



CAR CRASHES INTO BILLY WRIGHT STATUE OUTSIDE MOLINEUX



Damage to the Billy Wright statue

THE iconic Billy Wright statue outside Wolves' Molineux stadium has been badly damaged after a car crashed into it.

The plinth on which the statue of the Wolves and England legend stands was ripped apart. A man has been arrested on suspicion of drink driving.

Three slate slabs have torn off the structure, including the panel that carries Wright's name which was smashed in two. Vicky Wright, the daughter of the late player, said she was 'so sad' to hear about the statue.

She tweeted to say: "Man arrested after Billy Wright statue left badly damaged at Wolves' Molineux stadium. This has made me so sad."

Police have cordoned off the area with tape. A West Midlands Police spokesman said: "Officers have arrested a man following a collision with a statue outside the Molineux Stadium on Waterloo Road, in the early hours of Sunday morning."

Widow

"A 30-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of drink driving and dangerous driving."

He has now been bailed until next month pending further inquiries by police.

The 9ft bronze statue was unveiled in 1996 by Billy's widow Joy, who called it 'a wonderful work of art.' It is considered to be one of the finest football statues in the

country. The sculpture depicts the former Wolves and England captain - who earned 105 caps for his country - leading out his team. He died in 1994, aged 70.

The campaign to raise a permanent memorial to the player was headed by Wolverhampton councillor Fred Ledsam. The £50,000 funding for the statue was raised by public subscription.

A plaque at the back of the tribute thanks 'the generosity of the people of Wolverhampton' and 'football fans everywhere.'

The statue is placed within a circle of slate that matches the pedestal. Around it are placed a series of small slate-clad pillars mounted with bronze cubes.

TRIBUTE

Tony Daley: My tears for Taylor

TONY DALEY admitted he had a tear in his eye as Wolves and Villa paid tributes to Graham Taylor at Molineux on Saturday. Supporters from both clubs joined for an emotional minute's applause before kick off - and again in the 72nd minute, in recognition of Taylor's age when he died last Thursday.

Daley played under Taylor for three teams, Wolves, Villa and Watford, as well as England. Now Wolves' head of sport science and conditioning, Daley joined first-team coach Rob Edwards and ex-Villa man Mark Delaney, who both also played for Taylor, and FA technical director Dan Ashworth as wreaths were laid on the pitch.

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COUNCIL

Homes plan for old school site

PLANS have been submitted to build dozens of homes on the site of a demolished primary school in Wolverhampton.

Wolverhampton Council wants to build 26 houses and nine apartments at the site of former Ettingshall Primary School in Herbert Street. The plans include 82 car parking spaces and 10 spaces for bicycles.

It is part of wider plans by Wolverhampton Council to build around 800 homes over the next four years.

DISABLED

Charity closure fear after funding blow

A CHARITY that has helped disabled children and their carers for 22 years has revealed it could be forced to close after it failed in its latest funding bid.

Wombourne Special Needs Support Group (WINGS) offers respite care, social activities, clubs and a summer play scheme for children with special needs and disabilities.

Bosses say it could close by the summer if urgent fundraising fails. The charity had been relying on national funding but its last bid was unsuccessful. Nan Flavell, chair of WINGS said: "We are desperate to raise money so the charity can carry on."

INSIDE

OUTRAGE OVER DUG UP DRIVE



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We feel we should do our bit, says council 100 REFUGEES TO SETTLE IN CITY

ONE hundred Syrian refugees will come to Wolverhampton under a Government-expanded resettlement scheme, with the first to arrive later this year. The city council has committed to taking in the refugees driven from the war-torn country over the next five years.

It is part of a Whitehall-led initiative called Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement scheme which will see 20,000 refugees resettled in the country.

In Walsall, council bosses agreed to take in 20 over the 10 months since last July, while in Staffordshire 51 refugees have already been resettled.

A spokesman for Wolverhampton Council confirmed the authority would take in 100 refugees by 2020 under the scheme. It is planned that 20 refugees are resettled in the city each year, for the next five years.

Welcome

Council leader Roger Lawrence said: "I'd hope the refugees receive the traditional welcome people have historically when they arrive in this city from all across the world."

He said the number of refugees was worked out to reflect the size of Wolverhampton compared to the rest of the UK, which will take in the 20,000. The first group would arrive within the next three months.

"The Government has agreed to take in 20,000. Wolverhampton has about half of one per cent of the population of the UK, so 100 reflects our size. We feel we should do our bit. The Government has made the commitment and asked local authorities to help them - we are taking on our share of the numbers."

Councillor Lawrence said support would

Report by Alex Ross

be provided to the families and he hoped they would contribute to communities. The refugees will be settled across the city in accommodation leased by a supported accommodation provider, the council. They will be mainly families with children.

Councils taking part in the scheme have to show they have suitable accommodation for at least 12 months.

Under guidelines set by the Government, officers must consider the availability of school places, health provision and the property marketing when deciding on the number of refugees to take in.

The council will receive £8,520 per refugees accepted, plus £4,500 to provide education for every child aged five to 18 years.

Further funding is available to the council for each refugee, starting with £5,000 for a refugee's second year, and ending with £1,000 for the fifth year.

Last month, it was announced more than 4,000 refugees arrived in Britain under the scheme. Ministers committed to take in the refugees following a public outcry over the fate of those attempting the perilous journey across the Mediterranean.

Rock on - Tommy cat is home



From left, Kathleen, Graham and Angela Williams from Ash Hill in Compton, reunited with Tommy

A MUCH-loved moggy has been reunited with his owners - 14 months after going missing.

Tommy escaped from his basket in Jeffcock Road, Wolverhampton, after being frightened by a dog following a routine visit to the vet's in November 2015. His distraught owners put up posters, alerted social media and hand-delivered 400 leaflets.

Despite never giving up hope that the five-year-old rescue cat would return, the family was still

shocked to get a call from someone who recognised Tommy from an internet appeal. Simple photo checks confirmed it was indeed their long-lost pet.

Graham Williams, a consultant surgeon at New Cross Hospital, and his wife Angela, of Ash Hill, Compton, said they were overjoyed to have him home. His return was a complete surprise for daughter Kathleen, 26, who was on holiday when Tommy was returned.

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