

NHS trust up for training award

A health trust in the Black Country has been shortlisted for an award in recognition of a training scheme.

The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust will now take on other finalists after the Clinical Fellowship Programme (Nursing and Medical) was praised.

The scheme will be up against others in the Best Educational Programme for the NHS at the HSJ Partnership Awards 2020. It will be judged by highly regarded figures across the NHS and wider health-care sector.

Zoe Marsh, acting head of education and programme manager, said: "We are delighted to have been shortlisted for Best Educational Programme for the NHS, recognising the collaborative efforts and dedication of our team/s over the last 12 months to successfully implement The Nursing and Medical Clinical Fellowship Programme."

"We are committed to delivering improved outcomes for patients, and to be chosen among the other incredible nominees is a wonderful achievement."

The award ceremony will take place at the Park Plaza Westminster on February 27.

First glimpse of theatre's History Boys

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Wolverhampton Grand Theatre has revealed the first teaser trailer for the upcoming in-house production of Alan Bennett's *The History Boys*.

Filming took place at Thorns Collegiate Academy in Brierley Hill. The school hosted the cast for two days.

The filmed sections will form part of the production's scenic design and the trailer is a first look at the production. The theatre has involved the local community in all its recent in-house productions.

Together with Thorns, 30 students were given the opportunity to appear in the filmed sections of the show and the trailer, giving them a taste of a professional film set and working with a film crew, director Jack Ryder and a professional cast of actors. *The History Boys* runs from February 7 to 22.

● To see the trailer visit expressandstar.com



A sneak preview from the Grand Theatre's production of Alan Bennett's *The History Boys*

Open door to see bishop's library

Visitors can go behind the scenes at a tourist attraction to explore one of the most beautiful libraries in the country.

A tour of Hartlebury Castle's Hurd Library and Bishop House is taking place on January 15.

The library was built in 1782 by Richard Hurd, Bishop of Worcester, for his fine collection of books. Today it is the only example of an Anglican bishop's library remaining on its original shelves in the room built specifically for it.

It contains books from the libraries of four 18th Century book-collectors.

The tour will start at 11am and tickets cost £15. Places can be reserved by calling 01299 250797.

Fearing brings tunes to the hall

A musician specialising in a unique blend of roots, folk and pop is taking to the stage on February 7.

Canadian songwriter Stephen Fearing and his band The Sentimentals will be entertaining an audience at Bewdley's St George's Hall as part of the venue's Music in the Hall programme. As well as being the co-founder of Canadian roots-rock supergroup Blackie and The Rodeo Kings, he is also a multi JUNO and Canadian Folk Music award-winner.

Tickets for the show which starts at 7.30pm cost £12 for adults and £5 for children. To book see thehall-bewdley.org.uk

Worshippers set to join biggest ever gathering

Together 2020 unites churches to celebrate start of a new decade

Churches from across the Black Country will come together for the largest Christian gathering of the century in the region.

The Together 2020 event will bring together churches from the four metropolitan boroughs of the Black Country as a celebration to mark the start of a new decade.

More than 2,500 people from 61 "partnering" churches and other supporters from Wolverhampton, Walsall, Dudley and Sandwell will attend the event at the Bethel Convention Centre in West Bromwich.

The event on Saturday, January 4, will look at worshipping, praying and working together in local communities, focusing on the homeless and hungry needs and helping the next generation over the next

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10 years. Tim Fellows, spokesman for the Love Black Country network, said: "Together 2020 is a multi-generational event. We are encouraging people of all ages to join as one. We want to create a true representation of the size, scale and diversity of the Body of Christ in the Black Country."

Statement

"Our purpose as we gather is to make a statement to our children and young people about the size of the Body of Christ to which they belong.

"Secondly, we are meeting to celebrate what God is already doing through our togetherness across our region and emphasise the reason for that is we are in unity

as Christians coming from a wide selection of churches.

"Our belief is that it is much better to complement the numerous congregations we are drawn from rather than compete against one another"

"Thirdly, during the evening, we shall imagine what else God could do if we will stand and work as one.

"Stirring, up-to-date, live testimonies and news of what has been achieved through the involvement of Love Black Country in various local initiatives through Christians working together among the homeless and the hungry, for example, are expected."

Together 2020 takes place at Bethel Convention Centre, Kelvin Way, West Bromwich on January 4, starting at 5pm.

For more information on the event visit www.loveblackcountry.org.uk/gatherings/together-2020 for info.

Stop the party – I've reached 37

A study for Interflora found that people in the West Midlands get most stressed about their birthdays.

On average in the UK people stop celebrating their own birthday at 37 and start lying about their age. It found that 33 per cent of men choosing to not celebrate their birthday, compared to 22 per cent of women. The study examined the attitudes of 2,000 people from across the UK towards their own birthdays.

Overall 39 per cent choose to not celebrate at all – with one in four saying they'd rather not be reminded of growing a year older. Also 26 per cent said they didn't celebrate because they dislike being the centre of attention.

140 jobs up for grabs at Safari

West Midlands Safari Park is inviting people to attend a recruitment event in the new year for summer staff.

A total of seasonal 140 roles are available including food and beverages, facilities, retail and admissions and the theme park. Start dates for the jobs will be from February 1, ready for when the Park opens daily for its summer season on February 15.

The event consists of two parts, with the first part of the session including an informal discussion, to explore candidates' skill sets, previous experience and qualifications.

The park's team will then help to match these qualities to the role that suits each candidate and an interview with the relevant department will take place in the second half of the event.

Charlotte Stokes, HR manager, said: "Our recruitment days have been very successful in the past, as it allows candidates to explore a range of different roles and meet existing members of staff to help find their perfect fit."

The event takes place on Tuesday, January 14 at 4pm.

Top technology to help diagnose cancer

Ultrasound technology which provides state-of-the-art diagnosis for patients with suspected prostate cancer has been installed at a Midland hospital.

Waiting lists for the procedure at Kidderminster are expected to be significantly reduced after The League of Friends of Kidderminster Hospitals agreed to purchase the £83,000 equipment, bringing their total spend at the hospital to £150,000 in 2019.

Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust previously rented a similar machine for short periods but this meant patients faced long waits for investigations or had to travel outside the county for referrals.

The new equipment uses ultrasound to guide the collection of up to 50 tissue samples from the prostate gland and the sophisticated data it produces considerably improves diagnostic accuracy.

Patients are only in hospital for a couple of hours and as the operation is carried out through the skin rather than inter-

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nally, the risk of infection is reduced from around 30 patients per 1,000 to just one. Initially up to 100 patients a year are expected to benefit.

Consultant urological surgeon Paul Rajjayabun said: "Compared with last year, we are now seeing 500 more referrals for prostate cancer diagnosis in the county and we have quite a waiting list. Now we can start reducing that because we know this equipment will make a real difference."

He added: "Without the League of Friends, this equipment simply wouldn't be here.

"We were at a standstill in terms of being able to procure it for ourselves because of the financial constraints we are working with, so the League have been essential and critical to ensure that this equipment is available in Worcestershire."

League of Friends vice chairman Peter Picken said: "Kidderminster Hospital is a great asset for the county and hugely valued by our community.

"We are keen to maintain existing services and add new ones when opportunities arise, and are delighted to be able to fund this project.

"But we could not do this without the wonderful backing of Wyre Forest people who support us through donations, our hospital coffee shop and Swan Centre charity shop.

"The credit for this latest purchase goes to them."

The League of Friends is a local voluntary organisation run by local people.

The aim is to provide funds to support services at Kidderminster Hospital and to provide extra amenities for both patients and staff where these are not available from the NHS.



Picture: Park Dean Resorts

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