

# Nuneaton News

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE

BEDWORTH

HINCKLEY

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THURSDAY, JULY 5, 2012

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**Ladies day  
pays off for  
charity** P8



**Town's P10  
Olympians  
honoured**



**Breast is  
best for  
babies** P12



**CELEBRATIONS  
ALL ROUND...**  
Sheila Woolf and  
friends raise a  
glass as she  
celebrated her  
60th birthday and  
the group were  
the first holiday-  
makers at the  
newly restored  
Astley Castle.

NNWG040712CASTLE01



## New jobs created at Bedworth firm

DOZENS of new jobs are to be created on the borough's biggest industrial estate in a major boost for the local economy.

Car components company Brose are to almost double the size of their factory in Bedworth after winning new contracts.

As a result the firm will be looking to employ at least 145 more workers at the plant in Colliery Lane, Exhall.

But Gary Breakwell, operations director for Brose, said the company is facing a challenge recruiting enough skilled and semi-skilled workers.

[FULL STORY PAGE 3](#)

## Abbey Street consultation

PUBLIC consultation is to begin in a few weeks' time on plans to regenerate and revitalise part of Nuneaton town centre.

St James' Investments and their partners Land Securities have entered into an agreement with the borough council to redevelop the top end of Abbey Street.

The scheme involves the derelict Kingsholme pub and the Gala Bingo Hall.

[FULL STORY PAGE 5](#)

## Aggressive sales tactics used

AGGRESSIVE salespeople are disguising themselves as cooks to get into people's homes.

They turn up on doorsteps in full uniform offering to prepare food as a way to get their 'foot in the door'.

They claim that the demonstrations are free before putting on the pressure to buy pots and pans for hundreds of pounds.

Consumers are being warned to beware of individuals.

[FULL STORY PAGE 9](#)

# RESTORATION IS COMPLETE

By Ryan Merriman

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AN INNOVATIVE project to restore a historic building is finally complete.

After years of planning, fundraising and building Astley Castle has literally rose like a phoenix from the flames.

The Grade II listed building had fallen into rack and ruin, but charity, The Landmark Trust, stepped in to make sure that the building was

brought back to its former glory and transform it into holiday lets.

The building work has now been completed and the site begin taking holiday-makers at the start of the week.

Sheila Woolf, who is celebrating her 60th birthday along with friends became the first inhabitants at the historic holiday home.

Modern accommodation was inserted into the ancient walls of the building near Nuneaton.

New footpaths have also been created around the wider site and interpretation boards erected

to inform visitors of Astley Castle's importance to national history.

To celebrate the work being finished and a new beginning for the building two free public open days are set to take place on Sunday, July 10 and Monday, July 16 and everyone is welcome to go along.

Astley Castle dates back to the 1200s and was cited by English Heritage in 2007 as one of the

[TURN TO PAGE 3](#)

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## £2.72m project secures future of historic building

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

16 highest priority buildings at risk in England.

The project cost a massive £2.72million to secure the future of the building, which was raised from grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund, English Heritage and many charitable trusts and individuals.

The building is associated with three Queens of England and consists of a moated fortified manor house, gateway and curtain walls, lake,

church and the remnants of pleasure gardens in a picturesque landscape.

Ravaged by fire in 1978, the structure had fallen beyond the normal approach to conserving buildings.

The Landmark Trust had been concerned about its future since 1995 and the charity had already tried to come up with a number of solutions, but due to cost and size they did not go ahead.

Caroline Stanford, historian at the Landmark Trust, said: "This building has been in

continuous occupation for 1,000 years and its inhabitants have seen and shaped the course of British history, but without intervention the building would have been lost forever.

"We are proud to have found a solution that gives Astley Castle a new life and future and one that many thousands of people will be able to be part of by staying or visiting the building.

"Thank you to everyone involved particularly the Heritage Lottery Fund who gave a significant grant towards this project."

## Hospital still out of bounds

VISITING is again being restricted at the George Eliot Hospital.

The Nuneaton NHS is still in the grips of a Norovirus outbreak.

At the time of going to press, four wards were still being affected by the bug which causes severe sickness and diarrhoea.

A spokesman for the hospital said that the situation 'remained the same'.

Although visiting is not being allowed, relatives and friends of loved ones are being reminded they may be allowed entry on compassionate grounds to seriously ill or injured patients.

Birthing partners to expectant mums will be allowed in Maternity.

Parents only will be able to access Caterina ward, the children's ward at the Trust.

People are advised to contact their GP over the phone if suffering from the symptoms of the virus of call NHS Direct on 0845 46 47.

Sufferers should also drink plenty of water, take paracetamol if suffering from aches and pains and let the illness run its course.

## Families to go back in time

A UNIQUE event will take guests back in time to remember fashion and enjoy food made popular in a different decade.

Members of St Pauls Church on Church Road, Nuneaton, are invited along on Saturday, July 14 for a themed 1940s evening.

The fun which is suited for all the family will start at 7.30pm and will continue until late.

Organised by the Social Committee there will be a delicious three course meal which is set to get everyone's taste buds in a twist.

There will also be a variety of entertainment taking place throughout the night with details yet to be announced.

Everyone is also welcome to arrive in themed fancy dress although it is not compulsory.

Tickets are available from Anne Murray go to [www.stpaulsstockingford.org.uk/](http://www.stpaulsstockingford.org.uk/) for details.

# Major jobs boost for borough economy

By Mort Birch

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DOZENS of new jobs are to be created on the borough's biggest industrial estate in a major boost for the local economy.

Car components company Brose are to almost double the size of their factory in Bedworth after winning new contracts.

As a result the firm will be looking to employ at least 145 more workers at their plant in Colliery Lane, Exhall.

But Gary Breakwell, operations director for Brose, said the company is facing a challenge recruiting enough skilled and semi-skilled workers.

He said: "We've adopted a grow-your-own approach and we are taking on a lot of apprentices."

"We are also looking for graduates to move into the organisation so we can create a pipeline of skilled people for the future."

The latest expansion plans have come about after extensive talks and 'positive' co-operation between the German automotive suppliers, the borough Council and Warwickshire County Council.

Part of the land on which the factory extension will be built is council-owned and had a covenant on it that it could only be used for recreational purposes.

But the two councils agreed that the covenant should be lifted and the borough council's planning applications committee then paved the



**JOBS BOOST..** the Brose factory in Colliery Lane, Exhall, where dozens of skilled and semi-skilled jobs are to be created following co-operation with the borough council and county council.

NWVG 040712 brose 02

way for the jobs boosted by unanimously giving the go ahead for the expansion.

Borough council leader Dennis Harvey said: "The additional jobs are fantastic news for local people, especially during these trying economic times."

"The council is here to work with local businesses and this is an example of the kind of thing we can achieve when this is done."

He added: "As part of the land-use agreement, we will see an improvement to the Miners' Welfare Park so everyone involved is benefiting; Brose, the borough and county councils and the local community."

In return for planning permission and the lifting of the covenant, Brose have agreed to fund a number of improvements to the nearby Bedworth Miners' Welfare Park.

They are to enhance the cycle pathway system that runs through the park and install a number of bat-boxes and plant flora and pay for other as yet undecided recreational work.

Brose manufacture window and seat systems for the likes of Jaguar Land Rover, Nissan and Volvo.

They currently employ a workforce of 210, the majority of whom live in Nuneaton and Bedworth.

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