birmingham can look forward to a first class show.

“You get the great shows in the provinces these days. That dividing line between the West End and the rest of the UK is obsolete.

“I grew up going to the West End. I was very, very lucky. My parents were very much into the theatre. I was one of the lucky ones who went to see West End theatre from a very early age. One of the first things I ever saw was Joseph at the Palladium with Jason Donovan. I will never forget the feeling of being in the theatre and it was so big and wonderful and magical. I was watching this whole brand new life and story on stage. It kind of blew my mind. I did a show at the Palladium a couple of years ago called I Can’t Sing. I remember walking out on stage and seeing the seat I was sat in all those years before. It made me feel like a very lucky human being. Now I have the ability to transport other people and that’s a real privilege.”

ANDY RICHARDSON

For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.
WOLVERHAMPTON soul diva Beverley Knight will make her pantomime debut in Cinderella, this year’s Birmingham Hippodrome spectacular.

Beverley will be starring alongside Strictly Come Dancing 2016 finalist Danny Mac. Brum panto favourite Matt Slack, pop singer and Dancing On Ice star Suzanne Shaw, and veteran comedy duo The Grumbleweeds. The show will also feature the most lascivious Ugly Sisters, Cen Dupree and Phil Randall. Cinderella promises all the ingredients of the perfect Hippodrome panto – great cast, laugh-out-loud comedy, lots of pop music, dazzling special effects and extravagant costumes. Cinderella runs from Tuesday until January 28.

Other festive shows for the family include 101 Dalmations, Debbie Isitt’s version of the story that became a Disney classic, with actors and amazing puppets at Birmingham Rep until January 12.

Wolverhampton’s panto at the Grand stars singer Gareth Gates with Lisa Riley and the Black Country’s own Doreen Tipton in Jack And The Beanstalk, at the Lichfield Street theatre until January 14.

Arena Birmingham is putting on a big event panto in the city centre mega-venue from December 20 to Christmas Eve with Peter Pan, starring Martin Kemp (of EastEnders and Spandau Ballet) as Captain Hook and Bradley Walsh (TV host and new Doctor Who companion) as Mr Smee. With a cast of 100 performers it is described as ‘the world’s biggest panto’.

Festive music from pop to carols

There’s a feast of festive music ahead this weekend and in the run up to Christmas, from pop to folk, classical to carols.

Slade get things rocking with Dave Hill and Don Powell in a sold out gig at Bilston’s Robin 2 tomorrow night (Friday), whilst Midlands Hospital Choir Sing Noel in two concerts at Birmingham Town Hall tomorrow, 2.15 and 7pm. Brum rocker Roy Wood brings his special Rockmas concert to the Symphony Hall on Saturday featuring special guest Paul Young. Expect to hear I Wish It Could Be Christmas Everyday. Also on Saturday ‘the Barnsley Nightingale’, folk singer-songwriter Kate Rusby, brings her Christmas show to Birmingham Town Hall. Meanwhile, ‘70s hits including Rivers of Babylon, will be revived at the Robin 2 by Boney M featuring original member Muzie Williams, who grew up in Birmingham. Celebrated Welsh singer Katherine Jenkins, pictured, performs her festive concert at the Symphony Hall on Sunday evening. There is a Christmas Carol Singalong led by Jonathan Cohen and featuring West End star Louise Dearman at Symphony Hall on Monday at 2.30pm and then in the evening the same venue hosts Classic Carols with the City of Birmingham Choir and readings from actor and TV presenter Sir Tony Robinson.

On Monday night Birmingham Town Hall hosts Yuletide laughs and music when the Rainer Hersch Orchestra present Christmas No1! Pop Singalong.

For three consecutive nights, Tuesday to Thursday at Symphony Hall, A Choral Christmas features City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and Choruses in concerts hosted by Gre Duba.

THE ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION STOURBRIDGE

We wish the people of Stourbridge a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Why not come along and join us where a warm welcome awaits all serving and time served Royal Naval personnel. We meet on the first Friday of the month at 19.45 at the Royal British Legion, Enville Street. Our Mess room is situated upstairs and contains a hall, a room and a bar. We have a Christmas concert with music and refreshments on the evening of the 15th December with a special guest in the form of the Stourbridge Queen.

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**BBC1**

- **BBC2**

- **ITV**

- **CHANNEL 4**

- **CHANNEL 5**

- **DIGITAL**

**Saturdays**

**Shirley Ballas**

**Strictly Come Dancing - The Final**

**BBC1, 6.30pm**

Tessa Daly and Claudia Winkleman host the live grand final, which sees the final three celebrities and their partners taking to the stage in different costumes that will determine whether they claim the glitterball trophy. Shirley Ballas, Bruno Tonioli, Craig Revel Horwood and Danny Buswell offer their comments and score the performances, but it’s always the audience’s opinions that are the most important. The audience may vote to save one of the three celebrities, or vote to take the other two out of the competition. The winner is decided, the rest of the contestants are announced, and the final group performance is performed.

**TV Listings**

**BBC1**

- **BBC2**

- **ITV**

- **CHANNEL 4**

- **CHANNEL 5**

- **DIGITAL**

**Advertisements in local newspapers and websites are the most popular way of keeping an eye on the property market**

**SOURCE:** The Newspaper Society - Consumer Catalyst 2014
The Apprentice (BBC1, 9pm)
The two finalists take on their last challenge to win a coveted investment from Alan Sugar, with hand-picked teams of contestants from the series returning to aid them in their endeavours. They face a three-day challenge to create brands and adverts to pitch to a room full of experts - but a poor commercial and an uninspiring brand name do not necessarily find any candidate any favours. Last in the series.

BBC2

6.00 Breakfast (BBC2) 6.30 Doctor Who (BBC2) 6.45 Asian Language News (BBC2) 7.00 The World Tonight (BBC2) 7.05 E4 News (E4) 7.45 El Rincón De Los Tubos (E4) 8.00 Things to Come (E4) 8.30 The Voice (E4) 9.00 Saturday Night Takeaway (ITV) 9.30 The Apprentice (BBC1, 9pm)

ITV

6.00 ITV News (ITV) 6.30 ITV Hub (ITV) 6.35 This Morning (ITV) 7.00 Lorraine (ITV) 7.30 Loose Women (ITV) 8.00 Strictly Come Dancing (ITV) 8.50 The Apprentice (BBC1, 9pm) 9.20 The Apprentice (BBC1, 9pm) 10.00 Coronation Street (ITV) 10.30 The Apprentice (BBC1, 9pm) 11.00 Coronation Street (ITV) 11.35 Late News (ITV)

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In partnership with Trinity Funerals

Reception Suite at Sandwell Cemetery
A modern purpose built venue where families are able to gather and reflect after a funeral service has taken place without the need to travel to another site.

Cremation £1,550

What's included:
✓ Your loved one being taken into the care of our partner, Trinity Funerals.
✓ Your loved one's coffin.
✓ The funeral service will be held at either Sandwell Valley Crematorium, or Rowley Regis Crematorium, family to choose.
✓ Cremation and Doctor's fee paid.
✓ A Minister to conduct the funeral service.
✓ Music choices of which any can be selected for entry and exit during the service, via Wesley Media.

For more information or to discuss a burial please call us on 0121 569 6700 or email us at bereavement_services@sandwell.gov.uk

It is recommended that you speak to a number of funeral directors to compare funeral costs.
www.sandwell.gov.uk/lowcostfunerals

The Simpsons (R) 9.00 Afternoon Tea (BBC2) 9.30 Scotland Tonight (BBC1, 9pm) 9.45 Coronation Street (ITV) 10.00 The Apprentice (BBC1, 9pm) 10.30 Coronation Street (ITV) 11.00 Coronation Street (ITV) 11.35 Late News (ITV)
**Best of the Rest**

**Friday Celebrity 5 Go In Search of Santa Claus**

Channel 5, 8.30pm

You can run but you can’t hide from celebrity travellers

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**Monday:**

- **Christmas Bucket List**
  Channel 5, 5.20pm
  Latest plans for a nostalgic Christmas with her boyfriend, including a snow-covered cottage and a carefully selected lot of holiday traditions, but he goes AWOL and a new romance turns her life upside down. Comedy, starring Alicia Witt. (2016)

- **TUESDAY**
  **A Prince for Christmas**
  Channel 5, 5.25pm
  In an effort to escape his upcoming arranged marriage, a European prince travels to America incoyotes over Christmas, where he meets a charming waitress. Paoline romance, starring Viva Bianca and Kirk Baker. (2015)

- **WEDNESDAY**
  **James and the Giant Peach**
  Channel 5, 12.55pm
  An unhappy orphan living with his cruel aunts discovers a gigantic peach growing in the garden. Venturing inside, he meets six friendly insects and together they embark on a magical journey. Animated and live-action fantasy, based on Roald Dahl’s novel, starring Pauline, a vocoactive employment status officer totally obsessed with peas.

---

**Tuesday:**

- **FILM CHOICES**
  - _estranged father, who has gone missing while looking for his missing son._
  - _Sally and Ralph Fiennes. (2005)_
  - _contrives to make matters worse._
  - _Nick Park’s Oscar-winning animation_
  - _arrives on the scene, while an interfering aristocrat overwhelms them when a destructive giant bunny_ 
  - _awaits with her.C hristmas with her new boyfriend, including a now-covered cottage._

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**Wednesday:**

- _Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade, BBC1, 1.45pm_ _Over the course of a year, the documentary may get the impression that Judi Dench would be proud to be called such a thing._

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**Thursday:**

- **Wallace & Gromit in The Curse of the Were-Rabbit**
  Channel 5, 3.35pm
  Inventor Wallace and his canine sidekick Gromit have set up a pest-control service, and are called in to stop a destructive giant bunny.

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**Friday:**

- **Indian Jones and the Last Crusade, BBC1, 145pm** _of theBBC1, 1.45pm_ _Inventor Wallace and his canine sidekick Gromit have set up a pest-control service, and are called in to stop a destructive giant bunny._

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**Weekend:**

- **Monday**
  - **Lie to You? At Christmas**
    BBC1, 1.30pm
  - **TUESDAY**
    - _The Royal Variety Performance 2017_ ITV, 7.30pm
  - **WEDNESDAY**
    - **Just Detour’s Secret Woodland**
      BBC1, 8pm
    - _The name-tree hugger is often used as a derogatory semantical phrase aimed at those who participate in the campaign._

---

**Tuesday:**

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  BBC1, 8pm
  - _The name-tree hugger is often used as a derogatory semantical phrase aimed at those who participate in the campaign._

---

**Wednesday:**

- **Search of Santa Claus**
  Channel 5, 8pm
  - _passes on docusoaps—such as Blackpool Night Time—expect to take part._

---

**Thursday:**

- **Al Murray’s Make Christmas Great Again**
  ITV, 9pm
  - It’s the last Friday before Christmas (known in some circles as Black or Mad Friday), which means that a lot of people will be heading to the pub to celebrate.

---

**Friday:**

- **The League of Gentlemen, Monday**
  BBC2, 10pm
  - _The Gentlemen are still in a League of their own._

---

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  - _The Gentlemen are still in a League of their own._
**Mermaid meal went swimmingly**

IT’S long been THE place to go. When we first moved to the area – three decades ago – we would often drive past The Mermaid at Compton and it was very rare that the car park was not full.

Looking at the pub, on the Bridgnorth Road, it is hard not to be attracted to it. In the summer months the vast covering of the beautiful wisteria is quite stunning. But the inside is just as much a delight.

The spacious car park and convenient location, perfectly placed for the West Midlands, Staffordshire and Shropshire area, with a canopy covered eating area outside for those warmer months. But no fear now that the cold, dreary weather is upon us, step inside and the decor is just as inviting. It has a warm comfortable feel matched by the service and attentiveness of the staff.

We popped in recently on a Saturday night and were lucky to get a table because its popularity has spread far and wide.

**IMPRESSIVE**

Nestled in a corner, we tucked into a delightful three-course meal.

As there were four of us we chose one sharer – my daughter and I tucked into the Box Baked Camembert, while the two men had the Duo of Pate and the Salt and Pepper Calamari and, needless to say, I had a little taster of each others.

Well you have to try as many dishes as possible, it’s part of the job!

What was particularly impressive was that before we ordered our son-in-law explained to the waitress that he was lactose intolerant, at which she disappeared to the kitchen and returned with a large blue file.

In it were the ingredients of all the dishes of the menu so there was no danger of him choosing something that would not suit him. No fuss, just reassurance that he could make the right choices.

For mains I went for my favourite, the Hunter’s Chicken and it appears I am not alone as it is the pub’s most popular dish, always on the menu no matter what the season.

My husband as usual went for the Rump Steak and my daughter for the Spicy Diablo pizza, it was so huge that she took some home to enjoy the next day. Having looking through the ingredients Duncan settled on the Fish and Chips. All very good portions and beautifully served and just enough room for pudding.

Although fairly full by then, three of us were ready to tuck in.

My husband is not really a sweets man but when he saw what was on offer he changed his mind and went for the Melba Mallow Mess.

They do a nice coffee and mini pudding for £4.95 which is a great idea but my daughter and I teamed up again with the sharing Pudding Tasting Platter.

Well we like to share but I think I had the lion’s share.

I finished mine off with a liqueur coffee – my pregnant daughter had already offered to drive. Be rude to say no.

So popular the Mermaid Christmas dinner menu is already sold out but there are still limited places for the Boxing Day meal (two courses £17.95, three courses £20.95). Call 01902 764896.

Or go to reservations.quotefood.co.uk

I drive past this Vintage Inn pub every day on my way to work and have always commented on how welcoming it looks. How right I was.

**SUE ATTWATER**

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**42nd Street**

New York City, 1933, and Peggy Sawyer, just off the bus from out-of-town hicksville, manages to miss the auditions for the dazzling new Broadway show but Peggy’s impromptu dance routine is later spotted by the casting director, who decides to take a chance on her after all...

All the stops are pulled out as this classic tale of Broadway’s Golden Age comes to London, directed and co-written by veteran Mark Bramble and featuring the showstoppers: The Money, Lullaby of Broadway, Shuffle Off To Buffalo, Dames, I Only Have Eyes For You and 42nd Street.

**London Theatre Break**

2 Days by Coach - Evening Show

Departing Thursday 1 Mar

from Dudley, Halesowen & Stourbridge

**Price Includes...**

✓ Return coach travel
✓ 1 night B&B at a selected hotel, Heathrow area
✓ 2nd Street theatre ticket (evening performance)
✓ Free time in London

**“The mother of all show-biz musicals”**

_The Daily Telegraph_

**Les Misérables**

‘Les Mis’, as it is affectionately known, is now the world’s longest-running musical, with 100 international awards, including 8 Tonys, 5 Drama Desk and 2 Olivier Awards, for Best Musical, Best Score, Outstanding Music, Best Director, Best Design and a clutch of Best Actor gongs. The musical has been seen by 65 million people in 42 countries and translated into 22 languages.

Set against the backdrop of a nation in the grip of revolutionary turmoil, it is arguably the world’s most popular musical. The magnificent score includes the songs One Day More, I Dreamed A Dream and many more.

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**Price Includes...**

✓ Return coach travel
✓ 1 night B&B at a selected hotel, Heathrow area
✓ Les Misérables theatre ticket (evening performance)
✓ Free time in London

**“A potent example of 21st century musical theatre”**

_Daily Mail_
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- **FORD FOCUS TITANIUM 2008, Metallic black, 1.8 diesel, automatic lights and wipers, Sony Bluetooth audio system. 96,000 miles. Good condition. £1,700 ono. 07976 979507.**

**Have you checked your ad?** We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies.

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- **RENAULT TWINGO F81A: 2011, 17,400 miles, abs, electric window, alarm, new MOT. £1,999.**
- **HYUNDAI AMICA SI 1.0: 2001, 5dr hatchback, XR reg, automatic CC, lady owner. £3,500.**
- **VOLVO S40 2007, 57 plate, 30,100 miles, automatic, good condition. £1,150.**
- **VW PASSAT ESTATE 1T4: S reg, silver, diesel, 101,900 miles, 6 mounted CR, automatic, manual, MOT, 3 months MOT. £1,150.**
- **VAUXHALL COMBO 2000CDTi 1.3 VAN: 2006 (06), white, side loading door, alloy wheels, roof rack, CD, MOT May 2018, 100,000 miles, clean and tidy. £795.**
- **SIRION 1000CC S reg: 2000 CD, very good condition. £1,250.**
- **THRELOD AUTO SALVAGE: FREE TEXT MESSAGES FREE WITH PUBLISH ANY TEXT TO 65177 AND RECEIVE A FULL DETAILS. DISCLOSURE AUSTRALIAN.**

**HYUNDAI ELANTRA 2005, silver, 1300cc, petrol, 5dr hatchback, £1,000 ono. 07979 687756.**

**4X4 LAND ROVER DEFENDER TD5: 2003 in good condition, MOT June 2018, no problems, excellent motor. £10,000. 07766 235096.**

**EXCELLENT CONDITION: 1.4, hatchback, 2012, one careful owner from new, 32,000 miles, FSH, 12 months MOT, silver /grey. £3,500. 07757 736435.**

**BARGAIN: RENAULT CLIO DYNAMIQUE 2006, £1,000 Miles, diesel, £30 a year tax electric mirrors, air con, logbook, central locking, CD, very good condition! £1,999. 07879 403302.**

**Local Information**

- **MARGARET WORTON (Deceased): Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named late of 10 Bournes Close, Halesowen, West Midlands B63 4ED, who died on 10/10/2017, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 23/02/2018, when the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have notice.**

**Personals**

- **DO YOU HAVE AN IDEA TO GET THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT OFF THE GROUND? Call 07944 818003 Our calls will receive a response.**

**General**

- **JUNE SIVETER (Deceased): Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named late of 10 Bournes Close, Halesowen, West Midlands B63 4ED, who died on 10/10/2017, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 23/02/2018, when the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have notice.**

**Express and Star, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.**

**Christmas CLEAROUT!**

- **VAUXHALL CORSA ACTIVE: 1.2, 3-dr, 53 reg, silver, 85,000 miles, service history, previous MoTs, previous lady owner, 12 months MOT. Excellent condition. Only £795. 07996 232665.**

** Classified Ads**

**Buy Local, Sell Local, 01902 317878.**

**...Turn to Classifieds**

**Exciting Christmas Presents to Buy Local, all in your Express & Star...**

**Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, December 14, 2017**
FREE Winter Health Check
Keeping you and your vehicle safe during the winter months
Includes free RAC Winter motoring kit

- De-icer spray (300ml)
- De-mister pad
- Foil blanket
- Gloves (2 pairs)
- Ice scraper
- Micro travel first aid kit
- Screen wash (500ml)
- Wind-up torch
- Tough storage case

(RRP £19.99)
Visit imperialcarssupermarkets.co.uk/serviceoffers to book now
Car retailer wins top national award

One of Halesowen’s biggest and most successful used car retailers has been honoured at the industry’s leading awards event.

Imperial Car Supermarket in Dudley Road was named Used Car Supermarket of the Year by TV’s Wheeler Dealer, Mike Brewer, at the Car Dealer Magazine Used Car Awards in London.

The coveted award, which saw the outlet triumph over an exceptionally strong field, recognises it for excellence across the board.

All nominees received a number of difficult mystery shopper visits before a panel of expert judges scored them against a demanding set of standards.

Imperial Car Supermarket – a thriving group with eight sites nationwide – passed with flying colours to take the accolade.

Presenting the award, Mike Brewer, said: “When it comes to managing a lot of stock, cars of all shapes and colours and a site that can be measured in acres rather than metres, it can be difficult to keep customers happy.

“Imperial Cars certainly have that covered, though. They shine in every single round of mystery shopping and truly deserve the award.”

Speaking afterwards, Neil Smith, Operations Director at Imperial Cars, said: “We are absolutely delighted to have won this award.

“As a business, we place great value on our excellent reputation and work incredibly hard to ensure we offer the very highest standards of customer care across all areas. This award shows we are on the right track.”

Imperial Cars has built an excellent reputation as a reliable and trustworthy retailer with its emphasis firmly on customer service. Each of the group’s large sites stocks hundreds of used cars of all makes and models and all come with an HPI check certificate, DVLA Online Registration, warranted mileage and 3 months RAC Warranty. In addition, as an RAC Approved outlet, all cars stocked undergo a series of stringent checks, carried out by fully-qualified technicians, for maximum peace of mind.

In addition to the cars at its Halesowen site, the group’s entire range of thousands of quality assured pre-owned vehicles can be searched online at www.imperialcarsupermarkets.co.uk.
HE'S made more than 400 professional appearances and helped Wales reach the semi-finals of Euro 2016. Now, Wolves favourite Dave Edwards has put pen to paper to document his story and road in his new book Living My Dream.

It all began in rural Shropshire for the former Mo- limey midfielder, who says he was just a “farm boy” in Shrewsbury when he first kicked a ball. Now, the 31-year-old has enjoyed a career in which he has been praised by some of the game’s greats, with Real Madrid and Wales star Gareth Bale hailing his “great road”.

All of Edwards’ royalties from the book sales, re- leased last month, will go to the Midlands-based Lit- tle Rascals Foundation.

Edwards, who recently left Wolves for Reading after nine years in the old gold and black, said: “Being a footballer is a privileged existence – it is one which has given me what it was like in the Welsh camp at Euro 2016. A special time and a great read.”

Woven into the story of his club career, Living My Dream is also a behind-the-scenes account of Dave’s brave fightback, after a serious injury in January 2016, to make the starting line-up in Wales’ opening game in Bordeaux at that summer’s European Cham- pionships.

He is the first player from the Welsh squad to re-veal just what it was like for a player cocooned inside the team bubble at the Euros. He reveals how the Welsh players thrived on and forged an unouchable team spirit.

It tells the story of a family man, who feels for- tunate and privileged to have enjoyed the career he has – a “fascinating” insight into the day-to-day life of a professional footballer, according to England goalkeeper Joe Hart and “best mate”, who wrote the book’s foreword.

Hart said: “Dave Edwards has been one of my best mates in football, all the way through my career and this book offers some great behind-the-scenes insight into what it is like for a player at a major tournament and some of the secrets behind Wales’ spectacular success.”

The book, written with the help of Wolves’ head of media Paul Berry, is set to be released this month.

It has been published by St Davids Press, www.st- davids-press.co.uk.

Berry said it was a privilege to work with Edwards. “Like so many football fans, I thought the story of Wales at Euro 2016, their first major tournament for 58 years, was a fantastic one to follow,” he said.

“It was made even more interesting having worked with Dave for so many years at Wolves, as well as Wayne Hennessey and Sam Vokes.”

“All three of those players were great to work with, and the sort of characters whom you always want to be successful. The further the tournament went on, the more I thought that the idea of a book telling the behind-the-scenes story would be one which would appeal to all football fans.”

After Edwards returned from France, over a spell of about six months, him and Paul had regular con- versations at the training ground to put together an account of life at Euro 2016.

This included chats about the rest of his career leading up to the tournament, including his recovery from the injury which for a time put his participation in doubt.

Foundation

He added: “Dave is one of those footballers who is always very interesting and thoughtful with his opin- ions, and is always happy to front up and face the media and supporters through the good times and the bad.”

The programme was launched in May and closed at the end of December. It is part of a national initiative to give away cash to sports groups and indi- viduals. A host of regional prize pools of £750 are up for grabs every month, with mateur sports teams and individuals alike invited to apply. The money is to be spent on sports kit, equipment, coaching or facilities.

A shortlist of 50 will be drawn up in December from the entries nation- wide. They will go forward to a national final to be determined by public vote. The winning club or individual will receive £200,000 with £50,000 each going to two runners-up.

Persimmon Homes West Midlands, which has its headquarters in Wol- verhampton, has chosen individuals and clubs from its region, including Gornal Athletic Mini Minor Kickers and a Stourbridge archer.

To enter visit www.persimmonhomes.com/charity
A HALLEWSOEN school has gone platinum in its commitment to developing pupils in competitive sports.

Windor High School is one of the first in England to win the new national award. It was among 104 schools nationwide to receive the special School Games Platinum Award, part of the School Games Mark, a government- led awards scheme launched in 2012 and administered by the Youth Sport Trust charity. This year, there were close to 9,000 applicants. Its aim is to reward schools for a commitment to the development of competition across schools and into the community.

The Platinum Award is the fourth level and was only introduced this year to celebrate schools who had shown consistently high-levels of enthusiasm and commitment to school sport. Applications are only open to those schools who achieved five successive gold awards.

Platinum Awards are valid for two years. Headteacher Stephen Lanckham said: “We are delighted that we have received the Platinum Award as a result of many years of successful commitment to school sport and out of hours activities for our students.”

Byfield aims to be fast on his feet again

SUPER featherweight Les Byfield is finding his feet again more as he targets an eighth consecutive professional boxing victory.

Byfield, who was previously fighting partner Andy Harris at Walsall FC’s Stadium Suite on Sunday has been putting in extra training to bring back his lightning-quick feet he was so well known for on the amateur scene.

The 30-year-old from Netherton, fights Harris in his first six-round bout as part of BC8 Promotions’ ‘Jingle All The Way’ event. Byfield knows what a tough customer ‘Thunder’ is from the hours of sparring and hopes his high work-rate will carry him through.

“I know Andy is a very good boxer and I sparred with him when I first went pro so I am expecting this to be a very tough fight,” Byfield said. “With him being a little bit heavier than me I am guessing it will go the distance.

“Before I went pro, one of my biggest attributes was that I had really fast feet so I have been working a lot to try and get those back.

‘Jingle All The Way also features Walsall featherweight Kane Baker and Ledbury super-featherweight Alex Florence.

Standard tickets are £35 and VIP tickets at £50 for tables of 10, with a hot Christmas buffet. Call the boxers or Walsall FC box office on 01922 651414/614.

Glassboys hit road for Trophy clash

STOURBRIDGE travel to Leominster for the FA Trophy First Round proper on Saturday – and are looking to put on a show for supporters.

The coach will run from the War Memorial Ground at 12.30pm, subject to demand. Seats can be booked by contacting Jim McComish on 07966 568767 after Friday, or on 01527 664808 on match day.

Standard tickets are £35 and VIP tickets at £50 for tables of 10, with a hot Christmas buffet. Call the boxers or Walsall FC box office on 01922 651414/614.

Travelled

The much-travelled player has been at Worces- ter City, Braintree, Solihull Moors and Nuneaton Town, later representing Whitehawk, Stourbridge, Torquay United and Nuneaton Town as a player-coach.

Weir-Daley, who has two international appearances, has scored 13 times in 21 games for Red- ditch United this season.

Starting his career at Nottingham Forest, the 22-year-old also played for Notts County, AFC Telford, Boston United, Corby Town, Ket- tering Town and Henley Town before sign- ing for Redditch in July.

During his career, he has made 569 appearances in all scoring more than 140 goals. Weir-Daley will challenge John McAtee and newcomer Ethan Jones, who joined from Southport, for a starting place in the Yeltz team.

Saturday’s away game against Nantwich Town was called off and has yet to be rearranged. On Sat- urday Yeltz visit Ashton United before two home games against Derbyshire opposition over the festive period, Mickleover Sports on Boxing Day and Buxton on December 30.

ALBION stars from the 1970s and 80s glory days turned up at The Hawthorns to support Ally Robertson’s book launch.

Former England captain Bryan Robson, Rob- ertson’s old manager Johnny Giles, legendary striker Cyrille Regis, all-time record scorer Tony Brown, centre-back partner John Wile and former team-mate Joe Mayo all turned out.

The Baggies royalty mingled with 100 sup- porters, signed books, and answered questions about the no-nonsense defender who is second on Albion’s all-time appearance list.

It marked the launch of the biography: Thou Shalt Not Pass: The Ally Robertson Story. “I’ve never been on the front of anything. I’ve always been at the back. I’ve never won anything, so I’m just surprised anybody would want to read it!” he said.

 Injury blow for Albion Women star

A TEENAGER who spent three days in hospital after dislocating her knee for Albion Women is unsure when she’ll return to action.

Brodie Vince, a highly-rated 16-year-old central midfielder who has had trials for England, sustained the injury during a 7-0 defeat to Huddersfield Town Ladies in the second round of the FA Wom- en’s Cup.

It was his first season with the team since joining on a trial basis at the start of the season.

Police and ambulance were called to the ground but Vince was taken by ambulance to hospital. He was discharged after three days but his knee problem could keep him out for the rest of the season.

“It’s still painful,” admitted the teenager from Hale- sown. “I’ve had to get signed off from college (in Solihull) and hopefully I’ll be back by late Janu- ary.

“I’m in a brace and on crutches. I’m not sure when I’ll be walking properly again because I can’t put any weight on it.”

Vince has been at Albion since he was 10, but was promoted from the under-16s to the senior team in the sum- mer by new manager Louis Sowe.

She skipped the development team al- together and now plies her trade in the Premier League Northern Division – the third tier of women’s football.

Albion Women are currently 10th in the 12-strong Premier North Division. Their next game is at Leicester City on Sunday.

Darters kept apart in draw of the worlds

TIPTON duo Scott Baker and Jamie Hughes are on opposite sides of the draw for the 2018 BDO World Championship.

It means the Black Country pair can’t meet until at least the semi-finals at Lakeside, Frimley Green. Debutant Baker faces Belgian Andy Beaters in a first-to-three sets tie. Third seed Hughes is a semi-finalist, play- ing the winner of a preliminary round tie, Canada’s David Cameron or German open qualifier Michael Unterbuchner.

Last weekend, Hughes reached the semi-finals of the BDO Finder Masters in Edinburgh am Zee, Holland. Danny Nopter won the tournament.