

Gang beat man after car park row, court told

A GROUP of youths rained blows on a motorist after he had a row with his ex-girlfriend in an Evesham car park, a jury heard.

Mark Crane and Adele Howell had parked their cars parallel to each other while they talked.

Mr Crane wanted her to stop ringing his new girlfriend and to pay him back £600 he was allegedly owed.

But after a 15-minute conversation, Miss Howell got out of Mr Crane's Suburu and then kicked his rear door in anger, Worcester Crown Court was told.

Mr Crane admitted he then kicked her Peugeot's door - before he was punched to the ground by a group who intervened. He identified one attacker as Danny Parmenter, claiming he landed up to three punches in his face.

Parmenter, aged 19, of Fairfield Road, Evesham, denies assault causing actual bodily harm.

The jury watched a short CCTV clip of the violence which broke out on Macdonald's car park on the night of April 9 last year.

It showed Mr Crane being bundled away from his car and ending up on the ground.

Mr Crane told the jury: "I saw Danny right in front of my face. I saw his fists coming towards my face and was trying to block them."

Mr Crane said another attacker hit him with a broomstick over the head.

He needed hospital scans after Miss Howell summoned help by phone.

His suffered eye, cheek, jaw, head and back injuries.

Prosecutor Paul Whitfield said Mr Crane was the victim of an unprovoked attack after a "tit for tat" kicking of cars during "an ex-lover's tiff".

Cross-examined by David Chidgey, defending, Mr Crane said he had been out with his new girlfriend that night and had not had any alcohol because he never drank when driving.

Mr Chidgey suggested that the victim got mixed up about who had attacked him. He claimed Parmenter had only tried to break up the fight.

The trial continues.

Footballer kicks off half term fun week

A FUN filled five-day event for the whole family is coming to Evesham next week.

Synergy 2010 has been organised by various churches across the Vale and is set to be packed full of activities for all ages.

The festival on Crown Meadow kicks off on Wednesday (June 2) with a masterclass from Dan Magness - a world record breaking football freestyler who performs phenomenal football tricks at events across the world.

Other activities to keep the half-term blues at bay include a superhero holiday club, tiddlywinks, a family fun afternoon, two free youth gigs, various youth workshops, three guest speakers, a food court and plenty more.

For more information on the event which runs until Sunday, June 6 log on to www.synergy2010.co.uk.



Billy Brownlee, three, Jack Price, four, and Alex Merrall, three, have fun with nursery manager Marie Pearse play with dinosaurs at the open day. 2010040LFR. Picture by Lucy Ford

Sun shines on nursery's open day

THERE was plenty of fun in the sun for young children and their parents in Harvington recently.

Heron Nursery, based at Harvington

First School, held an open day on Wednesday (May 19) with lots of entertaining activities. Aside from showing off the things on offer at the nursery the

children got to enjoy rhyming animal stories based on Hairy McClary along with sand and water play, role play, music, art, maths and ICT.

Holiday homes back on awards shortlist

THE owners of some award-winning holiday cottages in Broadway are hoping to continue their winning streak after being shortlisted for two more prestigious awards.

As part of the Worcestershire Welcome Awards, Broadway Manor

Cottages has been shortlisted in the Stunning Self-Catering category and has also been nominated for a Sustainable Tourism Award.

The business already has a Green Tourism Business Scheme Silver Award and a 2009 Heart

of England Excellence in Tourism Silver Award.

Owner Debbie Williamson said: "We are very proud to be nominated for two prestigious awards and we thank our guests for voting for us."

01527 588688

Pershore scheme needs your help

GREEN-fingered volunteers are needed in Pershore to help with a blossoming charity scheme.

The Age Concern Greenagers project is looking for anyone aged 50-years-old and over with an interest in gardening to help look after allotments and gardens in the area.

Volunteers would work on an allotment in Defford Road and would also be introduced to people finding it difficult to manage their own gardens.

Those who enjoy growing fruit and vegetables but do not have the space at home are also invited.

Pat Catlin, project co-ordinator, said the scheme offered life enhancing benefits to everyone involved.

"Enjoying gentle exercise and fresh air with the company of other like minded individuals has a beneficial effect on health and mental well being," she said.

"We provide a safe and enjoyable environment that promotes healthy ageing in the community."

For more information contact Pat Catlin on 01386 555744 or 0800 0086077.

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