



Chinese musicians to whisper secrets

THE CHINESE Whispers Ensemble will give audiences in Worcestershire a unique insight into Chinese music and culture on May 11 and 12.

Six Chinese musicians will perform at Rubery Community and Leisure Centre on May 11 and Worcester Arts Workshop on May 12.

Instruments will be introduced and performances will feature authentic and contemporary music from parts of China.

The concert is part

of the county's Rural and Community Touring Scheme, Shindig - Worcestershire's programme of live arts and entertainment.

Families and children over ten are welcome and can get tickets from Phil Dent by calling 0121 453 7716 or by e-mailing: shindig@ruberyleisurecentre.co.uk.

Tickets for Worcester Arts Workshop are available from Jon Denton by calling 01905 21095 or by emailing: john.waw@eurotelonline.com.

Woman overdosed on prescription drugs

A CORONERS COURT has heard how a Bromsgrove-born woman died after an overdose of therapeutic drugs in a Bristol hotel room.

Mature student Tracey Joanna Beddall, 32, of Warde Way in Wolverley, died on October 10 2006 at Frenchay Hospital in Bristol.

Closing an inquest into her death, Worcestershire coroner Victor Round stressed it wasn't an overdose of drugs such as morphine and heroin, but of therapeutic drugs such as anti-depressants.

The court heard how Beddall suffered from diabetes and it was noted that her friends and family felt her health had deteriorated due to diabetes and the onset of depression.

She had two children, but had split from their father five years before. Her doctors' surgery confirmed that Beddall had been prescribed anti-depressants.

The inquest heard the sequence of events leading up to her death, which began on September 29 2006 when she dropped her children off at her parents as normal.

Ms Beddall asked them to look after the youngsters for an extra day, but by October 1 she had not collected them and her parents were unable to contact her.

They reported

her missing and police officers arrived at Beddall's home in Wolverley and found a number of envelopes and gift bags.

Mr Round said it was clear she was making plans for what would happen when she was no longer there and officers also found a note which said she planned to take a number of tablets.

She was found in a Traveldodge on October 2, unconscious with tablet boxes and pictures of her children around her, along with another note which was described by Mr Round as clear, dignified and apologetic.

She died eight days later and a local pathologist found a Cerebral Hypoxia - a lack of oxygen to the brain - which Mr Round registered as the cause of death.

Man killed in van collision with cars

AN INQUEST has been opened and adjourned into the death of a Rubery man who was killed when his car was involved in a road accident on Saturday (April 28).

Rob George

Stephen Wassall, of Charnwood Close, Frankley died when his Mercedes van collided with a green Cherokee Jeep and a red Vauxhall Vectra which were travelling in the opposite direction along Egghill Lane at 5.36pm.

The 52-year-old was pronounced dead at the scene, while the driver of

the Vauxhall Vectra, a man in his 20s from Birmingham, was airlifted to Selly Oak Hospital with severe leg injuries and he is now in a stable condition.

A woman in her 20s, who was a front seat passenger in the car, suffered minor injuries, while a six-year-old boy, who was sitting in the back seat, was taken to the Alexandra Hospital.

He was later transferred to the Worcestershire Royal Hospital with head injuries which are not thought to be life-threatening.

Opening an inquest into his death, Worcestershire coroner Victor Round said Mr Wassall had suffered multiple injuries and adjourned the hearing to

a later date.

PC Mark Rowley, from the North Worcestershire Road Policing Unit, said it was a terrible tragedy and their thoughts and prayers were with Mr Wassall's family and friends, as well as with those who were injured.

"We are trying to establish exactly what happened and are appealing to anyone who travelled along Egghill Lane at the time of the collision to get in touch, particularly if they recall seeing any of the vehicles involved on this stretch of road," he added.

Anyone with any information should call 08457 444888 and ask for extension 3143.



Fun time for carers and toddlers

YOUNGSTERS and their parents can play and learn together thanks to the launch of a new carer and toddler group.

Little Friends of Wychbold First and Nursery School has been launched for babies and toddlers and is based at the first school.

The group aims to give parents, grandparents and carers a chance for fun and friendship and enable them to spend time with their children outside the home.

Kind-hearted parent Jon Brewer got the ball rolling and donated £500 towards the group which hopes will become a one-stop shop for carers.

A book library and health visitor are just some of the features on offer and the group will meet every Thursday during

Time to play - James Brewer with his dad Jon Brewer who has donated £500 towards the new carer and toddler group. 7.07.041.NHR

term-time between 2pm and 3.15pm.

Places cost £1 for the first child and 50p for each child after that.

For more information call the school on 01527 861421.



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