DETECTIVES have revealed they are investigating yet another claim of fraud allegedly carried out by the disgraced former Tipton Town FC chairman Bill Williams.

Officers say they are probing a further three cases after the accountant was jailed for illegally pocketing more than £276,000 from the life insurance and pension policies of a number of local business owners.

Police spokesman Lee Page said: “We have had contact from three other people who claim they have been duped by Bill Williams.”

Father-of-two Bill is just days away from a five-to-six-year prison term for taking cash to the daughter of murdered South Staffordshire company director Andrew Ross.

Williams, a grandfather of two of Chester Road, West Bromwich, spent the cash on luxury family holidays to the USA, seaside breaks at Butlin’s and lavish parties.

#Heartless - Page 2

GETTING ready for their latest production from the Mayhem Theatre Group are, from left, David Francis, Mark Moran, right, as well as Allan Love from the Black Country ukulele players The B Cups

It is the first time the plays are to be performed together and a licensed bar will be open on each night. Both productions are one acts long.

Tickets for the shows are £4 each or £7 for two.

For more information call 0121 569 6549 or from Specs Maxiax, 358 Hagley Road, Halesowen.

Lord Lloyd Webber.

A FOUNDRY which pioneered the manufacture of steam locomotives in line to benefit from a £2 million fund set up by English Heritage and Lord Andrew Lloyd Webber.

The Foster and Rastwick Foundry site in Lowndes Road, Stourbridge, has been named on a list of historic buildings being considered for the Challenge Fund, which supports efforts to save listed buildings.

“The Grade 1 building has been on English Heritage’s register of being seriously at risk since 1999. It is rapidly falling into disrepair and is regularly targeted by vandals,” said Lord Lloyd Webber.

The healthcare complex would be named The Lion Medical Centre in recognition of the foundry manufacturing the first steam locomotives to run commercially in America in 1829. It was known as the Stourbridge Lion.

Recently awarded £450,000 from an investment package, the foundry has applied for a further £600,000 to convert the site into a state-of-the-art medical centre.

The new fund, which will be launched later this month, aims to save 200 Grade 1 and II* listed buildings.
Prison for accountant who preyed on life’s vulnerable

THE former chairman of Tipton Town FC has started a five-and-a-half year jail sentence for pocketing more than £276,000 from life insurance and pension policies of a murdered father.

Accountant Bill Williams splashed the cash on luxury holidays, business men’s lunches and lavish family parties. Thousands was also ploughed into Tipton Town FC, while the rest was spent on clearing debts and office improvements for his Dudley-based accountancy business.

Paying
Now it can be revealed Williams also ripped off pensioner Ronald and Sheila Haynes for £97,000 in a separate fraud. He was paying that money back at a rate of £2,000 a month but around £60,000 is still owed to the Walsall couple, who had enlisted the father of two as an accountant.

“When Ron was diagnosed in 2008, I was advised by doctors to get power of attorney and to get an accountant to help out with their tax and £600,000 was in the account,” said Mrs Haynes.

Bromwich, advised the retired care worker to take £97,000 from a series of bank accounts, close them down and hand over cheque books and account details to him for money to be remitted into one account. “At the end of 2008 I asked him for some of our money for a holiday but he never came up with it,” said the mother-of-two, whose 78-year-old partner had been previously owned Ronald Haynes Transport.

In 2009, we were having the house refurbished. I got in touch with Bill but again, there was no money. Mrs Haynes sought the advice of her son who later took over the policy. After being contacted, Williams agreed to pay back £24,000 a month to avoid charges.

Account
“Unfortunately for the Walsall family, it was a decision she felt was necessary to secure their future. It was a very difficult time,” said Mrs Haynes. “I’m just not the same person any more. I’ve been scarred because of what he has done.”

The grandmother-of-seven, who has two great-grandchildren, said Williams had been sentenced to 29 years in prison for life’s vulnerable.

When Ronald Haynes was diagnosed with dementia, his loving wife Sheila decided to enlist the help of an accountant to handle their considerable life savings. It was a decision she felt was necessary to secure their future.

But unfortunately for the Walsall family, the accountant they engaged, Bill Williams, of Chester Road, West Bromwich, advised the retired care worker to take £97,000 from a series of bank accounts, close them down and hand over cheque books and account details to him for money to be remitted into one account.

“Unfortunately, when you turn that coin, it is not always to you,” said Mr Andrew Diack, whose 59-year-old father had been targeted by Williams.

Disgraced grandfather conned elderly couple

Victim – Andrew Diack and girlfriend Rachel Evans

When Ronald Haynes was diagnosed with dementia, his loving wife Sheila decided to enlist the help of an accountant to handle their considerable life savings. It was a decision she felt was necessary to secure their future.

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**£3m of fake goods are seized over 12 months**

Trainee keeper Sam steps towards his big cat dream

Almost £3 million worth of fake goods were confiscated by trading standards officers in Sandwell last year, including up to £2 million of counterfeit designer clothing.

Officers also took legal action to seize cash in 12 UK bank accounts and one bank account in Spain, as well as a house in the UK, an apartment in Spain, land in Brazil and over £11,000 of jewellery. The fake goods confiscated between January and July 2010 were 2,957 pairs of headphones worth up to £225,000; a total of 3,000 video games worth up to £140,750; and 400 items of fake designer clothing including Karen Millen dresses and UGG boots worth up to £22 million.

**Prosecution**

In the latter part of the year, 1,000 Nintendo DS games worth up to £18,000 were seized, along with 1,500 other video games and 40 Xbox consoles worth up to £50,000.

Once fake goods have been picked up trading standards officers can apply to freeze suspect bank accounts under the Proceeds of Crime Act.

“Following a successful prosecution a confiscation order can be awarded, which means the guilty party has to pay back the money they have illegally obtained. This could mean they have to sell homes, land or cars.”

This year’s seizures figures have gone up from just £1 million last year.

**Choirs in harmony to help boost Action for Children**

Two Halesowen choirs will come together for a special charity performance.

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**Trainee Dudley Zoo keeper Sam Grove with his certificate**

Trainee zoo keeper Sam Grove has passed his first animal care studies course with flying colours at Dudley Zoo.

The 16-year-old of Norton, Stourbridge, joined the attraction two years ago and has now gained a qualification which is the equivalent of an NVQ 2 in Animal Care.

He will now begin a two-year advanced diploma course in the management of zoo animals, which will qualify him as a fully-qualified zoo keeper. Before becoming a trainee, Sam worked part-time in the zoo’s gift shop and also helped out at the car park.

He said: “The course was about basic care and learning how to look after animals at the zoo. I worked at the farm, and with birds, primates and ungulates. Dudley Zoo chief executive Peter Suddock said: “Sam has proved himself as an even more enthusiastic and is a suitable candidate to become a fully-qualified keeper. He is very willing worker who is committed to his role and has shown good communication skills as a member of our dedicated team.”

Once qualified the teenager hopes to work with big cats and primates.

The zoo is open daily from 10am with last admission at 4pm. The entrance fee for adults is £12.50, including a conservation donation.

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Heavy metal’s crossover into the world of fashion

OUTLANDISH hairstyles, denim chains and T-shirts rocked the catwalk at a heavy metal-themed fashion show in the Black Country.

The Home of Metal event was to promote an exhibition of the same name launching Country’s place as the home of heavy metal fashion show in the Black Country.

A fashion show on June 8 at Wolverhampton Art Gallery, watched by more than 100 people, featured 30 models parading outfits made by fashion and textile students from the city university’s MA Heavy fashion and textiles students.

Fashion and textiles lecturer Michael Rutley said: “The hard work, effort and energy put in by everyone was impressive.”

Over at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, a giant crucifix used by Black Sabbath is the centrepiece of an exhibition. The cross, which featured in Black Sabbath’s stage set for the 1981-82 Mob Rules World Tour, is 60 high and 16 wide. It was found in a back garden and acquired by music store Professional Music Technology, at Lawley Mid-shaw in the city.

For further information and to book tickets for the Home of Metal exhibition, call 0121 3031966.
Ghostly goings-on as Crooked House set to have a starring role in new film

IT has been famous across the Midlands for hundreds of years for its slanting appearance and resident ghosts. But now the Crooked House pub in Himley is set to attract a new legion of fans — the star of its own movie. Los Angeles-based film-maker Mark Todd, who comes from Wednesbury, has written a screenplay called The Crooked House. The ghost story was inspired by the pub’s name and Mr Todd, aged 46, believes American audiences will love it. He said: “There is a real fascination with Englishness and the feedback I have received so far has been great.” It has interested an American production company and filming should start in October.

It tells the story of an LA-based English film director who buys the Crooked House and moves in with his American wife. Soon ghosts start to appear and set off a chain of events, climaxing in a showdown.

While shooting the movie he will also make a documentary about ghosts in the Dudley area — looking in

Film fame - The Crooked House pub and owners, brothers Wayne and Jason Penn, are set to have a starring role in a new American film. The ghost story was inspired by the pub’s name and Mr Todd, aged 46, believes American audiences will love it. He said: “There is a real fascination with Englishness and the feedback I have received so far has been great.” It has interested an American production company and filming should start in October.

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Coachwork team lines up new work

A RESTORATION team at Kidderminster’s Severn Valley Railway is already lining up new projects after returning an old British Railways coach to its former glory.

It was the first external contract completed by SVR Carriage Contracts, which was launched last year to take on work from outside the railway and bringing in extra cash for the attraction.

The former British Railways (Western Region) auto coach, dating from 1953, has now been taken back to the Dean Forest Railway, in Gloucestershire.

Striping roof

It was given a new coat of paint, in British Railways crimson livery of the 1960s, and christened ‘Chaffinch’ at the request of its owner.

But the restoration team are not resting on their laurels and already have a number of projects in the pipeline to keep them busy over the coming months.

The three-strong team will be working on one of the railway’s own vehicles next – a diesel multiple unit carriage dating from the 1960s.

They will be stripping the roof and side of the carriage of its old paintwork and giving it a new coat.

The project is expected to take around two months to complete.

Carriage fitters Chris Lawley and Tim Davie finish work on the 1953 auto coach which has been carefully restored at the Severn Valley Railway

The former British Railways (Western Region) auto coach, dating from 1953, has now been taken back to the Dean Forest Railway, in Gloucestershire.

The restored coach, renamed Chaffinch, seen in all its former glory

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First chapter for crucial shop

FUNDRAISERS and volunteers started a new chapter for a Black Country charity as they helped celebrate the opening of its first book shop.

Seabridge-based Mary Stevens Hospice has opened the first floor book store in its flagship premises in the town’s high street.

Staff at the hospice say the store, in the former Mark and Moody stationers shop, is crucial to help plug gaps in its funding during the tough economic times.

Radio WM presenter Jenny Wilkes helped cut the ribbon at the book store along with pupils from Ridgewood High School and The Ridge Primary pupils with lottery field manager Diane Moore, book shop manager Hilary Bullock, radio presenter Jenny Wilkes and chairman Gerald Wood

MP takes up battle in fire stations axe row

PLANS to merge two Midland fire stations may put public safety at risk, firefighters say.

This move would leave only one fire engine at a new station and see the loss of 28 frontline firefighter posts, they claim.

Halesowen MP James Morris has voiced concern about closing Cradley Heath and Halesowen fire stations and opening one station as a replacement.

Plans to merge were discussed two years ago but put on hold after public concern. The service says plans were revived and revised after funding uncertainty. There would be one crew at the new station instead of two originally proposed.

Andy Dennis of the Fire Brigades Union said 96 frontline jobs were lost this year. He added: “These are deep cuts to the front line and where the Government promise of no cuts to frontline public services was worthless.”

Oppose

The number of fire stations available to crew fire engines for immediate callout has been reduced to dangerous levels.

He said at least two fully staffed fire engines were needed to safely deal with a house fire or collision.

The service says there will not be compulsory firefighter redundancies but others could not be ruled out.

Meanwhile, Tory MP Mr Morris said: “I will also be writing to the fire authority seeking clarification on a number of issues. In particular, seeking guarantees that service levels will be maintained, as safety for everyone in Halesowen and Dudley Regis is of paramount importance.”

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Hosepipe ban likely unless the rain falls

SEVERN TRENT has warned that the Midlands needs a prolonged spell of rainfall to remove the threat of a summer hosepipe ban.

The water company - which supplies eight million customers across England and Wales - has confirmed there is a likelihood of restrictions to supply.

GBM union bosses have claimed a hosepipe ban is likely within a week unless there is persistent rain.

It blamed the company’s new computer system but this was denied by Severn Trent Water.

Last month the water company missed a leakage target, blaming severe winter weather for a rise in the number of broken pipes - but said it was the first missed leakage target for five years.

Return

Andy Wolfe of Severn Trent Water said: “There is an increasing likelihood of water restrictions unless we see a return to seasonal average rainfall within the next future. The situation is under constant review and no decision has been taken.

“Parts of the Midlands have seen the wettest winter in recent years and springtime records began.”

“The combination of the long dry spell and increased customer demand has put pressure on supply resources.

“The introduction of any major computer system is challenging, but we refute entirely the suggestion that the current water resources situation is a result of the introduction of the new system or mismanagement.”

The Met Office said overall England and Wales had 45 per cent of the long-term average rainfall for March, April and May.

Met Office chiefs said there was little sign of relief over the next few months.

Patients to Link up for talks on service improvements

DUDLEY patients can discuss what they would like to see at a Dudley Local Involvement Network (LIN) event on June 20.

Dudley LIN staff will be at Kingswinford Library, Market Street, Kingswinford, 11am-2pm to chat about concerns or issues people would like to raise.

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Owners of a quarry in Dudley have been warned to stop dust swamping nearby homes after a businessman said his £2 million house had been degraded in a “shocking” way.

Millionaires Tony Whittaker, owner of the Delph Road Industrial Estate in Brierley Hill and a property developer, lives next door to the quarry run by FG Davies, in Enville Road, Wall Heath.

He called on officers from South Staffordshire District Council’s environmental health department last Friday after dust clouds swept across homes.

“It was like a blizzard,” said 69-year-old Mr Whittaker. He has pledged £2,000 to anyone professional consultants preparing a case against proposals from FG Davies for a second sand and gravel quarry.

“Nobody would be able to put their washing out, cars are covered in the dust and I dread to think about children inhaling it,” he added.

Measures
Steve Waterhouse, chief executive of South Staffordshire District Council, said: “The quarry hasn’t put down dust suppressant, which is basically water to prevent it blowing away. We have seen the operator and told them they need to step up their act on this, which they agreed to do.”

FG Davies owner Michael Davis said: “We are taking measures in place to make sure the dust is dealt with as soon as possible.”

Dave Tyler, aged 64, of Victoria Street, Wall Heath, claims to have found Japanese knotweed growing at the Enville Road quarry.

“Mike Davies, director of FG Ltd, a sister company of FG Davies, said: ‘We were aware of Japanese knotweed growing here but we look at that.’

TRIBUTES have been paid to a much loved Midland Second World War veteran who has died.

Cyril Ashley, aged 97, gave talks to pupils at Alexandra High School in Tipton about his experiences during the war.

Mr Ashley from Claverley, died on June 1 after a short illness.

Mr Ashley, who served with the 1st Airborne Division in Europe and as an officer in the 7th Battalion, King’s Own Scottish Borderers, was involved in the failed Market Garden operation to seize a bridge in the Dutch town of Arnhem.

He was captured after leading his platoon through a country lane when they were ambushed.

At one of his school talks he told pupils that platoons took turns to be in the front, the most dangerous position. “We had just got out of the buck when we were ambushed by the Germans and every single man in the front platoon was killed. It was so nearly us,” he said.

After the war he married Elsie, “the lovely Wren in the British Legion”. They had two sons and five grandchildren.

His funeral was being held today (June 16) in Claverley.

Billary Brown, organiser of the school’s veterans club, said: “He was a lovely man with a fabulous sense of humour, and was popular with the children.

Cyrl Ashley with pupils Laura Summers, right, and Sam Bates at Alexandra High School.
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Falling ward put in special measures

A FAILING ward at Sandwell Hospital has been placed in special measures due to concerns over the standards of care.

High staff absences, a rising number of falls and "patient dignity issues" were among the concerns associated with the ward.

The decision was made a month after the Newton 4 ward – which cares for stroke patients – was named as one of seven national "worst wards" by the NHS Trust.

The 30-bed unit was placed in special measures by hospital bosses last week, after standards failed to improve.

Agency

Jenni Shipton, spokeswoman for the hospital trust, said: "In March we had some vacancies on the ward, sickness absence was very high and we were very reliant on agency staff.

"We had some concerns that patients were not being assessed and readmissions weren’t being carried out consistently, fall rates had risen and there were some concerns raised about dignity.

"We made changes and gave the ward more support but it wasn’t improving quickly enough, she added.

The image is among a number released by Network Rail to mark Level Crossing Awareness Day last Thursday.

There were eight near misses at Langley Green last year including two incidents where vehicles were hit by barriers and a third when a van tried to ‘zig-zag’ between barriers.

Network Rail route director Jo Kaye said: "Langley Green crossing is a particular problem for us.

"We often have to stop the road barriers lowering because somebody is making a last minute dash across.

"Pedestrians and cyclists are just as guilty as car and lorry drivers, as our latest CCTV clips show.

"Stopping the barriers in mid-sequoia results in delays to traffic and possibly missed connections for passengers," she added.

"Vehicles weaving round lowering barriers or speeding through them pose a danger to themselves and other road users and pedestrians. There is also a real possibility that they will collide with the barrier."

The cyclist pictured was injured by the barrier at Langley Green in March. Elsewhere in the Black Country there were eight other near-misses in 2010 while Staffordshire had 28 incidents.
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**Weighing in with a fine collection of glass art**

**Demonstrator Karl Moidie with some of the museum’s paperweights.**

**HUNDREDS of visitors are expected to descend on a Black Country park for its annual summer festival this weekend. This year’s Wordsley Festival will take place in King George V Park, off Bells Lane, on Saturday. The event has been organised by the Wordsley Festival Group which has drafted in event management company Stourbridge and Black Country Events. Festival organiser Mick Davies said he wanted the event to replicate the success of the Wordsley Carnivals of the 1980s and 1990s. The carnival raised around £150,000 for good causes in more than 20 years. “Ideally we’d love to start giving money back to charity but it is not possible at the moment but the event doesn’t make a profit,” he said. “The money that we make is going to make sure we can fund the next year’s event. We have had grants in the past but they were only for one year so we have to bring in the funding ourselves.” High-flying stunt riders and shows from popular children’s television characters are among the treats in store for families attending the big day. The festival curtain-raiser was the Wordsley charity Fun Run held yesterday (Wednesday) around a two-mile course in the park. Runners were able to nominate their own charity. On the Saturday, Fifi and the Flower Tots TV characters Fifi and Bumble will be around during the event. Stuntman Ryan Griffiths will be staging a motorcycle stunt show. The event dates back to the original Wordsley Galam in 1946.**
Shelters for bikes at station
TWO cycle shelters will be installed at Sandwell and Dudley station.
Transport for West Midlands, the group which runs Sandwell Council for shelters at the Bilmimum Road station were approved by officers under delegated authority.
They are part of a wider scheme for shelters at stations throughout the West Midlands.
Centres will remove plants, and shrubs to make room for the dark blue steel shelters.
They will go on a concrete plinth on green space next to the Park and Ride entrance at the station.

Man behind iconic carpet advert retires

A LEADING figure in Kidderminster’s carpet industry and one of the key people behind a famous advertising campaign has retired after nearly 50 years.
Mike Hardiman, aged 64, stood down this month as chief executive of the town’s Carpet Foundation, which he set up in 1999.
His foundation, which gives out information to help people choose the right carpet, has grown to become an industry standard which is now backed by top manufacturers and also 100 independent retailers.
Previously, Mr Hardiman worked for Bronte Carpets for 35 years holding the post of personnel manager from 1971 to 1992. He later moved into advertising for the firm and helped to develop the iconic 1993 campaign where models were carpet dresses designed by Vivienne Westwood and photographed by David Bailey.

Trainee
Mr Hardiman was also president of Kidderminster Chamber of Commerce during 1989 and 1990 after previously serving as vice-chairman.
He has lived in Bewdley for more than 30 years, and said his life was “immensely proud” of his time in the town.
“Looking back, I believe the time was right to step down. I plan to spend more time with my family, wife Sonya, 63, children Nicholas, 36, and Jonathan, 34, and 18-month-old granddaughter Isabelle.
Mr Hardiman, originally from Birmingham and pupil at Kinver Grammar School, started his career in 1964 when he was taken on as a trainee manager by Bronte Carpets.
The firm sent him on a HND course at Kidderminster College and later to Aston University to learn management studies.
Mr Hardiman left the firm after 35 years to help set up the Carpet Foundation. “At the time it was a gamble but one which I am very proud to say paid off.”
“Getting so many retailers involved was a massive success.”

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Looking back - Mike Hardiman with a photograph of one of the advertising campaign dresses made from carpet

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JULY 9-16 WEYMOUTH (Fairhaven Hotel) ..... £265 HB
JULY 21-22 THE LAKES
£265 HB
JULY 24-30 WESTON SUPER MARE
£345 HB
JULY 25-29 BLACKPOOL (Tiffany's Hotel)
£275 HB
AUG 15 HAILEYBLYNG
£265 HB
AUG 16-17 PORTSMOUTH
£295 HB
AUG 19 LAUGHARNE
£295 HB
AUG 21-22 TOWER OF LONDON
£295 HB
AUG 23-24 LONDON (Stratford, Tower of London)
£295 HB
AUG 26-27 WESTON SUPERMARE (Sand Bay, Llandudno, Harlech)
£285 HB
AUG 27-28 BOURNEMOUTH (Sand Bay, Llandudno, Harlech)
£285 HB
AUG 28-29 BLACKPOOL (Tiffany's Hotel)
£265 HB
AUG 31-SEP 1 BOURNEMOUTH
£265 HB
SEP 2-3 LONDON (Stratford, Tower of London)
£265 HB
SEP 4-5 BLACKPOOL (Tiffany's Hotel)
£325 HB
SEP 5-6 LONDON (Stratford, Tower of London)
£325 HB
SEP 7-8 BOURNEMOUTH (Sand Bay, Llandudno, Harlech)
£265 HB
SEP 11-12 LONDON (Stratford, Tower of London)
£325 HB
SEP 12-13 BLACKPOOL (Tiffany's Hotel)
£265 HB
SEP 13-14 LONDON (Stratford, Tower of London)
£325 HB
SEP 14-15 BOURNEMOUTH (Sand Bay, Llandudno, Harlech)
£265 HB
SEP 15-16 LONDON (Stratford, Tower of London)
£325 HB
SEP 16-17 BLACKPOOL (Tiffany's Hotel)
£265 HB
SEP 19-20 LONDON (Stratford, Tower of London)
£325 HB
SEP 20-21 BOURNEMOUTH (Sand Bay, Llandudno, Harlech)
£265 HB
SEP 21-22 LONDON (Stratford, Tower of London)
£325 HB
SEP 22-23 BLACKPOOL (Tiffany's Hotel)
£265 HB
SEP 25-26 LONDON (Stratford, Tower of London)
£325 HB
SEP 26-27 BLACKPOOL (Tiffany's Hotel)
£265 HB
AUG 1-3 BLACKPOOL (Tiffany's Hotel)
£255 HB
AUG 3-4 LONDON (Stratford, Tower of London)
£325 HB
AUG 4-5 BLACKPOOL (Tiffany's Hotel)
£265 HB
AUG 5-6 LONDON (Stratford, Tower of London)
£325 HB
AUG 6-7 BLACKPOOL (Tiffany's Hotel)
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New Picanto: Small, but with some extra muscle

The new, second-generation Kia Picanto goes on sale in the UK tomorrow and sets out to prove that small cars can offer more of everything without ballooning in size and cost.

Kia’s smallest car offers stronger performance with lower fuel consumption and CO2 emissions. It has more space, more features and more equipment than ever before, with higher quality, more space and steps forward in safety and luxury.

The new Picanto is available in three-door and five-door models, offering you a choice of petrol engines that deliver fuel consumption improvements of up to 8.5mpg with CO2 reductions of as much as 15g/km.

The larger engine is available with Kia’s EcoDynamics saving technology – an Intelligent Stop & Go (ISG) engine stop/start system, or, alternatively, with an automatic transmission.

The three-door 1.0-litre unit has a combined fuel economy of 67.9mpg. The 1.25-litre four-cylinder version of the Kappa engine is offered in three guises. In standard form it averages 62.7mpg. With a four-speed automatic transmission fuel consumption is 53.3mpg. Finally, there is the EcoDynamics version with fuel consumption at 65.7mpg.

The Picanto 1 Air provides an option for those customers who want air conditioning, power steering, central locking and three electric windows.

The Picanto 1+ adds air conditioning, power steering, central locking, three electric windows, heated rear windows, and integrated LED side repeaters.

As of September, the Picanto 2+ comes with Bluetooth connectivity, with voice recognition and full phone connectivity with USB & AUX ports – both of which can be operated by the steering wheel controls. It is equipped with anti-locking, electronically operated, heated and folding door mirrors with integrated LED side repeaters.

There is a different look to the Kia New Picanto: Small, but with some extra muscle.
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Corsa 1.2 Excite 3dr from **£149**

*Excite*-ing Corsa features include:
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**Representative Example of Conditional Sale**

- Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 Excite 3dr HB SE.
- 60 monthly payments of £149.00. On the road cash price £12,995.00. Deposit £4,055.00.
- Amount of credit £8,940.00. Interest charges £0.00. Arrangement fee £0.00. Final credit arrangement fee £0.00. Fixed rate of interest 0% pa. Duration of agreement 60 months. Total amount payable £12,995.00. Representative APR 0.0% APR

**Offer subject to availability. Available in participating retailers only. Finance by GMAC UK plc, PO Box 6666, Cardiff, CF15 7YT. Finance applicants must be 18 or over. Finance subject to status and terms and conditions. Offers may not apply to all retailer stocks. Deposit shown for illustration purposes; with lower deposit monthly payments will be higher.**

**Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range: Urban: 14.4 (19.6) - 67.3 (4.2), Extra-urban: 27.4 (10.3) - 91.1 (3.1), Combined: 20.6 (13.7) - 80.7 (3.5).**

**CO₂ emissions: 324 - 94g/km.**

**Offers are available for registrations between 01.04.11 and 30.06.11 subject to availability and are available to private individuals and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only). Savings shown are against list price at time of publication, for details refer to Vauxhall’s current price guide. Offers may not apply to all retailer stocks. UK-supplied vehicles only. Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper, 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply.**
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MEN are more dangerous than women on the roads, yet more likely to rate themselves confident drivers, according to a new survey.

Men are more likely than women to be involved in crashes because of bad driving habits such as speeding and drink-driving, according to the Institute of Advanced Motorcycling’s research report – Licensed to skill: Contributory factors in road accidents.

Men are nearly twice as likely to be involved in a collision due to carelessness, recklessness or being in a hurry. They are also more likely to crash because of poor behaviour or inexperience.

The main differences highlighted in the report are:
- Careless, reckless or in a hurry is recorded more frequently for men (10 per cent) than women (six per cent).
- Travelling too fast for the conditions is recorded more frequently for men (seven per cent) than women (four per cent).
- Poor driving behaviour or inexperience is recorded more frequently for men (14 per cent) than women (10 per cent).

Research by the IAM shows that men and women aren’t so different when it comes to driving behaviour and attitudes. Most men and women enjoy driving, and rate themselves to be confident, considerate and safe. But almost twice as many men as women claim to be “very confident” drivers.

IAM chief executive Simon Best said: “These results show that we need to look at the psychology of male drivers to reduce risky behaviour and over-confidence, but for both sexes accidents could be easily reduced by improving driver skills and lives could be saved. The government is moving towards this by introducing driver training for careless driving offences but all drivers should consider training.”

Why we’re so much better off with women behind the wheel

DANGER AHEAD – men are much more likely to be involved in road accidents than women are.
Gardening

Making father’s day with gardening gifts

If you’re thinking of giving your dad socks or a tie for Father’s Day, think again because there’s a plethora of gifts which the green-fingered man in your life will appreciate.

If he’s had his have, an escape from the household chores, a place he can sit quietly to reflect, then there are a few items which may suit him down to the bone.

If his shed needs a good tidy, treat him to a practical, well-worn coot tool rack in racing green with five tool clips plus rawl plugs and screws for fixing (£9.95, Burgoon & Ball). A tool rack in racing green, from £9.95, produced by Burgoon & Ball, www.burgonandball.com.

At least then he won’t be tripping over his spades or hose when he wants to notice in his wooden haven.

You can personalise your gift to your shed-loving dad with a personalised wooden garden sign by Primavera Angel Country Store (from £36, www.notonthehighstreet.com, 0845 259 5559). Each hanging is hand-cut, hand-painted then aged and finished off with rusty wips and honeysuckle tied embelishments. Wording can be changed and there’s a choice of colour options.

Anyone who’s ever tired of watering hanging baskets may welcome an eco-to-water alternative, the Polanter, a vertical and modular planting system with carefully positioned holes to allow for year-round planting possibilities. It real plus, though, is its internal watering facility. Just attach your hose pipe to it (it has a universal sprinkler at the base) and your watering can be done in seconds.

Available in a range of colours, it can be built into a variety of lengths to suit your requirements (from £21.99, www.polanter.co.uk or phone 0845 619 7286).

Bones

Give your dad a well-earned break by uploading out on an old-Fashioned deck chair where he can root his weary bones after gardening. A stylish leather trimmed deck chair where he can root his weary bones after gardening. A stylish leather trimmed deck chair where he can root his weary bones after gardening. A stylish leather trimmed deck chair where he can root his weary bones after gardening.

From the cress of a wave

Watercress is a simple – and delicious – addition to your garden

The staple addition to egg mayonnaise sandwiches, watercress can also spice up a salad or be used to make a simple soup – and it’s so easy to grow in pots and troughs or a patch of ground in the greenhouse or outdoors.

It can be sown at any time of year in pots on a windowsill, or outside in containers, although seeds may have to be acquired from specialist catalogues.

Alternatively you can root cuttings from bunches bought from the greengrocer, planting the thick bits you’d normally throw away when you trim it before eating.

Personalised wooden garden sign by Primavera Angel Country Store

A tool rack in racing green, from £9.95, produced by Burgoon & Ball, www.burgonandball.com

No toolkit would be complete without a pocket knife, to cut those awkward branches or even snip a piece of garden twine. Burgoon & Ball offers a range of pocket knives and miniature steel presentation sets, with brace handled mini sharpening steel in luxurious presentation box (£37.95, www.burgonandball.com).

For the dad whose shoes are always blunt, take the hard work out of pruning with the Bosch AIB 10, 8LJ cordless shrub shears.

Highly manoeuvrable, with virtually no-stalling, up to 100 minutes run time and three hours to charge, it has three blades which are interchangeable and will take the donkey work out of pruning shrubs (£109.99, available from all good garden and DIY shops, www.bosch-garden.co.uk).

Sail new waters on the cress of a wave

The staple addition to egg mayonnaise sandwiches, watercress can also spice up a salad or be used to make a simple soup – and it’s so easy to grow in pots and troughs or a patch of ground in the greenhouse or outdoors.

It can be sown at any time of year in pots on a windowsill, or outside in containers, although seeds may have to be acquired from specialist catalogues.

Alternatively you can root cuttings from bunches bought from the greengrocer, planting the thick bits you’d normally throw away when you trim it before eating.

Keep it moist on the windowsill and soon you should see new shoots appearing.

Tub

The contents of the pot can then be planted into an outdoor tub or into the garden and seedlings which will appear soon in well established can be transplanted to start new bunches. Watercress needs to be kept well watered and well fed with fertiliser such as chicken manure pellets in the summer, to keep the plants leafy and cut them back regularly so they don’t become straggly.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11 - 13 Hagley Road, Halesowen</td>
<td>£50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Wychwood Way Cradley Heath</td>
<td>£270 pcm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 Clarendon Street, Halesowen</td>
<td>£79,950</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 St Pauls Road, Smethwick</td>
<td>£550 pcm</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 Upper High Street, Cradley Heath</td>
<td>£79,950</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 West Street, Dudley</td>
<td>£79,950</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 Elbow Street, Cradley Heath</td>
<td>£525 pcm</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 Boundary Avenue, Rowley Regis</td>
<td>£50,000</td>
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<td>4 Clarendon Street, Halesowen</td>
<td>£125 pcm</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 Old Hill Cradley Heath</td>
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<td>28 West Street, Dudley</td>
<td>£79,950</td>
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**Additional Information:**
- Referenced Tenants Urgently Seeking Property
- A rare opportunity to purchase a corner shop comprising of a convenience store, National Lottery and Off Licence in a popular location of Smethwick. Lease is £50,000 or nearest offer.
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RENAULT CLIO, 2001, 1.2, 2001, 11 months tax, alloys, electric windows, air con, £2,350 ono 01746 763656

RENAULT CLIO, 2001, 1.2, 2Advertiser may not be responsible for the accuracy of any claims made or the condition of any vehicles. Always check thoroughly before buying.}

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(b) TO ANYTHING DONE IN ACCORDANCE WITH ANY RESTRICTION ATTACHED TO A POLICE OFFICER."
HIMLEY NARROW GAP ON LEADERS

HIMLEY closed the gap on table-toppers BROMWICH Darlaston by securing Wellington and the weather.

Stuart Wedge’s side were the only top flight winners last week, thanks to a successful appeal for four wicket victory.

Richard Jones took 3-41 to help dismiss Wellington for 166, with Shaw, Abbot and unbroken 39 then steering Himley home.

Kidderminster also had the last laugh at Shrewsbury. Craig Wood (44) and Dan Pyke (41 not out) were the mainstays for Kidderminster as it finished on 174-4 in reply to Shrewsbury’s 211-9. Mark Mann’s pick up 1-6.

Worcestershire’s Mose Ali was the star turn as Worcs badged a winning draw from their clash with fellow Premier Division strugglers Stourbridge.

All struck a classy 110 to help Worces to a challenging total of 282-5.

Ali’s New Road colleagues Jack Kapil (50) and stand-in skipper Simon Lewis (48 not out) provided support.

In a rain-affected clash, Stourbridge reached 136-4 in reply as Jack Mansell made 74 as Stour halted at Moonsiel forming on 140 in reply to HGB House’s 260-9.

Alas, Javed (71) and Joel Evans then bowled out the runs as Worcs won by 225.

Saved

But Leamington took the winning draw against Broms to make it 161-0.

The weather saved Womsbum from probable defeat at the posts as they placed 241-5. Surinder Sharma was the pick of the bowling.

Heriot’s and Ian Walker stuck half centuries for Worcs to place them 246-4. But Broms bowlers made sure it remained a low score of 245.

Australians Jake Lovett and Aman Gill الموازنة في اللفظية

and comrade in arms during the war at Moonsiel and the runs as Worcs won by 251 against Leamington.

Trophy time – Dudley Villa players gather for their end of season awards ceremony with silhouettes on show.

Trainee teacher is up for award

A TRAINER PE teacher at a Sandwell school is in running for a top award. Elliot Brown, who works at Bruntall Hall Technol-

ogy Academy, has been put forward for the Robert Owen Group Co-operative’s national Education Training Awards.

The following clubs are parti-

cipation. Gratesbrook, Droitwich, Evesham, Haden Hill, Halesowen, Howden, Oldbury, Pershore, Redd-

ington, Ross, Stourbridge, Warley and Wyre Forest. The last round is interested in providing corporative or personal sponsorship to a local school, and a free venue and technical support. The club is now looking for new sponsors and is always on the lookout for more people to get involved.

 Elliot Brown has his sights set on the award.

The local club is now looking for new sponsors and is always on the lookout for more people to get involved.

Elliot Brown has his sights set on the award.

For more information visit the website www.all-leisure.co.uk or contact the Tourist Board for details.

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