First class service promised at town’s new Post Office branch

County banks a share of £250m action fund

By Sarah Evans
sevans@stratford-herald.com

The best newspaper money can’t buy
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Government cash to fill 16,000 potholes

ALMOST £1 million is to be spent on filling potholes across the county.

Warwickshire County Council has banked £832,000 from the government’s Pothole Action Fund, which could fill almost 15,698 potholes. The government revealed on Thursday that the money will be used to ‘improve local roads and deliver better journeys’.

Warwickshire is among 13 councils in West Midlands that will receive a share of £5.7 million, helping to remove around 108,000 potholes from the region’s roads.

Cllr Peter Butlin, Portfolio Holder for Transport, said: “Warwickshire County Council’s highways team are already planning ahead on how they will work together with their contractors to use this additional funding from the Department for Transport to keep the road surface in good repair. These activities could include permanent pothole repairs or resurfacing to help prevent potholes from forming to ensure that we achieve value for money for the taxpayer.”

Cllr Philip Johnson, chairman of the Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee, added: “We are extremely aware that potholes are a major concern of our residents and one of the most frequently visited pages on our website. We are pleased to receive this extra money to improve the county’s roads.

In total, the government is spending £6.1 billion nationwide on local highways maintenance between 2015/16 and 2020/21 with the aim of preventing potholes and improving local roads, bridges and street lighting.

CUSTOMERS were queuing at the Post Office in Stratford town centre for the reopening of the branch yesterday afternoon, Monday.

The branch in Henley Street was closed for a fortnight and Stratford Mayor Cllr Tessa Butes was one of the first customers through the door.

The Mayor, who worked in the Post Office for around 14 years at its former location in Bridge Street and in Henley Street, said of the refurbishment: “It is bright and cheerful, and looks quite inviting. The Post Office area is defined property.

Zoe Ltd, the new owners of the branch, have called the retail outlet at the front of the branch Gift Box.

Around £250,000 has been invested in refurbishing the branch, and Zoe’s national retail manager, Siraz Chadat, said: “It’s been a huge investment. We want to give our customers a shopping experience that they will come back to again and again.”

He said being based in the same street as Shakespeare’s Birthplace was important to the company: “This is exclusivity. We want to be in the best places. It’s all about the space as well, the space here is fantastic, and it’s bright, light and welcoming.”

There are seven counter positions at the back of the shop, including six open-plan counters and one secure fortress position.

As well as selling gift items and cards, the shop also sells fresh pre-packed food in the refrigerators at the front of the branch. It will open from 8.30am until 5.30pm Monday to Saturday, and from 10am until 4pm on Sunday — the same opening hours that were operated prior to the refurbishment.

Zoe Hibberd, field change advisor for the Post Office, said: “This is part of a major investment programme, the largest in the history of the Post Office and will secure services for the future.”

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Raft race to get charity on its bike

THE 40th Lions’ Raft Race is set to help fund the purchase of specialist bikes for Stratford-based Heart of England Mencap.

The charity, which supports local people with learning disabilities, is the main beneficiary for the 2016 event.

It currently has three trikes available for customers to use, thanks to fundraising, grants and donations in 2015. But the aim now is to build the fleet.

Hand cycles enable people in a wheelchair but with strength in their arms to experience the joy of cycling. A side-by-side bike would allow a worker to ride with a customer, meaning that even those who don’t have much physical strength can still benefit from the experience.

“The ultimate dream is a dedicated track,” said Fundraising Manager, Cath Errington.

“We are in discussions as to potential locations for this, but of course none of it is possible without the funds being raised, and we are so grateful to the Lions for choosing our charity as the main beneficiary for this year’s raft race.”

The raft race has raised more than £750,000 for local charities since it was first held in 1976. It takes place this year on Sunday, 24th July. To enter, see www.raftrace.org.uk or call 07899 164765.

Emily, Russell, Brian and Royston, who use Mencap’s three existing bikes. (Submitted photo)

To advertise in the Midweek Herald telephone 01789 266261
Warwickshire County Council has been successful in its bid for £51,300 to help buy the collection and create a new archive featuring an oral collection of memories from former employees and those with family connections to the company.

In addition, ten schools will help Heritage and Culture Warwickshire pilot workshops to give children the engineering and technological know-how behind the Healey brand.

The lottery money was the final piece needed to purchase the collection which included funding from the PRISM fund (Preservation of Industrial and Scientific Material), Friends of National Libraries, King Henry VIII Trust Warwick, Head 4 Healeys Ltd, Friends of Warwickshire County Record Office, Warwickshire Industrial Archaeology Society and a number of generous private donations.

The collection will take pride of place among Warwickshire’s valued archive collections at Warwickshire County Record Office.

It will be available to anyone wishing to use it for research and will stand as a permanent legacy to the achievement and ingenuity of the Healey family in Warwick — the birthplace of the company.

The Healey Motor Company was founded in 1945 by Donald Healey, a successful car designer and rally driver. It was based in an old aircraft components factory off Millers Road in Warwick.

It produced two-seater sports cars until 1953 when Mr Healey began a partnership with the British Motor Corporation to produce cars under the Austin-Healey marque and then West Bromwich-based Jensen.

The company archives consists of 20 large boxes of material, including unique, early R&D designs, business records, printed material and correspondence of the company’s involvement in motor racing and test results for land speed records. There are also numerous photographs of various Healey models including action shots and celebrities.

It was put up for sale at a cost of £120,000 by the grandchildren of the car company’s founder, Donald Healey.

Cllr Jeff Clarke, Warwickshire County Council’s Portfolio holder for Heritage and Environment, said: “We are thrilled to have received the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund. The project reminds us all of Warwickshire’s proud manufacturing and motoring heritage and that Warwickshire is a great place to do business. “I am confident the project will support young people to develop new skills and an interest in the 40th Lions Raft Racer local heritage.”

LOTTERY money is to fund the public purchase of the Warwick Healey Motor Company Archive, it has been announced.

By Chris Smith
csmith@stratford-herald.com

A £5,000 Marin Mount mountain bike was stolen from the roof rack of a car parked in Birmingham Road, Mappleborough Green, between 8.15pm and 9.15pm, on Tuesday, 29th March, police said.
Tech firm moves UK base under one roof

INTERNATIONAL technology company Semcon has relocated its UK headquarters to Warwick.

The Swedish giant, which was based at Kineton, has moved its 115-strong UK team to a new purpose-built facility on Tourniament Fields.

Semcon is a global company providing engineering services and product information to help companies develop products in such industries as automotive, life sciences, telecommunications and energy.

The group has 45 sites on three continents with more than 3,000 employees. Its services include product development, product information, quality, training and methodology development.

Torsten Sundin, Country Manager at Semcon Product Information UK, said: “We had outgrown the facility at Kineton, where we were separated across several buildings. At our new location we are all under one roof, which means greater advantages for our staff in terms of shorter communication paths and a greater opportunity to easily work together.”

The new site will house Semcon’s workshop technical authors, graphic illustrators and animators, method technicians, owners’ information authors and product development engineers, as well as IT, HR, finance and business development.

Nicholas Evans, a director of Leamington commercial property consultancy ehB Commercial, which acted for Semcon in acquiring the building, said: "The building has extremely modern facilities and has been customised for even better service. It also provides a more efficient workspace for Semcon’s staff and gives us potential to expand in the future with excellent customer service.”

Think Bike to save a life

A THINK Bike campaign has been launched to help reduce motorcyclists who have been injured or killed on roads across Warwickshire and Worcestershire.

Over the past three years there have been 36 fatalities and 481 serious-injury incidents involving motorcycles across the two counties.

The campaign is targeting both motorcyclists and car drivers with the aim of increasing general awareness and offering additional training.

Roadside posters are being put up alongside some key motorcycle routes throughout the region where collisions have occurred over the past three years.

These highlight routes where both motorcyclists and drivers need to take care and be more aware.

As part of the campaign the Safer Roads Partnership are also targeting bikers who have not ridden during the winter months and encouraging them to carry out simple safety checks on their bike before getting back on it for the new motorbike season.
Walking in Will’s footsteps

STRATFORD Ramblers will lead a special week of walks in which they will take people into the countryside that surrounds William Shakespeare’s hometown.

The group has plans walked every day from Friday, 17th April, right up until Sunday, 24th April, with most starting and finishing outside the Royal Shakespeare Theatre.

Penny Stott, chairman of Stratford Ramblers, said: “We aim to point out things of interest along the way. Shakespeare would have spent time in the countryside around Stratford and this is our contribution to the 400th anniversary celebration.”

Our members know the area very well and we hope to share that knowledge with local people and the many visitors who will be here from around the world. In recent years we’ve been joined on our usual walks by people from Canada, the States, Germany, France and Japan.”

Some 3,000 leaflets with details of the week are available from the Herald, and guesthouses across the district.

Copies are also available from the Herald’s office at 17 Rother Street, Stratford, while details of each one are included in the What’s On Guide that runs in the Herald every Thursday.

This was the scene after a car collided with an outbuilding in Bearley on 06/06 JAGUAR XJ EXECUTIVE TDVi SALOON

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17-24 APRIL 2016
The Stratford Ramblers are commemorating the Bard’s 400th anniversary by leading FREE DAILY WALKS around his old haunts.

ALL ARE WELCOME
The walks are circular, of 2 to 11 miles in length, and many start at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre.

For further information visit: www.stratfordramblers.com or email: shakespearewalks@outlook.com

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Mayor’s Coffee Morning
at
The Town Hall, Sheep Street
Thursday, 14th April
10.00am until 12 noon
Various stalls including Craft, Jewellery, Gifts, Produce, CDs & DVDs, Tombola, Raffle £1 entrance fee to include tea or coffee and biscuits.

Midweek Herald Tuesday, 12th April, 2016

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Let It Glow for hospice

THE Shakespeare Hospice’s annual Moonlit Walk will have a neon glow this year.

Let It Glow, as the walk has now be named, takes place on Saturday, 4th June, leaving The Welcombe Hotel at 9.30pm, with circular routes of 5km or 10km around Stratford town centre.

There will be live music and a warm-up beforehand, plus goodies, including popcorn and candyfloss, along the route.

Walkers are being asked to pledge a minimum of £20.16 sponsorship to secure a place — a figure set because of 2016 being an extra special year in Stratford, with it marking the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare’s death.

Hospice bosses said £20.16 was enough to fund two workbooks for children who have lost a family member to help them share their experiences and remember their loved one, or lunch for four hospice patients, cooked by the in-house chef in line with any special dietary requirements.

To sign up to the walk call 01789 266852, or see www.theshakespearehospice.org.uk

Arrest after drugs found

A STRATFORD teenager has been charged with two offences of possession of heroin and crack cocaine with intent to supply.

Akeem Josiah Wright was arrested during a police raid on his home in Clapton Road.

The 19-year-old appeared at Warwickshire Magistrates’ Court in Leamington last week and was remanded in custody until Thursday, 28th April.

Officers from the Safer Neighbourhood Team executed the warrant, at his home address on Thursday, 31st March.

During the search, a quantity of heroin and crack cocaine with an estimated street value of between £870 and £1,460 was seized.

A spokesman for Warwickshire Police said anyone who suspects drugs are being used or sold from properties near to where they live should report the matter to officers.

They can do so by calling 101, or by going through Crimestoppers on 0800 555111 where you can give information anonymously.

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Warwickshire Reminiscence Action Project.

LAALO programme.

WRAP have been funded by NHS Public Health Warwickshire to provide an information programme for those:-

Looking After A Loved One “living with dementia”.

If your loved one has just been diagnosed with any type of dementia.

The programme covers all aspects of the information you will require. There will be guest speakers that cover legal information, advice on medical facts, Carer’s allowance and much more.

This Free programme runs for eight weeks, two hours per week, 10.00 am to 12.00 pm
Beginning on Thursday 28th April May at Briar Croft, Alcester Road, Stratford upon Avon

There are ten places available, so please book soon.

If you would like to attend this free programme please contact Mike Strophair

01789 778431. Mobile 0780 3729894 or e-mail wrap1@hotmail.co.uk

Candidates confirmed for police chief ballot

SIX people will contest next month’s election to be the next Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner.

The deadline for nominations passed last week.

The Conservatives, Labour and Lib Dems had previously announced their candidates and two independent candidates — a retired Warwickshire police chief and a 22-year-old recent university graduate — had also already declared their intention to stand.

But when the final list of nominations was published on Thursday, it also included a UKIP candidate for the ballot that takes place on Thursday, 5th May.

The current commissioner, Ron Ball, has decided not to stand for re-election, citing his desire to spend more time with his family.

The first £65,000-a-year Police and Crime Commissioners were elected in November 2011 and replaced unelected Police Authorities.

Mr Ball was one of three candidates 563509 The Baguette Bargein 2012, narrowly winning the ballot over former Warwick and Leamington Labour MP, James Plaskitt, and retired Severn Trent Water engineer, Fraser Pitie, from Stratford.

The election used the supplementary system in which voters marked the ballot paper with their first and second choices of candidate. If no candidate got a majority of first preference votes, the top two candidates went on to a second round in which second preference votes of the eliminated candidates were allocated to them to produce a winner.

In the first round of voting in Warwickshire, Mr Plaskitt polled 22,308 votes, compared to Mr Ball’s 21,410 and Mr Pitie’s 20,571.

But in the second round, with the second choices of those who voted for Mr Pitie re-allocated, Mr Ball emerged as the winner with a further 11,821 votes, taking his total to 33,231. Mr Plaskitt got just 2,892 second choice votes and ended up with a total of 25,200 votes. The turnout was just 15.65 per cent.

In the 2015 General Election the turnout was 72.6 per cent.

Commissioners have a set four-year term of office and can serve a maximum of two terms.

A HORSE was rescued from a ditch, near Shipston, on Saturday morning.

Firefighters were called to Ditchford Road in Tidmington at 8.45am by the owner of the horse who reported that it was in a ditch.

Two specialist crews used lines and straps, with help from a vet, to release the sedated horse unharmed. They were at the scene for two hours.
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Lines Open: Mon - Sat 9.00am till 6.00pm • Sun 10.00am till 4.00pm
Householders tune in to TV support

NEW fourth generation mobile services, known as 4G, that are being switched on in Alcester might interfere with Freeview TV signals, it has been suggested.

Experts have said that 4G signals at 800 MHz can overload the receivers in TVs and set-top boxes.

Signs of interference include the loss of channels or sound, pictures going blocky, freezing or the TV screen going blank or showing a ‘No Signal’ message.

A company called at800 has been appointed by the government’s Culture Department to offer free support to householders who experience issues.

Ben Rooney, chief executive officer of at800, said: “If you rely on Freeview for TV, we can arrange for one of our accredited engineers to visit homes to fix Freeview interference caused by 4G signals, free of charge. If you use Freeview alongside other TV services, we can send interference filters which block mobile signals that are easy to fit to the aerial lead connecting to TVs and set-top boxes.”

Viewers who experience interference to Freeview should contact at800 on 0808 13 13 800 or via www.at800.tv/contact-us.

Bard products set to go global

SHAKESPEARE-inspired home furnishings and toiletries could soon be exported globally as part of the celebrations to mark the Bard’s 400th anniversary.

The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust is working with U.K. Trade and Investment (UKTI) West Midlands, which secured a place at January’s Museum Expressions trade fair in Paris this month, where it showed some of its exclusive products from the new Shakespeare Inspired ranges.

The gifts and home items launched by the Trust are inspired by the objects and places that shaped Shakespeare’s life and works.

The outfits range reflects the scents of the wide variety of flowers mentioned in his works, and flowers and herbs that grow in the Trust’s own gardens in Stratford.

Fragrances include Romeo and Juliet and Anne Hathaway’s Cottage Garden.

Adam Sheratt, Retail Development Manager at the Trust, said: “While most of our activity for the 400th anniversary is about extending our cultural reach, UKTI is helping us to maximise the commercial opportunities that this year presents.”

“All profits from licensing go back into the charity, helping us to care for the Shakespeare houses, supporting the internationally important library and archive, and funding the learning programmes.”

Parminder Hayer, UKTI West Midlands’ adviser to the Trust, said: “Shakespeare is arguably already one of the country’s best exports. "For example, there have been publications and productions of Hamlet in more than 75 different languages. "Initial reaction to the products has, as you would expect, been very favourable indeed, and we are only too pleased to work with the Trust to help it maximise its export potential.”

THE Dallas Burston Polo Club is celebrating after scooping the prestigious Venue of the Year 2016 accolade at the 19th annual Asian Business Awards.

The venue, on the Stoneythorpe Estate in Stratford district, was presented with the trophy at a ceremony in London.

A Man, 21, in court over fires

A MAN has appeared in court over a series of fires including two relating to two car fires on a Warwick estate at the weekend.

Tom Michael Weedon, of no fixed abode, appeared at Warwickshire Magistrates’ Court in Leamington on Thursday, 7th April.

The 21-year-old has been charged with one count of attempted robbery, three counts of arson with intent/reckless as to whether life was endangered, one count of criminal damage to property valued under £5,000, one count of burglary other than dwelling — theft, one count of harassment and one count of theft of a motor vehicle.

All relate to incidents between November 2015 and 3rd April this year. The first charge of arson with intent/reckless as to whether life was endangered is in connection with a fire involving two vehicles which took place in the Chase Meadow area of Warwick on Saturday, 2nd April.

The second is in connection with a vehicle fire in Leamington Spa on the same day, Mr Weedon was remanded into custody until 5th May when he will appear at Warwick Crown Court.

The Millionaire’s Attic

A nearly new pop-up shop, featuring some of the treasures, trinkets and finery of Felix Dennis

All profits are for the benefit of The Heart of England Forest Charity

Registered Charity no. 1097110

Open Wednesday 13th, Thursday 14th, Friday 15th and Saturday 16th April
10am-4pm

An eclectic mix of: Soft Furnishings; Kitchen Equipment; Tableware; Bathroom Accessories; Bed Linen; Mens Clothing and Shoes (size 8); Books; CDs; Stationery & Household Items

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Visit www.TheMillionairesAttic.com for details
Knights Jewellers

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Tel: 01789 266595
THE Queen’s Bentley Mulsanne limousine has gone on sale for just under £200,000 on Auto Trader.

This rolling piece of history was reserved for exclusive use by the Monarch during a two-year period from 2012 to 2014 when the Bentley was retired from Royal duties.

The Mulsanne was pressed into service by the Queen during her Diamond Jubilee celebrations and for a unique visit to 10 Downing Street where she attended her firstever cabinet meeting with Prime Minister, David Cameron, who greeted her on her arrival.

The limousine was first prepared and registered by Bentley in Crewe at its headquarters for exclusive use by the Queen.

The Royal wheels feature several upgrades including walnut burl veneered picnic tables, door panels and rear quarter vanity mirrors. There are embroidered Bentley emblems to all seats and the car runs on optional 21inch classic alloy wheels.

The interior boasts a full leather interior, air conditioning, driver information system and satellite navigation system, which has Winder set as the home address.

The Mulsanne is powered by a muscular 6.75litre engine with over 500bhp and is capable of reaching 184mph, but is not known whether the Bentley was retired from Royal duties.

The car is offered for sale by a dealership based in Bramley, Surrey.

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Midweek Herald Tuesday, 12th April, 2016

**NEWLY DESIGNED, NEARLY FOUR TIMES AS MANY NEW CAR BUYERS CHOOSE CONNECTIVITY GADGETS OVER SAFETY UPGRADES WHEN SPECIFYING THEIR VEHICLE.**

New research by whatcar.com shows that, despite the nation's apparent wealth, when choosing their car, drivers are shelling out for items like satellite navigation, digital radio and Bluetooth capabilities, over safety systems such as lane-keeping assistance and blind spot monitoring.

Automated emergency braking (AEB) is the most popular safety system selected, but less than 20 per cent of drivers choose it as an option. Six in 10 new car buyers will not upgrade with any safety features at all.

In contrast, 64 per cent spend extra cash to set up a DAB radio — at a cost similar to the £200 estimated to install AEB.

The research also showed that buyers rating safety more highly also rank tech as a safety feature more highly than safety features rated as the most important.

Jim Holder, Editor of whatcar.com, said: “When it comes to talking about what’s important in a car, most people are vociferous about how vital safety is. However, it seems to be a different matter when it comes to choosing what sits in front of the salesman.

“British car buyers are clearly going for a stress-free over substance. It’s beneficial to have creature comforts in your car, especially if you spend a lot of time driving.

“Drivers are clearly not shocked to think that features which could save peoples’ lives are going to be a back seat to having the right sound quality on the radio, especially when those items often cost the same as the safety options.”
Do you believe in social justice? Want to join the Citizens Advice team? At Citizens Advice we provide the advice people need for the problems they face and also help to improve the policies and practices that affect people's lives. Due to recent funding success we are now looking for new members to join our team.

Projects Manager Ref PM/16 £22,924 – 37.5 hours per week, based in Stratford upon Avon and Leamington Spa

Covering work in both Citizens Advice offices on Stratford on Avon and Warwick Districts, you would be responsible for overseeing the management and delivery of a number of targeted services helping vulnerable people.

Based in Stratford upon Avon: Outreach Advice Caseworkers Ref OAC/16 £21,732 – 11.25 hours or 15 hours (or combined) and 1.375 hours for lunch £26,400 – 37.5 hours per week, based in Stratford upon Avon and Warwick Districts

You will become part of a outreach team who provide support to individuals experiencing poverty and hardship, working with them to tackle the issues they face.

Research and Campaigns Worker Ref RCW/16 £21,732, 25.25 hours per week

We are looking for an enthusiastic and passionate individual with a social justice and research campaign to help us create positive change in people’s lives.

For an application pack, visit the Work with Us section on our website at www.stratforduponavoncab.org.uk.

Please telephone 07896 245 333 for further information. The closing date is 18th April 2016.
CARL Adams says Stratford Town “can’t believe” they were beaten at Frome, but has bemoaned his side’s wasteful finishing at the Blindmans Brewery Stadium on Saturday.

Town missed a string of good chances to take an early lead in Somerset and were made to pay in the second half.

The defeat ensured Town are still not mathematically safe from relegation, with two points still required to ensure Evo-Stik Southern League Premier Division safety.

“I feel we controlled the first half, but if you don’t take your chances it will cost you in the end,” said Adams.

“We missed two sitters early on and then we got punished by conceding two soft goals in the second half.

“So we’re still not safe yet and we know it will be difficult against Poole on Tuesday.

“They will be looking to clinch the league title as well as getting revenge for our win down there a couple of weeks ago.”

Frome upped the tempo after the break and went ahead through Dylan Brown.

And 12 minutes later, they doubled their lead when Brown floated over a left wing corner and it glanced off the unfortified Marcel Simpson and into the net the helpless Cutts.

Bideford are the only team in the relegation zone who can catch Town, although they would need to win all of their remaining four matches to stand any chance of avoiding the drop.