Olympic hurdler shares success with young athletes

OLYMPIC silver medalist, and two-time world record holder and world champion, Colin Jackson, has hosted a mentoring session at Stratford-on-Avon Leisure Centre.

The British hurdler was in town last Wednesday, 25th October, to talk to local athletes in his role as an ambassador of Everyone Active’s Sporting Champions scheme.

Colin and his media production team, Red Shoes LTD, delivered two workshops for athletes, which offered advice and guidance on promoting themselves in the media, and time management.

He said: “It was truly inspiring to speak to athletes of all ages about their sporting experiences, and I hope that the event provided them with a whole host of skills that will help guide them through their sporting careers.”

The Sporting Champions scheme helps athletes to achieve national and international sporting success by offering them gold, silver or bronze tiers of sponsorship.

These packages provide them with funding of up to £5,000 to help towards training, equipment, travel and competition costs, as well as access to over 150 of Everyone Active’s leisure centres nationwide.

In its first year, Everyone Active’s Sporting Champions invested more than £100,000 in helping over 130 athletes to achieve success, and has pledged to invest a further £1 million over the next three years, with the aim of having 500 athletes signed up by the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics.

Duncan Jefford, Everyone Active’s regional director, said: “As the longest established leisure operator in the UK, we recognise how important it is to support sporting talent in the areas we operate in.

“We are passionate about delivering top quality training facilities nationwide, and we are delighted that we are able to provide 300 athletes with access to our centres through the Sporting Champions scheme.”

By Ben Lugg
blugg@stratford-herald.com

New figures show clean up bill continues to rise

Taxpayers funding £17k fly-tipping costs

By Ben Lugg
blugg@stratford-herald.com

FLY-tipping is continuing to rise in Stratford with the district council spending more than £17,000 over the last year clearing up mess.

Newly-published figures show there were 291 incidents across the district between April 2016 and March this year. That was slightly up on the previous year when Stratford District Council paid £14,462 clearing up waste, with 282 incidents reported.

During that two-year period the council also spent more than £4,300 investigating incidents, but did not manage to recover any of that money through fines.

However it is believed the council has had more success on this front since April this year.

Cllr Mike Brain, community and technical services portfolio holder for the council, said: “Fly-tipping is on the increase nationwide. The additional costs encountered by the district council last year were down to the investigative works carried out by our officers to identify offenders.

“Since April this year, we now have the ability to issue fixed penalty notices, which is £400, for fly-tipping, which makes it more effective to enforce against fly-tippers.

“We had our first fixed penalty notice paid this year, and one successful prosecution where the offender was fined £6,000 and the district council was awarded costs of £3,100.

“The council is committed to enforcing against fly-tipping, and will issue fixed penalty notices or prosecute where possible. CCTV and public evidence is invaluable in catching and successfully prosecuting culprits carrying out this anti-social behaviour.”

In neighbouring Warwick district, the number of fly-tipping incidents is significantly higher, but fell to 835 incidents between April 2016 and March this year, at a clean up cost of around £30,000 compared to 1,092 incidents the previous year.
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GLAMPING will continue at Warwick Castle despite fierce opposition from heritage organisations.

The Conservation Area Advisory Forum, which has the Warwick Society and the Warwickshire Gardens Trust among its members, tried to block plans to allow the luxury tents to be used on Foxes Field in the grounds of the castle during the summer months for another five years.

The number of tents — first put up in 2015 — has been reduced from 43 to 37, and toilet and shower blocks from six to three.

But the influential group said they would still have a detrimental effect on what they described as a nationally and internationally significant area of the Grade I-registered castle park.

They said the historic site’s continued use for glamping, combined with the permanent lodges, would result in ‘an over-intensification’ and give a ‘potentially squalid’ appearance of the site.

They admitted that Foxes Study was not part of the land that was worked on by ‘Capability’ Brown, but that ‘does not diminish its significance’.

Former Tory leader and metro mayor speak at business conference

FORMER Conservative party leader, Iain Duncan Smith, was the keynote speaker at a major business conference at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Stratford on Friday.

The architect of welfare reforms was among a number of speakers at the Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce’s annual economic conference. They included Andy Street CBE – the former chief executive of John Lewis and recently elected mayor of the West Midlands. See Thursday’s Herald for an interview with Mr Street.
RSC chiefs sign industry pledge on harassment claims

By Ben Lugg
blugg@stratford-herald.com

The RSC has joined other theatre organisations in declaring that there can be no place for sexual harassment or abuse of power in the theatre industry.

Executive director, Catherine Mallyon, and artistic director, Gregory Doran, have both signed the statement which says that unacceptable behaviour will be swiftly challenged.

Representatives from 24 other theatre organisations have signed the statement, which has been released in response to reports and allegations of sexual harassment against high profile figures in recent weeks.

The statement reads: “Following the reports and allegations of the last two weeks, first in America and, more recently, closer to home, we have come together to make clear that there can be no place for sexual harassment or abuse of power in our industry.

“We salute the bravery of everyone who calls out this abusive behaviour. We support a theatre culture that empowers people to speak up: a culture where abuse of power is always challenged.

“We are committed to working together to ensure that theatre is a safe space for all, where everyone is respected and listened to.

“It is the responsibility of the industry to create and nurture a culture where unacceptable behaviour is swiftly challenged and addressed.

“We want to be absolutely clear and say again: there is no room for sexual harassment or abuse of power in the theatre.

“Everyone deserves to enjoy a happy, healthy and safe working environment. We will support you to speak out, and we will hear you when you do.”

Other signatories are Rupert Goold and Denise Wood from the Almeida Theatre, Tom Morris and Emma Stenning from Bristol Old Vic, Vicky Featherstone and Lucy Davies from the Royal Court Theatre, and Emma Rice from Shakespeare’s Globe.

Written warnings

A WARWICKSHIRE Police officer has received a written warning after a misconduct hearing found he breached the force’s professional standards code of conduct.

PC Ben Trowman was said to have failed to take a vulnerable man to an appropriate place of safety in February last year.

A misconduct hearing last week ruled the actions of PC Trowman and his colleague at the time, PS Peter Nightingale, who is employed by West Mercia Police, breached the Standards of Professional Behaviour in the area of Duties and Responsibilities and Discreditable Conduct.

Both can appeal the ruling.

Chief Inspector Rebecca Love, of the professional standards department for Warwickshire Police and West Mercia Police, said: “We expect all our officers and staff to recognise that a person is vulnerable if, as a result of their situation or circumstances, they are unable to take care of, or protect themselves or others from, harm or exploitation.”

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Valuable watch taken in house burglary

A BREITLING watch was stolen during a burglary at a house on Prince Harry Road in Henley.

Police said offenders broke in through a back door and then ransacked the house, before taking the valuable, Swiss-made watch. It happened sometime between 8pm and 11pm on Friday, 27th October.

Toddlers’ Halloween home visit

RESIDENTS at Ambleside care home in Stratford had a visit from a local nursery for an afternoon of trick or treating.

Children from Monkey Puzzle Nursery dressed as witches, unicorns, pumpkins and werewolves for the special Halloween visit to the home on Evesham Road. In addition to trick or treating, the nursery children played Halloween-themed games, including pin the spider on the web and pumpkin skittles.

They also helped award a prize to the suite with the spookiest decorations.

Clare Mudge, home manager at Ambleside, said: “We are always looking to plan interesting and exciting activities for residents, and the afternoon proved to be a real success.

“You could see from residents’ reactions just how much they enjoyed spending time with the nursery children.

“Intergenerational relationships have been proven to be beneficial to older people, and it was certainly a highlight of the day for the residents, and we look forward to welcoming the children back soon!”

Pictured above is Ambleside care home resident Mary Horner with children from Monkey Puzzle Nursery. (Submitted photo)
‘No plans to end role of PCSOs’

THERE are no plans to axe the role of PCSO in Warwickshire.

The message comes in the wake of proposals by Norfolk Police which could see all 150 of its PCSO roles scrapped.

Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner, Philip Seccombe, said: “Warwickshire Police operates as a single workforce and police staff, including Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs), play a very important role in enabling frontline policing.

“They support police officers in keeping our communities safe, protecting the vulnerable and helping to detect and prevent crime. I made the commitment in my Police and Crime Plan to keep our Safer Neighbourhood Teams as the bedrock of our policing within communities and during my term of office the number of police officers and PCSOs has in fact increased across Warwickshire.

“While there are financial challenges ahead, which mean that a similar increase in numbers may not be possible into the future, there are no plans to abolish the role of PCSO here in Warwickshire because they do make such a valuable contribution, particularly around engaging with our communities.

“The Chief Constable is focused on ensuring he has the right resources in the right places to deal with the changing nature of crime and neighbourhood policing remains — and will continue to remain — an integral part of that.

“My focus is on ensuring that Warwickshire Police makes the best use of the resources it has to maintain frontline policing, while continuing to argue the case at national level for the government to give increased investment to policing.”

Editor talks on Brexit

HUGO Dixon, the editor in chief of the anti-Brexit website InFacts.org, is the guest speaker at the next meeting of pro-EU group Stratford4Europe, writes Charlie Bolton.

Hugo Dixon will be at Stratford College tomorrow, Wednesday, to discuss reasons why Britain should remain within the EU.

The talk — titled Stop Brexit: The Facts — will start at 7pm.

Mr Dixon says his website contains careful, well-researched analysis of Brexit claims. And he believes that there is a real chance of stopping Brexit altogether because EU supporters have the strongest arguments.

Entry is free and tickets are available at www.eventbrite.co.uk

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A MAN who injured a police officer by driving at him during an incident in Stratford has been told by a judge that a prison sentence ‘has to at least be considered’.

Barrie Pearce had pleaded not guilty at Warwick Crown Court to attempting to inflict grievous bodily harm on PC Scott Caswell with intent to cause him serious injury. But at a further hearing, prosecutor, Simon Hunka, asked for a little-used offence of causing bodily harm by wanton and furious driving to be added to the indictment, which Pearce, aged 26, of Cross Street, Burton-on-Trent, admitted.

He had earlier pleaded guilty to driving his Ford Focus dangerously in Hathaway Green Lane on 27th November last year, and a further offence of driving with excess alcohol, after the court heard a breath test showed an alcohol reading of 71 – just over twice the legal limit.

PC Caswell was responding to a call expressing concern for the welfare of a man at a property in Hathaway Green Lane, but when he arrived at the scene Pearce drove towards him, and he was hit by the Focus, receiving injuries to his arm and hand, for which he was treated at hospital.

Deputy Judge Phillip Wassall adjourned the hearing until mid-December for pre-sentence and psychiatric reports to be prepared, and Pearce, who is already subject to an interim driving ban, was bailed.
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TV adventurer’s classic car run

Charley Boorman was representing the Movember Foundation in Sunday’s London to Brighton Veteran Car Run behind the wheel of a 1904 Rover 8hp.

A 1904 Rover 8hp from the British Motor Museum in Gaydon was among the cars at Sunday’s London to Brighton Veteran Car Run.

TV presenter, adventurer and travel writer, Charley Boorman, was behind the wheel of the oldest surviving Rover car.

It was one of six cars from the museum’s collection that took part in this year’s run.

A 1901 Wolseley 10hp tonneau was driven by motoring journalist Quentin Willson, while The British Motor Industry Heritage Trust’s new chairman, Kevin Timms, drove a 1904 Thornycroft 20hp tonneau.

That was driven last year by Lindsey Russell from Blue Peter and in 2014 by Olympic legend, Sir Steve Redgrave.

Also taking part was the museum’s 1899 Wolseley 3½hp voiturette, 1902 Albion A1 dog-cart and 1904 Wolseley 6hp phaeton.

The Bonhams London to Brighton Veteran Car Run supported by Hiscox is a premier event in the annual motoring calendar and has been running longer than any other in the world.

It marks the historic day in 1896 when a group of pioneer motorists set out from London towards the seaside, in celebration of the ‘emancipation of the motor car’.

Stephen Laing, curator at the British Motor Museum, said: “The run is one of the most exhilarating and exclusive motoring adventures in the world. These wonderful cars are all more than a century old and are some of the rarest and finest models from our collection.”

Watching 400 veteran cars take part in the Run is an amazing and nostalgic experience.”

TEAM Karen, pictured left, were the winners of The Myton Hospices’ second annual Golf Day which raised £17,508.63.

Twenty seven teams went head-to-head at Stoneleigh Deer Park Golf Course on Thursday, 28th September.

The winners took watches and a trophy, while second and third place won golf bags, umbrellas and other golfing items. They were Tollbar Tigers and The Tractor Boys.

The day also included nearest the pin competitions, a raffle, an evening meal and auction.

Corporate fundraiser at The Myton Hospices, Abigail Smith, said: “We would like to say a huge thank you to all of the teams who took part and helped to achieve a great atmosphere on the day, as well as donating prizes and getting involved in the various games.”

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The winners took watches and a trophy, while second and third place won golf bags, umbrellas and other golfing items. They were Tollbar Tigers and The Tractor Boys.

The day also included nearest the pin competitions, a raffle, an evening meal and auction.

Corporate fundraiser at The Myton Hospices, Abigail Smith, said: “We would like to say a huge thank you to all of the teams who took part and helped to achieve a great atmosphere on the day, as well as donating prizes and getting involved in the various games.”
BUSINESS leaders say companies across the region saw last week’s rise in interest rates to 0.5 per cent coming but will still be concerned about further increases.

The Bank of England’s Monetary Policy Committee put interest rates up for the first time in a decade today, Thursday, which the Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce said was broadly expected.

“This rise is restoring rates to their pre-Brexit levels which, at the time, was a record low anyway,” Louise Bennett, chief executive of the Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce, said.

“So we don’t believe companies across our patch will be dramatically concerned by this individual rise as it has been widely predicted. We feel it is still slightly early when you look at the economic performance over the past 12 months.

“The real concern is where interest rates might go and how quickly. There is still huge uncertainty around Brexit, and economic growth is some way short of where we want it to be.

“There are inflationary pressures, which the Bank will have considered in this decision, but they have not come from a sudden rise in consumer confidence but, actually, a weakening of the pound which has driven up the cost on imported goods.

“Businesses used to watch with interest on every first Thursday of the month to see where rates would go but that hasn’t been the case for many years now — I have no doubt we will be monitoring interest rates with a keen eye from now on.”

A SHOP selling Christmas cards in aid of 25 charities has opened for business at the United Reformed Church on Rother Street, Stratford.

It was opened on Wednesday, 18th October, by Mayor Victoria Alcock, and will remain open until Wednesday 13th December.
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Land Rover’s award hat-trick

THE new Land Rover Discovery has been named Scotland’s Car of the Year by the Association of Scottish Motoring Writers.

The award follows the Discovery winning in 2009 and the Range Rover Sport going notably further in both road and off-road capabilities. The Discovery 4 is the last ten years, with the Discovery 4 really can climb mountains and ford streams — yet does all this while also being brilliant around town, on country roads and motorways.

"A practical seven-seater that is luxurious and all-capable, the Discovery is the complete package,” said: “This latest Scottish Car of the Year award follows the Discovery winning the 2009 and the Range Rover Evoque in 2011. This is a hugely important market for Jaguar Land Rover, and we are very proud of it. I’m also delighted to announce that in recognition of this award and as a thank you to the association, and the people of Scotland for their support of Land Rover over the years, we will be donating a Discovery to Scotland’s Charity Air Ambulance (SCAA) for six months to help them reach 90 per cent of the population within 25 minutes and since its launch in 2005.

Mr Park added: “The association has supported SCAA for the past three years throughout, very reliable, fitted towbar. Bring your parts to us for repair or collection service provided by a race-prepared Ford 2-Litre displaced by a race-prepared Ford 2-Litre engine with an RS Turbo head.

Other finalists in the Scottish Car of the Year Awards are:
- Compact — Suzuki Ignis Supermini — Ford Fiesta
- Drop Top — Mazda MX-5 RF
- Executive — BMW 5 Series
- Estate — Volvo V90 Cross Country
- Compact Crossover — MINI Countryman
- Crossover — Mazda CX-5
- SUV — Land Rover Discovery
- Hot Hatch — Ford Focus RS Mountune Sports — McLaren 720S
- Seven Seater — Skoda Kodiaq
- Eco — Suzuki Swift Boosterjet
- Used — Skoda Yeti
- Design and Innovation — DS Automobiles Contactless Payment Car Key

\[\text{\footnotesize{To advertise call 01789 412801/2}}\]
Notice is hereby given that application has been made to the Stratford upon Avon District Council for Planning Permission for a scheme comprising of: partial demolition of an existing building together with the construction of a single storey rear/side extension, rooflights to facilitate loft conversion at House, Church Street, Stratford upon Avon.

Variation of condition no.2 of planning permission reference 15/02554/FUL, dated 22/09/2016, to change the window opening on the main road side and the dormer to the rear side at School House Hanover Road Stratford-upon-Avon CV3 4RR for Mr & Mrs D L Langman.

Replacement of 1no. window on first floor level of south elevation, and repair of 1no. window on ground floor level of west elevation at School House Hanover Road Stratford-upon-Avon CV3 4RR for Mr & Mrs D L Langman.

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Boss delighted with Stratford response

STRATFORD Town boss Carl Adams felt his side were worthy winners as they eased to a 3-1 victory over Bishop’s Stortford at the MoodChimp Stadium on Saturday.

Town lost 3-0 to Frome last Wednesday, but they bounced back to winning ways thanks to goals from Will Grocott, Eli Bako and Ben Stephens.

“After Frome on Wednesday the result was all that mattered,” said Adams, who now prepares his team for two crucial cup ties in five days.

“I felt that we were much the better side and I was really pleased with the way we played.

“It was a tremendous response after what happened at Frome although it must be emphasised that we had a number of senior players missing down there which obviously had an impact.

“We now face a crucial week with the two cup ties at Redditch and Lancaster. Given the importance of the Lancaster game I will probably try to rest a few at Redditch on Tuesday, but Mike Taylor is already struggling for that one anyway after coming off on Saturday, so I have limited options.”

After a quiet opening, it was the visitors who were first to threaten when George Casey surged into the penalty area in the 20th minute, only for Loyiso Recci to make a vital block and then recover instantly to repeat his heroics from the rebound.

Soon after, two fierce efforts in quick succession from Freddy Moncur were deflected behind off Town defenders before Adams’ side took the lead on 34 minutes. Justin Marsden made ground into the penalty area where he brought down by Marvel Ekipteta and Grocott sent keeper Tyler McCarthy the wrong way from the spot.

Town always looked the more lively of the two teams in the second half, and after Grocott had shot straight at McCarthy after exchanging passes with Lee Thomas on the hour mark, Town began to dominate possession and it was Grocott’s wizardry which led to them wrapping up the points with two goals in five minutes.

On 70 minutes, Grocott floated over the corner it was headed back in by Recci, and chested over the line by Eli Bako.

And five minutes later it was Grocott’s slide-rule pass which released Stephens down the middle and he ran on to slot past the advancing McCarthy.

Substitute Callum Taylor hit what could only be a late consolation for Bishop’s Stortford with four minutes left.

Follow @herald_sport on Twitter for live updates from around the district.

● Lee Thomas in action for Stratford Town against Bishop’s Stortford at the MoodChimp Stadium on Saturday.